

The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

Volume XVI, Number 1

April 2001

Pards with Texas Jack Omohundro

by Thadd Turner



Two of Wild Bill's pards: John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, displaying presentation rifles from the Remington Company.

He was good friends with Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody, and in 1876 was as well known in America as both of these two famous wild west legends. He married a popular female stage actress and dancer of the times, was the hero of dozens of dime novel stories, and was considered one of the few trusted white friends of the Pawnee Indians.

This same real life plainsman also wrote feature correspondences for major newspapers and magazines, was a Confederate Civil War veteran, an original Texas cowboy, and became a reliable frontier scout and much sought after hunting guide for the royalty of Europe. John Baker "Texas Jack" Omohundro was the only one of the three famous scouts who never obtained the lasting immortality that he may have deserved. His tragic and untimely death at the

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Dear TJA members,

Martha Sullivan, daughter of Association founder Frank Sullivan, and Thadd Turner, Texas Jack reenactor, author, and marksman, have been working hard to put together a memorable Roundup in Deadwood City, South Dakota, for June 2002. We'll stay at the historic Franklin Hotel in the center of the village. Our visit will be rich with walking and bus tours, stage and street reenactments, local barbeque, the Black Hills, and more. Details on the Roundup will be published later in 2001.

I've engaged a student to assist me in compiling a list of magazines, authors and editors, scholars, museums, libraries, and archives interested in Western history. My plan is to send the Texas Jack Scout to these key research and publicity gateways, to extend our Association's efforts in preserving Texas Jack's memory. We also intend to link Richard Omohundro's Texas Jack website (www.texas-jack.org) with other western history websites.

Vice President Julie Omohundro, of Durham, North Carolina, is heading up a project to compile an index of all the Scouts. The easier it is for writers, researchers, and publicists to find information about John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, the more his memory shines. If your holdings of the Scout before 1988 are good and would like to help, contact Julie (jeomo@mindspring.com).

Future items in the Scout will include historical and fiction articles by Thadd, more appearances of Texas Jack in recent western fiction, discussion of the early origins of the wild west show in George Catlin's and P. T. Barnum's traveling

exhibits, and excerpts from new and old works on Buffalo Bill which include mention of Texas Jack.

It's that time of year again: please don't forget to pay your annual membership dues, still a modest \$15.

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early age of 33, robbed him of his lasting future renown.

History records Texas Jack as having been born July 26, 1846 at Palmyra, Fluvanna County, Virginia, the fourth child of John Burwell Omohundro and Catherine S. Baker Omohundro. Most books list Jack's middle name as Burwell, the same as his father's, but copies of the family bible as recorded by his mother, and his death certificate signed by his wife, show his true middle name as Baker.

In February 1864, a youthful 17 year old John Omohundro enlisted in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, serving under Colonel J.E.B. Stuart's 5th Cavalry Corps, where his older brother Orville Omohundro was a 2nd Lieutenant of Company G. Jack was engaged in many scouting operations during the bloody and desperate 1864 Wilderness Campaigns in Virginia. It is possible that he may have delivered the last dispatch to General "Jeb" Stuart late in the afternoon of May 11th during an active engagement at Yellow Tavern. As the popular General rode off to take action on the just received message handed him by the young Confederate scout, a Federal bullet found its mark, hitting the beloved commander and mortally wounding him.

Mustered out of the disbanded Confederate Army at the end of the war in April 1865, the restless 18 year old 'veteran', disillusioned with the then war-torn condition of his home state, decided to head west to new opportunities. Prior to joining the Great Conflict between the States he had spent two youthful years in Texas working the longhorn cattle, where he developed exceptional horsemanship and rifle skills.

Omohundro left his home in Virginia and once again departed for Texas, where he quickly found employment with helping round up the many stray longhorn cattle that had been allowed to roam without restriction on the open range during the four years the Texans had been away at war. It was on a trail drive to Tennessee that he won his sobriquet of "Texas Jack." As the drovers moved their much needed beef supplies through one small town, the grateful townspeople happened upon Jack, who was acting trail boss. One of the local population inquired of the young cowboy, "where are you from?" "Texas," responded Jack. "And what is your name, son?" came the next question. "Jack" was the quick reply, and at which they all promptly cheered "Hurrah for Texas Jack!" The name then stuck for the remainder of Jack's life.

