

**FULL CONTEXT OF NEWS RELEASE: PAPERS OF WILLIAM F. CODY & NEH**

For immediate release: September 29, 2015

Contact: Marguerite House, [margueriteh@centerofthewest.org](mailto:margueriteh@centerofthewest.org) or 307-578-4137  
Jeremy Johnston, [jeremyj@centerofthewest.org](mailto:jeremyj@centerofthewest.org) or 307-578-4032  
. . . *and the West is just a click away at centerofthewest.org*

- Cody, Wyoming -

**BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST'S PAPERS OF WILLIAM F. CODY HONORED IN NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has included the *Papers of William F. Cody* at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in a group of stories honoring the grant-administering agency's 50th Anniversary. This collection of top grants appears online through the "National Endowment for the Humanities Celebrating 50 Years," a site that goes live at the special anniversary website, [50.neh.gov](http://50.neh.gov), on Tuesday, September 29. According to NEH, each story details "a grant that changed the landscape of the humanities, and collectively, these grants represent the best of the work the NEH has funded over the last 50 years." See <http://www.neh.gov/50> for more information.

"The *Papers of William F. Cody* has become a key resource for scholarly examination of Cody's life and enterprises," notes Bruce Eldredge, the Center's Executive Director and CEO. "We couldn't be more proud of the efforts of this dynamic team or more thankful for the exposure they bring to the Center."

The documentary history that is the *Papers of William F. Cody*, details a broad range of contexts, both reflected in and shaped by the figure of William F. Cody. Applying best practices recommended by the Association for Documentary Editing, the *Papers* collects, edits, and publishes material from the period of Cody's birth to well beyond his death, in print and with an online, open-access, digital edition.

The State of Wyoming launched the project with a \$300,000 state appropriation in 2007. With a matching donation from the Geraldine W. and Robert J. Dellenback Foundation, the plan was underway. Managing Editor Jeremy Johnston, Curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum, currently oversees the *Papers* endeavor. Since its inception, the *Papers* has collaborated with regional academic and archival institutions, including University of Wyoming, American Heritage Center, Wyoming State Archives, Northwest College, and Montana State University.

Additionally, the *Papers* has joined forces with scholars and graduates from Ball State University, University of Oklahoma, University of New Mexico, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Brigham Young University, Eastern Washington University, Harvard University, and Smithsonian Institution. The *Papers* also works with international students from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

Editors and staff publish the primary resources detailing the life and times of Cody online to the William F. Cody Archive, [www.codyarchive.org](http://www.codyarchive.org); materials are then available at no cost to an international audience of all interest levels. This digital archive is evolving in conjunction with the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Using NEH funding, the *Papers* published a documentary record of the Wild West's international phase focused on the British and German tours. This highly successful document collection effort by the *Papers* team points to the impact of the Wild West's years in these countries.

In addition to a rich array of primary sources for researchers and educators, the *Papers* provides digital exhibitions through Cody Studies, [www.CodyStudies.org](http://www.CodyStudies.org). Developed in partnership with Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, this interpretive site's highlights include a photo gallery of Gertrude Käsebier's 1898 photographs of Lakota performers in Buffalo Bill's Wild West. Future projects include digital interactive maps of Buffalo Bill's domestic and European tours, along with a virtual Buffalo Bill's Wild West, allowing viewers to "amble" through the show's grounds.

The *Papers* also supports print publications of primary historical writings through partnerships with University of Nebraska Press and a scholarly monograph series through University of Oklahoma Press. Works include annotated editions of Buffalo Bill's 1879 and 1888 autobiographies, works by Cody's publicist John Burke, and sideshow performer Charles Eldridge Griffin. Sandra Sagala's study of Buffalo Bill's efforts to advance the early film industry is also currently available through University of Oklahoma Press. Future publications include an anthology of Cody's transnational legacy, and the memoirs of George Washington Thornton Beck, co-founder of Cody, Wyoming.

The *Papers of William F. Cody* continues to pursue funding through future grant opportunities with NEH to offer further material from Italy, France, Belgium, and Spain. For more information, contact Johnston at [jeremyj@centerofthewest.org](mailto:jeremyj@centerofthewest.org) or 307-578-4032.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since 1917, the award-winning Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, has devoted itself to sharing the story of the authentic American West. The Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is now in its fall schedule, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. For additional information, visit [centerofthewest.org](http://centerofthewest.org) or the Center's pages on [Facebook](#) and [Google+](#).