

# Buffalo Tales

March/April 2017

## **Letter from the Midway: Letter written by United States Marshal James C. Drake during his stay at the Midway Hotel (part II)**

Letter and biography donated to the BCHS by Joe DeFalco

\*Note: The following is my closest estimation of what the letter says. Some words ran together, were illegible, or misspelled. Any words that I estimated are marked with \* and any I could not decipher were filled in with (?).

(I think a page is missing here because of the change of topic mid-sentence)

und to think she was very fast and nice -- Buying good horses tries a man like a lawyer who tries a hundred cases. It tries one as very one. Do you if they get a chance. I was in Minneapolis the other day and saw Nell I fell quite sorry for her she is very poorly and unhappy Lice

used\* to think\* she was very fast and nice\*-- Buying good horses tries a man like a lawyer who tries a hundred\* cases\*. It tries one as very\* one (?) do you if they get a chance. -- I was in Minneapolis the other day and saw Nell. I fell quite sorry for her. She is very poorly and unhappy Lice\*

and he don't seem to get along together and (?) is ready to kill a person (?) murder cases to give him any advice says he can run his own affairs so I have to keep my mouth shut. I have had a (?) (?) of all my relatives\* tonight as usual not forgetting Uncle Jim several nights ago when up in the Rocky Mountains in Montana. I watched\* them by (?) nearly all night from my sleeper window

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And Uncle Jimmie was in my mind  
all the time I always think of Jim  
and wonder a bout young Jim and  
wonder if he has forgotten me  
With love to all again I send you  
Five Jim Tell Will and Ann  
that they must not get frisky in  
their old age. Remember me to small

window and Uncle Jimmie was in my mind all the time. I always think of him and wonder about young Jim and wonder if he has forgotten me. With love to all again I miss\* you five Jim tell Will\* and Ann that they must not get frisky in their old age. Remember me to small\*

Alex, Mrs Hahn, Seth Bur, The Calkins\*  
Not forgetting Eliza How is granny  
Burke and Mrs Tyler and all the  
old land Murk. I wish I could <sup>bring</sup> a drink  
of water from the old spring under  
the hill Tell Uncle Jim to take a drink there and

Alex, Mrs Hahn, Seth Bur, the Calkins\*, not forgetting Eliza. How is granny Burke and (?) Tyler\* and all the old land (?). I wish I could (?) a drink of water from the old spring under the hill Tell Uncle Jim to take a drink there and think of me.

(next page)

"borrowed\* plumes" and I always (?) I go to the bank and borrow money

"borrowed plumes" and I always <sup>use</sup> <sup>when</sup>  
I go to the bank and borrow money that  
it is not mine I try to use it to the best  
advantage We hope to see you <sup>in the year of the</sup>  
worlds fair year when transportation  
will be cheaper and Bertie, Bess, and I  
can go together. They are very nice  
and good. Bessie is a splendid child  
very religious, and kind like her mother  
and she wants to see you all.

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The note me a letter the other day which I will keep until she gets older if I live - I am now called away and must say good night and good buy this

She wrote me a letter the other day which I will keep until she gets older if I live—I am now called away and must say good night and good buy this

Time with love to all of you not forgetting Fred and Uncle John I am affectionately  
P.S. James Curtis Drake

time with love to all of you not forgetting Fred and Uncle John I am affectionately

James Curtis\* Drake

P.S.

I leave here tomorrow night for Omaha and then to Chicago. I bought a horse in Omaha tell Fred the other day that had a record of 2<sup>25</sup> another at Hastings, Neb with a record of 2<sup>30</sup> and one here last night with a record of 2<sup>27</sup> and expect to buy one at Omaha that has a record of 2<sup>20</sup> and one in Chicago that can beat 2<sup>20</sup>. Fred always liked a fast horse he used to like little star very much and me all

P.S. I leave here tomorrow night for Omaha and then to Chicago I bought a horse in Omaha tell Fred the other day that had a record of 2.28 another (?) (?) Neb with a record of 2.30 and one here last night with a record of 2.27 and expect to buy one at Omaha that has a record of 2.20 and one in Chicago that can beat 2.20 Fred always liked a fast horse he used to like little star\* very (?) and (?) all.



## 2017 Calendar of Events

**Sunday, April 23 from 1-3 pm:** BCHS Annual Meeting-A great gathering of BCHS members to reflect back on the past year's accomplishments and enjoy an entertaining program while eating yummy food. The general public is welcome to join us for the program, too!

