



Volume XX, Number 2

www.texasjack.org

July 2005

TEXAS JACK
As Portrayed in the DIARY and LETTERS
of
Ena Palmer Raymonde Ballantine McClary
by
Margaret Jones
Transcriptions by Kathy Auman and Paul D. Riley

INTRODUCTION

In the 1970's, the century-old diary of a young Southern woman was donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society. This diary was kept in two long, narrow composition books, well worn and rat-chewed after a century of neglect. The acquisition of these volumes is a story in itself, involving a ransacked farmhouse, the last will and testament of a Nebraska recluse, and a race with the elements to rescue these unique first-hand accounts of Nebraska pioneer life.

Who penned these diaries? Ann or Annie Eliza Palmer Raymonde Ballantine McClary is the author. Known to her family and friends as Ena, she was born between 1848 and 1850, according to the Georgia Censuses of the time, and according to the family Bible, September 28, 1851. Her parents were Ann Timmons and Dempsey B. Palmer, married in Glynn County, Georgia in 1845. The Palmers were a prosperous agricultural family in Glynn and Wayne Counties with a

net worth of \$18,500 in real estate and \$21,600 in personal estate according to the 1860 Wayne County Census. The 1850 Slave Schedule for Glynn County lists Dempsey's ownership of nine slaves. However, while Glynn County, Georgia was well-known for its blue-blooded "Sea Island Planters" who owned thousands of acres of land and hundreds of slaves, the Palmer family did not fit into that elite category. Nor were they ruined by the Civil War. The 1870 Wayne County Census states that Dempsey Palmer had \$3000 worth of real estate and \$1000 worth of personal estate (no doubt depleted since Emancipation and the loss of slaves as assets). A Wayne County tax application filed on July 12, 1869 lists 575 acres in Glynn and Wayne Counties in Dempsey's name. The Savannah *Morning News* of October 18, 1869 lists Dempsey as a stock holder and director of the newly formed Turtle River and Screven Rail Road—certainly NOT the activities of a

continued on page 3

from the Editor's Desk...

One benefit for us of being involved in the TJA and learning about Texas Jack's life and times is that it turns our attention to the center of the country, the Great Plains. Most Americans live near the coasts, and most want to live there. The more adventurous of my college students in northern New York want to go to Boston or San Francisco when they graduate. Those born in America's interior, according to the U.S. census, are moving out to the coasts.

But the Great Plains of North America is both a natural and historical gem. Geographically, the grasslands from Saskatchewan to Texas is one of the largest and most biologically diverse in the world. A complex ecosystem of grasses, fire, and buffalo made it. Historically, the plains has been home to a large number of Native American cultures. It was the grass sea that settlers' prairie schooners crossed. It became the breadbasket, then the depression-era basket case, of America.

Today Montana has a certain cachet as a place to retire to or vacation in, but most of the Great Plains is just a place to fly over. Most people who have driven across it speak as if they have suffered for the experience. "There's nothing there." We forget what an adventure it was for Texas Jack, Ena Palmer, and their contemporaries. That adventure was so interesting to the rest of Americans that they'd pay good money to attend an illustrated lecture by painter George Catlin or a stage show featuring real plainsmen like Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack Omohundro. Think about that: prairie people awed the denizens of the coastal cities instead of vice versa.

The plains was once the scene of America's big adventure, and the plainsmen were a colorful lot, but not in the way depicted by Hollywood. The plainsmen, for example, derived most of their outfit and their long hair style from the plains Indians, not from the *vaquero* cowboy of Spanish America. HBO's popular "Deadwood" series is probably accurate in presenting the look and feel of gold rush towns of the 1880s. But other

continued on page 19

The Texas Jack Scout

Vol. XX, no. 2

An Occasional Publication of
The Texas Jack Association, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
www.texasjack.org

Subscription is included in annual membership dues of \$25.00. Contact

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The Texas Jack Association was founded in 1980 to commemorate John B. Omohundro, cowboy, prairie scout, western hunting guide, and Wild West showman, colleague of Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickok.

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

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ruined businessman. Ena enjoyed a post-war life of happy family times, gentlemen callers, and May Day dances as described in her diary and letters.

In regard to Ena's education, a family letter in the Ballantine file at the Nebraska State Historical Society reports that the Palmers employed a governess for Ena. Indeed, the 1860 Wayne County Census shows a 21-

name of William Herbert or "Paddy" Miles, and was one of the founders of Frontier County. During the Civil War, Herbert had served in the 4th Georgia Cavalry, a "Home Guard" unit that patrolled coastal Georgia and hunted deserters.

The reasons for the Palmer migration remain a mystery, as well as the reason for Herbert's name change. A



Stockville in its prime, c. 1900. Stockville had its beginning as a trading center for the ranchers in Nebraska's south central region. Organized in 1872 and laid out by W.L. McClary as the county seat of Frontier County, Stockville grew rapidly when homesteaders arrived. Nearby Medicine Creek was an important waterway for the region. Its valley served as a natural highway between the Republican and Platte Rivers, first by migrating Indian tribes, then soldiers from Fort McPherson as they protected the frontier, and later by homesteaders. ("Nebraska - Our Towns" website, University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

year-old Canadian "school mistress" living in the household which included Ena, her brother, William H., and three cousins. Ena displays a knowledge of basic French and Latin in her journals, as well as a substantial gift for written expression, a sophisticated vocabulary, and a definite flair for the Victorian expression of her time. It is Ena's passion for writing and "journalizing" that gives us additional insight into the Nebraska chapter of Texas Jack's life. Already a published "poetess" in major publications of her day, Ena wrote poetry, short stories, and articles.

According to her journal, Ena and her parents arrived in Nebraska on March 19, 1872. At the time of their arrival, her brother William Herbert Palmer was already living in Frontier County, Nebraska under the

1950's interview of two eccentric Georgia spinsters found in the Bryan-Lang Library of Woodbine, Georgia, yields a vivid tale of murder, flight, and financial ruin surrounding the Dempsey Palmer family. Adding to the mystery, Ena arrived in Nebraska as the widow, "Mrs. Ena Raymonde." No documentation can be found of a marriage to a Mr. Raymonde, nor of his existence and death. The 1870 Wayne County Census taken on August 30 lists Ena as "Ann E. Palmer," age 20, "without occupation," and living with her parents. This allows her only nineteen months to become married and widowed before departing for Nebraska. Her diary gives no mention of Mr. Raymonde. Nor does she express herself as a woman in mourning. Her clothing, when described in the diary, does not conform to the strict

Victorian mourning attire of the time. Whatever the reasons for emigration to Nebraska, Ena arrived on the scene in Frontier County and began a diary.

