

CALAMITY JANE



MAY 1, 1853 - AUGUST 1, 1903

She was born Martha Jane Canary; there are many tales of how she got her **nickname** but no one knows for sure. She was a tough lady and dressed like a man, in **buckskins**.



When she was 18, she moved to Utah with her parents. She did not go to school but was **literate**. Jane had been a nurse, a dishwasher, a waitress, a cook and an **ox-team** driver.



She was a **frontierswoman** and **scout** and was known for fighting with Indians. She moved Wyoming and lived a rougher more adventurous life on the **Great Plains**.



In 1870, she signed on as a **scout** and began wearing the uniform of a soldier. It is not clear if she ever really joined the United States Army. From then on she did not really see her brothers and sisters



again. She did live a very wild and eventful life from that point on, but **historians** believe that she did not always tell the truth about her adventures.

She was strong enough to fight a man and shoot like a cowboy.

These skills got her a job with Buffalo Bill's Wild West



Show where she shot at targets while riding her horse. She fell in love with Wild



Bill Hickok and secretly married him in 1870.

During the 1870's, Jane was the subject of some **dime novels** which brought her national fame.

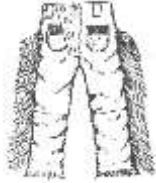


Jane died of **pneumonia** in 1903 and was buried next to Wild Bill Hickok.



GLOSSARY

buckskins - clothing made from a soft sueded leather from the hide of deer or elk.



dime novels – fiction and non-fiction short books written and sold, like comic books.



frontierswoman – a woman who lives on the frontier



Great Plains – the flat land, west of the Mississippi River and east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and Canada.



historians – a person who studies and writes about the past



literate – the ability to read and write

nickname - a descriptive name given in addition to their regular name

ox-team – cattle used to pull heavy loads



pneumonia – a lung infection that makes you very sick.

scout – a person sent in front of a group to gather information about the land coming.

