The Texas Jack Scout

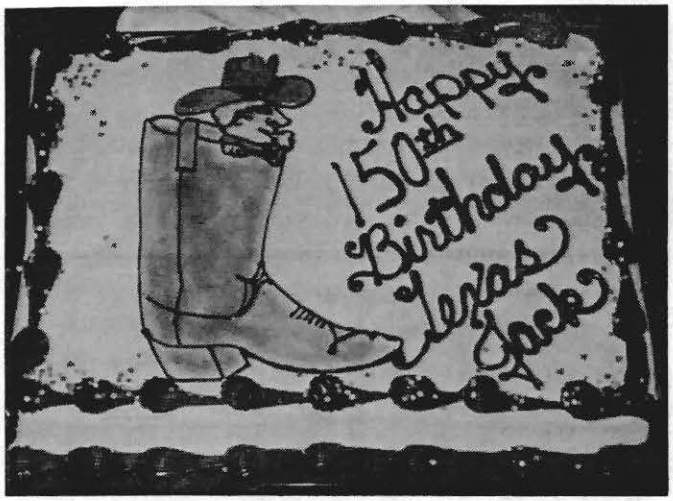
Volume XI, Number 3 **Fall 1996**

And a Good Time was had by All!

The Texas Jack Association Round-up, held July 24-27, in Nashville, TN, was a great success. Members from far and wide met, renewed friendships from past Roundups, visited local sites of interest, took a trip on the General Jackson showboat, and attended a banquet celebrating Texas Jack's 150th birthday.

In This Issue:

A Message from the President.....p.2
Scouting Omohundro Territory.....p.4
Minutes of 1996 Business Meeting.....p.7
Texas Jack's Relatives at the Roundup.....p.8
Some Memories of Jack Omohundro.....p.13
From the Editor's Desk.....p.15



New Officers Elected

Officers elected for the 1997-98 term are:

President: Rick W. Omohundro (Salt Lick, KY)
Vice President: Richard Omohundro, (Norwich, CT)
Treasurer: R.C. Omohundro, Fork Union, VA
Secretary: Edna Nees, Scottsville, VA

The Scout will be team-edited, with rotating assignments (see page 15).

A Message From the President

Dear Fellow Texas Jack Association Members,

Allow me to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not met. My name is Richard (Rick) W. Omohundro. I live in Salt Lick, KY, with my wife Nancy and our 12-year-old son Brandon. I am a roadway design engineer for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet where I have been employed for the past 22 years. I joined the TJA in 1990 at the Leadville Roundup and have attended and enjoyed every Roundup since. I look forward to serving this organization for the next two years. I believe it will be both a challenging and rewarding endeavor. I would like to personally invite each of you to drop by and visit us if you are ever in "our neck of the woods."

Those of you who missed this year's Roundup in Nashville, TN, missed out on a great time. I, and other members met some of the Nashville Omohundros for the first time. I would like to thank them personally and on behalf of the Association for their support and hospitality. We hope to see many of them again at the 1998 Roundup in Oklahoma City, OK, or Cody, WY.

I encourage each of our members to recruit others to join the TJA and encourage inactive members to take a more active role. You will find that it is a fun and rewarding way to learn about our family history and the Old West. The name Omohundro is unique enough in itself, but to have an ancestor like Texas Jack is truly special. Those of you who cannot attend the Roundups can still be active by paying your annual dues! The TJA is a non-profit organization and your dues go a long way in supporting this organization and in keeping the name and spirit of Texas Jack alive.

Dennis Greene has volunteered to start a Texas Jack home page on the World Wide Web. I believe that this could be not only a good recruiting tool, but may be the link between the "Omohundros and their kin" in this country with relatives around the world.

