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[www.texasjack.org](http://www.texasjack.org)

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## Article Discovered about Texas Jack

### *Editor's note:*

We are indebted to Rand McKinney for sending us a scan of an original article about the demise of Texas Jack. While it does not reflect the true occurrences as passed down in family history, it does provide yet another glimpse into the times in which Jack lived – the area, people and how many lived. It also speaks to how far-reaching his fame was in that sensationalists saw him as enough of a celebrity to make claims that went beyond the real circumstances. It is quite an interesting read regardless of its factual accuracy.

On page 522 of the Omohundro Genealogical Record the following information may be found which reference the facts about Jack's death:

*"Late in May he caught a cold. He paid no attention to a cold—had he not slept months under the stars? Had he not been through one war and lived almost his entire life on the plains? Of all men he was the strongest; he would pay no attention to a cold! But toward the middle of June the cold became worse. His wife insisted that Jack take to his bed. Finally he yielded. His cold became worse, developed into pneumonia; the best physicians were called, but all to no avail! On the morning of June 28, 1880, Jack died, cut off in the prime of his manhood!"*

The following on page 3 is a transcription of an original article that appeared in the Leadville Daily and Evening Chronicle (Leadville, Lake County); May 27, 1897; Section: None; Page Number: 4 [back]. (All spelling is from the actual article).

# THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

from the Editor's Desk...



It's funny how my love of history developed as I grew older. I can remember a certain lack of intrigue with things historical while studying American History in high school but now find it incredibly fascinating. Fortunately, at least one of my children has been bitten by the bug in her early twenties, perhaps not the least because her mom and dad read history (fiction and nonfiction) incessantly. I'm hopeful it will become a life long interest for her as well.

What a better way to immerse oneself in the history of the United States than to participate in the Texas Jack Association. Since beginning to attend Roundups in 2004, I've been delighted by the doors of discovery that have been opened, both in visiting the locations frequented by Texas Jack, and in meeting the fascinating people who make up the membership. Whether tied directly to the Omohundro family or not, the members I've had the chance to visit with have been the best of conversationalists. Each seems to share a genuine interest in history.

It is my pleasure to take a turn as guest editor of this edition of *The Scout*. You'll find introductions to the new officers and some genuinely interesting articles about Texas Jack and his steps in an early America. Please enjoy.

*Rene Tyree*



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Jupiter, FL 33458

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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## THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

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### HOW TEXAS JACK MET HIS DEATH

The associate editor of the Cripple Creek Guide, J.L. Sprogle, Jr., is doing some picturesquely reminiscent literary work that ought to be quite taking. The presumably recent death of Mrs. Jack Omahundro gives him an interesting theme to write about, and he tells of the career of the famous Texas Jack, who for some time was in Leadville, and who did this city the honor of dying here. The distinguished frontiersman is buried over in Evergreen, and for a long time his last resting place was marked by a plain board, with his name and age, and on the other side a rudely drawn pair of pistols crossed and a horse's head. Some vandal hand, however, a few years ago removed this last memento of the hero of the plains.

It does not do, when an ambitious newspaper man is writing frontier reminiscences, especially if his yarns concern Leadville, to examine too closely their accuracy. It is probable that Mr. Sprogle's tale of Texas Jack's death here is largely drawn from the imagination, (emphasis added) but we give the story as an interesting and well written tale.

Mr. Sprogle first describes a beautiful cultivated and refined ballet dancer—a premiere danseuse he calls her—who was playing a week's engagement at Fox's theater. With this divine creature Texas Jack falls madly in love, and finally marries her. The story continues:

But the big frontiersman could not stand civilization (so-called) and its ways. It acted on his habits and constitution as it does on the American aborigine. It blighted his nature and undermined his health. While he was a co-star with Buffalo Bill in the theatrical combination and was entitled to kill just as many Indians and to enjoy quite as many hair-breadth escapes before the drop of the curtain as Bison William, yet he did not prosper and the latter did. They

made immense sums of money, and still Jack was always broke while Bill was becoming rich. But there was no mystery about it. Bill had a good business head upon his shoulders while Jack, a perfect child of nature, and densely ignorant of money and its value, threw his dollars about with a lavish recklessness only equaled by Coal Oil Johnny. It was the old story. Surrounded by saloons and lured into dissipations of which he had never dreamed in his wild, free life on the plains, he became a heavy drinker and almost a total physical wreck. Half the time he could not go through his part on the stage, and the dissolution of his partnership with Colonel Cody came quickly.