Texas Jack spent the next three years becoming an experienced cowboy and driving the longhorns north up the Chisholm Trail to destinations in Kansas and other locales. In the late summer of 1869, Omohundro was at Fort Hays, Kansas, where he met the famous cavalry scout, Moses "California Joe" Milner, who was then Chief of Scouts for Colonel George Armstrong Custer and his 7th Cavalry. California Joe introduced the young cowboy to a good friend of his, Wild Bill Hickok, who was the newly appointed acting sheriff of Ellis County, for which nearby Hays City served as the county seat.

Wild Bill had served as a scout for the Federal Army during the Civil War, and then had attained considerable fame as a noted scout for the 7th and 10th US Cavalrys. He liked the sincere qualities of this straight up and honest man from Virginia, who shared similar physical traits, and true instincts of survival on the open range. Later in the year, at Fort McPherson, Nebraska, Texas Jack would first meet Buffalo Bill Cody, who had himself previously become friends with Hickok during their days before the Civil War working for the Pony Express, and then most recently scouting together for the 5th and 10th Cavalrys, in which capacity Cody was still employed. The three scouts would all become close friends and experience many exciting adventures together over the next few years.

It was at this time that Texas Jack decided to quit running cows, and determined to move north and relocate to Cotton Springs, Nebraska,



William Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok.
Painting by Joe Netherwood.

the local town at Fort McPherson. The Oregon Trail, Pony Express Route, Overland Trail, and Union Pacific Railroad all followed the mighty Platte River through this location, on their way up river to where the growing community of North Platte was to become a vital center of commerce. Cody was providing scouting services to the 5th US Cavalry at the fort, and was instrumental in getting Jack hired on as a "trail agent and scout." The reliable cowboy and war veteran was at home on the open plains, and began to become a favorite scout among the cavalry commanders due to his outstanding tracking and guiding abilities under harsh conditions, and his deadly marksmanship with a rifle and pistol while in extreme pressure situations. Texas Jack was fast becoming known as one of the best trail scouts, Indian fighters, and hunting guides on the frontier.

1872 was a remarkable year for John B. Omohundro. In April of this year, marauding Indians raided nearby McPherson Station, killing a few men, and taking a considerable number of horses. Captain Charles Meinhold was dispatched with Company B to locate the stolen stock, with Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill serving as scouts. Between April 25th and the 27th, the force covered over 100 miles, found the Indians and stolen horses, fought a brief engagement, recovered two of the stolen mounts, and then returned to the fort. This brief skirmish was considered by the experienced scouts to be "normal business" on the plains, but Capt. Meinhold was so impressed with the scouts' work under fire, that his report of this incident eventually led to Cody receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. Texas Jack was right there by his good pard's side, and probably was the chief scout on the return trip, as it was reported that Cody had been treated for a scalp wound received during this engagement.

Working closely with Major Frank North, Jack spent many hours among the local Pawnee Indians, with whom he freely traded and became good friends. In the summer of 1872, the Pawnee requested permission from General Phil Sheridan to hold a large buffalo hunt, to gain much needed food reserves for the upcoming winter season. General Sheridan wanted an honest man and dependable cavalry scout to assist the Pawnee,

and selected Texas Jack for the assignment. The hunt was very successful for the Indians, and thereafter Jack would become one of the few white men the Pawnee could trust, and whom they then named "Whirling Rope," in part because of his expert ability with a lasso from his cowboy days.

