



Buffalo Bill Rides High Again, in the Town He Built

by Ruth Rudner

excerpted from
The Wall Street Journal,
December 15, 1992, page A16

Submitted by Benjamin W. Wyche of
Arlington, VA

Dateline: Cody, Wyoming

"I saw Buffalo Bill," my father told me the other week on the phone. "He rode around on his beautiful horse. He didn't do much besides bow and take his hat off. He was a handsome man."

"Didn't he have long, golden hair?" my mother asked on the extension.

"No, you're thinking of that other one," my father said.

"Custer, you mean," I offered.

"That's right, Custer," my father said.

In 1876, the year Custer, Buffalo Bill's senior by seven years, staged his last stand at the Little Bighorn, Buffalo Bill was living in Rochester, N.Y., which is where my father and I were born. Thirty-six years after Custer's mishap, my father was in the audience when Buffalo Bill returned to

Rochester with his "Wild West Show." My father was nine years old, the link between Buffalo Bill—William F. Cody—and me, my connection to some of America's most astounding history.

Buffalo Bill's life (1846-1917) stretched from the years before the Civil War, through the West as frontier, beyond the demise of the buffalo on the plains, through most of World War I and directly into my father's youth.

So when the invitation came from the Buffalo

... continued on page 3

In This Issue...

Buffalo Bill Rides Again.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Texas Jack in North Platte Census.....	4
Arizona John, the Suitor.....	6
Dating Old Photographs.....	7
The Earl Dunraven in the Rockies.....	9
Editor's Column.....	10
Roundup Information.....	11
Mail Pouch.....	11
Roundup Registration.....	insert



Dear TJA Members,

July is fast approaching. For those who have not yet made reservations for the Cody Roundup, now is the time to do so. Hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn in Cody must be made by June 1 and we also need to get a good idea of how many will be attending as soon as possible. Only 16 have registered to date.

The tentative agenda for this year is as follows:

Wed. - July 1

- Members arrive in Cody
- Registration 7-9 PM

Thurs. - July 2

- Tour Buffalo Bill Historical Center in morning
- Luncheon at BBHC at noon
- Continue tour on your own or free time in afternoon
- Shoot-out at Irma Hotel - 6 PM
- Dinner afterward as a group - Dutch treat

Fri. - July 3

- Parade in morning
- free time in afternoon
- rodeo (tonight or Sat. afternoon)

Sat. - July 4

- Business meeting - 9 am
- Rodeo or free time in afternoon
- Banquet - 7 PM

Again, for those who plan to attend this year's Roundup, please register as soon as possible and I look forward to seeing each of you there.

RICHARD W. OMOHUNDRO
President, Texas Jack Association
PO Box 91

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Thomas T. Omohundro	Mesa, AZ
Aaron Poff	Libby, MT
James R. Moon, II (Jase)	Lewisburg, TN
Ginny de la Houssaye	Crowley, LA
Gus de la Houssaye	Crowley, LA
Joseph Omohundro	Collinsville, IL
Evangeline Omohundro	Sacramento, CA
June O. Klein	Naples, FL

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HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrs. Henry R. Coe, Cody WY
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Buffalo Bill Historical Center
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Dr. Paul Fees, Cody, WY
Curator, Buffalo Bill Historical Center
Mr. Fred H. Garlow (deceased), Cody, WY
Grandson of W. F. Cody
The Knight of Glin, County Limerick, Ireland
Great-grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV
Mr. Herschel C. Logan (deceased), Santa Ana, CA
Author of *Buckskin and Satin*
Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost (deceased), North Platte, NE
Historian and author of *Buffalo Bill*

Buffalo Bill

(continued from page 1)

Bill Historical Center here, to a party that was a kind of celebration of his life, I was delighted. The party's official purpose was to honor the 75th anniversary of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, which had been the driving force behind the building of the historical center, an extraordinary complex made up of the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Whitney Museum of Western Art, the Plains Indian Museum and the Cody Firearms Museum. Much of America may think of Wyoming as a cultural desert, but in fact it houses the largest art museum between L.A. and Chicago, the fifth largest in the U.S.

The whole town of Cody (population: about 8,000) was invited to the party. This is Buffalo Bill's town, developed in one of his many attempts to civilize the West. I stayed at the Irma, the hotel he built in 1902 on Sheridan Avenue, Cody's main street. The huge bar, with its carved buffalo head that Queen Victoria gave him as a present, is still here, only these days you can order pancakes or apple pie at the counter in front of it....

