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www.texasjack.org

March 2004

2004 Roundup in Charlottesville, Virginia

by Edna N. Nees, Isabella R. Willard, and Harvey B. Willard

The next Roundup of the Texas Jack Association is to be held July 14–17, 2004 at Charlottesville, Virginia. Please make your travel plans to attend now! It is a great opportunity to meet relatives and friends of Texas Jack! We have made final arrangements with the **Omni Hotel** for our base of activities. The Omni is a luxurious, full-service, modern hotel located in Charlottesville at the west end of the

historical Downtown Pedestrian Mall which has many shops and restaurants. The Omni's address is 235 W. Main St., Charlottesville, VA 22902. It is within easy walking distance of the University of Virginia campus. Nonsmoking rooms with king beds, or two double beds, will be available at our TJA group rate of \$89 per night plus tax. A number of rooms have been reserved for us, but you must make your own reservations with the hotel directly before June 12, 2004.

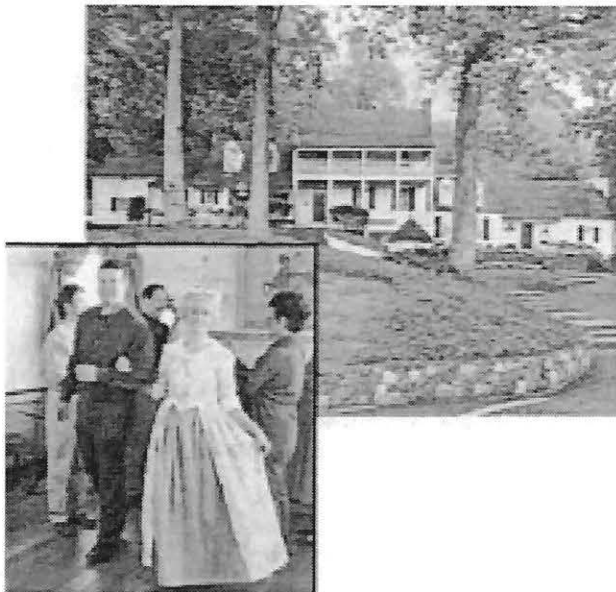
Telephone for reservations:

Direct Charlottesville Omni: (434) 971-5500, or

Omni Central reservations: (800) 843-6664.

Please refer to the Texas Jack Association Roundup in making your reservations to get the group rate.

Activities planned include a visit to President Thomas Jefferson's magnificent home, Monticello, bountiful midday meal and tour at the colonial Michie Tavern, a trip to the Omohundro Pleasure Hill Cemetery, where we will dedicate a marker and a plaque, a visit to the Texas Jack highway marker and the Fluvanna Historical Museum, a picnic supper at the Nees Farm, a special projects report meeting, the business meeting, and a cash bar and banquet at the Omni. A Roundup registration form is included with this issue of *The Scout*. Note the



Michie Tavern, restaurant and historical site, hosts for our lunch after the Monticello tour.

continued on page 3

from the Editor's Desk...

by Susan and John Omohundro

It's been a pleasure assembling this issue of *The Scout*. And easy, too, with the help of Harvey and Isabella Willard, Edna Nees, and Kitty Pelkan. Not only do we have much to report in anticipation of the July Roundup in Charlottesville, we have an amusing account of a meeting between Texas Jack and



John T. Omohundro at Texas Jack's Leadville gravesite. Note the stone commemorating Texas Jack's veteran status in front of the tombstone, compliments of Eddie Lanham. Photo: Susan Omohundro

Thomas Edison, a book review of D. Jean Smith's *Medicine Creek Journals*, and more.

Texas Jack accomplished quite a bit in a few short years, and it's unfortunate that he died so young. We were reminded of his last days when we visited Leadville in November and searched out his grave (see photos). *...continued on page 5*

The Texas Jack Scout

Volume XIX, number 1

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Author of *Buckskin and Satin*
Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost, North Platte, NE

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.

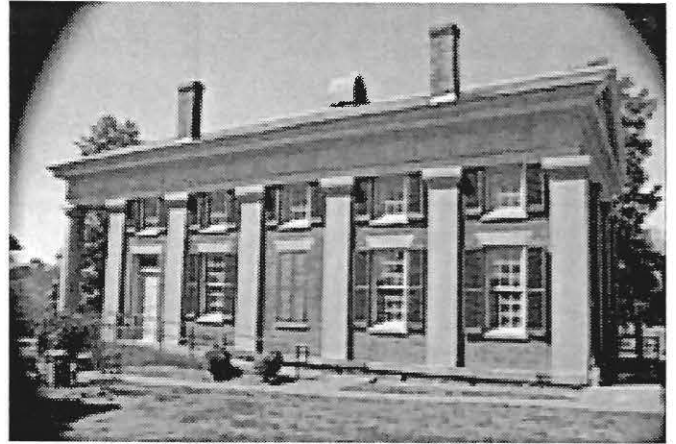
registration fee for adults is \$3.00 more if you choose the pepper steak as your main entrée (see enclosed form). Please send the registration form to Edna Nees **by June 15, 2004**. Early registration would be helpful for planning purposes.

The Omni Hotel Atrium will be ours for registration and a welcoming food reception. The Madison Room will be available for our use during the entire Roundup. It is an excellent place for getting acquainted with fellow members of the Association.



The Omni Hotel, conveniently located in historic downtown Charlottesville, close to sightseeing and shopping.

There are many optional activities in this historical part of our country, so plan to spend an extra day or two before or after the Roundup. These activities could be selected from among such trips as visits to President James Monroe's home Ashlawn-Highland, the archeological digs at Spring Garden Creek and Bremono Bluff in Fluvanna County, a ride on the Hatton Ferry, a visit to the Appomattox Court House, a trip to see Brightly, Malvern Omohundro's home,



The Fluvanna County Courthouse (top); the former Fluvanna County Jail (above) in Palmyra houses the county historical association.

in Goochland County, trips to Civil War sites relevant to Texas Jack's military service, more than two dozen picturesque wineries within a 30-mile radius of Charlottesville, canoeing, kayaking, camping, and much, much more. At registration, 2004 Roundup participants will receive a packet of materials to help plan their activities.

