

THE CODY FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
(Descendants of Philip and Martha at Beverly, Mass. 1698)

Published by Ernest William Cody  
Secretary-Treasurer  
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THE USUAL JANUARY BULLETIN

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - February 26 of each year is Election Day in this family association of ours. On that date (birthday of our kinsman Colonel William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill), our officers, re-nominated at Red Deer, Alberta, July 8, 1950, are declared elected for another year. You can do much to help this Board of Directors by your continued support of their work.

2. ANNUAL DUES - the annual dues of the Cody Family Association are one dollar, and are now due for 1951. And now we are going to do some plain talking, and it is about annual dues. We have a family organization of some 1200 families on our mailing lists. Never in our history have more than 300 families paid their dues in any one year. This is nothing short of disgraceful. Year after year we have appealed, pleaded and coaxed for a better return in annual dues. And we are not going to appeal, plead or coax any longer. This is where the plain talking is going to come in. Instead of pleading, etc. for a better return in dues, we are going to make a statement of fact, and here it is - if there is not a vast improvement this year in the payment of annual dues, we are simply going to shut up shop, and request release from this overlasting worry of trying to finance our association on a 25% support in annual dues. We have functioned as a family association for 25 years - unless better response is received how can we continue? The answer is in your hands - what will you do about it? If we are to continue we must have better support. All remittances for annual dues are to be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer and membership cards will be forwarded you. DO NOT DELAY THIS, PLEASE.

3. 1951 ANNUAL REUNION - and now for something new and different - a winter reunion in sunny Florida. The 1951 convention will be held Saturday and Sunday March 24 and 25 at Lake Wales, Florida. The Chairman of our Local Committee is a veteran past president, Harry B. Cody of Babson Park, Florida, who will be ably assisted by other members of his branch. In about a month's time you will receive another bulletin, giving all the details of this reunion at Lake Wales. The dates set are the Easter week end; in the meantime, plan on this and prepare to attend. We are assured of an interesting convention.

4. FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS - we are doing our utmost to have the Cody Family Genealogy and new Cody Family Directory in line for publication this year. If these two books are not published this year, it is not our fault, but the fault of some four hundred families, who have not submitted the information requested to bring their groups up to date. We commenced the work of requesting the necessary information last April; we wrote over a thousand letters; we have written hundreds more tracing for the information, and still some 400 families have not replied. Here is what we propose to do now - we will write these 400 families once more, and if they do not reply, there is but one alternative, and that is to simply leave them out of the picture - surely that is fair enough. We have often thought what a fine response would be made by every family if there was an estate involved and the information was required to prove the relationship of potential heirs? How we would swarm to respond in that case? However, we are not heirs to an estate, other than our heritage of being part and parcel of an old American family which for nearly 300 years has made a fine contribution to good citizenship and decent living in America.

5. GENERAL NOTES - we have spoken frankly in this bulletin; we have no apologies to make; the guiltless ones will not mind; to the guilty ones we offer help and co-operation if they have mislaid or lost their record forms; we will be happy to forward them duplicates.

Do keep us posted on changes of address; this is a most annoying subject. Addresses are changed; we are not advised, later our letters are returned; we have to search out new addresses, all this so unnecessary if we were advised of changes of address in the first place. Do you know of anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list of bulletins? In reverse, would you like your name removed from the list?

6. FINAL COMMENTS - we do ask your support and help in the matter of annual dues, and in the tremendous task of completing our genealogy and new directory. We have a good organization; we have many loyal members; we want to carry on and finish the job. Your help is vitally important. Do not delay.

ERNEST EDWIN CODY  
520 E. Ann St.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
PRESIDENT

CHESTER CODY CROUCH  
247 E. Tulane Road  
Columbus, 2, Ohio  
VICE PRESIDENT

ERNEST WILLIAM CODY  
413 Ridout St. North  
London, Ontario  
SECRETARY-TREASURER