His devoted wife, who had stood by him through it all and fought to save him from himself as a mother fights to protect her child, concluded that the only hope to redeem him from his habits of civilization (God save the mark!) was to get him back under the blue skies into the untainted air of the glorious west; back where men's hearts grow big from contact with nature; where manhood asserts itself, and virtue is respected, and where agnosticism is impossible because God's presence broods on the boundless plains and whispers in the canons of the eternal Rockies. (Perhaps I should explain that I am speaking of the west of twenty years ago, before the hayseed Populists of Kansas and the pinch-penny Shylocks of down east settled on mountain and plain like a visitation of God, driving out His spirit and making the monuments and the shrines of nature the bulletin-boards of trade.)

So Jack came back to the plains and the mountains where he had blazed the way for that civilization that had ruined him. But the frontier was rapidly disappearing; there was very little Indian fighting and consequently his occupation was almost gone. He began life as a cowboy, but soon took to Indian

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fighting as a trade, and old frontiersmen have assured me that he never had his equal as a scout. For many years he was in the employ of the army as a scout and did brilliant work in a score of campaigns against the red-skins. At odd times he would accept the position of marshal of some frontier town and contract to rid it of desperadoes and professional bad men. After shooting down a few of these and running the balance into the brush, he would receive his contract fee and move on. But Jack had sold himself to a rum habit, and the foreclosure was rapidly approaching. He had gotten down to acting as a guide for hunting parties composed of Englishmen and back east tenderfeet, and these associations were not calculated to better his malady.

It was after his return from one of these expeditions that he came to Leadville in the fall of 1880. He was accompanied by half a dozen scouts and frontiersmen, who hovered about him like a satellite around a planet. One was a fellow named Hickok, a cousin of Wild Bill; another was related to Colonel Cody, and another was a Canuck called Porcupine. They had all been on a hunt with a party of distinguished gentlemen, and, in consequence, had not been sober for weeks. They took up their quarters at the Mount Massive hotel, near Soda Springs, on the opposite side of the Arkansas valley from Leadville. Jack made an honest effort to get sober and brace up, but he had chosen the wrong place for the effort. The hotel was nothing better than a road house and a notorious drinking resort. He was plied with invitations to drink a hundred times a day, and he was too weak to resist all of them. His wife had been reduced to playing in variety theatres so as to be as near him as possible, and was then filling an engagement at the Grand Central theatre in Leadville. She tried to hold him within bounds but failed. Mrs. Jack appealed to me for help, and I spent a day with him at the hotel. He was unable to eat anything and was keeping on his feet through the aid of milk punches.

He consented to cut down his allowance of these and when we parted he promised to drink nothing until he met me in town the following day.

He kept his appointment and his promise, but he was drinking pitiably when I found him in Harley Hall's beer cellar drinking seltzer and lemon. I was compelled to ride to the head of Iowa gulch but he promised to meet me at the theatre at night. On my return I was told that he had taken violently ill and removed to the Sister's hospital, I hurried there and was not surprised to learn that his attack was one of delirium tremens. The hospital did not have a regular straight jacket, but Jack's hands were strapped closely to the four posts of the bed and five men were trying to control his convulsions. At the head of the bed, her big black eyes twice their normal size, the olive skin of her face corpse-like and waxen, frigid in terror, stood his wife. At the foot of the bed knelt a sweet-faced young man, praying rapidly. A young physician was administering a hypodermic injection of morphin, when he started back with a warning cry. Six of us sprang on Jack as, with a terrible scream, his muscles contracted for a supreme physical effort. The straps on his wrists snapped like threads and the six men went hurtling against the walls of the room, and Jack fell back—dead. There were a few seconds when no one breathed, and the silence oppressed like the weight of fathoms of water. Then came a shriek that hurt the brain like a blow and stopped the beating of the heart. The wife had flung herself on the corpse and was trying to tear it from the bed. She fought like a tigress when we tried to secure her, and I carry the marks of her teeth in my arm to this day. After she was bound hand and foot she sang lullabies to her lost boy all night as though he were he baby who had gone to sleep. She was sent to an insane asylum the next day, and that was the last I ever heard of her until I saw the notice of her death the other day.

