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March 2018



## **SACRAMENTO 2018 ROUNDUP ISSUE!**

*(Roundup information begins on page 21)*

### **Edison Meets Texas Jack at the Eclipse**

By Larry Tyree

The following article is copied from the **Annals of Wyoming**, Volume 53, Number 1, Spring 1981. The article is actually entitled: "*Edison, The Electric Light and the Eclipse*" by Philip J. Roberts.

Since some of us in the US had the good fortune to have witnessed a total eclipse this last summer on August 21, 2017, the article about Edison and Texas Jack came to mind. In July 1878, Edison and Jack were in Rawlins, Wyoming which was a rail hub.



As a rail hub located directly in the path of totality, Rawlins became the center of the American scientific world during July of 1878. The rail hub also served as a base of operations for Texas Jack, who often lead parties from Rawlins and into the Big Horn Basin. Jack was also in Rawlins that July, having recently completed a series of shooting exhibitions with Doc Carver and now preparing to lead German Count Otto Franc von Lichtenstein on a month's long trek across the wilds of Wyoming. (From True West Magazine, Facebook page, Aug. 17, 2017)

I recommend this descent into our nation's historical past...beginning on page 3.

## The Texas Jack Scout



### from the Editor's Desk...

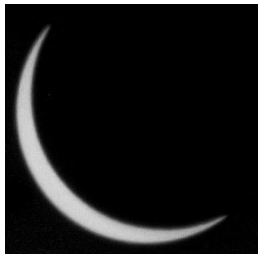


Last summer on August 21, 2017, many of us were treated to viewing the solar eclipse that took place across the country. I had a great opportunity to view and photograph it as the totality line went right by our house. (At least I was able to here in Lee's Summit, MO.)

In reflecting about that recently, I recalled some research that I came across a few years ago. It is about an eclipse which took place in 1878 that Texas Jack also shared in. He actually had a brief run-in with Thomas Edison at the small Wyoming town at the epicenter of the path of the eclipse. I have included that research article that is found in the Annals of Wyoming, volume 53 from the spring of 1981.

Although Texas Jack's involvement is brief, it does bring new light into his life and times. Most of the article discusses Thomas Edison's involvement with other scientists who were studying the eclipse, and potential perfection of the light bulb. The story about what occurred while Thomas Edison was in the West is interesting. Researching this article was a lot of fun--across a span of 139 years from that eclipse to ours.

*Larry Tyree,*  
Guest Editor



### *The Texas Jack Scout*

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The Texas Jack Association  
Rick Omohundro, Treasurer  
PO Box 91  
Salt Lick, KY 40371

The Texas Jack Association was founded in 1980 by Frank Sullivan to commemorate John Baker Omohundro, prairie scout, western hunting guide, and Wild West showman.

*The Texas Jack Scout* publishes articles about John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, the times and places in which he lived, and individuals who have contributed substantially to maintaining his memory.

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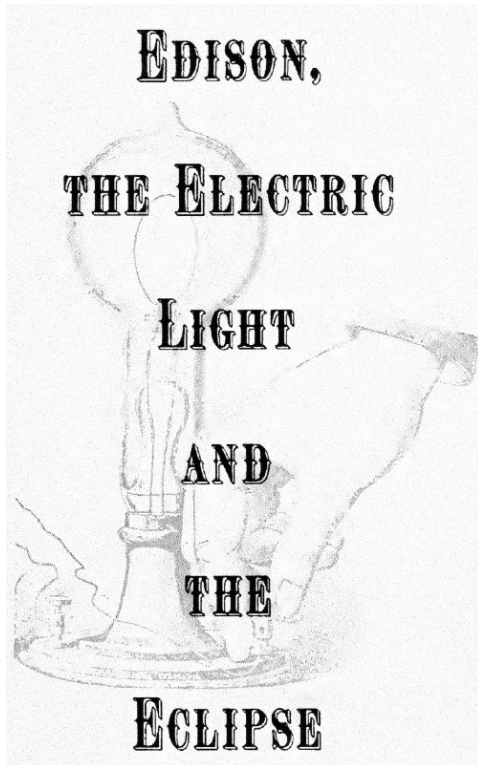
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## The Texas Jack Scout



Continued from Page 1

By Philip J. Roberts



Thomas Edison conceived the idea of the incandescent light while he was visiting in Wyoming in the summer of 1878. At least that is the legend. The event is proudly advertised on the Wyoming highway map and commemorated by a marker thirteen miles west of Encampment along State Highway 70 in Carbon County.' The inscription on the marker reads:

*Thomas A. Edison camped near this spot in 1878, while on a fishing trip. It was here that his attention was directed to the fiber from his bamboo fish pole which he tested as a suitable filament for his incandescent electric lamp. Born February 11, 1847, Died October 18, 1931. Age 84. Placed by the Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming, 1949.*

How a famous inventor camped in the wilds and actually solved a problem that had vexed him after months of experimentation in a laboratory would be an excellent argument for the value of wilderness as well as a good story. Unfortunately, the story cannot be proven and, in fact, evidence seems to disprove it.

Although the originator of the story cannot be determined, the earliest written account of the tale is a 1922 article submitted to a company magazine by "an eyewitness" to the events described. The writer, R. M. Galbraith, was a retired Union Pacific Railroad employee who had written the article more than forty years after the Edison trip had been made.

Galbraith, then living in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, wrote Howard Elliott, the editor of the *Union Pacific Magazine*, a cover letter along with the eight-page account of the Edison fishing expedition. "I did not return from my Western trip until about a week ago, hence my seeming delay in complying with your request that I write something that might be of interest to the readers of your valuable magazine," Galbraith wrote. While it is clear that Elliott solicited the manuscript, there is no evidence that Elliott knew earlier about the Edison portions. Curiously, the Galbraith account makes no mention of the fishing pole and the bamboo filaments:

*After we had been there about three days, one morning at the breakfast table, Edison was asked by Professor Barker. "Well, Tom, how did you rest last night?" "Well," he said, "I wasn't thinking about resting. I lay and looked up at the beautiful stars and clear sky light, and I invented an incandescent electric light."*

An examination of newspaper reports of the time, biographical material on Edison and recollections of contemporaries fail to authenticate the

Galbraith story. What does appear, however, is an interesting and engaging tale of how a famous inventor came West in the name of science, stayed on to enjoy his first vacation in over sixteen years and returned East refreshed and prepared to continue experimentation with electric lighting.

Edison was already a famous inventor when he was visited by his friend Professor George F. Barker in his laboratory one spring day in 1878. Barker, a professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania, planned to participate in an expedition to view a total solar eclipse that summer, and he invited Edison to join the party. Henry Draper, professor of chemistry at New York University Medical School and pioneer astronomical photographer, was organizing the trip.

Although Edison had not had a vacation from his laboratory in many years, he agreed to join the expedition only after he saw it as an opportunity to test one of his

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latest inventions. The device, a tasimeter, was designed to measure minute changes in temperature down to one-millionth of a degree Fahrenheit. It was, popularly reported that if a man smoking a cigar entered the room where a tasimeter was placed, the invention would recognize the temperature change in the room. An eclipse would be a perfect phenomenon during which the device could be tested, Edison believed.

Astronomers had calculated the "line of central eclipse" as running from the Bering Strait, British Columbia, Wyoming, Texas and into the Gulf of Mexico.

Parties of astronomers from around the world chose viewing locations along the arc. Some went to Denver, Pikes Peak and Santa Fe. Draper picked the decade-old railroad town of Rawlins, Wyoming, for his eclipse headquarters. Only 600 people lived in the frontier town.

After several weeks of preparation, Edison and the Draper party left New York on July 13 at 8:30 p.m. A New York newspaper reported that the party left that Saturday evening from Pennsylvania Station bound for Chicago. "The Pennsylvania, the Chicago and Northwestern and the Union Pacific Railroads and the American Express Company have granted the most liberal terms to the party," the newspaper reported. "A front-page article in the same paper mistakenly listed Edison's destination for the eclipse as "Nevada" but the inside page item read: "Prof. Henry Draper's solar eclipse expedition left New York for Rawlins, Wyoming Territory. . . ."<sup>113</sup>

The party changed trains in Chicago where Edison spoke with the local press. In Omaha he received a note from the Union Pacific Railroad's superintendent of telegraphy to: "Please permit him (Edison) and members of his party to ride on the locomotive or where else they may desire."<sup>113</sup>

Five days after leaving New York City, the party passed through Cheyenne. "I am on my way to Rawlins to witness the eclipse of the sun, test my new tasimeter, and shall then go to the Yosemite Valley," Edison told a local reporter. "I shall be gone altogether six weeks. This is my first vacation in 16 years, and I have worked hard during that time as you know."