A NOTE TO THE READER: *Ena's punctuation and spelling have been faithfully duplicated in the quoted material in this article. Her diary is personal and expressive and liberally interspersed with underlining, dashes, and exclamation points. Also, note that in her diary Ena refers to Texas Jack in various ways: Texas Jack, T.J., Texas, Mr. Omohundro, and Jack.*

ENA'S DIARY

Ena and her family began their Nebraska sojourn in tents on Medicine Creek, a tributary of the Republican River. Ena named their camp "Wolf's Rest" after a large white wolf which had died close by. "Wolf's Rest" survives today as the name of a house and farm on the original property homesteaded by Paddy Miles, Ena's brother.

Ena begins her diary on June 7, 1872, with an enthusiastic description of Texas Jack:

Medicine Creek
Wolf's Rest
June 7th 1872

First of all, I have been introduced to **Texas Jack**—one of our "Western Heroes"—and a fine picture of handsome, dashing, manly manhood he is!—Certainly one of our beau ideals of a hunter or a "Scout." Hope I shall see more of him and that I shall like his character as well as I do his face. ~He made me a very graceful presentation in the way of a handsome toy-bag of China-work ~ its original purpose I do not know, but he used it for cartridges, and so shall I ~ i.e if I keep it, for it is but the souvenir of a challenge to shoot, and after having the bravado to take up the gauntlet thus thrown down, if he does beat me (and I

expect it will be "even so"! I shall not have the courage to retain such a memento of my defeat but give it back with my pistol to boot! ~ But enough of this hero for the present only that he now leads a party out on about as wild an adventure as even my wild brain could devise ~ vis: lassoing buffalo—full grown ones—for the purpose of shipping them alive on the train. Some say it is dangerous work; some prophesy not only broken arms and legs and crippled horses but dead men as well as dead horses!

I don't anticipate any thing; and am the better off for my stoicism, I ween!

Bert is with the party and his last words were, "I only wish you could go, Einna!"

This wild adventure described by Ena was an expedition to procure live buffalo to be shipped east to New York State for a Fourth of July buffalo hunt complete with Pawnee Indians, their ponies, lodging, and hunting paraphernalia. This expedition proved to be unsuccessful. A week later, Ena met Texas Jack and his outfit at the conclusion of their expedition:

Tepe Chees Cheela
Saturday afternoon
June 15th 1872

I saw the whole "Buffalo Outfit" Tuesday morning. "Texas Jack," Charlie Emmett, Andy, "The Half Breed," or the wonderful "California Horse Tamer," and the Saratoga Man. —Was introduced to and shook hands with the Horse-Tamer. ~ He is a rather fine looking man, yet somewhat stolid in his appearance. — Had a pleasant little chat with Texas Jack. In fact, with all of the white men. Their waggons [sic] came in and the "Saratoga Man" showed me a young antelope which he was taking East. ~ The little creature was entirely docile and fearless. Wish I

had one! ~They caught seven or eight buffalo – all died save one and it was left here. ~I rode with Mr. Snell out to see it. ~ We sent his “girl” on with our “Sheep Man” and so had a lead horse with side saddle. ~ Miles, Seymour, Dillard, Fritcher, Black and Mr. P. brought up the rear. ~ They got the poor beast on his legs after a while, and he really tried to fight! ~ An Indian and a buffalo never yields to a conqueror or succumbs to pain! But this little “animule” ~ what a caricature of defiance and fierceness. ~

In the passage above, Ena refers to people in her immediate area. Miles was her brother and Mr. P was her father. Texas Jack, Charlie Emmett, Andy Barrett (known as “the Half Breed” and “the California Horse Tamer”), and Dick Seymour were local scouts who were often employed at Ft. McPherson. The “Saratoga Man” was Colonel Sidney Barnett of Saratoga, New York, who sponsored the expedition. Mr. Jacob Snell was a post trader at Ft. McPherson. George Dillard was a saloon keeper at the fort who joined the Union Navy at age 13 and the U.S. Army at age 16. John or Jack Fritcher, perhaps a hired man, appears frequently in Ena’s diary. William Black was a fellow homesteader, and the “Sheep Man” was Mr. Lewis, a local sheep breeder.

In her diary entry above, Ena uses Sioux words to describe her location. She has left us a handwritten Sioux-English vocabulary list, and while she notes that *tepe* indicates lodge or house in Sioux and *tepe chees cheela* clearly refers to her tent, *chees cheela* is not found in her vocabulary list.

In July, Ena moved to Ft. McPherson to live with the Snell family where she enjoyed riding and social activities with Texas Jack and participated in a Fourth of July celebration (possibly the first in many years for this former Confederate). The quotation below mentions “Mrs. S.” who is Mrs. Elizabeth Snell, wife of Jacob Snell, the post trader. Mrs. Snell also cooked for the officers. (If you have purchased the sepia Texas Jack poster from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody,



“He is appointed agent for the Pawnee Indians . . . Looked fine with all his hunting accoutrements about him and mounted on a good horse!” - Ena Palmer. Texas Jack Omohundro in his plainsman’s coat, about 1872.

you will see her name written in pencil at the bottom.) Wilkins or Wilk is the Snell’s son, age 21. Captain William Henry Miller is from Camp Red Willow, an Army encampment south of Frontier County at Red Willow Creek. *Washta* is a Sioux word frequently used by Ena.

Her Sioux-English vocabulary list defines *washtala* as good.