The registration fee (see enclosed Roundup registration form) includes a welcoming reception at registration, bus trips for two days, tour of Monticello, midday meal and tour at Michie Tavern, picnic supper at Nees farm, cash bar setup, banquet meal and entertainment, and favors.



2004 Roundup in Charlottesville, Virginia Agenda

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Registration, Madison Rm. & Omni Atrium
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Welcome Reception, Omni Atrium

Thursday, July 15, 2004

8:30 a.m. Bus leaves Omni Hotel for Monticello
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Tour Monticello
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Midday Meal at Michie Tavern
1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Tour Michie Tavern
2:00 p.m. Bus back to Omni Hotel
3:00 - 10:00 p.m. Madison Room Hospitality
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Special Projects Reports meeting

Friday, July 16, 2004

9:00 a.m. Optional visit to digs at Spring Garden Creek
and Bremono Bluff
12:00 n. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m. Bus leaves Omni Hotel for Palmyra
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Dedication at Pleasure Hill Cemetery
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Trip to the Texas Jack Highway Marker,
visit Fluvanna County Museum
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Picnic supper, Nees farm, Scottsville
8:00 p.m. Bus back to Omni Hotel

Saturday, July 17, 2004

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. TJA Business Meeting, Salon A
12:00 Lunch on your own, afternoon free
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Cash bar
7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Banquet, Special Entertainment

from the Editor's Desk...

continued from page 2



The Tabor Opera House in downtown Leadville, where Texas Jack's and Mlle. Morlacchi's "Combination" was staged.

Photo: John Omohundro

We found Leadville to be a beautiful location, ringed by snowcapped mountains and retaining many 19th century buildings in its National Register-listed historic district. The Tabor Theater, at which Texas Jack's show was playing when he died, was in good shape, prominent on the main street. Local theatre companies still perform there. Leadville was pretty quiet in November, after the summer tourist season and before the winter ski season, so the museums were closed. But we did manage to score a delicious filet mignon dinner for \$6.95 in a delightful restaurant with tin ceiling and historic photographs.

Texas Jack hoped to make a quick buck in the mining industry, but as so often happens, the boom

busted, and there are no active mines in Leadville now. I found myself wondering what he would make of Leadville today, using its history to promote tourism, the mainstay of the current economy.

Be that as it may, Texas Jack's final resting place is a peaceful site in the pine trees, enclosed by the stately iron fence erected by the Association. His gravesite is easier to find than it used to be, thanks to new directional signs sponsored by the Association, but one word of caution: Evergreen Cemetery is a big place. We wasted considerable time in the



Texas Jack's gravesite is attractively located and well-marked. Note the fine iron fence recently purchased by the Association.

Photo: John Omohundro

Catholic section, across the road from the Protestant section, before we got our bearings. You must turn right at the fork in the road below the high school, then the correct part of the cemetery appears on your left, clearly indicated by the highway marker to Texas Jack sponsored by Astrid Omohundro and by the arrows pointing the way to his gravesite.

We hope our first visit to Leadville will not be our last.

The deadline for the July 2004 issue of *The Scout* is **July 1, 2004**. The issue will be published in August and feature a report on the Charlottesville Roundup. Send ideas and materials to Guest Editor:

Peggy Greene

18329 Loxahatchee River Rd.

Jupiter, FL 33458

mgreene39@hotmail.com

Texas Jack Meets Thomas Edison

by John T. Omohundro

In early 2003 Victor Burgess sent news to TJA Treasurer Edna Nees of a website mentioning Texas Jack. The website, "Wyoming Tales and Trails," is an impressive archive of historic photographs of Wyoming, accompanied by commentary by the webmaster, Geoff D. Gibson. The website's address is www.wyomingtalesandtrails.com. The material on Texas Jack is found under the Rawlins heading. Webmaster Gibson writes:

"In July 1878 [Rawlings, Wyoming] became for a short time the center of the scientific world when visitors from all over the world descended upon the area for a total eclipse of the sun. Among those who came was Thomas A. Edison who described his stay:"

There follows this quotation from *Edison, His Life and Inventions*, by Frank Lewis Dyer and Thomas Commerford Martin, Harper Brothers, 1929, Chapter X. The footnotes are explained below.

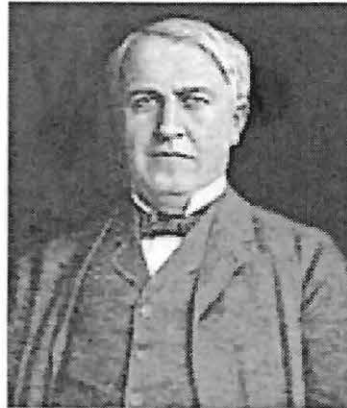
"There were astronomers from nearly every nation. We had a special car. The country at that time was rather new; game was in great abundance, and could be seen all day long from the car window, especially antelope.