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*I am* honored to have been elected President for the current term. As a charter member of the Texas Jack Association I have had the opportunity to watch the Association grow and change, to watch members come and go and stay. It has been a constant over the years that there will be a biennial Roundup and that our family will attend. My goal, as President, is to continue the work done by the past leadership to ensure that the Association continues to be a constant, both for myself and my family and for all the current and future members.

One of the ways to accomplish this is to increase our use of the internet to communicate with each other, to exchange information and to simplify membership sign-ups and renewals. We have a wonderful website designed by

Rand McKinney, [www.texasjack.org](http://www.texasjack.org), and we will be adding new features to it in the coming months. Together with our future campaign of magazine advertising, the Texas Jack Association will continue to grow and prosper.

It is my distinct privilege to serve with Larry and Rene Tyree, Rand McKinney, Edna Nees, and Stephanie Greene. Each person contributes much of their time and talents to ensure the success of the Association. And, there are more people willing to volunteer their time and talents; Linda Omohundro as the Layout Editor, and all the Guest Editors and article contributors to the Scout. As of July, we have new committees and committee members who have all volunteered to increase the visibility of our Association through different projects. It's an exciting time for the Texas Jack Association and I'm very glad to be a part of it!

*Peggy Greene*

### NEXT SCOUT ISSUE INFORMATION

The deadline for the March, 2007 issue of *The Scout* is February 15, 2007. Please send ideas and materials to our Guest Editors:

**Jack and Judy Omohundro  
1610 Rollinghills Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89115  
[bup995@cox.net](mailto:bup995@cox.net)**

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### BIOGRAPHY OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT Peggy Greene

Along with her husband, Mark, Peggy is one of the charter members of the Texas Jack Association. She has attended almost all of the Roundups, written many articles for the Scout and served as its guest editor on several occasions. It was while living outside of Boston that she met up with Henry Kucharyk (one of the Lowell Roundup organizers) and became fascinated with the life of Josephine Morlacchi, Texas Jack's wife. She located Josephine's original will in the Cambridge Courthouse and discovered that history can be very tangible and fascinating.

Peggy and Mark and their three daughters, Laura (19), Stephanie (18), and Lindsay (13) have been residents of Jupiter, FL for the past fifteen years. She is the owner of Lighthouse Property Services, Inc., a property management company, where she

actively participates in the day to day operations. She and Mark are also very active in real estate investment both in and out of the state of Florida. Peggy graduated from the University of California, Irvine in 1985 with a B.S. in Biology. She also holds an A.S. degree in Computer Information Systems with several industry certifications including the MCSE, MCDBA, CCNA, Net+ and A+ certifications.

When not working or tending to family responsibilities, Peggy likes to walk on the beach with her two dogs, go to movies, and read good books. She and Mark like to travel a few times a year and spend time together with their girls. Her philosophy is that most people are basically good and that her life is the richer for all of the people in it.

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### BIOGRAPHY OF OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT Larry Tyree

Larry joined the Texas Jack Association in 2002 after finding it in a search on the Internet. "What a great idea!" he said, because since his youth his mother (Gladys Omohundro Tyree) told him about his famous relative. He began to look forward to issues of *The Scout* from that point onward and has also been able to participate in the last two Roundups.

Since 1985, Larry has worked for the Community of Christ in a variety of administrative capacities and in 2002 was asked to develop its Department of International Resources. He leads a global team of translators and publishers who produce books and other resources in

approximately 18 languages. Larry is fluent in five languages: English, French, Creole, Spanish, and Tahitian, and is learning Swahili and Russian.

Larry's interests include model shipbuilding, gourmet cooking, and lately - massage therapy. He is planning on graduating in January 2007 as a licensed massage therapist (LMT) from Massage Therapy Training Institute, which he intends to put to use on a part-time basis.