Ft. McPherson
July 9th 1872

We of the Medicine came in here the day before “the fourth” ~ They: Bert and G. [George Dillard] and S. returned on yesterday. I am to remain here until I find some change in my health. Mrs. S. has not moved yet but will shortly; then I can be more private. Her daughter is to be at home next week. — Fancy I may like her. ~ I rode in! We just pushed through. I really enjoyed the ride ill as I was. ~ Mr. L [Lewis] thought it was little less than madness! Ha! ha! Wonder how my pet wild cat is thriving? Hope some of them will hunt rabbits as industriously as its poetical mistress did! Went to see the horse race fourth of July’s Eve. ~ The pony I bet on beat! Washta! Some invited me to go to North Platte on the fourth ~ but some how and for several reasons I could not “see it.” Have met “Texas Jack” ~ looks quite as handsome as ever. ~~ Dick S. [Seymour] was in also. ~ I was glad to see him looking well. ~~ I am interested!

Lieut. Miller has been chatting with me for the last half hour ~ He says I am looking very ill, and I know I feel so! ~ I am too miserable to write!

Wednesday, July 10th 1872

I am still wretchedly unwell! ~ but I have not given up. ~ Went to ride with T.J. [Texas Jack] this afternoon ~ had a good ride of it only my Injine pony, Falcon, got *de mal en pis* and I don’t know if I can ride him again tho’ I have made an engagement to ride tomorrow afternoon.

I’ve spent one night with Mrs. Cody ~ She took me in out of charity because I have to get up early over here, with the

promise that I might sleep just so late as I pleased. But I did not sleep late. ~ I was delirious all night ~ talked or rather raved in my usual crazy style. ~ I hope I said nothing *mal a propos* as Mr. Omohundro slept in the adjoining room ~ Mrs. Cody is quite kind and pleasant in her manner. She has two charming little children, Kit Carson, the boy, is a handsome, precocious little fellow—not more than three years old ~or rather not three ~ and just as keen as the little rascal can be! He gives promise for a future!

Thursday, July 11th 1872

I was so ill this morning! I just could force my self out of bed! The steam and odor of the stove and cooking seems to suffocate me, but of course I will not remain in the officers’ dining room while they are at the table, altho when I’ve chanced to meet them, I find them very courteous. Never mind we will get moved before long. I get out of the house as often as possible.

At noon I was over to Mrs. Cody’s and I saw a wind storm for the first time. Such clouds of dust whurring and rushing like mad everywhere! After it, we had a rain which while it rendered every thing very muddy still did away with the dust and made riding possible. “Texas” had quite a time lassoing a little rascal of a pony! We found it pleasant after getting out on the prairie...no mud ~ and my (I mean our!) Western hero made himself just as pleasant as possible ~~ delicate yet kind and manly in his attention to my poor tiny forlorn little self ~ in short almost everybody is just as kind to me as can be. Mrs. Snell is just as good to me as possible. So is Mr. Snell ~ and Wilkins and I get on famously ~ sometimes he humours my whims and sometimes teases me to the

very extent of my amiable temper ~ !

I must not ride Falcon again. Mr. Omohundro says it is dangerous and I should not attempt it. ~ Bert told me as much before ! I wonder if I care any thing for my neck ~ Some people always seem to think I should ~ ha! ha!

Ft. McP ~ Friday ~
July 12th 1872

I have not been able to stand up at all today. ~ Every nerve in my body is unstrung utterly! I've had chill and then burning fever ~ and oh! What a crush and rush of people, and I in the midst of it all! ~ Texas Jack r'ced. a telegram this morning which takes him a hundred or two miles from here. ~ He is appointed agent for the Pawnee Indians; will have about three thousand under his charge, I believe. ~ He came to bid us good-by at noon.

~ Looked fine with all his hunting accoutrements about him and mounted on a good horse! Mrs. Snell threw an old shoe and the broom after his retreating form! The broom turned toward the house, so of course he'll come back all right! We all laughed and had a noisy time of it. ~

The broom and shoe business was in fine keeping with the chivalric appear-



1885 map of south central Nebraska, when Ena lived on Medicine Creek (un-labeled creek passing through Curtis, center right). She shifted occasionally to Fort McPherson (center) for protection during Indian troubles. Nearby Cottonwood Springs (population in 1880 was 65) was site of the Nebraska Pony Express Station No. 21, located on the east side of Cottonwood Creek. Sometimes known as the McDonald Ranch, it also served as an overland stage station. County records were kept at Cottonwood Springs, which served as county seat until the Union Pacific Railroad and the town of North Platte were established in 1867. (lincoln.wathenadesigns.com/place_names.html)

ance of our hero. ~ That made the fun. ~ Mrs. Snell is one woman among a thousand! Got more soul in her than half the smiling misses you meet!

On July 12, 1872, Texas Jack journeyed with the Pawnee to the Republican River for their summer hunt. Texas Jack represented the Indian Agency as an escort for 800 Indians authorized to leave the reservation to

hunt buffalo with bow and arrow for their winter food supply. An eye-witness said that not one buffalo out of a herd of 1,500 escaped the Indian arrows.

There is no indication of a cause for Ena's recurring fevers. My first guess, based on my personal family experiences, is that she suffered from malaria, a common mosquito-borne disease of coastal Georgia. The malarial parasites remain in the blood stream, striking their host when the immune system is down.

Ena continued her social visits with Jack and made the acquaintance of Mr. Cody, husband of her friend Louisa Cody:

Wednesday
July 24th 1872

I was introduced to "Buffalo Bill" on yesterday. ~ He has just returned from a Scouting expedition ~ been away for six or eight weeks I believe.

I very unexpectedly received a call from Texas Jack evening before last I believe it was. ~ He remained but a short period of time; had a few Pawnees with him. I do not think them as fine looking, not so erect as the Sioux, but they say they are better "braves" than the latter. ~When asking one of the Pawnees if he was not afraid to venture so far on the hunting ground of the Sioux, it was fine to see the expression of unutterable scorn that lighted up for a moment, the stolidity of his face; then instantly reshaping into the grim Stoic he quietly crossed his throat, giving the sign of the Sioux, and said they were "heap squaws."

Mr. Omohundro said the Indians were in fine spirits; ~ plenty of buffalo, and the papposes [sic] all fat.