... For Sen. Simpson, the historical center is a family affair. His grandmother was one of the founders of the memorial association. "When I was very young," the senator said, "Mary Jester Allen [Buffalo Bill's niece] asked my mother to

come to the old museum and play the piano and bring some sandwiches because they were going to entertain somebody from the East. We do a lot of that out here. We did a Rotary show on that once. How to build a Western museum on Eastern money. It's a hell of a trick and it works."

I talked with Barron Collier, the prime energy behind fund raising for the expansion of the museum library, a major project that will ultimately produce a library appropriate to, as Mr. Collier says, "a world-class museum." Earnest, studious-looking Mr. Collier was one of the few people at the party who did not look like a cowboy. But if he is not as awed as the rest of us are by the look, he is awed by the museum. "The amazing thing about this place," he says, "is what on earth is an institution like this doing out here?"

... "Cody's role in helping to define Western myth is really his most important role," Paul Fees, the historical center's senior curator, told me the next day when I accompanied him into the vaults, where he let me hold a Colt flattop single-action revolver that had been given to Buffalo Bill in 1895. The pistol has a gold buffalo head on top, a gold cylinder and scroll engraving on the steel barrel. Cody's name is engraved in gold on the mother-of-pearl handle.

Ms. Rudner is a free-lance writer in Bozeman, Montana. The print of Buffalo Bill is the one which accompanied the newspaper article. There was no caption.

*

A Businessman in North Platte, Nebraska

by Dr. Robert D. Pepper of Palo Alto, CA

The books say Texas Jack worked as a bartender for Lou Baker in 1869, then went to Cottonwood Springs and became a teacher. But this census return says different!

Reproduced below [p. 5] is part of a page of the 1870 U. S. Census for Lincoln County, Nebraska: North Platte Precinct; microfilm reel 830, page 204(b), number 16, out of 32 pages for Cottonwood Springs (including Fort McPherson) and North Platte, about 20 miles away. The page is dated August 13, 1870, which was a Saturday.

Each census page could record information for 40 persons. Shown below is the bottom half of a page, listing persons 19-40. Texas Jack is on line 26. Reading across that line, this is what it all means: "169" refers to the 169th structure visited by the census taker. The next box is not worth explaining! The next line reads "Omohondro John," followed by his age ("23"), his sex ("M"), his race ("W" for white), and his occupation ("Saloon Keeper"). The next box (which is empty) was for recording the dollar worth of real estate, followed by a box to record dollar worth of personal estate (which appears to be the numbers 350). Next is place of birth ("Virginia"), and the slash in the last box means "male citizen, 21 or older."

Addendum by John and Susan Omohundro

It's great to find this original document bearing on Texas Jack's biography.

Study of the census page leads to a number of observations. First, we notice that Texas Jack shared a residence with a man named James Miller, a 51-year-old day laborer. It's interesting that Miller was also from Virginia. Were they pals in Virginia?

We were impressed to see where people came from. Nebraskans of 1870 were born in England, Ireland and Saxony, not to mention Massachusetts, Vermont, Ohio, New York, Iowa, Missouri, and Virginia.

Also, notice the occupations listed: two photographers and two other bartenders in our small sample.

Because the census was taken in August, we wonder if Texas Jack perhaps went on to teach school in the fall.

Though it's somewhat difficult to decipher, we hope readers will scan the following page and make their own observations.

This Way to the Big Show: The Life of Dexter Fellows

by Dexter W. Fellows and Andrew A. Freeman

excerpted and annotated by John and Susan Omohundro

This biography was published by Viking of New York in 1936. Dexter Fellows was born in 1871 and died in 1938. He grew up in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. As a child, he always liked circuses and shows. He recalled:

“**W**hat really made us boys run a temperature was the Buffalo Bill Wild West show’s first visit to Fitchburg in the early eighties. I had seen Cody several years before as he, ‘Wild Bill’ Hickok, and ‘Texas Jack’ Omohundro led a group of Sioux Indians through the streets as a ballyhoo for ‘The Prairie Waif,’ in which they were playing at our combined theater and city hall. No finer looking men ever appeared in public life than these three....Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill, and Texas Jack were Lochinvars from out of the Wild West....They represented a masculine ideal. Men’s chests swelled to the bursting point if there were only a hint that they even faintly resembled any one of those hairy Olympians.” (pp. 33-34)

In 1893, at age 21, Fellows went to work as press agent for one season for Pawnee Bill’s Historic Wild West Show. He then moved to Buffalo Bill’s show as press agent, working for him for nine years, from 1895 through 1903. Later, he worked for Barnum & Bailey Circus for many years.