Larry holds a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from UMKC and a Masters of Arts in Religion from Park University.

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### **BIOGRAPHY OF OUR NEW SECRETARY Stephanie Greene**

Stephanie Greene has been a member of the TJA for eighteen years – since she was born. As the daughter of Mark and Peggy Greene, she has attended many of the Roundups with her sisters, Laura (19) and Lindsay (13). It was while attending the Roundups that she discovered, in her words, “that she is interested in history, especially in the development of the western United States.” And, she has been able to enlighten her classmates and teachers about one of the West’s forgotten heroes, Texas Jack.

Stephanie currently attends Jupiter Community High School where she is enrolled in the Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy. She is a senior on track to graduate as Salutatorian of her class in May 2006. She is in the process of applying to colleges both in

Florida and the Northeast. Her first choice is Yale, followed by the University of Pennsylvania where she intends to major in Economics and Environmental Public Policy.

Stephanie is active in her school’s Cross-County Running Team and the Track and Field Team where she runs the one mile event and several relays. She volunteers with the American Red Cross in several capacities; as an officer with her school club, on the Youth Executive Council for West Palm Beach, and as the Youth Representative on the North County Advisory Board. Her true passion is piloting small planes and she plans on obtaining her private pilot license in the spring and her private pilot instrument rating next summer.

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### **BIOGRAPHY OF OUR NEW TREASURER Rene Tyree**

Rene Tyree watched with fascination as her husband, Larry, immersed himself in the Texas Jack Association several years ago. She has seen him become an adept historiographer and got the Texas Jack history bug while attending the 2004 Roundup in Virginia. She very much enjoyed meeting the membership and visiting the homestead of the Omohundro family. Rene agreed to take on a more active role in the association during the 2006 Cody, WY Roundup and looks forward to making a contribution and just rubbing shoulders with the terrific leadership team and the equally interesting membership cadre.

Rene and Larry live on two wooded acres in the middle of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, an eastern suburb of Kansas City. Rene and Larry have two children, Katy and Matthew.

Katy and her husband Aaron live in Lee’s Summit, Missouri as does son Matthew.

Rene holds two bachelor’s degrees, one in liberal studies from Graceland University, and a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Rene begins a graduate program in January with the American Military University and will be studying Military History, particularly the Civil War.

Rene works as a Senior Manager of Marketing for Sprint-Nextel in Overland Park, KS. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, art, reading, gardening, and the company of good friends and family.

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## OUR NEW HISTORIAN Edna Nees

The new position of historian will be very beneficial to the organization. Most of us know how much work Edna has done over the years, keeping the Association running smoothly, organizing Roundups, and so on. Even though her official title was secretary, she did far more than what was required of the office. Everyone also knows that it is Edna that one goes to when one wants to know who is related to whom, and how, and the stories that go along with the Omohundro family and their kin. It is fitting that she be so recognized, and that she will also be able to continue to participate as an officer in the Association as much as she wishes and as her health and circumstances permit.



*Our new officers:  
Stephanie, Peggy Greene; Rene, Larry Tyree, Edna Nees (not pictured)*



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**



**RANDALL OMOHUNDRO, HENDERSONVILLE, TN  
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## THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

### Texas Jack's Cowboy Days

By Larry Tyree

*“The duration of Jack’s sojourn in Florida is a matter of conjecture. It would appear to have been somewhere around a year’s time before he again headed for Texas—this time by land. There is considerable evidence of his cattle days in Texas, but to pin the happenings down in black and white or to find actual records has been an all but impossible task.”<sup>a</sup>*



Figure 1: *Trail Herd to Wyoming*, Oil on canvas, W.H.D. Koerner, 1923<sup>b</sup>

One of the mysteries associated with the life of John B. “Texas Jack” Omohundro is the location of the ranch he worked during his cowboy days in Texas. In the definitive biography, *Buckskin and Satin*, author Herschel C. Logan states,

*“Even the locale of the ranch upon which Jack worked in Texas is unknown. One early-day writer indicated that it was in the Panhandle, not far from the Indian Territory. Jack himself gives no hint as to the part of Texas in which he lived.”<sup>c</sup>*

Malvern Hill Omohundro, in *The Omohundro Genealogical Record*, indicates that Jack “went to work as a cowboy for a man by the name of Taylor.” It further states that he “later became the head of the Taylor ranch, the largest in Texas...”<sup>d</sup> Little else is known. During a recent trip to San Antonio, Texas (March 2005), I decided to try to find out more about the cattle drives that began in that area, to look up buildings that would have existed at the time, and to attempt to “see” through the eyes of a young man seeking his fortune after the Civil War. I also continued with research into the existence of a Taylor Ranch, its location and owner.