Rick W. Omohundro
President, 1996-1998

The Texas Jack Scout
A Publication of
The Texas Jack Association, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation

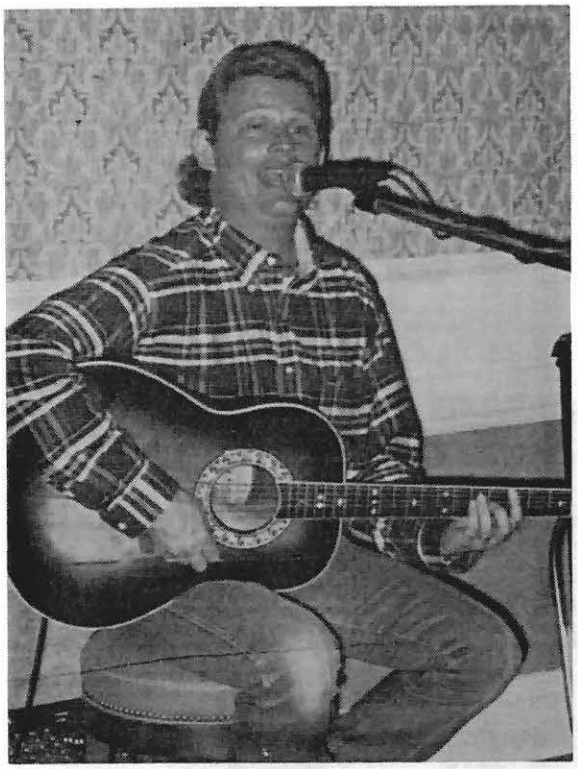
OFFICERS

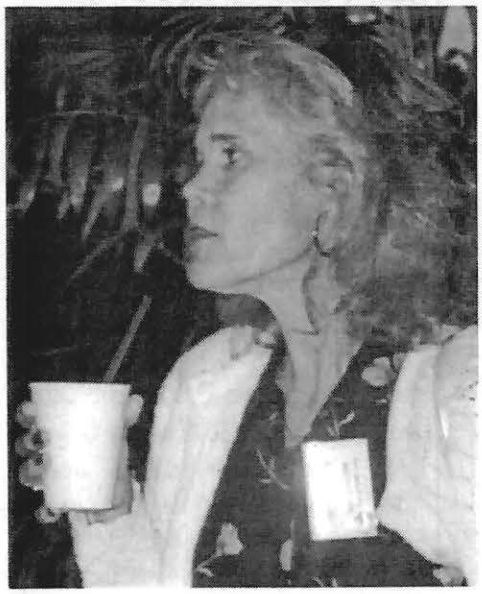
Founder: Frank R. Sullivan, Springfield, IL (deceased)
Chairman: Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., Richmond, VA
President: Rick W. Omohundro, Salt Lick, KY
Vice-president: Richard L. Omohundro, Norwich, CT.
Secretary: Edna N. Nees, Scottsville, VA
Treasurer: R.C. Omohundro, Jr., Fork Union, VA
Director: Harvey Willard, Bradenton, FL
Scout Editor (current issue): C. Rand McKinney, Santa Cruz, CA

HONORARY MEMBERS

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

Pictures From Nashville





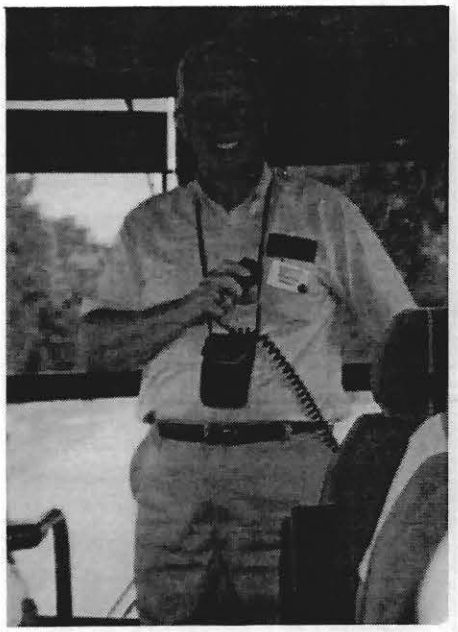
More pictures from the Roundup starting on page 10

Scouting Omohundro Territory at the Roundup

by Richard Bond Omohundro

Attendees of this year's Roundup were treated to a chartered bus tour of local sites guided by Tennesseean Richard B. Omohundro. He was kind enough to write a commentary on the history of Omohundros in Tennessee and the sites we visited on the tour.