"We arrived at Rawlins [Wyoming] about 4 p.m. It had a small machine shop, and was the point where locomotives were changed for the next section. The hotel was a very small one, and by doubling up we were barely accommodated. My roommate was Fox [footnote #1], the correspondent of the New York Herald. After we retired and were asleep a thundering knock on the door awakened us. Upon

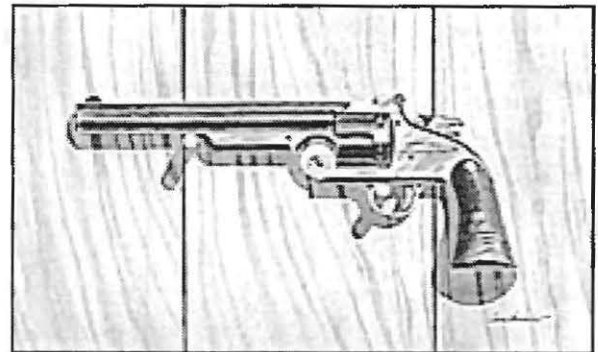
opening the door a tall, handsome man with flowing hair dressed in western style entered the room. His eyes were bloodshot, and he was somewhat inebriated. He introduced himself as 'Texas Jack' - Joe

Chromondo [sic; footnote #2] - and said he wanted to see Edison, as he had read about me in the newspapers. Both Fox and I were rather scared, and didn't know what was to be the result of the interview. The landlord requested him not to make so much noise, and was thrown out into the hall. Jack explained that he had just come in with a party which had been hunting, and that he felt fine. He explained, also, that he was the boss pistol-shot of the West, that it was he who taught the celebrated Doctor Carver [footnote #3] how to shoot.

Then suddenly pointing to a weathervane on the freight depot, he pulled out a Colt revolver and fired through the window, hitting the vane. The shot awakened all the people, and they rushed in to see who was killed. It was only after I told him I was tired and would see him in the morning that he left. Both Fox and I were so nervous we didn't sleep any that night.



Thomas Alva Edison wrote of meeting Texas Jack in Rawlins, Wyoming, while visiting there to observe the solar eclipse.



*Fired at the freight depot weathervane in Rawlins?
Original painting by Jim Omohundro.*



John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, 1872 studio photo by Jeremiah Gurney and Son of New York. This photo is on the "Western Tales and Trails" website.

"We were told in the morning that Jack was a pretty good fellow, and was not one of the 'bad men,' of whom they had a good supply. They had one in the jail, and Fox and I went over to see him. A few days before he had held up a Union Pacific train and robbed all the passengers. In the jail also was a half-breed horse-thief. We interviewed the bad man through bars as big as railroad rails. He looked like a 'bad man.' The rim of his ear all around came to a sharp edge and was serrated. His eyes were nearly white, and appeared as if made of glass and set in wrong, like the life-size figures of Indians in the Smithsonian Institution. His face was also extremely irregular. He wouldn't answer a single question. I learned afterward that he got seven years in prison, while the horse-thief was hanged. As horses ran wild, and there was no protection, it meant death to steal one."

The webmaster added these three footnotes after Edison's memoir:

"1. Probably Edward Fox, correspondent for the *New York Herald* in the 1870's."

"2. Reference to Texas Jack is to John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro (1846-1880). Omohundro was born in Virginia and went to Texas at age 15. During the Civil War he returned to Virginia and served as a scout for C.S.A General J. E. B. Stuart. He subsequently returned to Texas and received the name "Texas Jack" on a cattle drive to Tennessee. In the late 1860's he made the acquaintance of Wm. F. Cody, James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, and Ned Buntline in Kansas. He returned east with Cody and Buntline and starred in a Wild West Show, *Scouts of the Prairie*, and was later made famous, together with Cody and Hickok, in some of Buntline's Dime Novels. In 1872 Omohundro served along with



The stars of the play, "Scouts of the Prairie," of 1873. L to R: Ned Buntline, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro. This photo is on the "Western Tales and Trails" website.

Wm. F. Cody as a guide for the Grand Duke Alexis on his hunting trip to Nebraska and Wyoming. The same year he participated as trail agent in the last successful Pawnee buffalo hunt. The government required that an agent accompany Indians on hunts so as to preclude the Indians from leaving their

Twain, the Prince of Wales, and the Archduke Alexis. The studio also took a photo of the dead President Lincoln in his casket. Secretary of War Stanton ordered all copies destroyed. Benjamin Gurney is credited with inventing the "Imperial" size *carte de visite*."



Rawlins, Wyoming, was a rough frontier town in the 1870s. From the "Western Tales and Trails" website.

Edison must have traveled to Wyoming because it was the ideal spot to view the eclipse. Clearly he was shocked by the roughness of life there. As mentioned, Edison's roommate Edward Fox was a correspondent for the *New York Herald* in the 1870's. Texas Jack was also a correspondent for that newspaper beginning in 1876.

In corresponding with me, Geoff explained, "The reason, undoubtedly, that the quotation cannot normally be found is Mr. Edison's unfortunate misspelling of your cousin's name.

appropriate territory or harrassing settlers. In the next hunt in 1873 an inexperienced agent was employed by the Pawnee Nation and the hunt ended unsuccessfully at the Battle of Massacre Creek. Later Omohundro played with Hickok in a touring drama "Scout of the Plains." [sic] Omohundro died in Leadville in 1880. Cody paid for the stone grave marker marking his burial site."

I found it quite by accident when attempting to confirm the unsubstantiated story that Edison was inspired in the invention of the incandescent light bulb while on a fishing expedition to Carbon County, Wyoming. Dyer [co-author of the Edison book] was the Edison Laboratories' general counsel."

"3. Doctor Carver, "Doctor" William F. Carver, a Texas marksman who toured with Cody's Wild West Show, now most famous as the inventor in 1927 of the "Diving Horse" act in Atlantic City, N. J., in which a horse and scantily clad young lady would dive from a forty-foot high platform into a 12-foot deep tank."



Of Texas Jack's photographer, webmaster Gibson reports,

"Jeremiah Gurney (1812-1886) with his son, Benjamin, was one of the leading New York photographers. Subjects included Mark

New Source of Firsthand Accounts of Texas Jack!

a Book Review

by Kitty Pelkan

Medicine Creek Journals: Ena and the Plainsmen, by D. Jean Smith
The Old Hundred and One Press, North Platte, Nebraska, 2003

If you are reading *The Scout*, then you will want to read *Medicine Creek Journals!* Through excerpts of diaries, letters, and newspaper articles, a gritty tale unfolds of that spurt of time in Nebraska Territory (roughly 1869-1880) when buffalo, elk, and Indians were all swept aside by the surging tide of determined white men.