Several questions came to mind:

- Where would Jack have gone first after arriving in Texas after the war?
- What were the options available to fortune seekers in 1866?
- Was it really the Taylor ranch that hired Jack?
- Where was his ranch located?
- Did Jack ever work for the Texas Rangers?

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## TEXAS IN 1866

The largest city in Texas in 1866 was San Antonio. The first herd to travel north on the Chisholm Trail was owned by O.W. Wheeler in 1867, who bought 2400 steers in San Antonio.<sup>c</sup> The industry took off that year, and began to swell over the next two years.

The surrounding area, including Bexar County, was considered to be the head of the Chisholm Trail.<sup>f</sup>

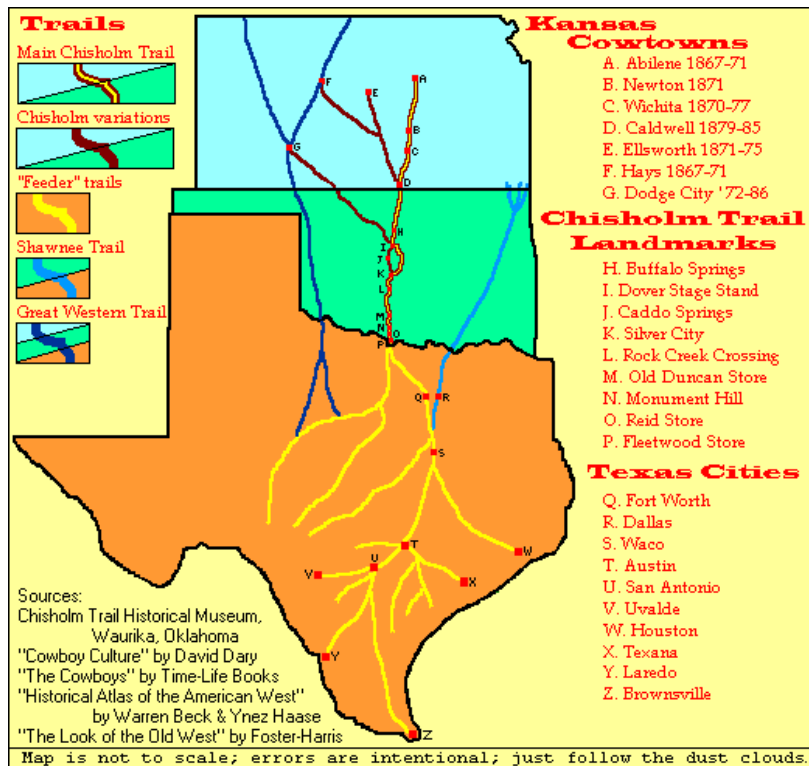


Figure 2: Map of Chisholm, Shawnee and Western Trails<sup>9</sup>

Logic dictates that a young fortune-seeker would head to the San Antonio or the surround areas to meet up with ranchers who might need hands to work their ranches and herds.