Devastation in Virginia after the Civil War, encouraged many young men to go West to seek their fortune. Such was the case for five Omohundro brothers from Fluvanna County, Virginia. It is well known that Texas Jack migrated to Texas and eventually farther west. Four of his brothers eventually settled near Nashville, Tennessee, three in Rural Hill, later known as Sugg's Creek.



Richard B. Omohundro

Prior to the arrival of the Omohundros, the well-to-do Logue family had settled in Rural Hill. They owned large tracts of land, most likely land grants for service in the American Revolution, together with later acquired lands.

For our purpose, the inclusion of the Logues will be limited to Carnes Logue, because two of his sons and their descendants married Omohundros.

Attendees at the 1996 Round-Up visited seven points of historical significance to the Omohundros:

1. Carnes, Tarpley, Lindsay, Bessie Logue Home
2. Richard James (Jim) Omohundro burial site.
3. The Jim Omohundro home [p.130 A & B]*
4. Moten P. Omohundro Farm
5. Dr. John Logue home
6. Dr. O.C. Omohundro home site [p. 18c]*
7. Sugg's Creek Cemetery

* see *John Burwell Omohundro's Descendants* by Edna N. Nees

1. In 1814 Carnes Logue took a bride and built most of this log home as it still stands. The one room log addition was added years later. This property later became the home of Tarpley Green Logue, the father of Ellen Logue who married Richard James (Jim) Omohundro.

In the early 1900's, wood siding was added covering most of the log exterior. The house is in reasonably good condition and now the Liddington family home.

One unusual thing about this homestead is the root cellar was under the smokehouse. The smokehouse has been replaced with a frame outbuilding.

2. Jim, Ellen and other family members are buried in a fenced, marked, well-kept beautiful knoll, now on the property of Herman and Martha Coleman. Mrs. Coleman is a descendant of the Logues.

3. The Jim Omohundro home is much the same as when he lived and raised his family there. Since 1930 it has been the home of Mrs. Belle

Smith, who is most hospitable to the Omohundros who visit from time to time.

Dr. Richard Eugene (Gene) Omohondro, Jim's

grandson, was able to visit the room where he slept as a boy. "Talk about fond memories recalled!"

4. Across the road from Jim's place was the farm of Moten P. Omohundro. The home no longer stands and it is unclear when it passed from existence.

Mrs. Pafford, whose family has lived nearby for 100 years, was recently quoted as saying, "the place has been ruined by putting in that subdivision."

5. The two-story log house of Dr. John Logue, son of Carnes Logue, is now the home of Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bond. It is believed this house was built in the 1840's and most of the exterior has since been covered with wood siding. The kitchen is currently being restored as it was originally.

Dr. John Logue was the father of Margaret (Maggie) Logue, who married Dr. Orville Calhoun Omohundro, and Nancy Gleaves Logue, who married Moten P. Omohundro.

So here we are with three Omohundro brothers; Orville Calhoun, Richard James (Jim) and Moten P. Omohundro coming to rural Sugg's Creek and marrying three Logue girls, Margaret, Ellen and Nancy, respectively, two sisters and their cousin.

6. The home site of Dr. O.C. and Margaret (Maggie or Granny as she is affectionately remembered by many) known as "Robbins Hill" is a beautiful elevated tree studded location. After Dr. Omohundro's demise, the home was destroyed by fire. In the 1920's the present house was built by his widow and two daughters.

As a sideline, Granny had three children who lived to old age and died of natural causes. She outlived all three.

7. Sugg's Creek Cemetery is a fairly large, well-kept county cemetery adjacent to Sugg's Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

It is the final resting place for Mr. & Mrs. Carnes Logue, Dr. & Mrs. John Logue, Dr. & Mrs. O.C. Omohundro and Mrs. Moten P. (Nancy Logue) Omohundro, and any other kinfolk.

Even though the cemetery is adjacent to the church, it is a community cemetery and the church is not responsible for maintenance. A civic-minded group of local citizens has assumed this responsibility. They rely solely on contributions to cover the cost of mowing. Should anyone desire, I feel sure any financial support would be welcome.