The book begins with young William Herbert Palmer returning from battle to his native Georgia at the end of the Civil War. After a series of events he finds himself starting over with a new last name—Miles—and living in a new locale—Nebraska Territory. By 1870 he has joined a small settlement just sprouting on Medicine Creek, not too far from the Platte River. He sporadically keeps a journal, and though his entries are brief, they are quite eloquent, such as this description of a buffalo chase, “We urged our horses and gradually gained on them, while the ground almost trembled beneath the pile-driver tramp. The horns of the bison rattled together, and all went in one solid black wave that swept on and on, across broad divides, through canyons and over hills, stopping for nothing in a wild and awful rush.” (excerpted from *M CJ*, p. 51)

Another time he wrote, “In an Indian lodge smoked half to death. Tired of their society. March is half gone. I long to see spring, I am tired of storm after storm and suspense, ever changing and weighting me down. Will my loved ones ever come out here?” (p. 32) Soon, circumstances did require that his parents and sister Ena join him.

Ena Raymonde was in her early twenties when she arrived in Nebraska Territory in March of 1872. She was well-educated, well-spoken, and curious about the world. Even when isolated on Medicine Creek she read newspapers and magazines. In

addition to keeping a journal she wrote many letters and poems. The surviving pages of her richly descriptive writings tell of Ena’s struggles to create a home at Wolf’s Rest, co-exist with the Indians, nourish her soul, and feed her mind.

Ena was a tomboy and frustrated that she was not allowed to accompany the men on hunting and trading expeditions. She asked her male friends to write descriptions of their adventures when on these men-only excursions. Richard “Bloody Dick” Seymour was one of those who kept diaries for her to read. While on a trading expedition in March of 1873, his party battled a fierce wind and snow: “The storm increased and we passed a wretched night, the wind blowing through our robes and chilling us to the very marrow of our bones. I had a narrow escape from freezing my fingers when sleeping...About noon we dine, and such a dinner. Oh! Ye of epicurean taste, what do you think of raw fresh pork, frozen so hard as to be compelled to cut it with an axe. A slice of this with a facing of condensed milk composed the viands for this meal. It was eaten with a seeming relish by these prairie men, and I verily believe their gastronomic powers are of force enough to digest a wooden bucket or a wagon wheel, with butcher knives for dessert, without the least inconvenience arising from indigestion.” (pgs. 172-173)

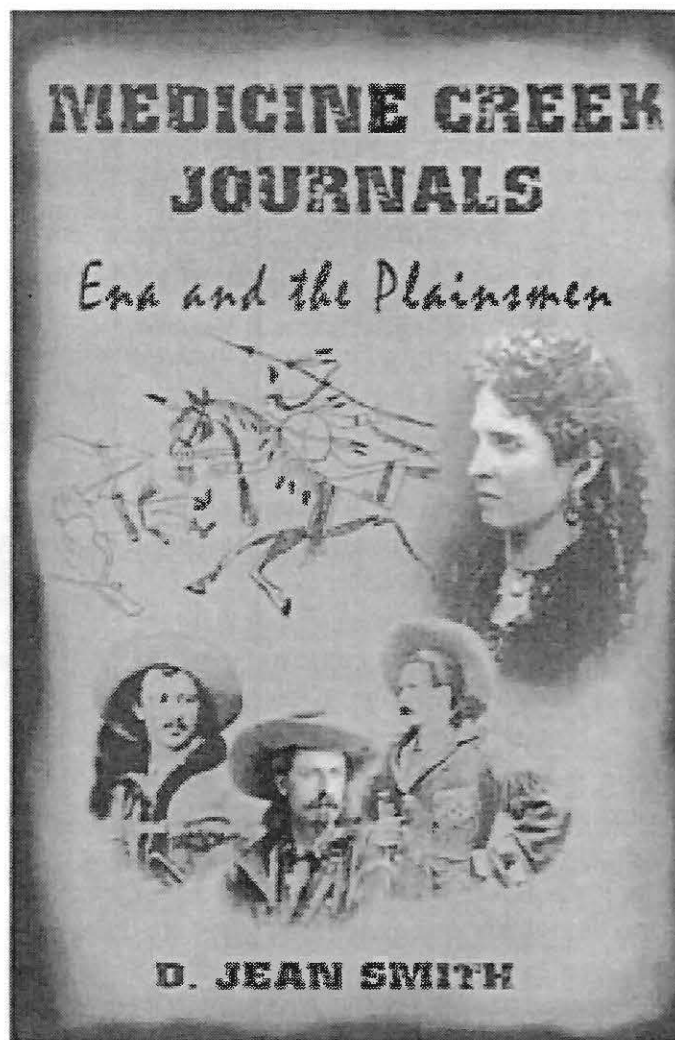
When Ena made her first trip to the nearby Indian village called “Sioux City” by the locals, among her many observations was this one about the gnarled Medicine Woman: “I looked at that old, brown squaw with strange fancies making wild pictures in my busy brain. Suppose one could read her life. Must she not watch the changes that the whites have brought to pass with deep wonder? She

remembers when these vast plains knew only the brown children of her race.” (p. 145)

A woman of many talents, Ena was also an expert markswoman. The nature of men being what it is, many young bucks felt compelled to challenge Ena to a shooting match. John “Storm” King was the first to test her skills. The incident was reported in the local paper and if the account is to be believed, “after several failed attempts to place a shot on target, Mr. King wondered if perhaps the sight of his gun had been jarred out of place, at which point Ena took King’s gun and proceeded to put three shots precisely in the center of the bull’s eye. Mr. King returned home feeling somewhat chagrined and said very little about his visit.” (p. 47)

Texas Jack had arrived in the area in 1869—about the same time as Ena’s brother Herbert “Paddy” Miles—while driving cattle up from Texas. Jack soon met Buffalo Bill, who was attached to nearby Ft. McPherson. The two were similar in age, good looks, and skill with a firearm and thus became fast friends. Paddy was acquainted with Jack and Bill and on occasion joined one or both of them on buffalo hunts. Paddy’s accounts of these occasions are related in *Medicine Creek Journals*.