The Cheyenne newspaper noted that the thirty-one-year-old inventor already had 158 inventions to his credit and would be returning "to visit some of the principal

places of Colorado" before returning home late in the summer.

Later that evening (Thursday, July 18), the party stopped briefly at Laramie. Edison was met at the station by the telegrapher at Wyoming station, twelve miles north of Laramie. The telegrapher, Johnny Allyn, had written to Edison four months earlier "believing you to be one T. A. E. who I learned telegraphing with when a small boy at Detroit, Mich., some fifteen or twenty years ago." The brief reunion elicited mention in the *Laramie Daily Sentinel*:

*During the few moments the train stopped here last evening we had an introduction to Professor Edison, the great inventor. . . . He met here his old chum Johnny Allyn of Wyoming Station. He and John were office boys together in their younger days and Edison seemed as pleased to meet him as if they had been brothers.*

The special train, loaded with astronomers, scientists and their equipment, arrived in Rawlins late that night. Edison and his party may have stayed at a Rawlins hotel. One biographer incorrectly states that he stayed in the only hotel in town. The Wyoming Census for 1880 lists two such establishments there. Nate Craig, a telegrapher in Rawlins, recalled some years later that Edison simply boarded at the hotel. Craig quotes Edison: "We have a special car down there, on the side track, piled full of luggage and traps, in which we can sleep, while we can board at the hotel." Lillian Heath Nelson, then a child of ten, recalled almost seventy years later that Edison lived at the "Rawlins House, Larry Hayes' Hotel" throughout his stay in town.

Edison recounted the facts of his "first night in Rawlins" some twenty-eight years later. The story had never before been recorded:

*After we retired and were, as sleep a thundering knock on the door awakened us. Upon opening the door, a tall, handsome man with flowing hair, dressed in Western style entered the room. His eyes were bloodshot, and he was somewhat inebriated. He introduced himself as "Texas Jack," Joe Chromondo [sic] — and said he wanted to see Edison as he had read about me in the newspapers. . . . Jack explained that he had just come in with a party that had been hunting, and that he felt fine. He explained, also that he was the boss pistol shot in the West; that it was he who had taught the celebrated Dr. Carver how to shoot. Then suddenly pointing to a weather vane on the freight depot, he*

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*pulled out a Colt revolver and fired through the window, hitting the vane. The shot awakened all the people and they rushed in to see who was killed. It was only after I said I was tired and would see him in the morning that he left.*

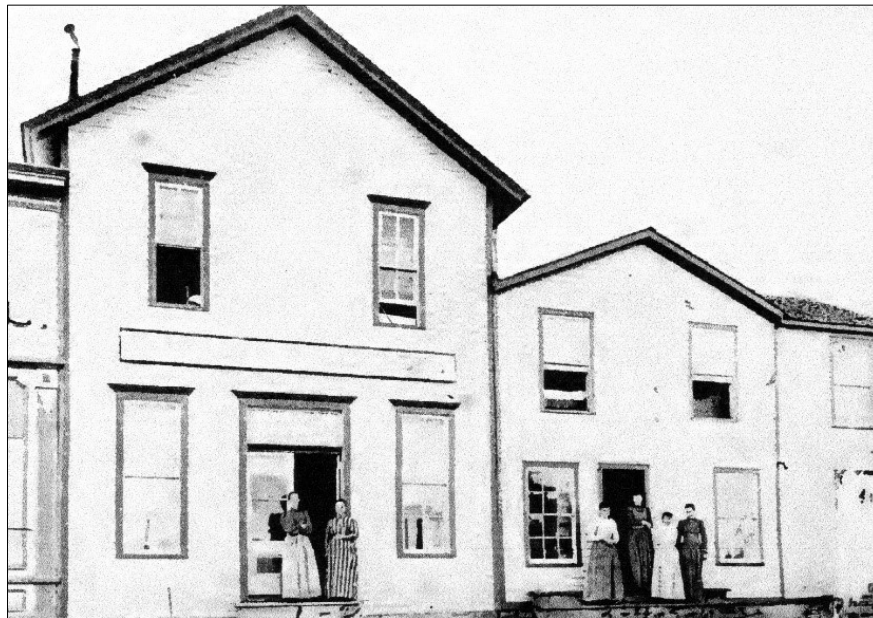
Texas Jack's complete name was John Omohundro. Born in Virginia in 1846, he became famous first as a scout for the army at Fort McPherson and later as a guide for hunting parties in the West. In 1873 he toured the East with William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and his Wild West Show. The next year he was guiding the Earl of Dunraven to Yellowstone. Ned Buntline wrote a "dime novel" featuring his exploits as an army scout. He was popularly billed as "the first man to lasso an Indian on the American stage."

According to newspaper accounts, the Edison-Texas Jack meeting could not have occurred the first night Edison was in Rawlins. The *Laramie Daily Sentinel* noted on July 24, 1878, that: "John Omohundro (Texas Jack) went up to Rawlins last night with a party of friends, on a fishing and hunting expedition." Edison had been in Rawlins as long as three days before Texas Jack's departure from Laramie. The inconsistency may be explained by the fact that "Edison told the stories primarily for their effect, not their accuracy. He had little interest in dates, a bad memory for figures, a great

capacity for generalization, a history of inconsistency and a penchant for exaggeration." Given the circumstances of his stay and the newspaper accounts of Texas Jack's itinerary, it is more probable that the incident occurred, not during Edison's first visit to Rawlins, but later in the summer.

If the Texas Jack tale is apocryphal or misstated as to time, it is certain that Edison received a pass from the railroad superintendent the day after his arrival in Rawlins allowing him free passage "between Ft. Steele and Creston good for 12 days" (until July 31).

That same day he and other members of the Draper group visited with local people in order to find a suitable place for a headquarters. Craig recalled that when Edison asked him about quarters, he "hunted up a railroad man whose family had gone East on a *visit* and asked him if he could use his house. He said that we could use the whole house if we wished, and gave me the keys." "The railroad man was R. M. Galbraith, a railroad master mechanic who had lived in Rawlins for almost four years." "The only place for people to stop was a railroad hotel at that time," Galbraith wrote years later, "and my wife being away from home, I turned my house over to Professor Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, and Mr. Edison. They made the kitchen their laboratory for a week."



*Rawlins  
House Hotel*

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Meanwhile, scientific expeditions continued to pass through on the Union Pacific to points further west. A day behind Edison, an expedition led by scientist Simon Newcomb and listing among its six members the chief of the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., and a well-known telescope manufacturer, went through Laramie and Rawlins to Creston, "a place with no population." The party included Commander W. T. Sampson, who 20 years later would become a hero in the Battle of Manila Bay in the Spanish-American War.

The Newcomb group was just one of five government-financed expeditions sent west to view the eclipse. Another group, led by Professor William Harkness, set up their instruments in Rawlins near the headquarters of Draper's privately financed operations. Other government scientists were preparing observations at Fort Lyon, Pueblo, and Central City, Colorado. Privately financed observations were being readied in Texas, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Idaho Springs and La Junta, Colorado, and Virginia City, Montana. A Princeton University team was at Camp Nassau, near Denver, with several Columbia and Vassar scientists. Professor S. P. Langley and a party from Allegheny Observatory in Pennsylvania, worked with U. S. Signal Corps crews on Pike's Peak.

Preparations for the experiments planned by the Draper group took a variety of forms. Draper's own experiment relied on photography. "Fortunately, the water at Rawlins is suitable for photographic purposes, being brought from the granite hills three miles to the north by wooden pipes four inches in interior diameter," a New York newspaper reported. "Edison was busy helping Craig take the 'roof off a chicken house to arrange a setting for (the tasimeter)." This "observatory," measuring "sixteen feet long, with photographic building attached," was located to the east of the Galbraith house, the site apparently chosen because of the strength of the prevailing west winds."

Newspaper readers were kept abreast of "Professor Edison's" progress. His constant communication with his chief assistant at the Menlo Park laboratory also drew press mention: "They talk business with each other every day over the wire."

It wasn't just the preparations for the experiments or the communications with the Menlo Park laboratory that occupied Edison's time. One morning he noticed some antelope near town and expressed the desire to shoot one. After practicing his marksmanship (apparently with a Winchester purchased for him by the railroad superintendent, for \$35 in a Laramie store on July 20),<sup>35</sup> he participated in two unsuccessful early morning hunts. Edison "gave up until after the eclipse."