The above briefly describes the Round-Up tour. However, the fourth brother, who moved to Nashville has not been mentioned.

Martin Woodville Omohundro, Sr. married Lena Davis, cousin of Jefferson Davis. I do not believe he has any living linear descendants.

The following story has been passed from generation to generation and may or may not be true. Never having known "Wood," as he was so fondly addressed, I cannot vouch as to whether or not this story fits his personality, but if his was similar to some of his kin I have known it is entirely believable.

Mr. Wood being sharp of mind, unwilling to risk personal safety and preferring use of posterior muscles to work, applied for a job as fireman. With the help of Nashville's Mayor he was successful.

Several weeks later, Wood encountered a relative on a downtown street. His relative was quoted as saying Wood was "proud as a peacock" in his blue uniform with brass shining.

After several minutes of swapping social niceties, the relative, knowing Wood's concern for personal safety, asked if he was willing to fight a dangerous fire. Wood responded by saying he would cross that bridge when the time came. They bid adieu and went on their merry way.

Several months later the two met again. Wood was in civilian clothes. The relative inquired as to how his fireman's job was going. Wood said he was "fired." When asked why, Wood stated that an old warehouse was burning and the chief instructed him to get in there and fight the fire. Wood said he looked at the wild flames and told the chief if he wanted to go in and fight the fire, go ahead, but he, Wood, was not going in. The chief fired him on the spot. As they departed, Wood exclaimed, "I got eight months' pay anyway!"

Minutes of the Business Meeting

In addition to the election of new officers (see p.1), Association secretary Edna Nees reports the following highlights from the business meeting held at the Roundup:

- Members decided that the site of the next roundup would be either Oklahoma City, OK (home of the Cowboy Hall of Fame) or Cody, WY (home of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center). New president Rick Omohundro will work with the other officers to decide between the two sites and announce the decision at the beginning of next year.

- Rita Mohundro of Murray, KY, designed and made an Omohundro family crest and donated it to the Association. Chairman M.H. Omohundro, Jr., said that he also had a framed crest. Members decided to see the crest that M.H. has before adopting one as the official crest of the Association.

- A number of items were auctioned off to raise money for the Association, including copies of Buckskin and Satin. Jack Omohundro, Sr. of Louisiana won the raffle and donated the prize money back to the Association.

- The condition of Texas Jack's grave site was discussed, and members voted to look into the possibility of erecting a wrought iron fence around the site and otherwise generally cleaning it up.