**"150 Nails" Contest:** Enter your piece with the completed entry form to the Trails & Rails Museum office between the dates of May 30 and June 7 of 2017 during regular business hours. There will be a \$5 entry fee, which must be paid when the registration form and item are delivered to Trails & Rails Museum. Anyone is eligible to enter. Prizes are gratefully sponsored by an anonymous donor and by BD Construction. E-mail [bchs.us@hotmail.com](mailto:bchs.us@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Sunday, June 11:** 10th Annual 1/2 Marathon/10K/5K: Buffalo County Stampede-registration is at 6 am-race begins at 7

**Saturday, June 17 from 10-1 pm:** 32nd Annual Wagons West Celebration-Live music, delicious food, exhibitors, demonstrators, archive researchers, kids' games, and contests. FREE admission/donations are appreciated. "150 Nails" Contest pieces will be unveiled and winners will be announced during this event!

**Prairie Blacksmith Association's Fall Conference-Date TBD**  
**First two weekends in Dec. (Dec.2/3 and Dec. 9/10) from 1-5 pm:** Open to the public: 30th Annual Christmas Tree Walk \*\*\*  
 Saturday, December 2 from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 30th Annual Christmas Tree Walk.

### Education notes (see website for additional details):

\***Fabulous Fridays** are held on the 2nd Friday monthly at 2 pm. Locations vary, so check the web site.

\***Listen to Mardi Anderson on KGFW** 1340 AM at 9 am on the last Friday of each month for a fabulous story about Buffalo County!

\***Join the Trails & Rails Museum Blacksmiths** (time/dates TBD) to learn about blacksmithing and/or possibly join in the fun!

\***The Archive Department** will be open on Mondays from 1:30-4 year-round or by appointment.

\*Trails & Rails Museum will be closed to the public for two weeks at the end of April/beginning of May for Kearney Public Schools' "Pioneer Days". Actual dates are TBD.

Volunteers, chairpersons, and sponsors are still needed. Please contact the office for more information on supporting your Buffalo County Historical Society!

PO Box 523, 710 W. 11th St., Kearney, NE 68848

(308) 234-3041 [www.bchs.us](http://www.bchs.us) [bchs.us@hotmail.com](mailto:bchs.us@hotmail.com)

We hope you enjoy these stories about Buffalo County. We would love to have a stock pile of Buffalo Tales ready so they can go out in a more timely manner. Please submit your memories and stories to us by e-mailing them to [bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com](mailto:bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com) or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848.

**We appreciate your support!**

## Director's Report

-A former depot agent came in and loved our depot. He never worked in the Shelton one, but he was assigned to many depots around here and across the state. He was telling me stories that I had never heard before. I asked if he would write them down so we could preserve them. He was honored. I gave him a release form and Buffalo Tales criteria sheet.

-Dan and I have had many quick meetings at the new building to look at: lighting, mail drop, shelves, floor samples, outlets, fire extinguisher placements, conduit verification, etc.

-A member said her mom had a xylophone and other musical instruments from the Empress Theatre and she wants to donate those to BCHS sometime this month.

**Be our friend on Facebook: "BuffaloCountyHistoricalSociety"**

### BCHS Gold Engineers

Harriet (Hasbrouck) Ames	Lance & Chris Hehner	Corene & Errol Phillips
Arram Family Foundation	Clark H. Hehner, MD	Phillips Insurance Agency-
Brad & Kay Bowman	Fred & Betty Kempf	Scott & Lisa Phillips
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Dora Day	Eric & Debbie Rosenlof	Janice Wiebusch & Jack
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Dean & Lana Gosch	Schaepler	

### A Huge Thanks to our Silver and Gold Engineers for their support of the BCBS/Trails & Rails Museum

(Contact Trails & Rails Museum for more information on becoming an Engineer)

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Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2016 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

Student.....	\$10.00
Individual.....	\$35.00
Family.....	\$40.00
Institutional Membership.....	\$50.00
Supporting Membership.....	\$75.00

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Term expiring June 1, 2017: Kelly Krier, Mary Beth Lowe, Mike Peak, Dr. Jinny Turman

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Term expiring June 1, 2019: Dr. Roger Davis, Lance Hehner, Dale Pohlmann

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**Trails & Rails Museum**



**Buffalo County Historical Society  
710 West 11th St. P.O. Box 523  
Kearney, NE 68848-0523**

Visit us at

[www.bchs.us](http://www.bchs.us)

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