Also in 1872, the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia came to hunt the buffalo. The US Army hosted this "international" bison hunt, and wanting the best scouts and hunting guides available, selected Buffalo Bill as the lead guide. Cody immediately requested Texas Jack as his most able assistant for this historic event, which became a huge success. In addition to the hunts on the open plains, many of the royalty from Europe wanted to view the natural wonders of the Yellowstone country, which became America's first national park on March 1st, 1872. An Englishman named the Earl of Dunraven was so

"The Earl of Dunraven was so impressed with Texas Jack's ability to successfully guide his party, that he eventually wrote three books about his adventures on America's frontier, helping Texas Jack gain an even larger reputation as a frontier legend."

impressed with Jack's ability to successfully guide his party, that after a subsequent return hunt in 1874, he eventually wrote three books about his adventures on America's frontier, helping Texas Jack gain an even larger reputation as a frontier legend.

In December of 1872, Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill, both of whom now had become famous in dozens of dime novel stories printed in the eastern United States, put together the first stage show featuring the well known western scouts as live actors. Popular dime novel writer Ned Buntline wrote the first production, *Scouts of the Prairie*, in about four hours. The show opened December 16, in Chicago, Illinois, just four short days after the plainsmen had arrived by train directly from the frontier country. Local extras were hired as Native Americans. The scouts had no formal acting training or experience. Buntline had managed to hire for the opening of the show, one of the then most popular ballerina dancers and actresses, Mlle. Guiseppina (Josephine) Morlacchi to play the female Indian lead. Morlacchi also had her own successful ballet troupe that played to full houses across the East.

On opening night, when the curtain went up, both Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill could not remember a single line from the script. Fortunately Cody recognized a local businessman and politician sitting in the audience as a recent

member of a hunting party he had guided. The scouts started talking about guiding hunting trips. In an effort to salvage the show, Buntline ordered the "Indians" onto the stage in a surprise mock attack upon Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill, whom both immediately dispatched every single "redskin" with pistol fire. The audience roared with applause, so Buntline had the two scouts "kill off" the fake Indians again in the second and third acts, much to the delight of the crowd. The first season the show played to packed houses everywhere across the nation. Unhappy with their share of the show's receipts, the scouts broke away from Buntline after the first year and formed their own group, known as Cody's Combination.

By 1873, Wild Bill Hickok had joined the show, now known as The Scouts of the Plains. During this year the production grew considerably to include real Native American actors, more female characters, and two additional real life cowboys from the west. The beautiful Josephine Morlacchi would play the new female lead "Pale Dove." Josephine, who had helped introduce the rowdy and boisterous "Can-Can" dance to the American public, was the same age as Jack, and had been born in Milan, Italy. Schooled at the finest ballet academies in Europe, she had toured the European capital cities performing in front of kings and queens, and other royalty, before being persuaded to come to the United States in 1867. She was an instant success on the American stage and soon became one of the most sought after and popular performers of the time. Texas Jack, the rough and bold plainsman, and Josephine, the petite and graceful ballerina, fell in love and were married in August 1873.

By 1876 the Sioux and Cheyenne Indian tribes were pushed into open warfare with the United States Army, and shortly after Custer's terrible defeat at the Little Big Horn in Montana in late June, Jack was on the frontier again as a scout and war correspondent for the New York Herald and the Spirit of The Times, in which he wrote several lengthy dispatches of military activities in that region. On August 2nd, his good friend, Wild Bill Hickok, would be shot and killed in Deadwood City, Dakota Territory.

During the latter part of the 1870's Texas Jack became more well known to Americans than ever before. He and Josephine made their home in the East on a country estate bought by their hard work on the American stage. Jack had become a popular writer, covering current events, and producing exciting stories of working as a

cowboy, scouting on the plains, and guiding the last great buffalo hunts. He wrote a genuine and painful account of working the wild longhorn cattle from horseback, including the many dangers associated with being a 'cow-boy', which was reprinted and used for several years in the official brochures of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in the mid-1880's.