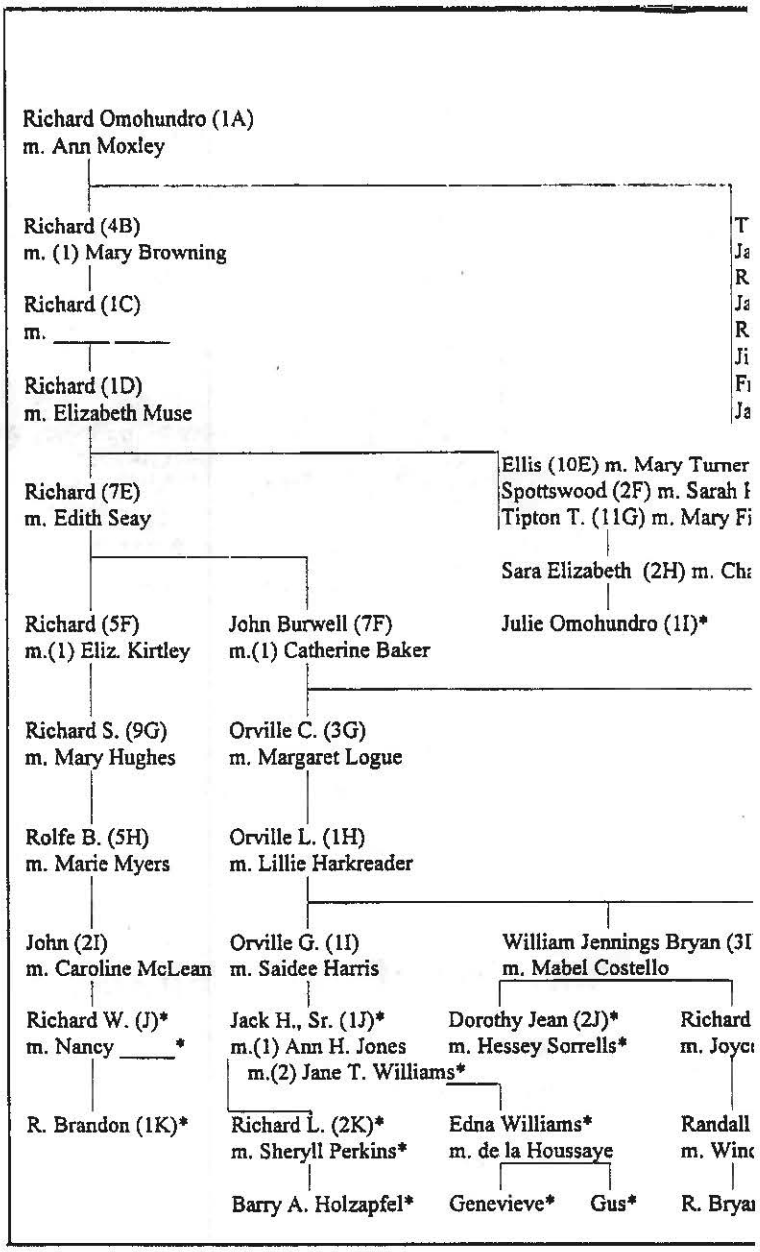
Texas Jack's Relatives at the Roundup

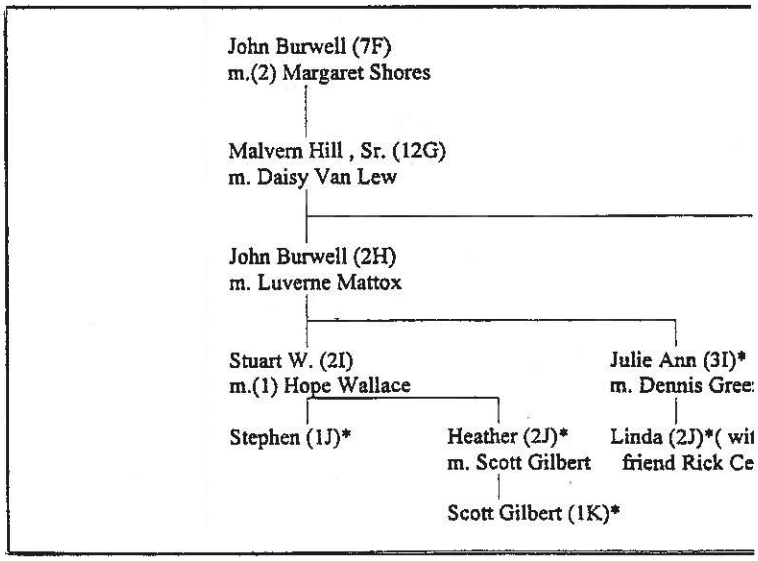
This family tree tracing the relationship of the attendees of the 96 Roundup was constructed by Harvey Willard and Edna Nees.

Edna Nees has Texas Jack pins available for $5 each. The pins, which were given to attendees of this year's Roundup depict Texas Jack's famous six-shooter.

If you did not make it to the Roundup, or would like extra pins, send your check to

Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Rd.
Scottsville, VA 24590-9748





OMOHUNDRO GENEALOGY CHART

Relationships of 1996 Texas Jack Round-Up Attendees (53)
(* indicates attendees)

s (5B) m. Jane _____
(1C) m. Elizabeth _____
1 (3D) m. "Betsy" Martin
(3E) m. Mary Ellis
(2F)
3) m. Esperanza Ferrer
H) m. Mary Elizabeth Henry
F. (I)* (artist) m. Jeanine Toebbe

William (5D) m. Mary Claxton
Richard (3E) m. _____ Toon
Addison P. (1F) m. Martha McBride (dropped O in Omohundro ca. 1840)
Elisha C. Mohundro (4G) m.(3) Sarah Harmon
Elisha C. Mohundro (14H) m. Dora Overcast

