

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

February 16, 2024

From: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum
204 S Main St; Wichita, KS 67202

PRESENTATION ON *GALLOPING GOURMET: EATING AND DRINKING WITH BUFFALO BILL*

February 25, 2024 @ 2-3pm

Admission FREE

Open to the public

Come out to Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum on Sunday, February 25th to hear Steve Friesen present a program on his new book “Galloping Gourmet: Eating and Drinking with Buffalo Bill” (University of Nebraska Press, released December 1, 2023).

This program is FREE and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase and signing during the event.

About the Book

Galloping Gourmet explores an unfamiliar side of a familiar character in American history, William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody. In this entertaining narrative Steve Friesen explores the evolving role of eating and drinking in Buffalo Bill’s life (1846–1917). Friesen starts with Buffalo Bill’s culinary roots on the American Plains, eating simple foods such as cornbread, fried “yellow-legged” chicken, and hardtack. Buffalo Bill discovered gourmet dining while leading buffalo-hunting expeditions and scouting. As his fame increased, so did his desire and opportunities for fine dining: his early show business career allowed him to dine at some of the best restaurants in the country.

Friesen examines the creation of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show in 1883, in which Cody introduced his diverse cast of employees to dining that equaled America’s best restaurants. One newspaper reporter observed that “Colonel Cody displays no more care about anything than the proper feeding of horse and man.” Cody opened the first Mexican restaurant east of the Mississippi and introduced American foodways to Europe. Equally comfortable eating around a campfire on the plains or at Delmonico’s in New York City, he also dined with leading celebrities of his day. In the final section Friesen addresses the controversies surrounding Cody’s drinking, his death, and his ongoing culinary legacy. *Galloping Gourmet* includes an appendix of more than thirty annotated period recipes.

Author Bio

Steve Friesen is the retired director of the [Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave](#) in Golden, Colorado, and contributing editor of *True West* magazine. He is the author of *Lakota Performers in Europe: Their Culture and the Artifacts They Left Behind* and *Buffalo Bill: Scout, Showman, Visionary*.

Sponsored in part by Watermark Books and Café, Museum Supporters.

Submitted by Michelle Frikken, Historical Museum Communications: museum@wichitahistory.org

Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202

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Website: wichitahistory.org for additional information

Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Supported in part by the City of Wichita and the Board of Commissioners of Sedgwick County Kansas

OUR VISION: To provide a world class museum experience, advancing the understanding and exploration of the rich historical and cultural heritage of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas.