



FINDING AID

C. J. (Buffalo) Jones Papers 1904-1914?

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Yellowstone National Park Archives
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Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168

Collection Number: MSC 087

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HISTORY

Charles Jesse Jones or “Buffalo Jones” as he was later nicknamed, was born January 31, 1844, in Illinois and died in 1914 in Topeka, Kansas. As an adult he became a staunch supporter and activist for protecting the American bison. Despite his work in preservation, Jones began his career as a hide hunter where he experienced firsthand the depletion of the bison herds. It was also during this time that Jones developed techniques to capture wild animals without killing them. He became a personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt, who appointed him the first game warden of Yellowstone National Park. Jones used his unique techniques to quell rising bear problems within the park as well as working to support the preservation of buffalo within the park.

Jones purchased as many bison as possible within North America and raised them on his ranch, even succeeding in taming and training many. “Cattelo,” or a crossbreed between cows and bison, were another successful product of Jones’s ranch. Later in his life, Jones traveled to Africa (1906 and 1914) to practice his “live capture” techniques on the game there. Lassoing lions was of particular interest to the public- and stories were written about his adventures; Jones himself often gave lectures to the public in the early part of the 20th century.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

C. J. (Buffalo) Jones Papers
1904-1914?

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 114186

VOLUME 0.75 LF

DESCRIPTION This collection includes personal and business correspondence, photographs and a brochure which pertain to his work as an adventurer, speaker and activist on both the North American and African continents. There is also an incomplete memoir of his time as the first game warden of Yellowstone National Park

The photos and correspondences within this collection represent C.J. Jones's time working at Yellowstone and his trips to Africa. The collection includes photographs of bison in North America and copies of photos from Africa. Personal letters to family and friends as well as business oriented correspondence are part of this collection. There is also an unpublished, unfinished memoir written by Jones and edited by his daughter, which gives information about time spent in Yellowstone as well as copies of advertisements for a trip to Africa.

The correspondence includes personal letters from Jones to his daughters, Olive and Jessie, sent from different hotels in New York City during the early 1900s, a letter to Jones from Theodore Roosevelt and a publisher's correspondence pertaining to Jones writing an article for the magazine. Photographs include those from Yellowstone as well as copies of photos from Jones' trip to Africa to capture live animals to Africa to capture live animals.

ORGANIZATION The collection is arranged into subject files. Photographs can be found in two folders, Yellowstone and Africa and Publicity. Two glass plate negatives have been separated from the collection and placed in cold storage.

PROVENANCE Purchased from Todd Whitmer in 1999, Whitmer is a descendant of Jones. Additional materials were photocopied with Whitmer's permission.

RESTRICTIONS NO

*ASSOCIATED
MATERIALS*

C.J. Jones's administrative records as an employee can be found in the Army Era Records, Yellowstone National Park Archives.

Numerous books and a video about Buffalo Jones and bison can be found at the Yellowstone Research Library.

Additional personal papers are in the Charles Jesse Jones Collection, University of Arizona Library Special Collections.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

File Unit Nbr Title

01.01	Yellowstone National Park
01.02	Personal Letters
01.03	Africa and Publicity

Box 2 [*Separated to Cold Storage*]

File Unit Nbr Title

02.01	Glass Plate Negatives [<i>copy prints are in Box 1</i>]
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