

Preface

THIS DIRECTORY, the first completely prepared and published by electronic means, is a legacy to the International Cody Family Association from its remarkable genealogist, Aldus Cody. It is the culmination of his many years of selfless devotion to the task of not only recording the multifarious vital statistics of our growing Family, but of guiding the emergence of the Genealogy into the electronic era.

It is difficult for most of us to comprehend the work that Aldus, or Al as he likes to be called, has given through all these years. It most certainly has been a labor of love, since the pay has been pretty low (at zero) and the thanks have been few and far between. For more than 40 years, Al has diligently recorded the births, deaths, marriages and divorces of literally generations of us "cousins."

That might not be so tough if the information came in regularly, in easy to use format, and was dead accurate. But in addition there have been all those inquiries by phone, letter, fax and e-mail, usually beginning with "My great grandfather Horatio always claimed he was related to . . ." It takes time, patience and skill to gather the known facts, organize them and check them out against the known Cody Family Genealogy. Many of the inquiries turn out to be blind alleys with no relationship, and they take just as much time as the ones that do jibe, revealing a long lost branch, filling in the blanks. Those are the rewarding ones that make it all worthwhile.

This Directory, then, is a wonderful gift to us all, since we will all turn to "our page," to check it out, and proudly display the entries to family, friends and colleagues. The Directories in all their varied formats over the years, have been a valuable tool for the family association. They provide the "proof" that we truly belong to this unique and quite remarkable family, that we are in fact related to Buffalo Bill. There we are, in black and white, current address, birth date, father, mother, siblings and all, tracing back through eight, ten or more generations to a certain immigrant couple who arrived in the New World before 1698. That's the intriguing thing about the Genealogy, and the Directory is what makes it real to us.

The other major tool of the Association is the *Genealogical and Historical Review of the International Cody Family Association (The Review)*, which is published more often and contains news and stories of current events. It could be thought of as the newspaper, while the Directory is the reference book.

Our Genealogy is a historical work in progress and we are all living that history. Not a month goes by without a change in this far-flung Family. This Directory attempts to record a snapshot of the names, addresses and relationships of the known living descendants of Philip and Martha Cody at the time of publishing. Of course, its accuracy is dependent upon the Family members providing their changes to the genealogist.

On behalf of the International Cody Family Association it is my privilege to sincerely thank Aldus Cody for his many years of incredibly dedicated, wonderfully detailed and skilled work for the Association, culminating in this Directory. Through most of those years, Al was running his printing business, keeping up with his own family. In the latter years he has been looking after his wife, Dorothy, who has sacrificed much as well in this regard, and one wonders how he ever found the time. He certainly chose a challenging and all-consuming hobby. Al, thank you very much for your unstinting, thoroughly excellent work.

Harold Thornton, *President*
Calgary, Alberta
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