Friday
July 26th 1872

Mr. Cody has invited me to shoot with him & says he hears I am a good shot, &c. ~ But I just don't know about shooting again. ~ Pshaw! What is the use to no-

tice the gab of the fools that over run this good world of ours? ~ When I shot with Texas Jack (it was not a shooting-match) and I acquitted my self with decided credit. There was such a fuss made over it that I thought I would not shoot again while in here: not because I think any sensible person could attach the least possible blame to it, but because these people, or some of them, may misconstrue my intentions and think I am trying to make my self famous as shootest [sic]. ~ I scorn anything like an egotistical display! —I shoot because I love it; because I am a good shot; and because it is my pleasure! I am no stickler for praise. ~ Never stoop to the currying of favors!

Ena continues to stay with the Snells at Ft. McPherson. In September she mentions Jack briefly:

Thursday
Sept. 5, 1872

"It never rains but what it pours" is a trite but sometimes very true adage—The Medici__[?]-__ are in *en masse*! Dick S. [Seymour] has been quite ill. I have never seen him look as he does now. —Mr George [Dillard] and Jack remain unchanged.

On September 9, 1872, Ena writes about "a young Dr. from the East" arriving from North Platte. Her journal begins to reflect an increasing interest in Dr. William F. Carver, a dentist from the mid-west. On September 21, 1872, she describes him as "highly pleasant." There was now serious competition for Ena's favors!

Mr. J. T. Hendrick's Picture Gallery of North Platte gave residents of Ft. McPherson the opportunity to capture their frontier images for posterity. Many survive today in the Nebraska State Historical Society, giving us further insight into these colorful personalities. Jack still appears as a major figure in Ena's diary:

Friday—Oct. 4th 1872



Portrait of William F. "Doc" Carver. From the Michael Del Castillo Collection, published in Joy Kasson's Buffalo Bill's Wild West: An American Legend.

Texas Jack was with me. We were riding and we stoped [sic] for his shadow because of his anticipated departure the next day. I saw the photos yesterday. — I got one of them to color; must get one of Cody's also and color them both up finely.

I sent for a box of watercolors yesterday. — I like to color; it is such delicate elegant work. —

Ft. McPherson
Tuesday night
Oct. 8th 1872

I went to walk with the Dr. — (i.e. my little bubber"—) We had a good little time of it! Shot lots! I just did the finest shooting out! We shot for the championship of "Ameraky" — who beat? — Ask the Dr.! — We saw geese, we did meet M_____ and T.J. on our return. — I hope I've caused no unpleasant feeling — pshaw! I am always in trouble....

They say Whistler and some of the Pawnees are apt to have a little unpleasantness over the river tonight.

I believe Texas Jack has gone over to see something about it.

Whistler was the leader of a Sioux splinter group called "Cut-off Sioux" or "Whistler's Band," who had left Spotted Tail's tribe of Oglala Sioux. This group of "Cut-off Sioux" had made a permanent home on the Medicine Creek of Frontier County by 1870. The Sioux were traditional enemies of the Pawnee and any confrontation between the two groups meant bloodshed and unrest. Texas Jack, who had a respected relationship with both groups, was a natural arbiter.

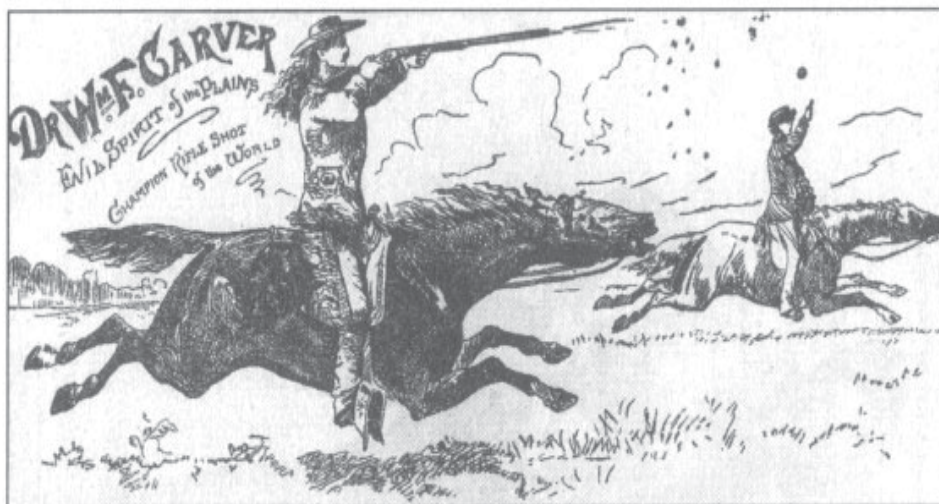
Thursday
Oct. 10th 1872

I hear that Texas Jack has gone away with the Pawnees that came into the Fort day before yesterday. I hear that the tooth I hammered for him has given him trouble. — Too bad! I can sympathize! My mouth and tongue is most beautifully blistered!

On November 4, 1872, Ena left Ft. McPherson with her brother Paddy and Dr. Carver for Wolf's Rest on the Medicine. She now weighed 118 pounds, a gain of 13 pounds since September 11, and clearly a sign of regained health. A cabin had been constructed in her absence and Ena resided there with her parents where she had her own room. Dr. Carver seems to have been a frequent lodger with the Palmer family in their new residence at Wolf's Rest.

Night—11 o'clock
Wolf's Rest
Dec 23rd 1872

I have seen Texas Jack once since my return to the Medicine. He made me a dash call one evening while out here with the Earl of Dunraven. Jack was guide etc for the Lord and his party. He told me then that he and Buffalo Bill expected to go



Doc Carver shooting from a horse, from *The Progress of Civilization*, Combined Wild West and Forepaugh Shows, 1888 program

From Joy Kasson's Buffalo Bill's Wild West

East on quite a tour — They have been gone some time now. — Of course the papers are full of their sayings and doings; but being “out of the world” of course I can only guess at these things.

Monday, 30th Dec. 1872

I got papers from Jack — If sensation is a mark of success he and Cody certainly have not failed in the object of their visit.

This last intelligence, they were in Chicago — drawing thousands to Nixon's Amphitheater. — “Ned Buntline” takes the character of Cale Durg — He writes the play which they are presented under — It is a dramatization of some of “Ned”'s stories of the “far West,” called “Scouts of the Prairie” &c, &c.