Just one month short of his 34th birthday, Texas Jack unexpectedly contracted pneumonia and died on June 28, 1880, in Leadville, Colorado, while accompanying his wife on a stage show tour. The Omohundros had been in Leadville since early March, looking for mining investments and becoming well known fixtures there during their brief time in that community. Texas Jack had just recently joined mining millionaire H.A.W. Tabor's Light Cavalry Unit, a special volunteer law enforcement detachment assigned to patrolling the congested streets of the active mining town. Josephine, devastated by the loss of her beloved "Texas Jack," never recovered from the shock and grief of her husband's sudden death, and quit the American stage forever. The beautiful actress and "premier danseuse" who had entertained so many tens of thousands of devoted fans, died alone in July 1886 at the young age of 39 from cancer-- and most probably a never mended broken heart.

Texas Jack remained a popular figure with the American public for many years after his untimely death. In 1994, John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro was posthumously elected to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and received the Wrangler Award in the Hall of Great Western Performers for his skills as an original working cowboy and stage actor.

The author currently resides in historic Deadwood, South Dakota, where he spends time providing authentic living history activities for visitors.

Recommended reading includes Herschel C. Logan's, Buckskin and Satin, Joseph G. Rosa's, They Called Him Wild Bill: The Life and Adventures of James Butler Hickok, and Richard J. Walsh's, The Making of Buffalo Bill. See also the Texas Jack Association's website (www.texas-jack.org).

* * *

Texas Jack Rides Again: A Word About the Author



Thadd Turner, the author of the preceding article and an organizer of the Deadwood 2002 Roundup, has been active with old west reenactments for about seven years, turning full-time in 1996. He writes, "I like to replicate the old time scouts, gunfighters, and lawmen. My physical resemblance to Texas Jack himself is minimal, but my dedication to the clothing, firearms, horse tack, personality, and general characterization of the old scouts is what sells me best to the public-- I live the lifestyle in my mannerism and dress every day."

Thadd is an expert rider. He is rated as one of the top national level competitors in the sport of cowboy mounted shooting, in which competitors engage 10 preset targets with two single-action pistols in a timed event, all on horseback. The average "course of fire" is run in

less than 25 seconds!

He has been active as a background hard rider in many film, TV, and print productions, and he has modeled the old time scout and cowboy look for some of the top western artists in the country.

Thadd lives in Deadwood City, South Dakota. One of his recent publications is a new book on Wild Bill Hickok, appearing now as an ebook on his website (www.oldwestalive.com) and in Spring 2001 as a hardback from Early West Publishing and Barb Wire Publishing. His articles and fiction about Texas Jack and Wild Bill Hickok and his assassin, Jack McCall, will appear soon in *True West* and *Wild West* magazines.

* * *

Thadd Turner competing in cowboy mounted shooting (left) and in full plainsman regalia (below) Photos by Shannon Nace.



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Since this is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Texas Jack Association, it is fitting to reprint this article, which first appeared in the SCOUT in July 1986 (Vol.II, No.3) -eds.

The year is 1908. A crowd is gathered in the cemetery at Leadville, Colo. The great frontiersman Buffalo Bill Cody is there. Cody, wearing his trademark buckskins and with his long, gray hair flowing in the wind, addresses the crowd:

"My friends," he begins, "perhaps many of you do not know this man whom we have gathered to honor. No doubt you would like to know something of him who was one of my