William Mohundro(4I) m. Bonnie West
Rita Mohundro (1J)* (with friend*)

Ruth Mohundro (2I) m. Ray George
Grace George (1J)* m. ____Erwin
Gerri George (2J)* m. _____ Chilicutt
Anna Jones (K)*

erson

B. Johnson

Thomas T. (4H) m. Elizabeth Cooke
John T. (1I)* m. Susan Speier*

John Baker (4G) "Texas Jack"
m. Josephine Morlacchi

Arabella A. (6G) _____
m.(1) Theodor Wohlbruck m.(2) Charles Nees

Theodor Wohlbruck (5H)
m.(1) Mabel Brown

Charles Nees, Jr. (6H)
m. Helen Dembke

Richard James (7G)
m.(1) Ellen Logue

Richard Royal (3H)
m. Pansy Dugan

Moton Patterson (8G)
m.(1) Nancy Logue

John Moton (1H)
m. Sadie Poynor

Mary Virginia (4I)
m. John Beverley Gooch

Virgina Wohlbruck (1I)
m. George Willard

John S. Nees (1I)
m. Edna Napier*

Richard Eugene (1I)*
m. Margorie Jenkins*

Alybel (1I)*
m. William Johnson

1 (4J)*
ion*

Beverley R. (2J)*
m. "Katy" Thompson

Mary Virginia (3J)*
m. George Watson*

Harvey Willard (2J)*
m. Isabella Rallis*

Richard Eugene Jr. (1J)*
m. Ann B____*

2K)*
eel

)*

(continued)

Margaret (3H)
m. Benjamin W. Wyche, Jr.

Malvern Hill, Jr. (5H)*
m. Libby Overbey

Virginia (9H)*
m.(2) Charles McKinney

C. Rand McKinney (1I)*

Ben Wyche III (1I)*
m. June Williams*

Malvern Wyche, Sr. (2I)*
m. Angela Grizzard

Kitty Wyche (1J)*
m. Karl Pelkan

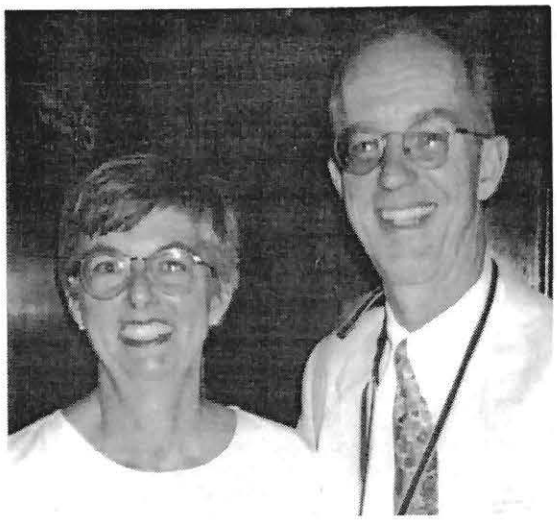
Mal Wyche, Jr. (2J)*
m.(1) Debra Roesch _____ m.(2) Susan Thompson

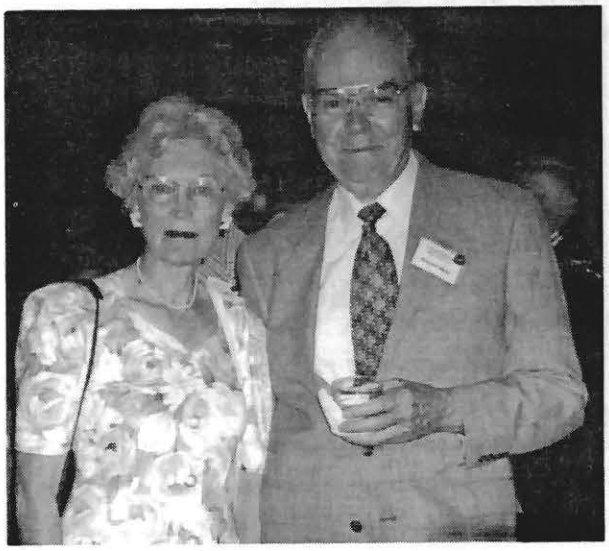
Brandon F. (1K)*

Holly (2K)*

Memories of Nashville...