A probable destination would have been Bandera, a town situated 42 miles northwest of San Antonio. It was noted as an area that fed the trail as cattle were driven north to Kansas and to railheads for distribution. Today, the city of Bandera still considers itself the "Cowboy Capital." Many individuals were hired in the general area by ranchers seeking hands to work the herds and drive them north.<sup>h</sup>

Downtown Bandera's historic district has preserved a number of original buildings that were built near the time Jack could have frequented the area. Below are several examples of such buildings. It is possible that Jack walked these same streets. (Note: All photos by Larry Tyree)

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Figure 3: Methodist Church, Bandera, Texas 1860



Figure 4: Oldest stone building in Bandera, Texas 1855



Figure 5: Old School House



Figure 6: Courthouse built in 1865, Bandera, Texas



Figure 7: Medina River, watering area for cattle

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Figure 8: Old Bandera<sup>l</sup>



Figure 9: Modern Bandera, Texas

### IN SEARCH OF THE TAYLOR RANCH

As suggested above, it is surmised that Jack went to work for a man named Taylor after arriving in Texas and eventually became foreman of his ranch. While documents to substantiate this are unknown, family lore suggests that Jack made reference to “Taylor” in an early letter home and that Taylor owned a very large cattle ranch.

Despite a number of searches, I could find no records of a successful rancher by the name of Taylor at the location and time of Jack’s living in the area. The most comprehensive authority on the subject, *The Cattle Industry of Texas and Adjacent Territories*<sup>j</sup> (James Cox, 1895), shows no rancher of any note by that name during the time that Texas Jack would have been working in the area, between 1866 and 1869.

So, what is to be made of the name Taylor? Did such a rancher really exist? Was he just not as well off as Texas Jack wrote home about? Could Jack have been bragging to his parents in order to quiet their fears about his welfare?

There is mention of a James J. Taylor in the book *Indian Depredations in Texas* by J.W. Wilbarger.<sup>k</sup> He is noted as having lived in 1865 with his extended family 70 miles northwest of San Antonio at the head of the Pedernales. Indian attacks were common on this part of the frontier and James’ wife and several others were killed by marauders while he and his father were away from home.<sup>k</sup>

The Census of 1880 documents a Jim Taylor in the panhandle area of upper Texas. He had come from Colorado where his children had been born. There are also several references to “Jim Taylor” made in *Trail Drivers of Texas*.<sup>l</sup> Notably, none are profiled as owners of large ranches.

Could it be that the Taylor referenced by Jack Omohundro was actually misspelled? Winn Traylor<sup>m</sup> (1807-1883) was associated with a successful ranching family that lived in Victoria near the Gulf of Mexico during the time that Texas Jack was in Texas. He began ranching in 1840 and became one of the “most prosperous stockmen in Southern Texas.”<sup>n</sup> In addition, Josiah C. Traylor lived in Jackson County, Texas, at El Toro Station in 1866

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and was also very successful, owning 50,000 acres and having amassed a fortune.<sup>o</sup> That these two ranches were near the Gulf of Mexico and thus nowhere near the Indian Territory referenced by the family, makes both an unlikely choice for Jack's employer.

There was an Abner Taylor who co-partnered with John and C.B. Farwell and A.C. Babcock to form the XIT Ranch in the Texas panhandle area. The XIT Ranch became the largest ranch in Texas in the 1880s and covered more than three million acres. It is doubtful that Jack was associated with the XIT Ranch because it would have been in operation years after Jack's was in the area (1866 to 1869).



Figure 10: Texas, ca 1867 showing Indian Territory in the northwest of Texas<sup>P</sup>

### A NEW APPROACH

A discussion with a researcher in the Texas State Library and Archives led to a new approach for the search for rancher Taylor. He suggested investigating the Texas General Land Office for land grants made during the period. If a rancher by the name of Taylor had a successful business by the time Jack was looking for work around 1866, the rancher would surely have been in business prior to the Civil War. After a long search of the archives, I discovered a rancher by the name of John Taylor, who had been granted a patent for land for 1,476 acres in Bexar County on October 25, 1845. Bexar County today surrounds San Antonio. Between 1840 and 1870, however, Bexar County included all the unincorporated "Indian Territory" west of San Antonio and all the way up the panhandle. In subsequent years, John Taylor received an additional 56 grants of land covering areas from Bexar County in the Southwest of Texas and progressing in a Northeasterly direction across the state.

John Taylor appears to be a good candidate for the rancher who hired Texas Jack. His total accumulation of land was enormous and it is quite understandable that he would have been considered by Jack to be one of the largest and most successful ranchers of the time.

