

the TEXAS JACK SCOUT

VOLUME VI NO. 3

OCTOBER 1991

DIGGIN' IN

by Kevin Carmody

June 16, 1991

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, Virginia

BREMO BLUFF--John T. Omohundro returned to Fluvanna three years ago in search of his roots. Now a colleague and 17 New York college students are digging them up.

The colleague, Potsdam College anthropology professor Steve Marqusee, is supervising a three-week archaeological dig at the homestead where Omohundro's great-great-great grandparents settled in 1775.

"When John stopped here 3 years ago, he didn't know any of his relations in Fluvanna," said Edna Nees, who is married to another direct descendant of colonial settlers Richard and Elizabeth Omohundro IV.

"Minnie McGehee, who is the Fluvanna historian, told John that if he was interested in the Omohundro family he should talk to me," Nees said. "After he told me he was an anthropologist, I said, 'You might want to dig here.'

"It took us three years, but we finally got it worked out."

The family connection dovetailed with the professional interests of Marqusee, who heads the Potsdam College anthropology department in which John T. Omohundro teaches. Marqusee specializes in researching the lives and life styles of everyday people.

"For every Thomas Jefferson, there are tens of thousands of Richard Omohundros," Marqusee said. They are the middle-class farmers, the people who



J.C. McCann, left, and Joshua Teacetree dig at one of three fireplaces at the homesite of Richard Omohundro IV in VA.

(please see DIG, p. 12)

from the Editor's Desk...



3013½ 63rd Avenue, SW Seattle, WA 98116

Isn't the Fluvanna dig exciting! Kudos go to John T. Omohundro, John and Edna Nees, and Steve Margusee for persevering through three years of planning and negotiating to make the project a reality.

As do archaeologists, gun collectors often become interested in the who, when and where of historical artifacts. Two collectors whose curiosities were tweaked by Texas Jack's six-shooter are Phil Spangenberg ("Wild West S&Ws," reprinted in this issue) and Herschel C. Logan, the author of the Texas Jack biography BUCKSIN AND SATIN.

Jack's indomitable sister Bettie is the featured sibling, followed by a second interview given by half brother Malvern. Both Bettie and Malvern lived into their nineties, but she was nearly twenty-four years older than he. (Interesting tidbit: Bettie's daughters-in-law Reavis and Virgie were sisters before marriage.)

Also in this issue is the first in a three-part series on San Antonio, the site of our 1992 Round-up. Part II will be the story of La Mansión del Rio Hotel, a designated treasure, and Part III will describe interesting places to visit in and around the city.

To have an Old West Collector's Series postcard of Texas Jack mailed to you (or to someone else) postmarked FLUVANNA, VA (T.J.'s birthplace), print or type the name and address of the person to receive the card, enclose \$1.00 per card, and send to: Edna Nees Rt. 1, Box 250 Scottsville, Virginia 24590.

The deadline for sending me items for the February SCOUT is December 15.

'Til next time,

Kitty

Kitty V. Wyche
August 23, 1991



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A Non-Profit,
Tax-Deductible Corporation

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ROUND-UP in SAN ANTONIO!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ASSOCIATION ROUND-
from Wednesday,

Friday, July 10

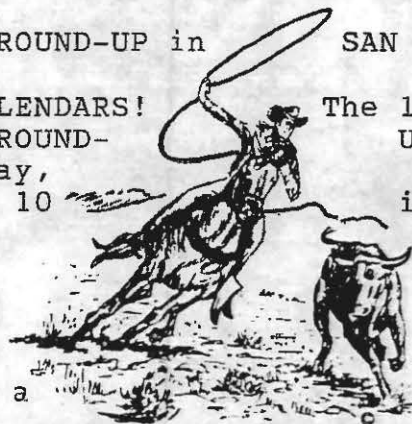
Texas. Our

will be La
Rio Hotel,
historical

Round-up

will include a
a riverboat

possibly a visit to a nearby dude ranch such as
Texas Jack may have known. Plan to join us!!!



The 1992 TEXAS JACK

UP will be held

July 8 through

in San Antonio,

headquarters

Mansión del

a designated

treasure.

activities

walking tour,

dinner, and

FROM THE MAIL POUCH . . .



"I enjoyed the last issue of the SCOUT. The State Library had a large exhibit about Elizabeth VanLew several years ago with many photographs and lots of information."

Virginia Cooke Richmond, VA

"You are doing a great job on the TEXAS JACK SCOUT. Keep up the good work. I really enjoyed the articles on the spy, Elizabeth VanLew, by Pat Robbins. Incidentally, Pat Robbins was a neighbor of ours from about 1965-1975. Kelly went to school with their kids and we had a reciprocal babysitting agreement with them. I called Pat (in North Arlington) about 6 or 8 weeks ago and congratulated her on the VanLew articles. She remembered them well and said that was her first writing-reporter assignment. She is now writing for WORLD MAGAZINE, published by the National Geographic Society, and was just preparing to leave for an assignment in Nepal (north of India). She is going to an altitude of 17,000 feet and is taking special altitude sickness pills. I told her about the problems of the Texas Jack members last summer in Leadville, CO at 10,000 feet."