The list of items purchased in Laramie, however, indicate that he was planning to fish as well as to hunt. Along with the Winchester, 250 cartridges, a gun cover, and belt, were added a \$5 fishing pole, a \$5 "real," a \$2.75 basket, \$2.50 worth of line and a fly hook for \$2.50. Included on the bill is \$3 for two dozen "fly's."

Although his presence in Wyoming was apparently well known, records show only one request for an interview from a Wyoming citizen. The letter, dated July 21 and sent to Edison at Rawlins, was written by John Jar-vie, a thirty-five year old Scottish-born saloonkeeper from Rock Springs. "What opportunity is there for me to see you?" the letter asks. There is no record of the reason for the request, whether Edison responded or whether a meeting was ever arranged.

Another pre-eclipse request, however, came from the *Rocky Mountain News* editorial department. It was more specific. "We would like a report of your observations on Monday for publication the following day and will be very glad to have you transmit by telegraph (at our expense) as early Monday evening as convenient," the July 27 letter reads.

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*Eclipse scientists in front of Galbraith's chicken house laboratory.  
Edison second from right*

The *News* as well as newspapers from New York and Wyoming, had been attempting to explain the eclipse phenomenon in their pages the entire week. The scientists were poised and the public and press were interested in what would be found during the complete eclipse of the sun set to begin in the early afternoon of Monday, July 29, 1878.

The eclipse came as expected shortly after 2 p.m. on July 29, 1878. The sky above Rawlins was clear and perfect for making solar observations from Galbraith's chickenhouse/laboratory.

One Edison biographer wrote that the wind was a serious problem. "A storm arose, and the shelter began to disintegrate while Edison struggled to level a telescope at the sun and hold on to his other instruments." A Laramie newspaper, however, indicates it was less a storm than a normal Wyoming summer afternoon wind: "Not a cloud obscured the heavens and the air had that clear deep blue which is found nowhere else but in a mountain region. A rather stiff breeze of wind prevailed, but did not at all interfere with their operations."

A dispatch published in the *New York Daily Tribune* the day after the<sup>58</sup> eclipse affirms the Laramie report: "The weather here today was fine, the

sky clear, and the observations a perfect success."

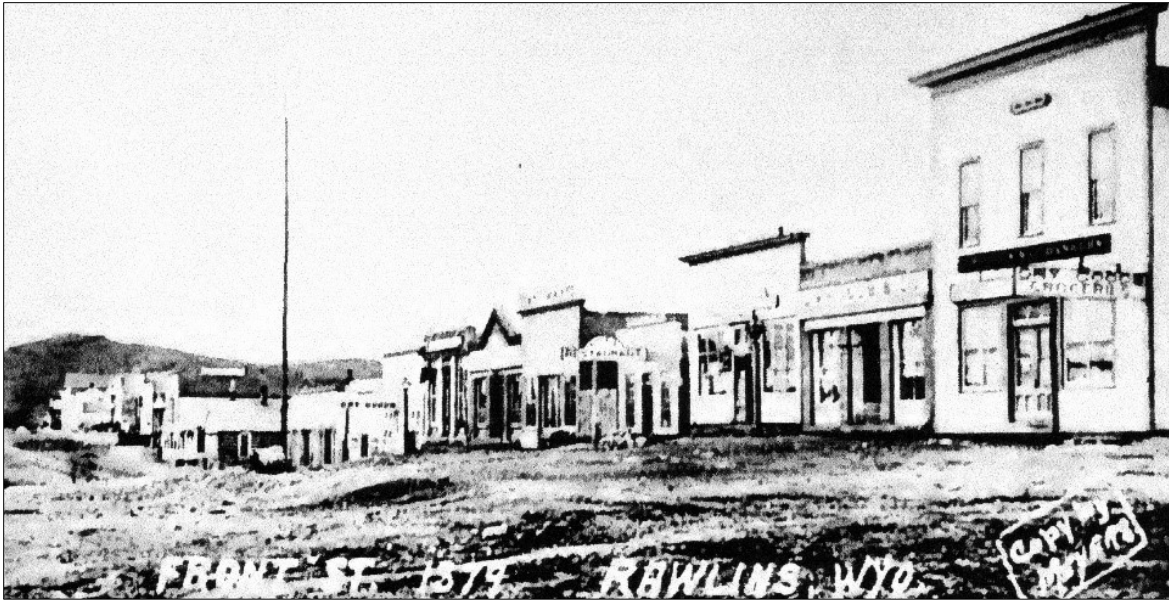
The weather was clear throughout the area of maximum eclipse with the exception of Denver where it was partly cloudy. People anticipating the view of the partial eclipse in New York City were disappointed by heavy cloud cover, making the eclipse "a total failure."

Edison's tasimeter failed to work properly. The index capacity of the device proved to be insufficient to measure the extreme heat of the sun. The *Laramie Daily Sentinel*, however, termed the experiment "extremely successful." the report adding that "it proved the existence of heat in the corona." The *New York Daily Tribune* was similarly positive although the *Cheyenne Daily Sun* confirmed that the experiment was indeed a total failure. Edison wrote of the experiment in his notebook: "No results."

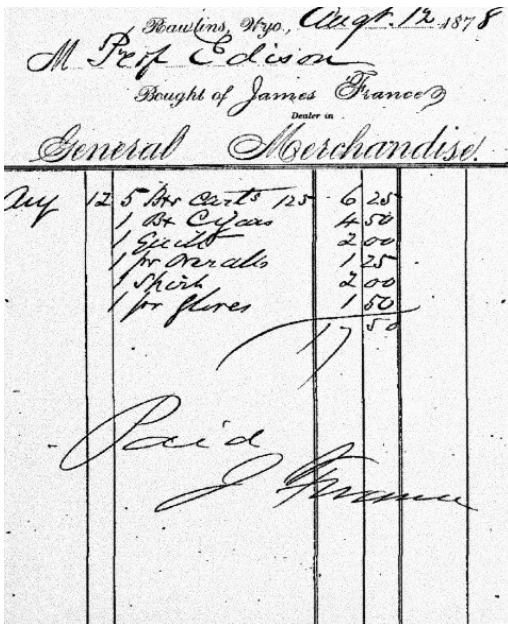
Henry Draper, the expedition leader, made photographic negatives of the eclipse and surrounding areas of the heavens. These were some of the earliest photographs ever taken of eclipse effects.

Other scientists reported successful sunspot observations. World famous astronomer J. Norman Lockyer "is greatly surprised at the difference of eclipses

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Rawlins Front Street



occurring in different sun-spot periods and at the intimate relation of the brightness of the Corona to sun spots," the *Cheyenne Daily Sun* reported. The *New York Daily Tribune* reported that the Newcomb party's experiments were all successful.

James Watson, one of the best known astronomers of the period, received a great deal of press attention. The University of Michigan professor had viewed eclipses in Iowa in 1869 and Sicily in 1870 and during the Wyoming eclipse, he claimed to have

discovered another planet. "He found the lost Vulcan," according to the *Laramie Daily Sentinel*. The 240-pound scientist's "discovery" was later disproven.<sup>49</sup>

"Most of the scientific parties returned east today," the *Laramie* newspaper reported the next day. "Professor Edison left Rawlins for the Pacific Coast this morning," it continued. This is contrary to the recollections of three men who wrote about the Edison visit years later. Nate Craig, the telegrapher, recalled organizing a hunt for Edison and Draper immediately after the eclipse. Not only was Edison traveling west the next day but Draper had already left for the East, making Craig's story suspect.

The newspaper reports appear to contradict two other accounts as well. John Jackson Clarke, who served as station agent at Red Desert at the time, wrote in 1929: "The eclipse over and everything packed for departure, science relaxed its austerity and devoted a day to a general hunt."<sup>52</sup>

Railroad mechanic Galbraith wrote: "After the eclipse left there, Prof. Barker and Thomas A. Edison expressed the desire to go out on a hunting and fishing trip and I got up a party and equipment."

Edison still had two days left on his free railroad pass when he and Barker left Rawlins. They arrived in San Francisco in mid-week and on Saturday

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(August 3), traveled to Yosemite Valley to vacation. The following Wednesday the two scientists stayed at the "Mariposa Big Tree Hotel" in Big Tree Station, California, and visited the Mariposa Grove of Giant Trees."