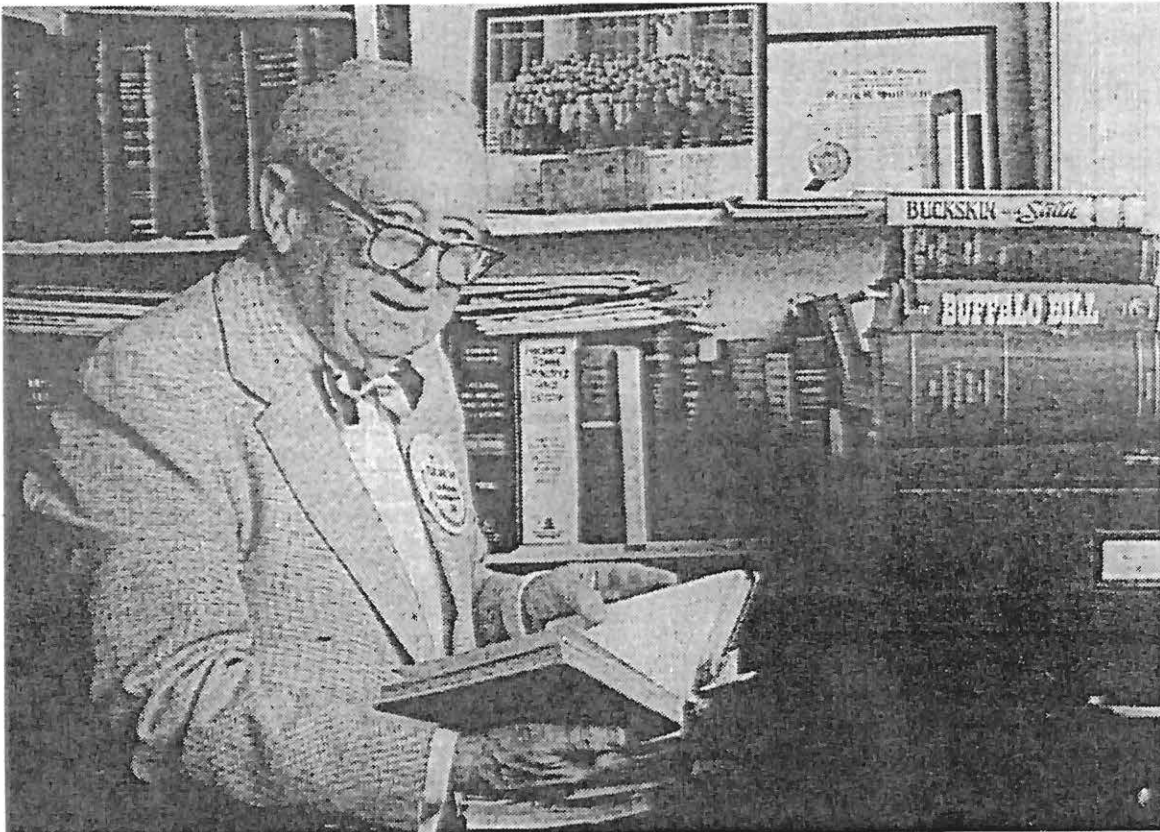
dearest and most intimate friends. John B. Omohundro, better known as 'Texas Jack,' was a Virginian by birth..."

Frank Sullivan, 76, was born in the same year that Cody gave his eulogy for his dead compadre. Though Texas Jack had been dead for nearly 30 years before Sullivan was born, their names are linked forever.

Sullivan, a Springfield attorney, first came across Jack's name in a book by the Irish Earl of Dunraven. Dunraven had traveled the Old West extensively--a pass in Yellowstone Park is named for him--and wrote several books about his experiences. Dunraven's account of meeting Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack stirred Sullivan's interest.

The Man Who Rescued Texas Jack from Wild West Obscurity

by Dave Bakke



Frank Sullivan, past president of the Texas Jack Association, with part of his collection of books on Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill. Photo by Chris Covata of the *State Journal Register*.

Sullivan learned that Jack was a hero in sensational dime novels that feature titles like "The Mustang King" and "The Lariat King." Western writer Ned Buntline, Cody and Texas Jack played to full houses across the country in a Wild West show written by Buntline. "The usual amount of shooting and whooping, scalping and dying &c, took place and filled the house with burnt powder and unbounded applause," said one reviewer.

Writers used terms like, "The White King of the Pawnee," "The Gallant Scout of the Prairies" or "The Renowned Indian Fighter and Buffalo Hunter" to describe Texas Jack.

Old photographs show him standing tall with his hat tilted at a rakish angle.

One newspaperman said:

"Hundreds of incidents could be recited of Jack's skill as an Indian fighter, and his wonderful exploits would fill a volume. His appearance is decidedly prepossessing, his frank, laughing countenance, his wealth of dark, curly hair, and his merry, hazel eyes make him a general favorite with the fair sex, and coupled with his fine physique and immense strength constitutes him a prince among men."