Ena was beautiful and spirited and quickly had the eye of every bachelor within miles of Medicine Creek. Barely three months after she arrived on the scene, Texas Jack was commissioned to capture live buffalo to ship to Niagara Falls for a show. When he traveled to the Medicine to solicit the help of Paddy and Dick Seymour, he met Ena. Was this by happenstance or design? We’ll never know, but on June 7, 1872, Ena wrote in her journal, “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 my 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.” (p. 50) Indeed, when Jack was not away on his various travels, he was one of Ena’s favorite suitors.



Portraits on the book's cover: Ena Raymonde's pictograph titled "Long Man Killing Pawnee"; Ena Palmer Raymonde, called "Little Curly Hair" by the Indians; J.B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, W.F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and W.F. "Doc" Carver, some of the notable men written about by Ena and Paddy.

The journals of Ena and Paddy are a new source of first-hand descriptions of Jack, providing a glimpse of a more human man, not just the super hero portrayed in dime novels and exaggerated news stories of the day. Unfortunately but understandably, Ena tended not to write much about her beaux for fear the wrong eyes would read her words. Nevertheless it is quite evident that she and Jack shared a fondness for each other. Several times Ena notes that she has received a letter from Texas Jack. She

jots down that he is off escorting the Pawnee on their summer buffalo hunt. Now he's away in Yellowstone, guiding the Earl of Dunraven. She reads of the success of "The Scouts of the Prairie" in the newspapers. She is quite saddened to learn of Jack's marriage in 1873 and mourns his demise in 1880, tucking his obituary in the pages of her journal/scrapbook. Throughout *Medicine Creek Journals* there are new tidbits about Jack's activities while in the North Platte area, but you will have to read the book to discover what they are!

On the back cover is this recommendation from Dr. Harvey Willard, great-grandnephew of Texas Jack and past president of the Texas Jack Association, "This is a tale that intrigues from start to finish! Many familiar names are found among the pages of this true story of our western heroes. Ms. Smith has skillfully woven together excerpts from the pages of Ena Raymonde's journals and letters with material from several of her companions on the Medicine Creek. Followers of the history of our great country must read this book."

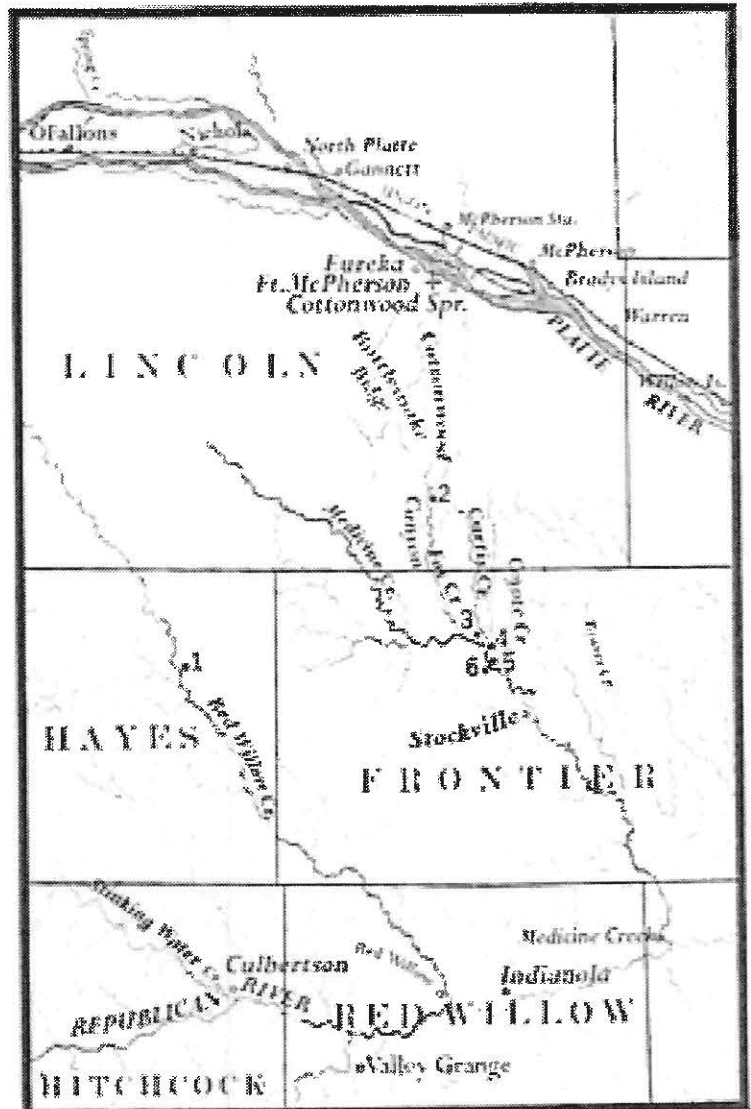
I second that recommendation!

Medicine Creek Journals is a trade paperback. Its 23 chapters comprise 254 pages of text (with 30 pages of maps, reproduced journal pages, and black and white photographs—including four photos of Texas Jack), followed by an epilogue, end notes, and a bibliography. The author is offering a special promotion to members of the TJA: 10% off the cover price plus only \$2 per book for shipping (total cost per book: \$24.45). Make check payable to D. Jean Smith and send to RR3, Box 73, Curtis, NE 69025.

Or, order the book from The Old Hundred and One Press, 13680 N. Sandhill Road, North Platte, NE 69101 (www.theold101press.com) for

\$24.95 plus \$4 shipping and handling. Orders can also be placed on www.amazon.com.