On August 9 Edison and Barker were in Virginia City, Nevada, where Col. Joseph G. Fair and W. H. Smith guided them through the mines after George S. Ladd, president of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company in San Francisco, requested that the inventor be given the tour. As a result, Edison developed a crude method of finding ore with electricity. His discovery, however, was not commercially feasible at the time.

Meanwhile, press reports continued to extol the wonder of the electric arc lights displayed at the Paris Exposition earlier in the summer. While Edison was in California, the *Cheyenne Daily Sun* published a report that a patent had been granted to William Sawyer for a "system of dividing a current of electricity." The article said carbon was the best material to use:

*If a current of electricity is made to pass through a very small piece of carbon, the size of the lead of a pencil, an intense light is given forth for a few seconds. Then the oxygen of the air enables the heat to burn up and destroy the carbon. The only way is to keep the carbon in a vacuum or in perfectly pure nitrogen.*

The article added that Sawyer had accomplished the feat. Certainly, Edison in San Francisco at the time was well aware of the developments, particularly since he kept in touch by telegraph with his Menlo Park laboratory. He continued his vacation trip as scheduled.

While he was in Virginia City, Edison apparently telegraphed Galbraith in Rawlins, asking if a fishing trip could be arranged. Galbraith returned the two-word reply, "All right."<sup>188</sup>

Edison and Barker arrived back in Rawlins on August 12, thirteen days after their first visit had concluded. The newspaper in Laramie reported:

*Today Prof. Edison, Captain Thornburg, commanding Fort Steele, R. M. Galbraith, Division Master Mechanic of the Union Pacific in Rawlins, Division Superintendent Ed. Dickinson and A. J. Wilkins, clerk in the Locomotive Department, Union Pacific of this city [Laramie], left Rawlins on a grand fishing tour on the Big Muddy, seventy miles south of that place.*

The paper printed a correction the next day, however: "Prof. Edison and Barker did not arrive in Rawlins until this morning, where they found a team in waiting and left at once to join the fishing party to Big Muddy."

Edison purchased several items from James France's general merchandise store in Rawlins before he joined the group. Included were five boxes of cartridges, a box of cigars, a quilt, a pair of overalls, a shirt and a pair of gloves. The entire expedition from Rawlins to Big Muddy and back lasted from August 13 until August 19. Post Returns for Fort Steele show that Major T. T. Thornburg who accompanied the Edison party, was on detached service from "12th to 19th Aug. 1878."

Little reliable information about the six-day fishing trip is known. Craig, who was not on the trip, recalled in 1927 that Tom Sun guided the party. Further, he declared that he couldn't remember the names of anyone else in the party except Edison and Dr. Draper. Sun is unlisted in any other account and Draper had long since departed for the East.

Lillian Heath Nelson, in an interview made more than seventy-five years after the event, recalled her father's part in the trip, incorrectly stating he arranged the expedition.

*They went by horseback and buckboard to Saratoga and Encampment then on to Battle Lake. There was a little cabin on the shore of the lake with the floor covered two inches deep with the debris from porcupine. Papa cleaned it out and Edison slept there. The group camped out a week or better and one morning Edison said to Papa, "I think I may have an idea for an incandescent light." Papa said: "Well, follow through with it. Papa corresponded with Edison for a long time after that.*

Galbraith's account of the participants is at some variance:

*After the Eclipse Expedition left there, Professor Barker and Thomas A. Edison expressed the desire to go out on a hunting and fishing trip, and I got up a party and equipment. The party consisted of Edison, George F. Barker, Major Thornberg [sic] commander at Fort Steele, J. M. Bennett superintendent of bridges and buildings; Edward Dickinson, superintendent of Wyoming, Division; J. H. McConnell, master mechanic of Platte Division; Marshall Fox, reporter*



for the *New York Herald*, and myself with William Heath, artist and cook, Joseph B. Rankin as scout, a couple of soldiers to handle the pack horses and "Russian Ned" with a six-horse team to haul the dunnage.

Galbraith gives the itinerary as south from Rawlins to the Sierra Madre Range, taking the Cherokee trail to Jack Creek and Calf Creek, and then to Battle Lake. He then gives the description of the conversation, previously quoted, between Barker and Edison at the breakfast table.

From there on Galbraith's account breaks down. He contends that Fox sent a story about Edison's description to the *New York Herald* and as a result, "both he and the associate editor came near losing their positions for publishing such rot."<sup>66</sup> The record shows talk of an incandescent light was far beyond that stage. Certainly, the article that appeared in the *Sun* the week before was discussed by the scientists. Perhaps Galbraith was unfamiliar with the developments and, therefore, misunderstood the drift of the conversation or Edison was, in fact, boasting. Fox and his paper embarrassed themselves the following April by printing the fact that Edison had perfected an incandescent light in an article entitled, "The Triumph of the Electric Light."

There is no record of Edison's remark at Battle Lake, except for this 1922 recollection of Galbraith. During the intervening forty-four years, there is not a single reference to such an "event."

The story later propounded that Edison had invented the light bulb by noticing the frayed ends of his bamboo fishing pole glow in the fire is even easier to discount. If such a discovery were made at Battle Lake, why did it take Edison thirteen months before he came upon a material that was suitable for the filament in the bulb? And the material wasn't bamboo. It was carbonized cotton thread. The improved bamboo filament was not "discovered" until April or May of 1880 after 6000


other vegetable materials had been tried.

Galbraith's worst error, however, is his "recollection" about Major Thornburg. He quotes the major:

*Gentlemen, this is very serious news. The Ute Indians have broken out at the White River agency and have killed Meeker, the Indian agent, and all of the white men connected with the agency, capturing Mrs. Meeker, Josephine Meeker and Mrs. Taylor. I am ordered to go at once in pursuit of them. So I will leave you here, and I would advise that the party break up and follow me, as they are not a great distance from Battle Creek, their favorite hunting ground.*

Unfortunately, the events Galbraith described did not occur until a year later—September, 1879. Galbraith concluded his recollections with the statement that Thornburg was killed just a week later. The fact is that Thornburg returned to Fort Steele after the hunt and left the next month for Sidney, Nebraska, on official business. He returned to Fort Steele later that fall and commanded the post until July 30, 1879. On that date he was sent on detached service and on Sept. 21, took command of the White River Expedition. He was killed September 29, 1879—one year, one month and ten days after Edison had left Wyoming for the final time.

The *Laramie Sentinel* reported Edison's return to Rawlins on August 19, 1878. "They had a very pleasant hunt and fish, killing many elk, deer, antelope, etc., and bagging about 3,000 trout. Messrs. Edison, Barker and McConnell left for the east on No. 4."

Edison and Barker were in Chicago on the 21st and then went to St. Louis where the American Association for the Advancement of Science was holding its annual meeting. Four days later he returned to Menlo Park and the laboratory work that awaited him in his search for the incandescent electric light. Thomas Edison never returned to Wyoming. 

References:

1. "Battle Lake—on its shores in 1878, as a member of the Henry Draper Eclipse Expedition Thomas A. Edison aided by the frayed ends of his bamboo fishing rod conceived the idea of a non-conducting enduring carbon filament resulting in the later perfections of his incandescent electric lamp." Legend on Wyoming Highway Map, 1978.

2.