Texas Jack died of pneumonia in 1880 when he was only 34 years old. After a big funeral on the stage of the Tabor Opera House in Leadville, he was buried in the local cemetery.

"Some people think if Texas Jack hadn't died so young, his name would have been better known than Buffalo Bill's," Sullivan says.

Sullivan has always been interested in history, having served as president of the Sangmaon County Historical Society and as chairman of the Springfield Historical Monuments Commission.

The year 1980 marked the 100th anniversary of Jack's death. Sullivan decided it would be a good time to revive the name of Texas Jack. He contacted the Leadville Chamber of Commerce, but they weren't even sure who Texas Jack was, much less being aware that he was buried there. But Sullivan persuaded them that a "Texas Jack Day" would be a boon to the community as well as a tribute to a real Western hero.

"I thought there should be some kind of observance," Sullivan says. "He had been remembered by a very few people."

As part of the centennial observance, Sullivan founded and became the first president of the Texas Jack Association. By chance, he had met a descendant of Texas Jack's in Boston and together they helped plan the memorial observance.

On June 28, 1980, the Texas Jack Association had its day in Leadville. Members met at the Tabor Opera House for speeches by Sullivan and

Nellie Snyder Yost, author of a biography of Buffalo Bill. Afterward, they laid a wreath on Texas Jack's grave.

There was another meeting of the association last year in Cody, Wyo. Sullivan retired as president at that meeting. He keeps a scrapbook in his office with newspaper clippings of the memorial observance and correspondence from other association members.

The next meeting of the Texas Jack Association will be in North Platte, Neb., the town where Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack met.

"Jack was an old friend of mine and a good one," Buffalo Bill said at the cemetery that day. "Instead of this board which now marks his grave, we will soon have erected a more substantial monument, one more worthy of a brave and good man. May he rest in peace."

True to his word, Buffalo Bill replaced his friend's wooden marker with a granite stone honoring Texas Jack.

[Texas Jack was actually 33 when he died, as his death came one month before his birthday. M.H. Omohundro, Jr. was the kinsman Frank met in Boston. Julie Greene was elected president after Frank retired. Nellie Snyder Yost, who lived in North Platte, helped Julie plan and host the 1986 roundup. Frank Sullivan died in 1988, but his wife Mary Margaret and his daughter Martha continued to attend roundups until Mary Margaret's health declined. Martha attended the Oklahoma City Roundup in tribute to what her father started twenty years ago and brought Frank's scrapbooks for members to peruse. She will organize and host the 2002 Roundup in Deadwood, South Dakota.]

* * *

Texas Jack at the Tennessee State Museum

Virginia Gooch Watson

Virginia and George Watson (descendants of Texas Jack's brother, Dr. Orville Calhoun Omohundro) and Richard B. and Joyce Omohundro attended the opening reception for the exhibit "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" at the Tennessee State Museum, Sept. 9, 2000, in Nashville hosted by Governor and Mrs. Dan Sundquist.

This special exhibit began the celebration of the 20th anniversary of both the Tennessee State Museum at its present location in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in the James K. Polk Building and of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

The exhibit also chronicles the life and times of "Buffalo Bill" Cody and the phenomenon of his Wild West shows which toured the world in the later 1800's and early 1900's. His show visited Tennessee more than 42 times, the first in 1884 and the last in 1913.

An article in the Tennessee State Museum *Quarterly* noted that the exhibit "will showcase a variety of artifacts, including Buffalo Bill's buckskin jacket and silver inlaid saddle, Annie Oakley's gold-plated and engraved rifle, the original Deadwood Stage used in Bill's Wild West shows, and other memorabilia related to Buffalo Bill's illustrious career."

The exhibit was organized by the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, England and is visiting only three U.S. cities. The first exhibit was in California, then at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville until Dec. 10, 2000, and then to Denver, Colorado, after which it will return to England.