The afore-mentioned *The Cattle Industry of Texas and Adjacent Territories* was useful in providing a fresh view of Jack as understood by the cattle industry of 1895. On pages 69-70

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there is a section devoted to "... 'Texas Jack', the great Indian fighter, who rescued thousands of cattle..."<sup>q</sup> The book describes him working on a ranch with many horses "...raised chiefly for herding purposes..."

*"Jack was employed on a ranch in the Texas Pan Handle, near the border line of the Indian Territory, where Indian cattle thieves were accustomed to make periodical depredations. On this ranch were also many head of horses, raised chiefly for herding purposes, and these animals required constant watchfulness from the herders to prevent them from falling into the hands of covetous Indians. In fact, many cowboys were murdered by these pests of the ranch, so that the business of herder had become extremely hazardous in the Pan Handle section. When Jack entered upon the dangerous duty, he expected trouble with the Indians and was, therefore, prepared for it. Nor was he anywise surprised when, a few months after his engagement, a large body of redskins came down upon him and his partner, with whoop and weapons, intent upon capturing the horses under Jack's charge. But the Indians were received with a cordiality little expected. While his partner drove the horses away, Jack poured a deadly fire into the Indians, killing several, and thus checking pursuit. For this skillful and effective resistance he was well rewarded by the owner of the stock. Afterward Jack made several cattle drives to Abilene and became one of Texas' most renowned rancheros."*<sup>s</sup>

At the time that Jack would have been in John Taylor's employ, the properties were located across Texas in eight counties totaling 18,154 acres<sup>t</sup>. The following table shows how widespread were Taylor's land holdings. For the purposes of being strategically able to service cattle ranchers with fresh horses, Taylor was well placed. Previously, the search for the Taylor ranch was based on the idea that he was a cattle rancher. It is small wonder that no mention can be found.

County	Acres
Bexar	1476
Cherokee	2240
Lamar	4428
Mason	160
Midland	640
Montgomery	4428
Navarro	4605
Sabine	177
Total Acres	18,154

Table 1: Acres and County location of the holdings of John Taylor in Texas

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The particular placement of these counties would have been ideal locations to feed the Great Western Trail, the Chisholm Trail, Old Shawnee Trail, Goodnight-Loving Trail, and the California Trail.

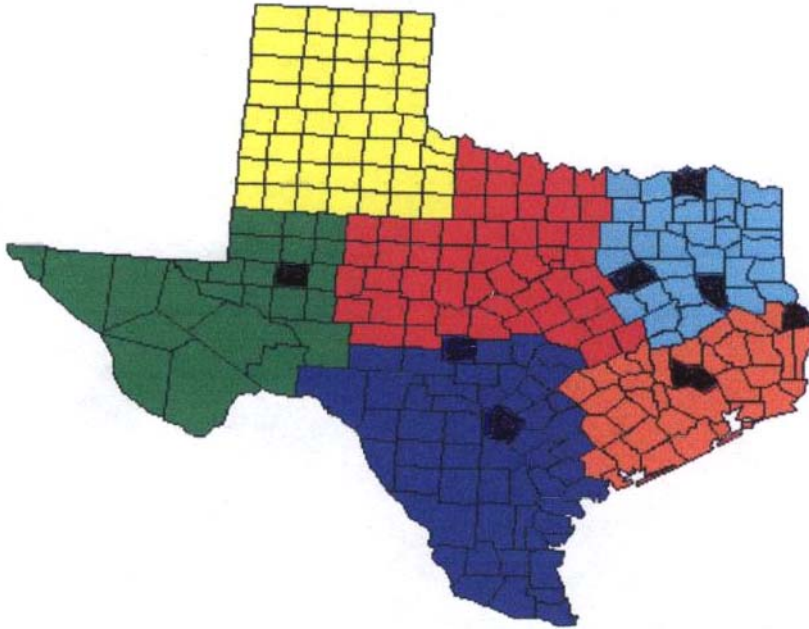


Figure 11: Darkened counties show the spread of Taylor's land holdings.

### THE TEXAS RANGERS

Another supposition posited in *Buckskin and Satin* had to do with the possibility of Jack's involvement in the Texas Rangers.