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3. Philip White, writer and attorney, researched the legend intending to illustrate from it the value of wilderness on the American mind. He found that the "invention in the woods" story was too inconclusive to prove. Interview, Febr. 13, 1979.
4. Garbraith to Elliott, July 26, 1922. Manuscript Collections. Historical Research and Publications Division, Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department. Garbraith was in the banking business in Arkansas. He had left Wyoming in 1890, shortly after he and five other prominent men were implicated in the lynching of Jim Averill and Ella Watson (Cattle Kate).
4. "With Edison on Union Pacific When Incandescent Light Was Invented," *The Union Pacific Magazine*, September, 1922, p. 4.
5. George F. Barker (1835-1910), was graduated from Yale in 1858. He served for twenty-seven years as professor of physics at Pennsylvania. The editor of numerous scientific publications, he was acknowledged expert chemist, toxicologist and electrician. He was the first American to show the radioactive nature of radium. Allen Johnson, Ed., *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. 1 (New York: Scribner's, 1956), p. 601.
6. Henry Draper (1832-1882) received his M.D. degree from the University of the City of New York in 1858, served as professor of physiology and analytical chemistry at his alma mater until his death. In 1874, he organized a government expedition to view the planet Venus. He frequently joined friends for hunts in the Rocky Mountains during summer vacations. *DAB*, Vol. 5, p. 435.
7. Three biographies of Edison are cited in this paper. The best and most recent is: Robert Conat, *A Streak of Luck: The 4'e and Legend of Thomas Alva Edison* (New York: Seaview Books, 1979). Others are: Matthew Josephson, *Edison: A Biography* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1959); and Ronald W. Clark, *Edison: The Man Who Made the Future* (New York: G. P. Put-nam's Sons, 1977). All three make serious errors, however, in their discussions of Edison's western trip.
8. *Cheyenne Daily Leader*, July 19, 1878, p. 4.
9. The complete eclipse was the last viewed in the West for many years. The most recent total eclipse visible in the West was on Febr. 26, 1979. The next one will appear on Aug. 21, 2017.
10. 1880 Census for Wyoming. Manuscript collections, Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department.
11. *New York Daily Tribune*, July 15, 1878, p. 1.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 5.
13. J. J. Bickney to Division Superintendents and Train Dispatchers, Manuscript collections. Edison National Historic Site, New Jersey.
14. *Cheyenne Daily Leader*, July 19, 1878, p. 4.
15. Allyn to Edison, Edison National Historic Site collection. Allyn wrote to Edison on two later occasions. In 1879, he wrote advising Edison of the absence of platinum mines in Wyoming: "Fact, I don't believe there is a cent in mines in Wyoming in the average and if you hear any one praising the country for anything more than a good stock country call him bad names or anything else. Allyn to Edison, July 30, 1879. The only other recorded correspondence is a request from Allyn for Edison to examine rock specimens for metal concentrations. The notation, at the bottom of the letter in Edison's hand says: "... send heavy matter to me by mail will assay."
16. *Laramie Daily Sentinel*, July 19, 1878, p. 4.
17. Josephson, p. 175. The 1880 Wyoming Census lists two hotels in Rawlins by that year. The *New York Daily Tribune*, August 13, 1878, p. 5, reports: (Rawlins has) "two hotels, one of which is excellent; several good stores, one of which would do credit to a large eastern city; two churches; a schoolhouse and a jail; several saloons in which, though there is much drinking, there is but little drunkenness; several neat villas for prominent citizens and a still larger number of miserable shanties; for the accommodation of the poor Swedes and Irish who have made their homes here."
18. Nate Craig, *Thrills 1861, 1887* (Oakland: privately printed) Lillian Heath Nelson Department, unnumbered.
19. Frank Lewis Dyer and Thomas Martin, *Edison: Its Life and Inventions* (New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1910), quoted in Clark, p. 85.
20. Malvern Hill Omohundro, *The Omohundro Genealogical Record* (Staunton, Virginia: McClure Printing Co., 1950-51), p. 521. Omohundro was born July 26, 1846, in Virginia and died of pneumonia on June 28, 1880, at Leadville, Colorado. The "Texas Jack Association" held a memorial service for him at the Tabor Opera House in Leadville June 28, 1980, 100 years to the day after his death.
21. *Sentinel*, July 24, 1878, p. 2.
22. *Canon*, p. 464.
23. E. Dickinson to "Conductors, Laramie Division," July 19, 1878. Edison National Historic Site collection.
24. *Craig*, p. 52.
25. *With Edison on the Union Pacific.*, p. 5.
26. *Ibid.*, p. 25.
27. *New York Daily Tribune*, Aug. 13, 1878, p. 5. "Few towns are less desirable places of abode than Creston and Sepprattion; the tourist who goes either will find that they are names and little more, and he will fare badly unless he carries his own provisions along with him. They cannot even pretend to the dignity of a city, which can be acquired in the West by any place where there are a cow-house and two saloons."

## The Texas Jack Scout



28. *New York Daily Tribune*, August 13, 1878, p.5.
29. *Ibid.*, July 27, 1878.
30. *Ibid.*, July 26, 1878, p.5.
31. *Craig*, p.33.
32. *New York Daily Tribune*, July 26, 1878, p.5.
34. *Laramie Daily Sentinel*, July 26, 1878, p.3.
35. Bill of sale, "Ed Dickinson bought of Louis Miller, July 20, 1878," Edison National Historic Site collection.
36. *Ibid.*
37. John Jarvie to T. A. Edison, July 21, 1878, Edison National Historic Site collection.
38. "T. D." to Prof. Edison, July 27, 1878, Edison National Historic Site collection.
39. *The New York Daily Tribune*, July 27, 1878, included a listing of cities around the country and the beginning and ending of the eclipse in each city.
40. *Ibid.*, July 29, 1878, p.1.
41. Josephson, p.176. Clark is descriptive, too: "Every gust rocked the dilapidated chicken house and the vibrations forced Edison constantly to adjust the tasimeter." p.85.
42. *Laramie Daily Sentinel*, July 30, 1878, p.5.
43. July 30, 1878, p.1.
44. *ma.*
45. *Ibid.*, p.3.
46. *Cheyenne Daily Sun*, July 30, 1878, p.1.
47. *DAB*, Vol. 5, p.435.
48. For reports of scientific teams see *New York Daily Tribune*, Aug. 31, 1878, p.3 (Lockyer's report); Aug. 17, 1878, p.7 (Draper's report); and Aug. 26, 1878, p.5 (Edison's report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science); Aug.



## JOHN BAKER OMOHUNDRO "Texas Jack"

By Roy A. Miles, Jr. April 1, 1985

As a child I spent many enjoyable hours on my grandfather's farm in Smyrna, Tennessee. It has a rich history: The two-story colonial home was supposed to have been a tavern that was frequented by Andrew Jackson. During the Battle of Murfreesboro it was used as a hospital. The smokehouse, fifty feet away, became a temporary fort. The floor in the attic was bloodstained, and bricks had been knocked out of the smokehouse to provide firing ports for rifles or cannon. The garden out

back turned up a cannonball which I now use as a doorstop. I had many fantasies about the Civil War, but my main interest was hunting on the farm, and riding the old mules. No wonder, then that the stories that were told to me about my ancestor Texas Jack Omohundro were fascinating! The Sharps 1859 rifle that has been entrusted to me as an heirloom from Texas Jack Omohundro has been a treasure shown to many people who have visited in my home.



## *The Texas Jack Scout*

My maternal grandmother was Myrtle Mae Omohundro Posey, and she was the granddaughter of John Burwell Omohundro. One of John's twelve children was John Baker Omohundro, who was born July 27, 1846, near Palmyra, Virginia. He attended the Fluvanna County schools and had some private tutoring at home. He supposedly played hooky a lot, mostly as a result of having been fishing all night or hunting and horseback riding. He is supposed to have been an excellent horseman and an expert shot. It may have been his abhorrence of school, enjoyment of the outdoors, or perhaps the fact that his father was known as “Roaring Screamer” Omohundro.

His older brother Orville had enlisted in the Fifth Virginia Cavalry as a Second Lieutenant, and John started trying to get into the Army at age 14. He was unsuccessful, however until he finally was accepted at the age of 16 as a private in the Fifth Virginia Cavalry—one of the two divisions under General J.E.B. Stuart's command. His assignment as a scout was definitely made because of his ability as an outdoorsman, but may also have been due to his claim to have been a descendant of the Powhatan Tribe of Indians—the same tribe that claimed Pocahontas. He served directly under General Lunsford Lomax, basically in the area around his home place. During the Wilderness Campaign, beginning in May 1864, the Confederates were opposed in this area by General Phil Sheridan, a Cavalry Commander, and General George A. Custer, two men with whom he became closely associated at a later date.

Early in the morning of May 11<sup>th</sup> near Yellow Tavern, Virginia, General Lomax sent John Omohundro with a message to General J.E.B. Stuart. This was the last message ever received by General Stuart, for

in a Confederate counter-attack an unmounted private named John. A. Huff shot and killed General Stuart. Texas Jack received a slight wound on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864, and while he was temporarily disabled, he was able to visit home for a short while. He continued to fight with the Confederacy until the final surrender on April 9<sup>th</sup> of 1865 at Appomattox Courthouse, near his homeplace. He decided to travel to Texas and made his way to New Orleans where he embarked on a boat to the Lone Star State. The boat encountered a storm, broke up and sank, and after spending a day and night in the Gulf, he wound up on the coast of Western Florida, near Pensacola. He hunted there for a while, and found himself in need of a regular job. He applied for and was granted a position of schoolteacher. He later told the story of his teaching the children that the world was round, and the following day was confronted by an irate parent who told him that he ought to be fired because he was teaching lies. In later years when he applied for another teaching job and was asked how he taught certain matters, he replied, “I can teach it any way you want—I need the job.”