Now, back to Fellows’ early years with the wild west shows. On pp. 17-18 he writes about a man named John M. Burke, who was the press agent for Buffalo Bill and who, he claims, was a suitor to Josephine Morlacchi before she met Texas Jack and who bought a house in Billerica (near Lowell, Massachusetts) with the intention of living there with Josephine as his wife.

“The man who showed me the way through the looking glass and taught me the part I was to play, who tutored me in the humanities and gave me a zestful appetite for life, was ‘Major’ John M. Burke, sometimes referred to, mostly by

himself, as ‘Arizona John.’

“I first met Burke at the Continental Hotel in Philadelphia on the day I joined the Buffalo Bill Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World, of which he was general manager. It was in the spring of 1895, two years after my engagement as press agent with Pawnee Bill. Burke had been with Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) in the hall-show days when Cody, ‘Wild Bill’ Hickok, and ‘Texas Jack’ Omohundro were peppering redskins with blank cartridges in stage plays written by Edward Z.C. Judson, better known as Ned Buntline.

“The Major was not an Indian fighter but he dressed to give that impression; at least he tried to look like Buffalo Bill. He was clean-shaven except for a thick mustache whose ends made a semicircle around the chin. His long hair was twisted at the back of his head and held in place with hairpins. More often than not it was hidden by a Stetson hat of large proportions. I am sure he would have preferred to wear his curly locks draped over his broad shoulders but he knew it did not become him as well as it did Cody, ‘Texas Jack,’ and ‘Wild Bill.’

“Burke always appeared to be the picture of sartorial perfection but to my knowledge he never wore a shirt. Fastened around his neck was a false white bosom of starched linen. And attached to the sleeves of his undershirt were white cuffs. He was never without the scarf pin which Pope Leo presented to him when the Wild West show was in Rome. On his fingers he wore a number of women’s rings, and it was not until two years later that I learned of their significance.

“One evening while we were playing the city of Quebec, Burke and I dropped into a café. At a near-by table was a group of young women, one of whom was of a pronounced Spanish type. Burke could not take his eyes off her. After a long period of silence he went to her table and

induced her to change her position so that he could observe her face and profile to the best advantage from where we sat. When he returned, tears were in his eyes.

“ ‘She looks like the girl I was going to marry,’ he said.

“In earlier days he was engaged to the renowned Mademoiselle Morlacchi, a Spanish [sic] dancer, who toured with Cody in Ned Buntline’s thriller, "Scouts of the Prairie." Their affair had progressed to the point where he had furnished a home in Billerica, near Lowell, Massachusetts. I, too, was moved when he told of the ineffable joy he experienced in buying chairs and other furniture for the first permanent

Portrait of Texas Jack Omohundro, from a stereoscopic photograph made in 1873 by the celebrated Gurney of New York. Buckskin and Satin, p. 3

HOW TO DATE AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH

Compiled by Judith Allison Walters of Bothell, WA

Editor's note: This compilation was given out at a genealogy lecture my husband Karl Pelkan attended, and is of interest because many of the photographs in Herschel C. Logan's Buckskin and Satin are referred to as a "tintype" or a "cabinet photograph" or whatever. Also, I thought readers would find this information useful when trying to date their own ancestral photographs.

The DAGUERREOTYPE, 1839 - 1860

This, the oldest of the commercially made photographs, has a shiny, mirror-like appearance. It sometimes appears positive, sometimes negative, depending upon the angle by which it is held and viewed. It has a fragile silver surface on a copper plate. Each daguerreotype was originally enclosed in a case, and still needs that protection.

The AMBROTYPE, 1854 - 1863

This is a negative image on glass, but will appear positive because it will have had a coating of red or black lacquer applied to the back, or been enclosed in a case with black paper or cloth

behind it. Hold it up to the light to make sure. Ambrotypes were enclosed in cases, and cannot be distinguished from tintypes unless removed and closely examined.

The TINTYPE or FERROTYPE, 1856 - 1915
(The image is ALWAYS reversed.)

A tintype can range in size from tiny (3/4 inch) to 8 x 10 inches or larger. They are not shiny like the daguerreotype, not on glass like the ambrotype, but an image on thin metal. They can be found in cases just like the two previous, or in paper frames, wall frames, albums, or loose. If they are in cases or pasted in paper frames, they are more likely to be earlier. . . if they are slipped into a paper frame, they are more likely to be later in the period. If the pose is formal, it is more likely to be earlier. . . if the pose is casual, or of a group, it is probably later. Tintypes were taken in great number at fairs (like St. Louis) and at amusement parks (like Atlantic City). If you are still in doubt, look for signs on the back of paste or paper, or study the clothing fashions.