Your humble editor has the honor of sharing his birthday with Texas Jack. He is shown here cutting the birthday cake (pictured on the front page), after which he served the first piece to the Association's oldest member, M.H. Omohundro, Jr., shown above at far right.





Texas Jack
Texas Jack

Some Memories of Jack Omohundro

by Frank X. Tolbert

Member Gloria Palmer of Grass Valley, CA submitted this article from *The Dallas Morning News*, 25 May 1958. [This article mistakenly refers to Jack as a "Texan," though we all know he came from Virginia. —ed.]

President William Howard Taft came to Sherman, Texas, years ago. During the visit he was introduced to a young banker named Sale Omohundro. "Omohundro! Omohundro!" said the President. "Are you any relation to the great Texas Jack Omohundro?"

Sale Omohundro, who is today president of Sherman's Merchants and Planters National Bank, replied that Jack Omohundro was indeed some kind of a cousin. And it turned out that Taft—like many others of his generation—was a Texas Jack fan.

John Burwell (Jack) Omohundro died of pneumonia in 1880 after a 34-year career of adventure that would seem incredible in a fiction book. Had the tall and handsome Texan lived a normal span, we think he would have been an even more famous all-around Old West character than his close friend, Buffalo Bill Cody.

"Omohundro! Omohundro!" said the President. "Are you any relation to the great Texas Jack Omohundro?"

Texas Jack was as physically impressive and even more magnetic a personality than Bison William. Omohundro's Indian fights are much better documented than Cody's. Omohundro also had a wild and woolly States War record. Cody's chief press agent was the dime novelist, Ned Buntline. Omohundro was copy for Buntline. Yet Texas Jack had more competent and reliable men writing about him, such as the Earl of Dunraven and Joel Chandler Harris.

"Oh, Texas Jack, would that a better hand were here to paint your portrait!" wrote the Earl of Dunraven in his memoirs. The British nobleman first met Omohundro in 1872. Jack, once a famous Confederate, was then an even more famous frontier scout for the U.S. Army.

Gen. P.H. Sheridan had told Cody to guide Dunraven and other Britishers on a grizzly bear hunt. But Bill wandered off some place. Texas Jack got the job. And the Britishers were de-lighted with the kind of hunt the tall Texan gave them.

They spread his fame. And Jack took a number of titled Europeans on hunts in the next few years. Jack was always getting gifts from his customers. For example, Lord Beckingham sent him a $500 rifle.

Joel Chandler Harris called Omohundro "The Boy Scout of the Confederacy." (This was

some time before the formal Boy Scout organization.) At 16 Jack was a scout and spy for Col. Jeb Stuart's regiment. Sometimes, the kid would play the role of a chicken peddler, or some other kind of wandering tradesman, and go among the Yankee armies.

Texas Jack appeared with Buffalo Bill and Ned Buntline in stage performances all over the country. Buntline wrote at least two books about Omohundro, *Captain Jack* or *The Texas Tiger*, and *Texas Jack* or *the White King of the Pawnees*.

Jack sort of frustrated Buntline. Ned knew that Omohundro had had real Indian fights that were more startling than anything a dime novelist could dream up.

The Earl of Dunraven described Omohundro as a kind of Elizabethan cavalier, "all life and fire, blazing with suppressed poetry." Texas Jack's beautiful Italian wife died a few years after he did. She was a young dancer. She never danced again. It was said she died of grief.

Book Review

The Cowboy Encycolopedia by Richard W. Slatta

by C. Rand McKinney

This excellent book is the first and only major reference on the history and culture of cowboys. It contains a detailed entry for Texas Jack, as well as for Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hicock, Ned Buntline, and other of Jack's friends and compatriots. It also has write ups on the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, rodeos, roundups, cowboy art, poetry, films, music, and pulp novels. The author has done an outstanding job of covering the people, places, history, and cultural imagery surrounding cowboys, both in reality and in myth. The topics are concise and have excellent cross-references.