Postscript: The Texas Jack Association held its 1986 roundup in North Platte. We visited Buffalo Bill's home (where Ena writes of visiting Louisa Cody), Fort McPherson (where Ena stayed upon her arrival to Nebraska from Georgia), and the site of the Duke Alexis Hunt (a little of which Paddy witnessed).



Map of southwest Nebraska where many of the events took place. 1. Duke Alexis' campsite for the 1872 Buffalo Hunt. 2. Bratt's Fox Creek Ranch. 3. Bratt's Curtis Creek Ranch. 4. Wolf's Rest. 5. Cut-off of Sioux Indian Village. 6. Deepwood. (Excerpted from MCJ, page 64).

Call for Nominations!

A new slate of officers will be elected at the business meeting of the 2004 Round-up in Charlottesville. Get involved! Nominate yourself or someone you know! The only requirement is that the nominee must be a current member of the Association. Officers assume their duties on October 1, 2004. At that time, the current Vice President will assume the office of President and the current President will assume the office of Director.

The Association is now seeking nominations for the following three officers. Duties of the officers are described below.

Vice President (President-elect) ; Secretary ; Treasurer

Send the name of the nominee to the current Vice President, who chairs the Nominating Committee:

Rand McKinney, 7167 View Point Drive, Aptos, CA 95003. Email: rand@rand-om.com

Duties of the officers

President

Assuring that the organization functions in compliance with the bylaws.

Monitoring the activities of the organization and reporting on their status to the Board of Directors and the membership.

Nominating an interim replacement for any officer or committee chair who does not carry out the duties of his or her position.

Presiding at all meetings of the board of directors and the membership.

President-Elect (previously called Vice President)

Assisting the President in the duties of that office.

Chairing the Membership and Nominating Committee.

Carrying out any of the duties of the presidency at the request of the President.

Succeeding the President upon completion of the President's term of office or upon the incapacity or resignation of the President.

Secretary

Preparing minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership held during their term of office.

Retaining copies of all Association records received from the previous secretary or generated during the previous secretary's term of office and transferring them to the succeeding secretary at the end of his or her term of office.

Treasurer

Ensuring that a bank account has been established in the name of the Texas Jack Association.

Issuing payments from the Texas Jack Association's account after confirming that the payments are consistent with the current Association budget or have been otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.

Receiving and depositing all Association income into the Texas Jack Association's account.

Maintaining a record of all Association income and expenses.

Providing the Finance and Legal Committee with quarterly income and expenditure reports.

Texas Jack Association 2004 Roundup

Omni Hotel
Charlottesville, Virginia
July 14—18, 2004
Tel. (434) 971-5500

REGISTRATION and MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Roundup participants must make their own hotel reservations before 5 PM , June 12, 2004)

_____ Persons ordering Pepper Crusted Sirloin Steak at the banquet, @ \$135/person = _____

_____ Persons ordering Chicken St. Jean at the banquet, @ \$132/person = _____

_____ Children 10 and younger, @ \$125/person = _____

_____ Individual memberships in Texas Jack Association @ \$25/person = _____

_____ Family memberships in Texas Jack Association @ \$40/family = _____

_____ Junior memberships in Texas Jack Association @ \$10/person = _____

Enclose a check to the Texas Jack Association for a total = _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

E-mail address (Print carefully): _____

Anticipated arrival date and time: _____

Anticipated departure date: _____

Please send this completed form and check **by June 15, 2004** to:

Edna Nees, 213 Coles Rolling Road, Scottsville, VA 24590.

Scouting for the Scout

by Larry Tyree

Shortly after accepting the responsibility of Managing Editor for *The Scout*, I headed down to the post office to talk with the head of the bulk mail department about postage options for the newsletter. When I inquired about permits he asked to see a copy of *The Scout*. As he thumbed through the back issue I'd brought along, he admitted that he had never heard of Texas Jack. "Mind if I hang on to this?" he asked. I gladly obliged, not at all surprised to find a fellow western history buff in a county that lays claim to Civil War hero and James Gang member, Cole Younger.

My next quest was to find a printer and obtain bids for printing *The Scout*. Following a tip, I headed for a small, family-owned establishment in the historical section of Harry Truman's Independence, Missouri. "So who is this Texas Jack?" the owner asked, as he looked through the newsletter. As I ran through the Omohundro lineage, I discovered that he too enjoyed western history. "Mind if I hang on to this?" he asked. Before I could get out the door he had given me the names and numbers of two locals who own businesses that deal with the history of the west. He was sure they would be interested as well.

I began to see a pattern emerging. With very little effort, I had found people who have an interest in discovering more about our ancestor John B. Omohundro.
The charter of *The Scout* is to:

Publish 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.

I have always had a swelling of pride when it comes to my ancestral relationship with Texas Jack, and I take great pleasure in acquainting others with him. As Managing Editor, I look forward to providing a high quality publication and to increasing public awareness of Jack's contribution to the development of the American West and to our common heritage.

During the early days as Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack started the shows that eventually led to the creation of the Wild West Show, their performances nearly sold themselves. Apparently, after more than 130 years have passed, the "pards" are still making an impact. All we have to do is make the introduction.



Charlottesville, Virginia

The South's Number One Small City

by John T. Omohundro

Named in honor of Princess Charlotte, the wife of George III, Charlottesville was settled in the eighteenth century on a hill overlooking the Rivanna River. Today, Charlottesville is a small, thriving city that has kept up with the well-cultivated tastes of its inhabitants. The city's population is 40,000; the local area population is 145,000. There are few places in the United States that combine a picturesque and cultivated countryside that is so rich in historical associations with the proximity of a national park and a wide array of cultural opportunities.

Besides Monticello and Michie Tavern, ca. 1784, which are featured in this year's Roundup, Charlottesville's historical gems include the grounds of the University of Virginia, Ash Lawn-Highland, and historic Court Square downtown. Each has played a unique role in the history of the nation.