Jack ultimately made his way to Texas and commenced his career as a cowboy. These times were turbulent, and there were many instances where cattle thieves, marauders, and Indians attacked and robbed cattle herds. The usual procedure was to try to escape with as many cattle as possible by running, forfeiting the stragglers. Jack became a local hero when, in one such attack, he “stood rearguard” and killed a number of marauding Indians while his partners drove the herd to safety.

On another of his ventures he found that Indians had killed a couple and pillaged

## *The Texas Jack Scout*



their pioneer home. Apparently prior to the attack the couple had hidden their small son. Jack heard the child crying, rescued him, and carried him to Fort Worth. In later years this boy called himself “Texas Jack, Jr.” and toured the world in a Wild West Show. Will Rogers inquired of this person from one of his trips to South Africa, and copied some of his own lariat tricks from “Texas Jack, Jr.”.

Jack sought employment with the Taylor Ranch, the largest ranch in Texas at that time, and ultimately became head of the ranch. He drove cattle from Texas to Abilene, Kansas, on the Chisholm Trail. On one occasion in the late ‘60s, he learned of a drought in Tennessee creating a severe food shortage. He enlisted help and drove a herd into western Tennessee, where he was received as a hero. This is reputed to be the occasion on which the nickname “Texas Jack” was given to him, and it stuck for the rest of his life.

During the last of his cattle drives, Jack met and became friends with Colonel William F. Cody, who at that time was a scout in the United States Army. Colonel Cody recognized Jack’s abilities and sought to employ him as a hunter to provide meat for Fort McPherson in Cottonwood Springs, Nebraska. At that time the U. S. Government did not employ Confederate Veterans, but Colonel Cody exercised his influence and obtained special permission. Cody was also employed by the Kansas-Pacific Railroad. This jingle is supposed to have resulted from his employment:

Buffalo Bill, Buffalo Bill,  
Never misses and never will;  
Always aims and shoots to kill,  
And the company pays his Buffalo bill.

The name sticks to this day, of course.

At that time period there were numerous highwaymen, robbers, and thieves holding up supply trains and stage coaches. Jack was strictly “law and order”, and once he joined one of these bands as a spy. As a result, he thwarted the robbery of a particularly valuable supply train. He is supposed to have received a \$10,000 reward for this service from the government; and for an ex-Confederate and in this particular time, that was a mighty good reward. If he had invested wisely, maybe, as one of his poor relatives, I could have benefited from his heroics.

Jack’s reputation as a scout, hunter, guide, and Indian fighter began to spread. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1872, the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia came to North Platte, Nebraska, for a buffalo hunt. In addition to the Duke’s entourage they were accompanied by numerous military and ex-military personnel, including those that Jack had previously fought against—General Phil Sheridan, General George A. Custer, General Sheridan’s scout W. F. Buffalo Bill Cody, and many others. Buffalo Bill was to serve as the guide for the party, but he employed Texas Jack to first guide the party south from the North Platte until he could meet up with them. During the same year (1872) other foreign dignitaries came to this area for big game hunting.

One of the more notable visitors was the Earl of Dunraven from England. He at first was disappointed not to have Buffalo Bill as a scout and guide, but in his later writings he praises the substitute guide, Texas Jack, and apparently a long-lasting friendship developed. Other friendships that Jack developed in this period of his life were those of Dr. William F. Carver, the world champion rifle shot, and James B. “Wild Bill” Hickok, known the world over.

## The Texas Jack Scout

Although there are many tales of Jack's Indian fighting prowess, I am relieved to know that he was not quite as insensitive to the Indian needs as many frontiersmen and the U.S. Government have been pictured in recent years. As mentioned, he claimed to have some Indian blood in his veins, and he was employed by the United States Government to accompany the Pawnee Tribe, under the supervision of General Sheridan, on a three-month long buffalo hunt. The United States Government paid him \$216.66 for this trip, but it took numerous exchanges of correspondence and some political pressure to get it finally paid. Some things never change.

Let me brag about another of my distant relatives. Giuseppina or "Josephine" Morlacchi was born in Milan, Italy in 1846. She had a talent for dancing and made her debut at the age of 10 in the Carlo Felice Theater in Genoa. When she graduated from the LaScala Academy, she toured England and Europe. She appeared in London at Her Majesty's Theater. Later she was invited by Imperial Order to dance at the Royal Theater at Barcelona, Spain. While on tour in Portugal she met John DePol in Lisbon. She became associated with him and travelled to America to play the "DePol Parisian Ballet".

Her debut in America was on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1867, at Banvard's Museum on Broadway in New York, in "The Devil's Auction". This playhouse subsequently became known as Daly's Theater. When she arrived in the United States for her debut, the orchestra serenaded her at Fifth Avenue Hotel. DePol picked up on this publicity and made it known that he had insured her legs for \$100,000. The show played in New York, went on the road, and ended its run in Boston at the end of 1867. On January 6<sup>th</sup>

the DePol Company opened anew in the Theatre Comique, and the playbill announced that the show would close with the "Grand Gallop Can-Can", for the first time performed for an American audience.

Many years later the Boston Herald presented this eyewitness account: "*Everyone was surprised, no one could understand the meaning of the queer name, but after the opening night, all doubts were removed; no ladies applied for tickets after that; but the male sex crowded the theater to the point of suffocation.*" The account went on to describe a military dance and ended with the following: "*They twisted, crossed, turned, and spun, unwinding as they did, unmeasurable yards of muslin until they stood, were it not for the silk tights, apparently in puris naturalibus.*"

It is not certain how long the "ballet" ran, but it still was in production the latter part of February. Apparently it was successful, because on November 9, 1868, "Luraline" opened at that theater, and the handbill announced, "The Original Morlacchi Can-Can". From then through 1872, she appeared in a number of productions, including "The Seven Dwarfs" (I wonder if that is with Snow White), "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The French Spy", and on December 8<sup>th</sup> of 1871, entertained the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia in a Grand Ball in the Boston Theater.

It appears that she had many suitors, and there is a story of the notorious and wealthy Jim Fisk who courted her. It is said that while she was performing at the "Grand Opera House in New York, awaiting her cue in the company of Jim Fisk, he slipped a diamond ring on her finger. When the act was over she returned it to him, and he told

## *The Texas Jack Scout*



her that it was worth \$5,000. Her retort was “Bah—I can earn that with one of my toes.”

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1872, she entered into a slightly different form of dancing, having been persuaded to appear as a feature attraction in Colonel E.Z. Judson’s western drama, “The Scouts of the Prairie”. Colonel Judson’s pen name was Ned Buntline, the famous author of “Dime Novels”. It so happened that Buntline had used Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack Omohundro as source material for a good many of his books and articles. He had persuaded the two to come to Chicago to perform in a “Wild West” Show. The story goes that Ned Buntline carried Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack to the theater immediately after they arrived in Chicago on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1872. When the manager realized that not only were neither of them actors, that no play had been written, no extras were employed to serve as the Indians, and absolutely nothing had been done, he cancelled the engagement.

The flamboyant Buntline immediately asked what the rent would be on the theater, and when told that it was \$600 he paid the money out of his pocket and got a receipt. Thereupon he immediately sat down in his hotel room, wrote a play and engaged bellhops and others as actors. He learned that Mademoiselle Morlacchi was in the city, and went to her and persuaded her to appear for the opening performance.

It must have been a circus, for to have the totally unqualified actors as the co-leads in a play, with the complete antithesis of a renowned ballerina, with only a few days of rehearsals, is almost inconceivable. The story goes that when the curtain rose and the audience saw Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack in their hunting regalia, and these two saw a

full house before them, “Buntline could not get the first lines of the play started. In desperation he walked over to Buffalo Bill and said, “Where have you been, Buffalo Bill?” The only person in the audience that Buffalo Bill recognized was sitting in the front row, a popular and influential citizen of Chicago who had just returned from a hunting trip with Bill, and Bill stammered, “Why I’ve been out hunting with Milligan.”

This inept reply apparently broke the ice, and may have heralded the success of this show. The immediate success of the play led to a tour, going to St. Louis, Cincinnati, Rochester, Albany, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Norfolk, Harrisburg, and terminating at Port Jervis, New York on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1873. Although the tour was financially successful, apparently Buntline was stingy with his stars, and thus ended their relationship.