“The Daily Reporter” of the 17th inst. Says: “The first appearance of Buffalo Bill last evening was a signal for such a shout as never before welcomed an actor in Chicago.”

“The Inter Ocean” gives the author, play, and actors a somewhat more questionable praise — for instance in speaking of the audience it says “The audience was not what the ordinary critic would stigmatize as select and cultivated, but it was appreciative, yea enthusiastic. It was a “Dime Novel” audience — &c, &c — It was worth more than the play to watch this audience — Numbered fully

2,000, and never out of an English pit was anything ever seen like it. Auditors and actors were in deadly earnest about the performance and that is something neither Mr. Barrett, Mr. Booth or Mr. Fechter can accomplish nowadays with all their splendid Hamlets.” &c. —

Again, in speaking of Buffalo Bill he is termed a “tall, handsome-looking fellow” but ill at ease and “quite at a loss what to do with his hands.”

This spicy [sic] and somewhat ironical article winds up by saying: “It is the most successful drama which has ever been presented in this city. It has drawn one immense audience and will draw more of the same kind.”

Poor Cody! The idea of looking “ill at ease.” He is out of his sphere. I have seen him the very personification of graceful ease and manly beauty; but it was not in a crowded city before the glare of footlights and amid the crash of orchestra and flash of stage gewgaws; but dashing over the free, wild prairie, and riding

his horse as though he and the noble animal were bounding with one life and one notion! —

Well, “there is money in it” — that golden fact renders every other consideration insignificant! Verily Life is a humbug, and he that is the biggest humbug has the best chance for humbugging the rest of his fellows. Such fame is not lasting — *cito maturum cito putridem* — but what boots it?

Ena had no idea of the heights that Buntline’s play would take Cody, Texas Jack, and later, Dr. Carver. America and the Western World were ripe for such a tribute to the already rapidly vanishing frontier.

Cha Tepe

[means wooden lodge or house]

“Wolf’s Rest”

Jan. 15th 1873

Heard from Texas Jack. Am glad to know of the good success he is meeting. The papers speak of Jack as a “fine, good-natured fellow who the public really learns to like.” — He may be wild and reckless, but I believe he has a manly generous heart that must win him friends among honest honorable people despite his many alleged faults.

In the excerpt below, Ena is using a simple code that was “broken” by Paul D. Riley of the Nebraska State Historical Society. (His attributions of names to alpha-numeric codes are in parentheses below). Ena continued to hear from Texas Jack:

Saturday Noon—March 8th
1873

Nothing new. No letter from Mamie [*Ena’s cousin, Mamie Timmons of Georgia*], A letter from 3L7 [*Jen*] and one from 3LD4 [*Jack*] I got a lot of papers. [*Jen*

is a female friend whom she met earlier at Ft. McPherson and Jack is, of course, Texas Jack.] “The Scouts of the Prairie” are still continuing their tour with marked success. They are now in Boston. — Or rather were, a short time since.

Dr. Carver continued to come and go from the Palmer cabin while Texas Jack toured the country. Ena and her mother remained in the cabin while Ena’s brother and father left to hunt and trap. Numerous friends and neighbors made daily visits bringing mail, books, and game. Long Man, a Cut-off Sioux, also visited the family bringing gifts of sugar and buffalo tongue, a delicacy especially for Ena. New names and faces appear: Mr. W.L. McClary, Mr. D.C. Ballantine, and Mrs. Carver (the Doctor’s mother). Ena continued to hunt, write, and work on her domestic skills. The journal contains humorous passages about sewing, laundry, and pie-baking on the banks of the Medicine.

On October 26, 1873, Ena pledged to cease her journal writing until “some hope brightens the rayless sky of my sunless Life.”

On February 24, 1875, she began to write again, believing “a goodly number of hopes have dawned upon my life.” On October 5, 1875, she married David Coulter Ballantine at Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church in North Platte, Nebraska. Her journal writing becomes sporadic and ends on January 3, 1878. As a wife and new mother, her life seems full and content with little time or need for “journal jottings.”

In 1882, her husband, then a Nebraska State Senator, died from a tragic rail accident. Ena was devastated but bravely continued to ranch and raise her children alone. In a letter dated March 16, 1883, to her cousin Mamie, she writes, “Frank Carver is in America now and has joined Buffalo Bill in ‘his play.’ —How thankful I am that I am as I am! —The quiet dignity of my home-life is worth a world of such as that.”

On September 12, 1883, she married W.L. McClary, her foreman and family friend in Polk County, Iowa (On Line Iowa Marriages 1851-1900). Ten months later, in July 1884, Ena died as the result of a

carriage accident and lost their unborn child. Her two children, Ena, age three, and Coulter Bertram, almost 8 years old, were separated and raised by Ballantine relatives. Ena's journals and letters were left forgotten for 80 years until donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society where they are a valuable source of information about daily life in early Nebraska.

Texas Jack Omohundro married Josephine Morlacchi, a stage personality and *danseuse* in 1873, and died an early death from pneumonia in 1880. William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody went on to become a primary icon of the Old West not only for Americans, but also for the people of Great Britain and the continent of Europe.

Dr. William F. (Doc) Carver became one of the great exhibition shooters of his day. Ena Ballantine Adams, Ena's daughter, was interviewed in 1962 by Dr. Donald F. Danker, Archivist at the Nebraska State Historical Society. In this audio-tape, Ena Adams relates that Doc Carver visited her and her brother in Omaha, Nebraska. She recalls that Carver put his arms around the two of them and said, "You should have been my children."

NOTES:

Margaret Jones and Kathy Auman are cousins of Ena through the Palmer line and have done extensive research on Ena and the Palmer family.

Paul D. Riley was a researcher at the Nebraska State Historical Society who wrote an unpublished manuscript entitled: *Frontiersmen of Fort McPherson, 1870-1875 and the Writing of Ena Raymonde Ballantine* which is a wealth of documented information about Ft. McPherson and Frontier County. This manuscript can be found in the Ballantine Collection of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The author thanks the Nebraska State Historical Society for permission to quote from the diaries and letters found in their Ballantine Collection.