Indeed there were several photos and posters of Texas Jack displayed. The poster was of Texas Jack and the *Scouts of the Prairie* show. Jack's picture was in the upper left corner and the writing on the right, but this poster was not the same as printed in *Buckskin and Satin*. Photos of Texas Jack with Buffalo Bill and the cast of the *Scouts of the Prairie* were the same as on page 91 of *Buckskin and Satin*. Another photograph showed Texas Jack with Ned Buntline and Buffalo Bill. This picture is on page 66 of *Buckskin and Satin*. This photo was also printed on the back cover of the Tennessee State Museum *Quarterly* Newsletter, Fall 2000, which went to

all members of the Tennessee State Museum Foundation and interested parties.

During the reception of fine food, no wine was served, only "hard" liquor, as cowboys didn't drink wine! Western dress and hats were encouraged and abounded at the reception, which was also attended by descendants of Buffalo Bill.

To help launch the opening of the exhibit, the Tennessee State Museum hosted a number of Wild West activities during the week of Sept. 10-15 at midday on the Legislative Plaza in downtown Nashville. These began with a parade on Saturday, Sept. 9, which was led by Buffalo Bill's grandson on horseback and included local Indian



tribes. Other daily activities included rope tricks and an amateur roping contest, Indian tribal dances, bullwhip cracking, tarket shooting and cowboy music, live action western shootout in the streets of Nashville, and "Deadwood Dick" story telling and a live museum performance of *Life on the Border*, the original Buffalo Bill play which he performed 100 years ago.

Texas Jack was generously represented in this exhibit. Virginia, George, Richard and Joyce all throughly enjoyed the opening reception and the advantage of viewing this excellent exhibit. It was a pleasure to see Texas Jack's poster and his photographs as a prominent part of this very fine exhibition of artifacts from such an important era of American history.

For those members of our association near Denver, a visit to the exhibit would be time well spent.

* * *

From the Mail Pouch . . .

[This message was sent to past-President Jack Omohundro, Crowley, Louisiana, which he sent to us:]



[Ellen White of Edgewater, Maryland, introduced herself to President John Omohundro:]

June 6, 2000

I saw your Omohundro name in an anthropology paper which my son-in-law [an anthropology professor at Indiana U. of Pennsylvania] showed me. My great-gandmother was Elizabeth Rachel Omohundro (1825-1915) who married James S. Langhorne--both Virginians. Do you know if you are descended from the Virginian Omohundros?

[With Edna Nees' help, John replied with genealogical details, to which Ellen responded:]

August 10, 2000

Thanks for the genealogy and article about Texas Jack. I'm glad to know I'm your third cousin and that I'm related to Texas Jack! My father Ellis Randolph DeHart (1889-1965) was the grandson of Elizabeth Omohundro Langhorne. . . I'll keep the Deadwood, SD 2002 Roundup in mind!

* * *

Scottsville, Va
9 Nov 2000

My grandson, Joshua Golladay, rides and ropes steers in the rodeo. He took third place in the finals for the State of Virginia. He also went to North Carolina for Metro in early December. This is our young "Texas Jack." His photograph was one the artist used while painting the Texas Jack portrait which we exhibited at the 2000 Roundup.

Edna Nees

Sun, 2 Jul 2000

I saw your paragraph on [Lorrie Tenos'] web site (www.omohundros.com) about the origin of the Omohundro name. On the website www.FamilyHistory.com, there is the following post:

"In the 16th century the hundred of Darlaston, Staffordshire was in the control of Ormus de Darlastone who was married to an Anne Moxley. Both present day Moxley and Darlaston are part of the Borough of Walsall which has been at times part of the County of Staffordshire. There is in the pedigree book of Staffordshire families an Orme family, one of whom Anne Moxley lost her husband, killed by an arrow in Virginia. It isn't far from Ormus' hundred to Omohundro. The Ormes were rewarded at the Restoration with Land grants in Virginia."