They were introduced to Major John M. Burke, whose background had included that of acting, managing, critic, and newspaperman. When the tour was over, Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack went back to Nebraska hunting for many weeks. Bill wanted to give up the acting business and return to the life that he had previously enjoyed, but Jack persuaded him to give some consideration to continuing with their newfound endeavor. I suspect that one of the reasons that he wanted to continue this show business was back in Rochester, for after getting Buffalo Bill and Major Burke together to form a new troupe, he went back there where he was married to Josephine Morlacchi on September 1, 1873.

The new production was entitled, “Scouts of the Plain”, written by Fred G. Maeder as a drama, and it too had a successful tour. Mrs. Omohundro continued in her role as Indian princesses or maidens, and it was filled with

## *The Texas Jack Scout*



cowboys, horse thieves, Indians (both good and bad), government commissioners, and everything that could be imaginable. One of the big attractions was the lassoing of Indians by Jack. The 1873 tour included another famous westerner, Wild Bill Hickok. Apparently Wild Bill caused some consternation among the troupe, for the Indians which were killed in the sham battles began to complain bitterly that Wild Bill was shooting them so close that he was burning their legs with powder burns. There was a little of the devil in Wild Bill.

They remonstrated with him many times, and he always promised to do better, but the reformation never seemed to last too long. Finally, he decided that he had had enough of show business and left them in mid-season saying, “Play-acting was only making a fool of yourself.” They did leave on friendly terms, however. Two years later Wild Bill was shot in the back of the head at Deadwood, South Dakota, by Jack McCall.

The Wild West Show business continued to be good for several years, and some of the time Mlle. Morlacchi travelled with this troupe, and at other times she headed her own ballet troupe which toured extensively. Both were financially successful, for the Omohundros purchased two homes—one in Lowell, Massachusetts, and a summer home nearby. Her sister Angelina Morlacchi lived with them and cared for the property while they were on tour. Jack took leave of the traveling show one season and spent it hunting with the Earl of Dunraven. At this time Mlle. Morlacchi carried her own troupe on an extensive tour.

During the era the Wild West was a popular subject. As mentioned, Ned Buntline popularized the “Dime Novels”, and I presume that writers, publishers, editors, etc. jumped on popular subjects with as much

vigor then as now. One popular periodical was Spirit of the Times, and Jack was interviewed and asked to contribute articles to this publication. The Earl of Dunraven also wrote perhaps fairly accurately of the West, some of his books being Canadian Nights, The Great Divide, and Hunting in the Yellowstone. These perhaps accurately depicted some of the exploits of Texas Jack Omohundro and others.

However other writers such as Ned Buntline, Prentice Ingraham, W.F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody and others most certainly enhanced the exploits beyond human accomplishment. These novels must have been 90% fiction and 10% fact. Some of them written were Texas Jack, The White King of the Pawnees; Texas Jack’s Chums; or the Whirlwind of the West by Buntline; Texas Jack, The Mustang King, and Ned Wylde, The Boy Scout by Texas Jack, both of these actually having been written by Ingraham; Texas Jack, The Prairie Rattler, and Texas Jack, The Lasso King by Buffalo Bill Cody. Many others carried Texas Jack’s name in their subtitles.

In the spring of 1880 the couple went from Denver, Colorado, where Mlle. Morlacchi was in the play “The French Spy”, to Leadville, Colorado, a frontier mining town which had just built its magnificent opera house. There Morlacchi carried her Grand Ballet Troupe and performed a number of plays, including “The Black Crook”. This was reputed to be what we would call the first “Leg Show”, and which was stated to have been “one in which the feminine form divine had been displayed in its fullness and beauty.”

There is some evidence of the fact that the Omohundros intended to stay more than temporarily in Leadville, for Josephine opened a dance studio, and a newspaper

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account credited Texas Jack with capturing three stagecoach hold-up men. It appeared that this was somewhat of a lawless town, and one of the leading city fathers and Lt. Governor of the State, H.A.W. Tabor, had organized and financed what he called “The Tabor Light Cavalry”. This consisted of fifty uniformed, mounted patrolmen who endeavored to keep the peace in this Wild West town. Texas Jack joined the Tabor Light Cavalry while there. Unfortunately, pneumonia was rampant in this community, and he contracted this disease and died on June 28, 1880.

Josephine retired from the theater and returned to Lowell, Massachusetts, where she died on July 23, 1886. Twenty-eight years later on September 5, 1908, a memorial service was held at the Evergreen Cemetery in Leadville, Colorado to dedicate a monument to the memory of Texas Jack. The newspaper account relates that there were representatives from many nations, cavalymen with the United States Army, Indians in full regalia, Mexican Vaqueros, Russian Cossacks, Japanese soldiers, British cavalry, Arabian patrols, German horsemen, and others. Colonel Cody was the principal speaker. 🦮



***Note:***

*Most of the reference material in this talk given by Roy Miles, Jr. was taken from Buckskin and Satin by Herschel Logan.*

*The Texas Jack Scout*  


**TEXAS JACK ROUNDUPS**...September 2012

By: Driftin' AaronG

*Have you not heard about the biennial Texas Jack Roundups that take place?  
Where all the history of our plainsmen and Cowboys bring about a heavenly  
grace*

*Texas Jack, the Plainsman, the Cowboy an' Scout, Hunter an' Showman who  
gave his best*

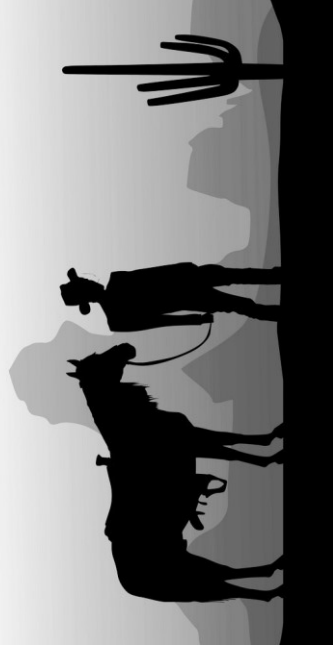
*For in his time he shared with his friends an' pards the greatest of a man's test*

*Often times as I think about the distant past, I give thought to Texas Jack  
About the man and his great adventure as I think about his time way back*

*He was a young plainsman out there on a lonely prairie, his horse an' he  
Often just watching a far away sunset with each new star as bright as could be*

*This would have been something that Texas Jack, the Plainsman may have seen  
on many a night*

*I can only think how fortunate this young man was to have roamed this land  
from dusk to daylight*



*He did many good works and  
deeds for his fellow man with the  
adventures he sought*

*And he was a man of pride an'  
honor and a man who could never  
be bought*

*As I think about those times he rode across this wild frontier land*

*I can only wonder how his time on Earth must have been so very grand*

*Yes, he rode this land of the free often hard an' wild*

**The Texas Jack Scout**



*An' he started early in his life when he was but a child*

*So today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the biennial Texas Jack Roundups are held for all to see*

*To honor the past frontier world gone by and to remember our past that be*

*Give thought to all the frontiersmen of the past that we know about*

*Texas Jack. Buffalo Bill Cody, Wild Bill Hickock, an' all the rest that stood tall, proud an' stout*

*Think about those days gone by where men walked this land proud an' free*

*And think about what the world was like then, an' so often where I'd like to be*



*So with the Texas Jack Association, you might like to join in an' remember the good ol' days*

*And think about what it was like living the good ol' free and hard frontier ways*

*We're all a group of good ol' guys an' gals and have fun learning about the past Back when the world of Texas Jack was so wild an' distant and with memories that will forever last.*

**Next Texas Jack Scout Information**

The deadline for the July 2018 issue of the *Scout* is July 1, 2018.

Please send ideas and materials to our Guest Editors:

**Carole Brown**

barnlion@gmail.com

805-722-9232

**Peggy Greene**

mgreene39@hotmail.com

561-676-3936

*Thank you, Carole and Peggy!*

**The Texas Jack Scout**



Dear current members and WELCOME new members:

It's time to register for the next Roundup to be held in Sacramento, CA. Don't miss out! The 2018 Roundup, like the previous ones, will be a special time to see the Texas Jack members we only see once every two years, as well as explore the history of a different area. Roundups are always planned around the emphasis on our favorite cowboy Texas Jack.

At this year's Roundup we will be offering something fun and different by having a fundraising raffle/silent auction and possibly a wine pull on Saturday night along with our banquet. There will be a variety of really nice and awesome items and all proceeds will go into the Texas Jack Association general fund. If anyone, attending or not, would like to support our fundraiser and donate a gift to be auctioned, I'd greatly appreciate it. Please email me for details. In addition, there will also be some Texas Jack memorabilia on display.