It's Time! Have You Paid Your Annual Dues for 2005?

- Annual dues for **individuals** are \$25, which provides a subscription to the *Texas Jack Scout* and voting rights for one.
- Annual dues for **families** are \$40, which provides a subscription to the *Texas Jack Scout*, voting rights for two, and membership to all dependent children.
- Annual dues for a **child or youth**, if not included in a family membership, are \$10, which provides a subscription to the *Texas Jack Scout*.
- Annual dues for a senior over 65 years are \$20.

Send your dues, name, address (including email) and phone number to

Edna Nees, Treasurer
213 Coles Rolling Rd.
Scottsville, VA 24590

Buy a **gift membership** for a relative, or a friend interested in the wild west! Simply include their fee and personal information with your own membership.

The Mailbag



President Rand McKinney forwarded this query to the Yahoo news group:

Sat, 13 Nov 2004

Greetings,

I am currently in the process of authoring a book on the origins of the Boy Scouts of America and your Texas Jack has appeared with respect to Buffalo Bill. My question is where is there an official document or writing that denotes Texas Jack as “The Boy Scout of the Confederacy?”

The term “boy scout” has long been assumed as having British origin but its association with Texas Jack association bring the term’s origins back to the US. I know of several historians that credit the Aldine press in London as the originators but I would very much like to prove them wrong if the evidence permits.

Therefore, is (are) there any hard document(s) that denote his nickname? The *Buckskin & Satin* book does not label its source.

Dave Scott <scotttec@airmail.net>

Larry Tyree, managing editor of the Texas Jack Scout, replied to Dave:

Mon, 15 Nov 2004

Dear Dave,

I am a former Senior District Executive with the BSA and of course am very familiar with Baden-Powell’s origination of the term in England after the Brownsea Island experience in 1907. One citation of the term “boy scout of the Confederacy” comes from page 513 of the Omohundro Genealogical Record, by Malvern Hill Omohundro. He places it in quotes, suggesting he saw it in a previous source. If it does refer to a quote, I am not aware of it and it would be interesting to know more. However, Malvern was Texas Jack’s brother and would have been in a position to know if the name had been referred to Jack.

In *Buckskin and Satin*, on page 162 there is a reference to a novel: *NED WYLDE, The Boy Scout*, by Texas Jack.... which is generally credited to Colonel Prentiss Ingraham. This novel appeared in *The Saturday Journal*, Vol. VII, November 11, 1876. This is linking Texas Jack’s name with the novel about a character who is himself a “boy scout”.....not linking Texas Jack himself. So, at least for documentation, this is one that talks about the concept. It would not be surprising to find that Texas Jack himself was referred to in one of the dime novels or even Ingraham’s book: a biography on Texas Jack.

Larry Tyree ltyree@compuserve.com

John Omohundro received a phone call query from Jon Judson, who was pursuing research on his relative, Edward Judson (aka Ned Buntline), whom Scout readers know as the author of the plays Scouts of the Prairie and Scouts of the Plains which launched the stage careers of Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill. Judson followed up with an email message:

27 Jan 2005

As I mentioned on the phone, I'm currently doing a research project on the "Scouts of the Prairie" stage play, and I'm exploring the history of Edward's relationship with Jack and Will. To be candid, this recent research is the result of a fictional book about the show that I wrote in 2003. I anticipate the book will be ready shortly. We had a difficult time marketing the material, and my agent suggested that I rewrite the tale in it's original non-fiction format, which would sell better in today's publishing environment.

Where fiction can give you a certain amount of creative liberty, non-fiction puts up definite boundaries. Because of this, I am taking another look at Judson, Cody, and Omohundro, and want to give all a fair, reasoned look. This is why I contacted you today.

As my original research shortens the process a bit, I'm hoping to better fill the gaps of my original story, and provide more historical detail. Any information you can provide would certainly go a long way to giving Jack an honest appraisal. Information about this time frame in the three men's lives appears very slim, and most histories simply gloss over this period with a brief mention of the show.

Meantime, I'll be happy to share any information I uncover to assist you in your attempt to better memorialize Jack's life. Here's one you might find amusing:

"—Theater-goers will be pleased to learn that Texas Jack, Buffalo Bill, and Wild Bill have been engaged to scout during the Indian war, and that the service is one of considerable danger. The only subject for regret is the fact that Ned Buntline is not included in the cast." —St. Louis Daily Globe, February 22, 1874.

I told you Buntline wasn't a very popular fellow!

Jon L. Judson <jon.judson@verizon.net>

Jon added in a follow-up message:

We currently live in the Philadelphia area. I transplanted here from Michigan. My family came to Michigan in 1878 from New York, where our whole clan (including Mr. Buntline) lived. My wife and I have two kids, boy 11, girl 10, and another on the way in May (oops!).

This spring Jeff Omohundro sent a query to Lorrie Tenos, layout editor of the Scout and web master of the omohundro.com web site concerning the usefulness of the National Geographic Society's Genographics Project for tracking down ancestors. Issue editor John Omohundro discussed this research

project with his colleagues in biological anthropology and wrote the article elsewhere in this issue. Jeff added in a followup message:

26 Apr 2005

Greetings Cousin John!

I was glad to see your reply as I was hoping that someone would look into this who has some knowledge of genetics. I went ahead and ordered the National Geographic kit and will be most interested in seeing the results. It would be nice if there was a spot where individuals could confidentially submit individual results which would then be consolidated and presented much like the origin poll on the [www. Omohundros.com](http://www.Omohundros.com) web page.

Regarding my linkage to Texas Jack you have to go all the way back to Richard (1A) Omohundro. On the lineage page on www.Omohundros.com my marker is 2J. I look forward to checking out the Texas Jack web page and *Scout* which I recall seeing many years ago when I was a student at the University in Charlottesville.

Best Regards,

Jeff Omohundro

MEMBERSHIP DUES
New Category Approved

At the June Texas Jack Association Board Meeting a new membership fee category was discussed and approved allowing a price break for Seniors age 65 and over. This is in effect immediately for anyone who has not yet sent in their registration for the 2005 membership year. As of January 1, 2006 it will function for all who re-register as well.