*"Jack's good friend, Major Burke, indicated in his writings, as has previously been mentioned, that Jack had at one time been a Texas Ranger. This may have been possible."*<sup>u</sup>

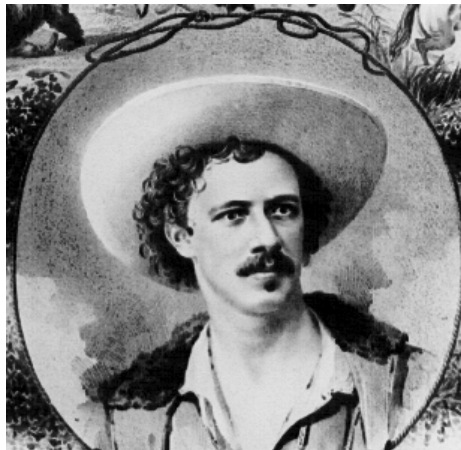
Investigation led to the Texas Rangers' website and an email query. The response was that it would not have been possible for Jack to have been a Texas Ranger because that association was disbanded in 1865 after the conclusion of the Civil War. The North did not want armed groups of men in southern territories.<sup>v</sup> Research also showed no trace in Texas Ranger archives of a John B. Omohundro in the ranks of former Rangers. The Rangers were not reorganized again until 1874 at which point Jack was already on the stage in the east coast with William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody as well as involved in other projects.

At long last, we know something further about the early days of Texas Jack and something more about the Taylor ranch. Perhaps in upcoming issues we will be able to find more out about John Taylor and his family. We may also discover some of the letters that were written in his early years that referenced those times. At least there is more from which to search.

# THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

## End Notes

- <sup>a</sup> *Buckskin and Satin*, Herschel Logan, The StackPole Company, 1954, p. 20.
- <sup>b</sup> Photo from <http://www.wyomingtalesandtrails.com>
- <sup>c</sup> Logan, op.cit., p. 31
- <sup>d</sup> *Omohundro Genealogical Record*, M. H. Omohundro, 1951, p. 513.
- <sup>e</sup> The Handbook of Texas Online, "Chisholm Trail", p. 1
- <sup>f</sup> *The American West*, Dee Brown, Touchstone, 1995, p. 50.
- <sup>g</sup> Use of map courtesy of "Along the Chisholm Trail" website at [www.thechisholmtrail.com](http://www.thechisholmtrail.com).
- <sup>h</sup> *Trail Drivers of Texas*, J. Marvin Hunter, Ed., 1925, Cokesbury Press, p. 853. This account tells of Bill Jackman's first hire in the Uvalde area, within 90 miles of San Antonio, and in the area constituting the beginning of the trail north.
- <sup>i</sup> Framed artwork in Bandera Restaurant, artist unknown.
- <sup>j</sup> *The Cattle Industry of Texas and Adjacent Territories* (James Cox, 1895). The book details 449 biographical sketches and stands distinct in its scholarship of the time period.
- <sup>k</sup> *Indian Depredations in Texas*, J.W. Wilbarger, pp. 646-8. In this citation of 1866 the attack and murders of various family members in the Taylor household by marauding Indians are described in great detail, including Jim Taylor's wife.
- <sup>l</sup> *Trail Drivers of Texas*, J. Marvin Hunter, Ed., 1925, Cokesbury Press,
- <sup>m</sup> *The Cattle Industry of Texas and Adjacent Territories*, James Cox, Woodward and Tiernan Printing, 1895, pp. 628-629.
- <sup>n</sup> Cox, op. cit., p. 628.
- <sup>o</sup> Cox, op. cit., p. 646.
- <sup>p</sup> Source: <http://www.db.glo.state.tx.us/central/LandGrants.cfm>
- <sup>q</sup> *The Cattle Industry of Texas and Adjacent Territories*, *ibid.* pp. 69-70
- <sup>r</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 69.
- <sup>s</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>t</sup> Texas General Land Office Records, Land Grant Search, <http://www.db.glo.state.tx.us/central/LandGrants.cfm>
- <sup>u</sup> Logan, op.cit. pp. 20-21.
- <sup>v</sup> Cox, Mike, A Brief History of the Texas Rangers, <http://www.texasranger.org/history/BriefHistory1.htm>



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