CARTES DE VISITE, 1860 - 1910

Size 2 1/2 x 4 inches. The first of the paper photographs, *cartes de visite* (visiting cards) can be found in albums, with or without tintypes and cabinet photographs. Many were never put in albums. In comparing *cartes de visite*, the thinnest are the earliest, and the heavier and/or thicker, later. If they appear somewhat shiny, they fall into the latter part of the period. This type of photograph continued to be made later in the British Isles and Scandinavia, than it was in the U.S. Here it was discontinued roughly about 1890.

The CABINET photograph, 1875 - 1910

Size 4 x 6 inches. This type can be found in albums, wall or cabinet frames, and of course, loose. Study the fashions for a closer determination of the date within the period. One hint: if the photograph is an oval pasted on the card, or if the photo is surrounded by dark grey or black mount card, it is probably after 1900.

The POST CARD photograph, 1905 - 1930

These can be found in great profusion and sometimes were mailed, sometimes not. The postmark is the best clue, if there is one.

Large oval or rectangular CRAYON or CHARCOAL photographs, c. 1890 - 1910

These were copies, enlargements of earlier photographs, many times combining two different originals. Try to locate the original(s) from which it was made.

CYANOTYPE, 1890's

A photograph made using a cyanide. This picture is on a lightweight, non-shiny paper and is blue-colored.

P.S. Copies of photographs were made from at least 1860 on. Daguerreotypes were copied onto tintypes, cabinets, etc., etc. SO BEWARE!

P.P.S. The REVENUE STAMP is a very good clue. If you find one on the back of a tintype or *carte de visite*, it means the picture was taken at the time of the Civil War. The photograph was taxed, and the revenue stamp indicates the tax was paid. Sometimes the stamp will have the date and/or the photographer's name or initials on it in ink. These revenue stamps were used between the fall of 1864 and the fall of 1866.

*

Texas Jack Omohundro, 1873. A studio photograph of the handsome scout taken shortly after his marriage to Mlle. Morlacchi. Buckskin and Satin, p. 117.

Excerpts from Rocky Mountain National Park: A History, by C.W. Buchholtz, published by Colorado Associated University Press, publication date unknown, pages 66-67.

I selected these excerpts because one sees just how important a figure the Earl of Dunraven was, and thus understands why his accolades of Texas Jack in The Great Divide are so valuable to Texas Jack historians. These snippets also explain why Englishmen had such an interest in exploring the American West in the late 1800's.

...**E**stes Park itself drew a man who helped to shape the destiny of the entire region. Just after Christmas in 1872, a party of English sportsmen visiting Denver decided to try hunting in the mountains above Estes Park. Leading this band of gentlemen was Windham Thomas Wyndham-Quin, also known as the fourth Earl of Dunraven and Mountearl in the Peerage of Ireland, second Baron Kenry of the United Kingdom, Knight of the Order of St. Patrick, and Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Aside from being linked to English nobility, the Earl of Dunraven was enormously wealthy. In 1872, at age thirty-one, he already owned forty thousand acres of land and four homes, including Dunraven Castle at Glamorgan. Prior to his Estes Park visit the Earl had traveled widely in Europe, the Middle East, and in Africa. He served in the First Life Guards, was an excellent horseman, and had a nervous energy that led him to become a war correspondent during a conflict in Abyssinia and during the Franco-Prussian War.

He first came to the United States on his honeymoon in 1869, visiting only the East Coast. In the autumn of 1871 he returned to America, this time to venture into the West. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 made his trip a bit easier. There he hunted elk in the region of the North Platte River under the guidance of Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack Omohondro [sic]. Like other English aristocrats who ventured into the wilderness, the Earl traveled in style, even bringing a personal physician,

The Earl of Dunraven in the Rockies

Compiled by John T. Omohundro

Dr. George Henry Kingsley. The Earl planned to live an adventurous life. As historian Dave Hicks notes, he “enjoyed a good pipe, good liquor, good food, women and sports. But not necessarily in that order.”

Once again, in 1872, the Earl of Dunraven returned to hunt, this time in Nebraska, Wyoming, and in Colorado's South Park. While relaxing among the night spots of Denver, the Earl met Theodore Whyte. Mr. Whyte, then twenty-six years old, had arrived in Colorado during the late 1860s. Originally from Devonshire, England, he had trapped for the Hudson's Bay Company for three years and had tried his hand in the Colorado mines. During some of his earlier rambles, Whyte became familiar with Estes Park. Whyte, much like Isabella Bird and the Earl of Dunraven, represents a then developing English interest in the Rockies. This was a distinctly curious generation of people, investigating regions for adventure or excitement as eagerly as Hayden or Powell explored for science. In *Westward The Briton*, historian Robert Athearn claims that “the state of Colorado drew more of these curious observers than any other western state or territory. So many of them came to visit, and even to stay, that the state has been called ‘England beyond the Missouri.’”