The categories are the following and include one subscription to the Texas Jack Scout:

- Annual Membership \$25.00 per person.
- Family Membership \$40.00
- Junior Membership \$10.00 (18 and under)
- Senior Membership \$20.00 per person.

Participate in a “Human Genealogy” Project — and *maybe* discover some relatives in the Old World

by John & Susan Omohundro

The Genographics Project by the National Geographic Society, with support from IBM, is a five-year project to reconstruct a genealogy of the world’s populations and the migration paths of early humans from their ancestral homeland in Africa. If enough persons with Omohundro ancestry were to participate, we might find the population of Europeans to whom we in North America are most closely related.

The Genographics webpage at National Geographic Society is <https://www5.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html>.

That website says this:

...[The Human Genome Project established] genetic evidence that we are all related—descended from a common African ancestor who lived only 60,000 years ago. Though eons have passed, the full story remains clearly written in our genes—if only we can read it. With your help, we can. When DNA is passed from one generation to the next, most of it is recombined by the processes that give each of us our individuality. But some parts of the DNA chain remain largely intact

through the generations, altered only occasionally by mutations which become “genetic markers.” These markers allow geneticists like Spencer Wells to trace our common evolutionary timeline back through the ages.

“But to fully complete the picture we must greatly expand the pool of genetic samples available from around the world. The Genographic Project has established ten research laboratories around the globe. . . . But we don’t just need genetic information from Inuit and San Bushmen—we need yours as well. If you choose to participate and add your data to the global research database, you’ll help to delineate our common genetic tree, giving detailed shape to its many twigs and branches.”

The website cautions that “these tests are not conventional genealogy. Your results will not provide names for your personal family tree or tell you where your great grandparents lived. Rather, they will indicate the maternal or paternal genetic markers your deep ancestors passed on to you and the story that goes with those markers.

“Once your results are posted, you will be able to learn something about that story and the journey of your ancestors. The genetic profile you receive becomes more detailed as the Genographic Project amasses more data from around the world, so be sure to return to the Genographic Project Web site for project updates.”

In other words, if enough residents of Great Britain participate, a North American participant might acquire a better idea of which sub-populations across the Atlantic are genetically similar to himself or herself. We asked Professor Bethany Usher, Ph.D. in biological anthropology at SUNY Potsdam, about the reasonableness of this project. She replied:



The \$99.95 kit includes the cost of the testing and analysis. Samples will be analyzed for genetic “markers” found in males’ Y-DNA and females’ mitochondrial DNA.]

“This is legitimate. There are several groups doing this right now (like OxfordAncestors, and others), but this one, in conjunction with Spensor Wells and his National Geographic special and book *The Journey of Man*, is one of the best. And the price is excellent - it is subsidized by National Geographic. Other places offer the same test for \$330 or more.

“It will give you your haplotype - in essence, it tells you what your type is, and where most other people with that type come from. Depending on how rare or widespread it is, it can be fairly local or fairly wide spread.

“Be warned, however, that distantly related males in the same family sometimes come up with widely different y types - because the more far apart you are, the more likely it is that some “fooling around” happened along the way.”

Just this past December, three German researchers published in *Anthropologischer Anzeiger* what they learned about one family name, Zientd. They tested 34 German and U.S. males in three Zientd family branches thought to be descended from a 16th century ancestor but not verified by written documents. They found that two branches are closely related, but the third is not, due to what they euphemistically call “a historical escapade,” i.e. a disconnect between putative and biological paternity. Thus, “the surname Zierdt cannot be regarded as a reliable indicator for patrilinear biological relationship” but “Y-STR typing turned out to be a powerful tool to prove and identify biological relationships between certain family lines . . .”

The Omohundro lines inside the U.S. are well documented. The connections to British (or other) populations are largely speculative. Therefore, to show a genetic connection, we would need a sample of Omohundros to be tested and then look for close matches in European families such as Mohun (which may or may not yet be in the National Geographic database). Do we have any volunteers besides Jeff?



Fellow TJA Members,

Well, here we are in mid-summer already! I hope everyone had a nice Fourth of July. That date marks one year until the Cody, Wyoming, roundup next year. Plans are coming together and we should have enough detail soon to give you all a preview of it in *The Scout*.

I would like to remind everyone to pay your dues to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! If you haven't paid your 2005 dues—and you know who you are—please send it to our Secretary-Treasurer, Edna Nees, at the address provided elsewhere in this issue. When you pay your dues, you will get a couple Texas Jack information cards, a membership card, and a couple of the new Texas Jack bookmarks.

Which reminds me—some of you may not know that John T. Omohundro of NY designed a beautiful Texas Jack bookmark and had 1000 printed. If you'd like to see it, pay your dues!

The board of director had a teleconference, where we decided to create a new dues level of \$15 per year for senior citizens (65+) with a limited income. However, we ask that those who can afford the regular membership rate of \$25 per year to please pay at that level. The Board recognized that \$25 per year might be a hardship for some senior members of limited means, and wants to enable those members to maintain their membership.

In other news, Linda Omohundro of Columbus, OH, searched the Internet for Omohundros. She identified over 240 names, 215 with associated mailing addresses. John Omohundro has volunteered to prepare a letter that will be mailed to each address. John also provided a list of proposed excerpts for a *Scout* promo to be included in the mailing and will do the layout on the promo. Larry will have it printed. Judy Phillips has volunteered to handle the mailing. We hope that this promotion will generate new members.

However, it is still important that current members PAY THEIR DUES! We're working on ways to make it easier for members to keep current on their dues. If you have suggestions, please send them to me—crandmck@yahoo.com.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Yours,

C. Rand McKinney

On the Origin of the Omohundro Surname

Susan Omohundro

Former TJA President Jack Omohundro of Crowley, Louisiana has described his visit years ago to the British Museum's Genealogical Department in London, where a helpful librarian found reference to a Richard de Mohun who emigrated in 1636 to the colonies (which colony was unspecified, but probably Massachusetts or Virginia). Richard was described as the third son of the Duke de Mohun.