I'd like to remind everyone that DUES ARE DUE. Please pay your dues to continue supporting our organization and receive your subscriptions of the *SCOUT!*

Advertising update: Our Facebook page is holding with over 1400 followers. I'd like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Texas Jack Association, and also thank all the volunteers for the group effort in keeping Texas Jack's memory alive. Hope to see you all in Sacramento! Remember—June 20 to 23!

All the best,

*Carole Brown*

President

[barnlion@gmail.com](mailto:barnlion@gmail.com)

*It's Time for Dues!  
Dues must be paid to register for  
the 2018 Roundup. See page 26.*



## *The Texas Jack Scout*



### **Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown – Arena Home Base for June 20-23, 2018 TJA Roundup**

Contemporary rooms feature rich mahogany furniture and complimentary high-speed, wireless Internet access, a 32-inch LCD TV with premium cable and a comfy chaise lounge. Guests enjoy a well-lit work area, as well as a triple-sheeted bed. The hotel features on-site business center, outdoor pool, cocktail lounge-The Pub, complimentary fitness center, and wireless Internet available in rooms, suites, business center, public areas, and meeting spaces. The Cyprus Grille on-site serves breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, and dessert. The hotel is only 11 miles from Sacramento International Airport.

We have reserved a ten (10) room block with the special rate of \$151 per night. In order to receive the special rate, you **must** make your reservation by **May 21, 2018**. Our group code is **TJA**. After **May 21**, any rooms not picked up will drop back into inventory and the special group rate will expire.

Reservations can be made by calling **916-446-0100** or **916-446-1011**.

Highlights of the Roundup include the display of the Dennis and Julie Greene's Texas Jack Memorabilia Collection, a Silent Auction, Underground Tour of Sacramento and optional White-Water Rafting trip.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

**Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Inn Downtown Sacramento**

Meet and Greet 3-7pm  
Beverages and Appetizers provided.  
Dinner on your own



**Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>** – 10:00am – Guided Tour of the California State Railroad Museum  
12:00pm – Wells Fargo Museum  
12:30pm – Lunch provided  
2:30pm - Sutter’s Fort  
4:00pm – return to the Holiday Inn  
5:45pm – Old Sacramento Underground Tour or Carriage Ride  
around Capitol Building  
Dinner on your own

**Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>** – All Day Whitewater Rafting Trip 8:30am – 6pm (additional \$120 with lunch provided)

OR Explore Downtown Sacramento on your own.

Some options include: Sacramento History Museum  
California Automobile Museum  
Leland Stanford Mansion  
State Indian Museum  
California State Capital Museum

**Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 10:00am Business Meeting in Carmichael, CA (about 20 minute drive)

12:00pm – Hotdogs and Hamburgers and all the fixings poolside  
2:00pm – return to the Hotel  
5:00pm – Catered Dinner in a park-like setting with Silent Auction  
and entertainment  
8:00pm – return to the Hotel

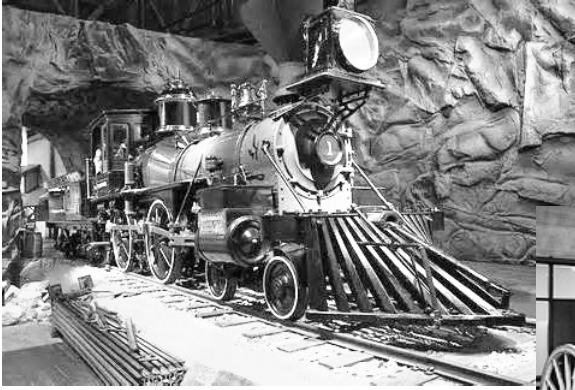
**Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>** – Depart for home.

The mission of the Texas Jack Association is to commemorate and perpetuate the memory of Texas Jack Omohundro and in doing so we meet on a biannual basis in areas of historic significance to the time of Texas Jack. We always have a wonderful time and always learn interesting things about the area we visit and its connection with Texas Jack.

Peggy Greene, Carole Brown, and Laura Rincon have been working hard to make this Roundup a great experience for everyone and hope as many as are able will join us! Please contact Peggy at <[mgreene39@hotmail.com](mailto:mgreene39@hotmail.com)> if you have questions about the Roundup.

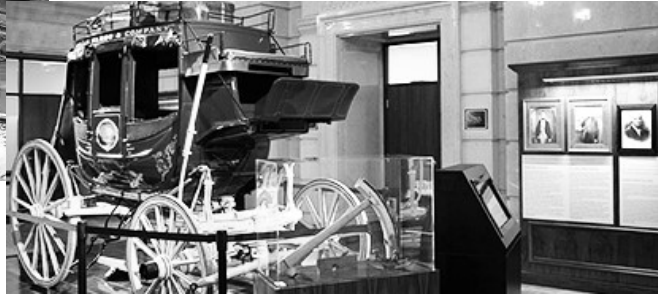


*The Texas Jack Scout*



*www.theclio.com*

**SIGHTS WE WILL SEE**



*www.wellsfargo.com*



*Old Sacramento Park Underground Tour*  
*roadtrippers.com*



*Carriage ride*  
*tophand ranch.com*



*Sutter's Fort*  
*goldexplorers.com*



Texas Jack Association  
**2018 ROUNDUP**  
REGISTRATION FORM  
June 20-20, 2018 Sacramento, CA

(Roundup participants should make their own Hotel reservations by May 21, 2018)

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult(s) @ \$135.00/person = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student(s) (13 yrs. to college) @ \$115.00/person = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children (5 yrs. to 12) @ \$85.00/person = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children (4 and under) free

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Please print first and last names of all who will be attending so name tags can be made:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## TJA MEMBERSHIP FORM

**\*NOTE:** All attendees must be current members of the TJA. If you are not a current member, please fill out the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Adult @ \$25/person = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (all persons living at the same address) @ \$40/family = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior (60 or over) @ \$20/person = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Junior (under 18) @ \$10/person = \_\_\_\_\_

Names on membership:

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---

---

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

BLOG or Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Networks: \_\_\_\_\_ (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

Enclose a check payable to: **Texas Jack Association** for: TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed forms and check to:

**Rick Omohundro, Treasurer TJA**

**PO Box 91**

**Salt Lick, KY 40371**

## The Texas Jack Scout



## The Airports of Sacramento, CA

### Sacramento International Airport SMF

<http://sacramento.aero/smf>

- **American Airlines** | (800) 433.7300 | [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)
- **Delta** | (800) 221.1212 | [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)
- **United Airlines** | (800) 241.6522 | [www.ual.com](http://www.ual.com)
- **Aeromexico** | (800) 237.6639 | [www.aeromexico.com](http://www.aeromexico.com)
- **Alaska Airlines** | (800) 426.0333 | [www.alaskaair.com](http://www.alaskaair.com)
- **Hawaiian Airlines** | (800) 367.5320 | [www.hawaiianair.com](http://www.hawaiianair.com)
- **Horizon** | (800) 547.9308 | [www.alaskaair.com](http://www.alaskaair.com)
- **JetBlue** | (800) 538.2583 | <http://www.jetblue.com>
- **Southwest** | (800) 435.9792 | [www.iflyswa.com](http://www.iflyswa.com)
- **Volaris** | (866) 988.3527 | [www.volaris.mx](http://www.volaris.mx)



### Also:

#### Executive Airport SAC

<http://sacramento.aero/sac>

#### Franklin Field F72

<http://sacramento.aero/f72>



See [http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/to\\_and\\_from/rental\\_car](http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/to_and_from/rental_car) for on- and off-airport rental car companies. All rental car companies at Sacramento International Airport are located at the rental car terminal on airport property. The **on-airport** rental car shuttle arrives at designated stops on ground level curbs outside both terminals approximately every 10 minutes. The shuttle serves all on-airport rental car agencies. Rental car shuttles are assigned by terminal. Be sure to check the signs to make sure the shuttle you are on is going to the terminal you wish to go to.

Shuttle wait times may be longer during the airport's peak hours: 4 – 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. – midnight.

Avis, Budget, Hertz and National offer vehicles for people with disabilities. Reservations for equipped vehicles must be made at least 48 to 72 hours in advance.

**Off-airport** rental car companies will pick up their customers from the rental car terminal.

**The Texas Jack Scout**



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**The Texas Jack Scout**  
1844 NE Parks Summit Blvd  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

**TO:**