A photo appears with the article with this caption: “Dressed in his yachting uniform, the Earl of Dunraven displayed the aristocratic demeanor of a man of wealth and position. Here was a man who nearly succeeded in owning all of Estes Park.”

from the Editor's Desk...



The 1998 Cody Roundup is just 'round the corner! Don't delay in making hotel arrangements because Cody is a popular tourist destination during Fourth of July weekend. See "The President's Message" for planned events and refer to the Winter '98 *Scout* for descriptions of things to do and see in and around Cody during free time.

I know all readers were horrified to hear of the terrible tornado that recently ripped through Nashville, the host city of our 1996 Roundup. Our thoughts are with all friends, relatives and citizens of that beautiful city.

Having a different editor for each issue of *The Scout* the last two years was an experiment, and a successful one, I think, since no one person was overworked. But though the editors—those who collected the material to be published—changed each time, there are three people who worked on each issue. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank them for their time: John and Susan Omohundro for layout and Edna Nees for production.

If you have not had a chance to be a part of making *The Scout* happen, please consider volunteering at the Roundup business meeting, either in person or by contacting me or our president, Rick Omohundro.

See you at the Roundup!

Kitty Wyche Pelkan

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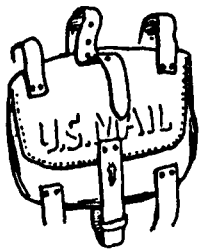
Roundup History

Following is a list of venues for the Texas Jack Association Roundups and the president whose term ended that year:

1980	Leadville, CO	Frank R. Sullivan
1984	Cody, WY	Frank R. Sullivan
1986	North Platte, NE	Julie O. Greene
1988	Richmond, VA	Angela G. Wyche
1990	Leadville, CO	Sue O. Allen
1992	San Antonio, TX	Jack H. Omohundro, Sr.
1994	Lowell, MA	Kitty W. Pelkan
1996	Nashville, TN	Harvey Willard
1998	Cody, WY	Richard W. Omohundro

From the Mail Pouch . . .

From Grass Valley,
California, Gloria O. Palmer
writes:



The Texas Jack Scout Winter 1998 arrived at my home. . . . In reading from the "Mail Pouch" article [about researching the origin of the name "Omohundro"], I feel the italics are done by you, the editor [John and Susan O, the layout editors]. And like you I feel we not only need a book title but must have definite proof. Some of us have been searching for a number of years for a nationality but it eludes us. There are many theories but no proof and as Stephen M. Omohundro says on his web page, "The origin of the Omohundro name is still a mystery."

Perhaps we should publicize all the theories.

Your theory fits with my grandfather's answer to my question on nationality, "We are Scotch-Irish." The Irish Names Society, P.O. Box 2095, La Mesa CA 91943-2005 stated that they had nothing on Omohundro and feel that it is definitely not Irish. But they do say that Moxley is a surname found in County Cork.

I have been doing research through correspondence in England and Wales and feel I have covered as much as possible from here. Now I want to start on Ireland.

I have an outline which I have been working on for several years and will try to complete soon. Perhaps *The Texas Jack Scout* would like a copy. Hopefully it will help other researchers from going over the "same ground."

Editor's Note: It WOULD be helpful to researchers to have all the theories regarding the origin of the Omohundro name published in one issue of The Scout. It's an idea that's been suggested before but just hasn't been done yet. On your behalf, I will suggest at the upcoming Roundup business meeting that an entire issue of The Scout be devoted to this topic.



Roundup Rooms and Transportation

Make your room reservation now:

at the Holiday Inn -
call 1-800-527-5544

Group room rates are:

Single - \$79.92
Double - \$85.32
Triple - \$90.72
Quad - \$96.12

All rates include an 8% tax

Children 19 and under stay free with adults.

Don't forget to tell them you are with the TJA in order to receive the group rate.

Travel Arrangements

If flying: Connections to Cody out of Salt Lake City can be made with Delta. Connections out of Denver can be made with United Express.

The Cody Airport is 5 minutes from downtown Cody. Complementary shuttle service is available to the Holiday Inn. Car rentals are also available but reservations should be made in advance. Hertz and Avis are available but a better deal with Thrifty can be made if you mention you are staying at the Holiday Inn. The Thrifty car rental reservation number is 307-587-8855.

Register Now ! for the Roundup - July 1-4, 1998

NEXT EDITOR

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