On a following visit, Jack was unable to relocate this reference, so this has been a tantalizing but nebulous clue to the origin of the 17th century founder of the American Omohundros, Richard Omohundro of Virginia.

Jack's experience inspired me to seek an old book on the Mohun family. This was Sir Henry C. Maxwell Lyte's *A History of Dunster and of the Families of Mohun and Luttrell*. This two-volume work was published by St. Catherine Press Ltd. of London in 1909. I obtained this rare publication on inter-library loan from the University of Iowa.

Lyte's family history does not seem to be the book Jack found, because there is no mention of a Richard de Mohun who emigrated in 1636, but it provides several additional suggestive though inconclusive hints that the Mohuns could be the predecessors of the Omohundros.

William de Mohun went to England from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066. The Domesday Book of 1086 shows he had numerous manors in Somerset and six in Dorset. He built the castle at Dunster whose history is recorded by Lyte. "William de Mohun, the progenitor of the noble house which held Dunster for more than three centuries, and flourished afterwards in Cornwall and Dorset, took his name from Moyon near St. Lo in Normandy, in which country the family had considerable possessions until its separation from the crown of England. His descendants in turn gave their name to Hammoon in Dorset, to Ottery Mohun and Tormoham in Devon, and to Grange Mohun in the county of Kildare [Ireland]. In England, their surname

was spelt at different times Moion and Moyon, Moiun and Moyun, Moun, Mooun, Moyhun and Mohun, and just as the illustrious name of Bohun degenerated into Boon, that of Mohun got corrupted into Moon." (p. 1).

First, some unproductive genealogical strands:

- The senior male line of Mohun at Dunster ended in 1375.
- The Mohun control of the Irish estate in Kildare was shortlived.
- The Hammoon (Ham Mohun) estate in Dorset left the Mohun line in 1479.
- The most famous and wealthy Mohuns, of Hall and Boconnoc in Cornwall, descended from a younger son of the Dunster line. Charles Mohun, the 4th and last Baron of Okehampton, b. 1674, was a notorious rake, always in trouble. He died in a duel with the Duke of Hamilton in 1712; they were political enemies and also in desperate competition to inherit a large estate. He had no heir; his widow sold Boconnoc. Lyte mentions no Richards in this line.

Now, some more promising genealogical strands:

- A younger branch of the Mohuns of Boconnoc inherited the Trencreke estate in the parish of Creed in Cornwall. This line died out in 1737 with William. However, this is the branch that had a John Mohun in Virginia. Lyte makes a brief but tantalizing reference: "John Mohun of South Petherton, the owner of a tobacco plantation in Virginia in 1675, seems to have been in some way connected with the Cornish branch of the family..." (p. 495)
- The Mohuns of Tavistock were descended from Sir John Mohun of Dunster. Lyte mentions a Thomas Mohun who had three sons and two daughters in his first marriage. A second marriage produced four more sons and two daughters. Richard, the last-born (seventh) son, was baptised in 1628. Is he too old to be Richard Omohundro of Nomini Creek in Virginia? Clearly, as the last-born son of a large family, the rule of primogeniture dictated that

Richard would not have inherited anything significant at home and might have chosen or been obliged to seek his fortune in the new colony.

- There was a branch of the Mohuns derived from the Dunster line at Fleet in Dorset for six generations, ending in the late 18th century. In at least three generations, the heir sired large numbers of children. None of the recorded names are Richard, but Lyte was not able to learn the names of all the children..

- The younger, non-inheriting Mohuns are not all named in Lyte's genealogies. As he says, "Various parish registers in Cornwall record the births, marriages and deaths of persons named Mohun or Moon, who may have been of legitimate origin, although of humble station." (p. 495). I think we can assume our Richard Omohundro was of modest means, sufficient to establish himself as a small planter, but not in the first rank of society.

- We know that "our" Richard Omohundro was in Westmoreland Country by 1670, where he married and sired six children between 1672 and 1690, and where he died in 1698. I would have guessed he was born around 1645 or 1650. If he was the Richard de Mohun born in 1636, or the Richard Mohun born c. 1628, he started his family rather late in life. But that's certainly possible. After all, if he was born in 1628 and died in 1698, he was only 70; 62 if born in 1636.

- A search on familysearch.org brings up a Richard Mohun Omohundro who was born on April 23, 1655 in Throwleigh, Devon, England. This record contains serious errors, however; an incorrect marriage date to Ann Moxley and no children. I can believe that a Richard Mohun was born in 1655; it seems less likely, though not out of the question given the practices of that era, that by age 15 he was a planter in Virginia. Familysearch.org is sponsored by the Church of Latter Day Saints; records are entered by volunteers and there is no way to check their validity.

The question remains: why and how our Richard Omohundro acquired the new spelling of his name on this side of the Atlantic. (It seems almost certain that the name "Omohundro" did not exist in that spelling in England.) In the 17th century, spelling of many English words was not yet standardized. Lyte points out how "Mohun" altered over time. Even in the United States, spelling has varied so that some branches of the family have spelled their name Mohundro or O'mohundro. Sketchy literacy may have been a factor too in the New World, on either Richard's part or his associates'. A 17th century clerk may have written what he thought he heard, not having a written document to follow, and no one corrected him.

A followup project: look for John Mohun and other Mohuns in early Virginia records. Is there any hint of a connection to Richard? Where was John Mohun's tobacco plantation - close to Richard's?

Also, documentary research in England could be very profitable. Lyte's history is only the beginning! Do we have a volunteer to look for records of a mid-17th century Richard Mohun in Throwleigh, Devon? Jack has decided to see what he can learn at the British Museum. So stay turned . . . we may yet solve the lingering puzzle of the origin of the Omohundros and their unusual name.

From the Editor's Desk *(continued)*

plains residents like Ena Palmer brought with them a High Victorian sensibility. So plainsmen and -women were of many kinds.

Learning about Texas Jack and his times, including the landscapes he lived in, makes us more complete as Americans. Cowboys and the plains have been out of fashion, but fashions change. We're wiser, surely, to live in the knowledge that there are other interesting places besides the coasts and other interesting times besides today.



It's Time!

***Have You Paid Your Annual Dues
for 2005?***

See page 12 for details

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TO: