

"Dear Sister Julia--

I am going back to Cody to try and get a fresh start. I am heartbroken and I feel that the end is very near.

Your loving brother

Will."

Incidentally, they all resented, and dislike, the necessary show name "Buffalo Bill". Cody merely endured it, for business reasons. I used it as it is one of the six most famous names in America, perhaps the most famous one of them all. Ford, Lincoln, Washington, Barnum, Buffalo Bill, and Jesse James. Incidentally, I have also followed the James' matters closely, but that does not belong here.

Two days later I sat that morning with the family down stairs, with Cody's stately body upstairs, he looked like a statue of ivory with his white silk hair, and we wondered how to bury Buffalo Bill. There was not \$5 in the house, and it needed \$600. Mrs. Cody, the moment he was gone, left the house in a huff--there was bitter internal war among them all for many years--because she could not bury him a Catholic. But Cody had no special brand of religion, and the priest she called in after he became unconscious refused, of course, to sanction him being considered a Catholic, as she was. And she had about \$90,000, so her estate cashed in a few years later, when she died, also. Then the Elks came forward, and through them, the military authorities--for Cody was a Colonel of the Nebraska National Guard--or rather had been--a purely honorary title, of course--and he lay in state in the Capitol here in Denver, then had a military escort to Golden, where the #1 Lodge of Mason's took charge of the funeral, and under their rites he was buried where he his body now is. I was sick and could not go. It will always be a life long regret. And it was a stormy day, a long cold ride. I could not do it.

I often was at Mrs. Decker's house--where he died--after that, and Sister "Aunt" I called her, Julia occasionally wrote to me. ~~Later~~