For a city of its size, Charlottesville boasts an extraordinary number of artistic, cultural, and outdoor activities. Spectacular scenery and championship courses designed by some of the industry's top architects create a winning combination for golfers. The many rivers and lakes provide the perfect setting for aquatic pursuits, such as sailing, swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing and tubing. The many beautiful parks offer wonderful settings for sports, picnics, relaxation, and adventure.

If you're not of the sporting mind, Charlottesville and Albemarle County are home to a plethora of unique stores and shops. Visitors will find charming boutiques, antique shops, antiquarian bookstores, and small towns filled with pleasant surprises. There are first-rate museums, galleries, and parks dispersed throughout the area. Visitors can also ride in hot air balloons and tour more than a

dozen local vineyards. (Sources: www.cvillechamber.org/visitors_info/, and www.maintour.com/virginia/chvbase.htm.)

The array of entertainment opportunities was one of several reasons that Charlottesville was named *Money Magazine's* "Number One Small City in the South."

Here is a selective sample of the numerous opportunities, which probably reflects my biases as a history and architecture buff and hiker. Numerous other possibilities are mentioned in the websites listed at the end of this article. Unless otherwise cited, the source for the following is www.charlottesvilletourism.org/.

In Charlottesville

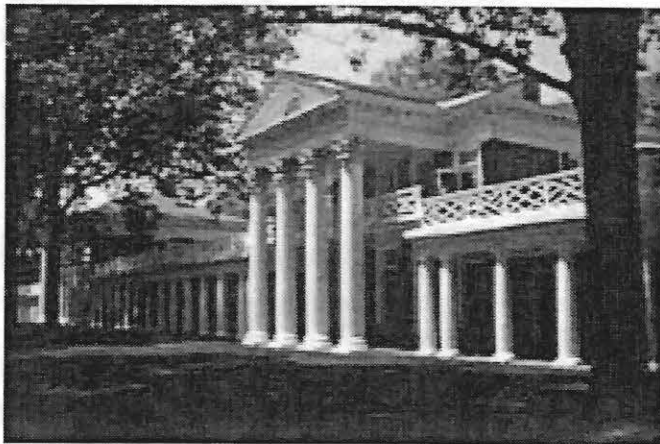
- Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, in the historic McIntire Building in downtown Charlottesville.

Founded in 1940, the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society seeks to study, preserve, and promote the history of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia. The Society's museum collection contains over 1,500 artifacts of historical significance to Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

- The University of Virginia

The original University Grounds, including the Rotunda and the Lawn, were designed by Jefferson to be what he called an "Academical Village." This Academical Village includes a rectangular, terraced green space known as the Lawn; two parallel rows of buildings called the Pavilions, connected by colonnaded walkways and student rooms; and the Ro-

tunda, which closes off the north end of the Lawn. The Rotunda, a half-scale interpretation of the Pantheon in Rome, is the signature landmark of the University and its Dome Room originally housed the University library.



The Rotunda and Pavilion on the University of Virginia campus.

Behind the Pavilions on each side of the Lawn are the Gardens. The Gardens are enclosed by serpentine brick walls, whose curve helps to stabilize and strengthen the walls, which are remarkable for being only one brick thick.

Parallel to the Lawn and behind the Gardens are the Ranges, rows of rooms in which graduate students now live. West Range No. 13 is preserved as the Edgar Allan Poe Room. The author-poet's room is restored to the 1826 time period, when he was a student. It features a recording about his life.

In 1987 the United Nations Educational, Scien-

tific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added the University of Virginia and Monticello to the list of World Heritage Sites, an international treasure that should be protected and cherished by all the peoples of the world.

- Virginia Museum of Natural History – on campus at 104 Emmet Street

The Museum offers changing exhibits on natural history which rotate periodically. The Wachovia-UVA Discovery room engages children ages 3-93 in hands-on nature-related learning experiences. Young children may crawl into a tree snag (replica) and discover the creatures that make their home inside. A discovery box, animal tracks, much more.

- Charlottesville Historic District Court Square (Downtown Charlottesville)

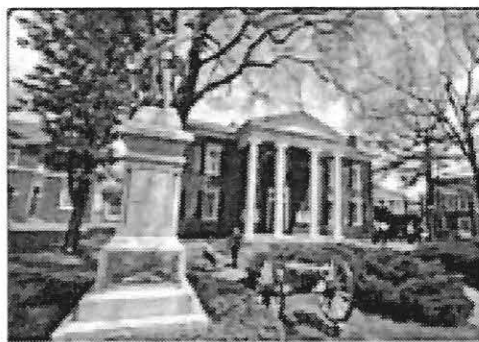
The town's first taverns, shops and small businesses evolved around Court Square, an area frequented by Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. The Albemarle County Historical Society offers walking tours by appointment for groups of 6 or more (a fee is charged).

Also found downtown are the McGuffey Art Center, Albemarle County Historical Society (described above), Virginia Discovery Museum, Old Michie Theatre, Live Arts Theater, and Charlottesville Ice Park. (Source:

www.discoverourtown.com/TownPage.php?Town=279).

- Bateau River Explorations, 1795 Avon Street Extended

Experience the challenge of Virginia upland river navigation on bateaux, the authentic 50-60' replicas of colonial-period craft designed for hauling tobacco hogsheads and other cargo to market.



Historic buildings of Courthouse Square in downtown Charlottesville

- July Events in Charlottesville

The Heritage Repertory Theatre: Professional summer theatre on the University Grounds (June - August).

Fridays after Five: Weekly after-work celebrations include lively concerts in the grassy amphitheatre at the western end of the historic downtown mall.

In the Charlottesville Vicinity

- Ash Lawn-Highland

The restored home of James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States and close friend of Thomas Jefferson. Monroe's 550-acre estate recreates the atmosphere of a working farm, with strutting peacocks, spinning and weaving demonstrations, open hearth cooking

demonstrations and tours of the house and gardens.