Do you think the Ormus and de Mohun are one and the same? Interesting that so many names are similar. There is also the speculation of whether Omohundro is Spanish, or English. Will we ever know? The website (www.FamilyHistory.com) also has a post with more information about Anne Moxley than is in the "big book" of Omohundro [by Malvern Omohundro]. I am interested in your thoughts on this subject.

Thanks.

Rita Mohun <mohun@apex.net>

* * *

from the Editor's Desk...



by John and Susan Omohundro
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Before we became active in the TJA, in 1992, we rarely saw anything about Texas Jack or even other Omohundros. Perhaps we weren't paying attention. Since then, not a month goes by without something popping up. The word has gotten out among our kin and friends that we're collecting this kind of material. So our hiking partner Sandy lends us a novel, *Jacob's Ladder*, by Donald McCaig (Penguin paperbacks), featuring Silas Omohundro in Richmond. My professional colleague Charlie hands me a nice spread on Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack in the Elks Club magazine. And as mentioned in the last issue, there's been a spate of good books on Buffalo Bill and the Wild West shows in the last year. Sometimes we're reading along about something apparently totally unrelated, such as the history of

Niagara Falls, and suddenly we're in the midst of the first wild west shows, when an early museum builder attempts to promote his "cabinet of curiosities" with a buffalo roundup. Or our Adirondack Mountain Club magazine reports on Ned Buntline's camp on Eagle Lake. Consequently, there is a wealth of interesting material to report to *Scout* readers in the coming year. Buy some gift subscriptions for your relatives for Memorial Day! The more eyes scanning the horizon, the more plainsmen we'll see.

Deadline for materials for the second issue of Volume XVI is May 30, 2001.

send to the issue editors:

Dick and Linda Cech
445 N. Stevens St.
Orange CA 92868
(714) 978-3349

In Memoriam

Ann Alexander Omohundro, of Fork Union, Virginia, died September 26, 2000. She was born April 5, 1922, in Fork Union, daughter of the late Ruth Snead and Nathaniel Cogbill Alexander.

Ann was a member of Fork Union Baptist Church for more than 50 years. She was the granddaughter of Julia Seay Snead, an original guarantor, early trustee and donor of the original 17 acres of land on which Fork Union Military Academy was built. Mrs. Omohundro attended Longwood College.

Ann is survived by her husband of 55 years, R.C. Omohundro, Jr. of Fork Union and treasurer of the Texas Jack Association; three daughters, Courtney Omohundro of Fork Union, and Sue Omohundro and Sally Omohundro, both of Richmond; three grandchildren: J.R. Omohundro, and Jennifer and Matthew Whitescarver, all of Richmond; two sisters: Julia A. Wallace of Richmond and Ruth A. Greene of Charlottesville; and several nieces and nephews.

I am sad to report that Mary Lois Omohundro Ashton, one of the Omohundros of Virginia, passed away in November of 1999. She resided at 15693 Owens Drive, King George, Virginia 22485. The date of her passing was November 5, 1999.

Lois, as she was known in the TJA records, was very proud of her Omohundro lineage and was very fond of *The Texas Jack Scout*. I am her nephew by marriage, and I found the *Scout* kind of interesting also.

We extend our best wishes to you in keeping this family profile alive. You are to be applauded for efforts like *the Texas Jack Scout*. Thanks for your gift to my Aunt Lois.

Respectfully, Stuart Ashton

Welcome to New Members

Christopher L. Omohundro
Grady AR 71644-0600
(Jack H. Omohundro's grandson)

Stacy L. Tenos
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

Rebecca Garbee Henderson
Evington, VA 24550
(see p. 122 in Omohundro genealogy)

Phyllis Henderson Withers
Evington, VA 24550
(daughter of Rebecca)

Miriam Henderson Wood
Evington, VA 24550
(daughter of Rebecca)

Carrie and Patrick Britt
Lynchburg, VA 24501
(daughter and son-in-law of Phyllis Withers)

Marshall Lee Johnson
Scottsville, VA 24590-3906

The Texas Jack Scout
Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590

To:
Kitty Wyche Pelkan
6021 37th. Ave. SW
Seattle WA 98126

2001