Far from a boring, dry reference, this book is written in a lively and informative style that makes it a pleasure to read. I found myself flipping pages and finding out fascinating facts and historical details. For example, did you know there are Hawaiian cowboys? They are called *paniolo*, and they traditionally wore leis around their cowboy hats! There are also fascinating articles on the *vaqueros* of Mexico and the *gauchos* of South America. Do you know what a "cowboy cocktail" is? Look it up: the concise definition: "straight whiskey."

Excepts from Texas Jack's entry in *The Cowboy Encyclopedia*

Wild West showman "Texas Jack" Omohundro rose from obscurity, born near Palmyra, Virginia, to become a legendary figure in the Old West. He served on the side of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Writer Joel Chandler Harris embellished on his military service, making him a master spy in a series of short stories....

Buntline's farcical play, *The Scouts of the Praire* (1872), catapulted both Cody and Omohundro into careers as western showmen. The play, awful as it was, brought "Texas Jack and his Lasso" to national attention. Omohundro became the first nationally known Wild West cowboy performer....

Texas Jack died a living legend a month before reaching his 34th birthday. During his short life, Texas Jack, like Cody, lived the life of a frontier cowboy and scout. Both also played important roles in moving the cowboy from plains history to the realm of American mythology.

The book was originally published in 1994, but this year W.W. Norton published an affordable paperback edition. I highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in Old West history and culture.

From the Editor's Desk

It has been an honor and a privilege to edit The Scout for the past two years. I cannot say that it was easy, given my personal circumstances, but I am glad that I have been able to do my part for the organization. If we extend the metaphor of The Roundup, the members of the Association are like the cowhands on a ranch. On a ranch, everyone is put to work to help with the chores one way or another. Those who don't do their part are considered freeloaders. The organization has been built and maintained over the years through the dedicated efforts of many people. We all owe those people a debt, and the least we can do is help them out. I encourage everyone to get involved by writing articles for *The Scout* or helping out with the 1998 Roundup in any way.

As described in the article below, it was decided that the work of editing The Scout is too much for one person alone, so it is being divided, and the editorship itself will become a rotating responsibility. I think this is a good idea. I volunteered to edit one issue in 1998, so until then, *adios!*

— Rand

The Scout to Become Group Effort

At the Nashville Roundup, members decided to spread the effort of editing, publishing, and distributing *The Scout*. Each issue will have a different editor. Editors will collect and write articles for *The Scout* and send them to layout editors John and Susan Omohundro.

To allow everyone time to perform their tasks, please have your material to the editor at least 6 weeks before the publication date. John and Susan will send the finished layout to Edna Nees, who will have the newsletters printed and mailed to the membership.

Reminder: It is important to present *The Scout* as an educational and historical publication available to all people interested in the events, characters, and culture of the late 1800s. To keep non-profit tax-deductible status, *The Scout* should not have the tone of a family newsletter.

Scout Editors, 1997-1998

- Jan. 1997: Julie Greene (submission deadline **1 Dec 1996**)
- May 1997: Harvey Willard (submission deadline 15 April 1997)
- Sept 1997: Kitty Pelkan (submission deadline 15 Aug 1997)
- Jan 1998: Rand McKinney (submission deadline 15 Dec 1997)
- May 1998: Kitty Pelkan (submission deadline 15 April 1998)
- Sept 1998: John and Susan Omohundro (submission deadline 15 Aug 1998)

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Scout* to:

Jule Greene (email jdgreen@redshift.com)
PO # 7587
Carmel, CA 93921

The *Texas Jack Scout* is published occasionally by

The Texas Jack Association.
R.C. Omohundro
PO Box #5
Fork Union, VA 23055

Subscription is included in annual membership dues of $15.00.
The Texas Jack Association is a non-profit educational organization.

Texas Jack Scout
Julie Greene, Ed.
PO # 7587
Carmel, CA 93921

To:

Mrs. Kitty W. Pelkan
6021 37th Ave. S.W.
Seattle WA
98126