Thomas Jefferson encouraged James Monroe to purchase the land adjoining Monticello to form "a society to our taste" in rural Albemarle County. Monroe and his family owned the plantation from 1793 until 1826. Today visitors can stroll through the lovely 200-year old boxwood gardens, tour the charming frame and brick house or admire the views in all directions as they walk the grounds. Of particular interest are the newly refurbished interiors, lovely herb and vegetable gardens, and a statue of James Monroe, who served as President from 1817 to 1825, at one end of the boxwood gardens.

- Bremo Plantation, Fluvanna County

Bremo was built by Thomas Jefferson's friend John Hartwell Cocke after plans made by Jefferson and completed about 1819. Two other houses once owned by Cocke, Lower Bremo and Bremo Recess, are its neighbors. Cocke, one of the prominent men of his time and associated in the founding of the University of Virginia, was an early temperance



Ashlawn, President James Monroe's house. Middle: the kitchen. Bottom: slaves' quarters.

advocate. He also manumitted slaves and helped them to emigrate to Liberia. Bremono is on the itinerary of the optional tour on Friday morning during the Roundup. Our tour guide is archaeologist Dr. Steven Marqusee, whose field school students have been excavating slave quarters at Bremono each summer for nearly a decade.

- Civil War Museum at the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville

This former railroad hotel was converted to a hospital during the Civil War, and now is a Civil War museum. Special exhibits and reenactments—both military and medical—make history come alive.

- Scottsville Historic District, Scottsville

This is the hometown of our Treasurer and Roundup co-organizer, Edna Nees. Comprised of almost one hundred old buildings, the Scottsville Historic District is a wonderful reminder of 18th and 19th century life in rural Virginia. Almost half of the homes and buildings that remain date to before the Civil War, and tourists can delight in the quiet of the riverfront, or enjoy the small shops and restaurants that continue to serve the residents and visitors to Scottsville. As in the past, life in Scottsville is connected to the James River, just a short stroll from the center of town. The James River was a major transportation corridor, before and during the Civil War.

A map of the town and a historic walking tour guide are available on weekdays at the upstairs offices of the Town of Scottsville, 401 Valley Street (Rte. 20). The Scottsville Museum next to the Historical Society at 290 Main Street in downtown Scottsville is open during weekends.

The newest addition to the downtown area is Canal Basin Square, a public park featuring replicas of different types of river batteaux and interpretive signs highlighting the role of these unique boats in the history of Scottsville.

- Ash Lawn Opera Festival

The Ash Lawn Opera Festival is recognized by *Money Magazine* as one of the international top-20 warm weather summer opera companies, boasting “first rank talent, full summer programs and lots of nearby culture”. Established in 1978, the Summer Festival’s opera company, a member of Opera America Inc., presents opera and musical theater sung in English and performed in the beautiful boxwood gardens of Ash Lawn-Highland, home of President James Monroe. Performances are evenings at 8 in July.

- In Staunton, an hour’s drive to the north, are Woodrow Wilson’s birthplace and the Farmer’s Museum, featuring farm buildings from at least three countries spanning two hundred years.

- and then there’s another whole world of opportunities an hour down the road in Richmond...!

Helpful Web Sites

on Michie Tavern: www.michietavern.com/

on Museums: www.museumstuff.com/z-cities.cgi?w=Charlottesville+VA

for kids’ tourism: www.funforkids.virginia.cc/

on historical homes:
www.uniquehomesofcharlottesville.com/Links/Default.asp

for golf: www.charlottesville-va.worldweb.com/ToursActivitiesAdventures/GolfCourses/

city guides:
www.charlottesvilleguide.com/
www.cville.org/

for the weather: www.wxusa.com/VA/Charlottesville/



March 1, 2004
by Julie Omohundro

I'm astonished to realize that this issue of *The Scout* includes registration materials for the Roundup in Charlottesville this summer. *This* summer! I can't believe it's been a year and a half since we met in Deadwood. Or nearly 16 years since we last met in Virginia. The Richmond Roundup was my first. I attended it with my mother, and it was a wonderful experience. At the time, however, I had no idea that I was about to embark on such a long relationship with the Texas Jack Association.

For those of you who have never attended a Roundup, I urge you to join us in Charlottesville this summer. I can promise you that you will have a great time. Our Roundup Committee (Edna Nees, Isabella Willard, and Harvey Willard) has put together a wonderful agenda. The Omni is a beautiful hotel in a terrific location, with lots of interesting shops and restaurants within easy walking distance along the pedestrian mall in downtown Charlottesville. And, as you will see in this issue, the Charlottesville area has so many entertaining, educational, and fascinating things to do, you could keep busy all day, every day for more than a week. I was glad that the Roundup Committee had the difficult task of selecting activities to include in the Roundup...there were so many to choose from. Please come join in the fun!

We are approaching another milestone in this issue—the election of officers for the 2005-06 term. The Texas Jack Association has survived and pros-

pered for nearly 20 years because of the dedication of its membership to the memory of Texas Jack and their willingness to serve this unique and delightful organization. I hope each of you will review the information on the responsibilities of the officers to see if there isn't a position that you would be comfortable serving in. The Association needs you!

Julie Omohundro
President
president@texasjack.org

In Memoriam

George F. Watson, Jr., 85, died Oct. 3, 2003 in Nashville, TN. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Gooch Watson of Franklin, Tennessee, a member of the Texas Jack Association.

Reverend Lee Roy Maxey died Aug. 21, 2003. He was a member of the Texas Jack Association residing in St. Louis, Missouri.

Tipton B. Omohundro Jr., 79, of Richmond, VA, died September 1, 2003. He is survived by his wife, Bette Moore Omohundro, and daughter, Vicki Elizabeth Omohundro.

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**Visit the Texas Jack Association web site:
<http://www.texasjack.org>**

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