



Cossacks, Indians and Buffalo Bill

Chapter One

Grand Review

William Fredrick Cody, known as Buffalo Bill, created the “Congress of Rough Riders of the World” for his Wild West exhibition. Cody included a contingent of “genuine Don Cossacks” in every show starting at the London 1892 Horticultural exhibition until his death in 1917. The press release was a colorful literary marketing ploy that set in motion more than a century of misinformation on who these men and women were.

The story of these “Russian Cossack” riders that in fact were Georgians and the impact of working with the shows and being in America are revealed in these pages. The journey for Buffalo Bill’s Cossacks begins at the meeting point of Europe and Asia, between the Black Sea and the Caspian lowland, on the Caucasian southern slopes, today’s Republic of Georgia. A land immersed in myth, wine, and blood.