



Calamity Jane

Calamity Jane was born on May 1, 1852 in Princeton, Missouri. Her real name was Martha Jane Cannary. By the time she was 12 years old, both of her parents had died. It was then her job to raise her 5 younger brothers and sisters. She moved the family from Missouri to Wyoming and did whatever she could to take care of her brothers and sisters.

In 1876, Calamity Jane settled in Deadwood, South Dakota, the site of a new gold rush. It has been told that during this time she met Wild Bill Hickok, who was known for his shooting skills. Jane would later say that she married him in 1873. Many people think this was not true because if you look at the years, she said she married him 3 years before she really met him.

When she was in Deadwood, Jane carried goods and machinery to camps outside of the town and worked other jobs too. She was known for being loud and annoying. She also did not act very lady like. However, she was known to be very generous and giving.

Jane worked as a cook, a nurse, a miner and an ox-team driver, and became an excellent horseback rider who was great with a gun. She was a good shot and a fearless rider for a girl her age.

By 1893, Calamity Jane was appearing in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show as a trick shooter and horse rider. She died on August 1, 1903, in Terry, South Dakota, at the age of 51. Her life was full of adventure and excitement, and she never faced a challenge that she was scared to face.