Ben Wyche Arlington, VA

"Members may be interested to know that we had M.H. Omohundro visit with us from Richmond, VA. He stayed two days with Julie and Dennis Greene in Carmel and three days with Virginia VanLew in Santa Barbara, then he stayed seven days with Stuart and myself in North Hills. We had an active time at interesting places like the Gene Autry Western Museum which has all manner of Indian and western art and artifacts, none of Texas Jack (as yet). P.S. We just had an earthquake today. Thank God M.H. missed this!"

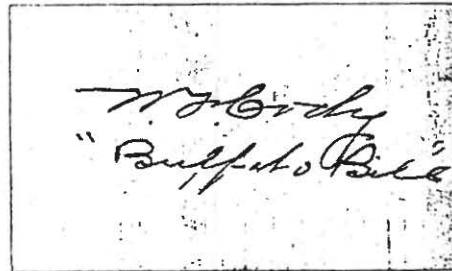
Astrid Omohundro Sepulveda, CA

"I got Henry Kucharzyk and Peter Alexis interested in looking for Josephine's grave. They found it and took pictures and got the LOWELL SUN involved. The LOWELL SUN called me a few weeks ago and were doing a story on Josephine and hoped that local people may have some information on her. They were to send me a copy of the paper, but I haven't received it yet."

Edna Nees Scottsville, VA

"I have a rotary photographic series postcard #1144B of Colonel Cody and signed by him, dated 1904. I also have a calling card: W.F. Cody, Wyoming, Judge Advocate General and signed W.F. Cody "Buffalo Bill." I would like to sell both of these to a collector." (See below and p. 7.)

Mrs. Doris Shepherd #416 1005 McKenzie Ave., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8X4A9



Wild West S&Ws

by Phil Spangenberg
GUNS & AMMO, November 1989

It has often been said, "If that old gun could talk, imagine the tales it could tell." Well, the guns and accoutrements displayed on the opposite page have an interesting story, and when put together with the right memorabilia, they offer a glimpse into the lives of some very colorful men. Even the creation of this layout has a unique ring to it. As we were considering which arms from the impressive collection of Greg and Petra Martin, respected antique arms connoisseurs, would have some particular interest to our readers, Greg brought out the pair of S&W American .44 revolvers shown and explained the relationship of each to the other. The lower sixgun was owned and carried by the noted frontiersman "Texas Jack" Omohundro, while the handgun above it had been presented by Texas Jack to his friend and hunting companion the Earl of Dunraven, a noted Irish nobleman and, later, a famous yachtsman.

Convinced that this brace of sixshooters would provide us with a colorful page for GUNS & AMMO, we began searching for the appropriate props to embellish our photograph with. Greg produced a scarce original "carte de visite" photo of Texas Jack Omohundro. Since we knew that Texas Jack had also been a pal of Buffalo Bill Cody and had performed with him in his early stage-type Western variety shows, or "Combinations" as they were then called, we felt that some sort of memorabilia of those bygone days would be ideal. Within moments, Martin had produced the rare specimen found in the layout.

As we looked over our proposed photographic setup, it was agreed that while we felt we had a couple of historically interesting guns and accessories, what was still needed was a bit of color. As I scanned Greg's living room, I spotted a beautifully beaded pair of buckskin gauntlets. "That is the sort of thing we need to round out this photo properly," I said.

"They'll work just fine," Greg replied. "As a matter of fact, those were Doc Carver's, the famed wild west show sharpshooter," he went on. So into the layout they went. I was astonished that just about every item we had considered had actually tied in historically--not only as representative accessories of the era, but as genuine articles that had been owned and used by these famous persons! The end result is a page that we are proud to present, both as a colorful firearms photo and as a unique gathering of guns and gear of historic old West significance.

As the old saying goes: Birds of a feather flock together. This was certainly the case with the famous scouts whose memorabilia and photos are shown in this article. These Westerners' paths crossed many times throughout their lives--sometimes as friends, other times as rivals. They were noted scouts and hunters in the early post-Civil War West, and at one time or another these noted outdoorsmen worked together--both under the prairie skies and/or in the bright lights of the theater.

Of course, Buffalo Bill Cody is well known as the grand old man of wild west shows. His exploits both on the frontier and in the arenas of his famed spectacle, "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World," are legendary. It was Bill Cody who originated the wild west show, which later gave way to today's rodeo. For decades, Buffalo Bill and his entourage of cowboys and cowgirls, Indians, cavalrymen, sharp-

shooters, and other assorted daring performers thrilled audiences in around a dozen different countries and brought America's wild and woolly West to more than 50 million people in over 1,000 cities worldwide.

Doc Carver, too, was an experienced trapper, hunter and all-around accomplished frontiersman. However, his chief claim to fame is as a sharpshooter "extraordinaire." His feats in trick shooting, endurance-type shooting competitions, handling guns on horseback and under other difficult situations remain as landmarks in the world of firearms to this day. During Doc's early days in the far west, his exploits with his rifle were such that he earned the nickname "Spirit Gun" from the Santee Indians. Carver and Cody hunted together in the 1870's, and for a brief time during the season of 1883 they shared the limelight as partners in a series of performances in their extravaganza titled "The Wild West, Hon. W.F. Cody and Dr. W.F. Carver's Rocky Mountain and Prairie Exhibition." This production is generally considered to be the first professional wild west show tour to have been presented. However, this partnership only lasted one year, and the two frontiersmen went their separate ways, each spending the rest of his life in heated competition with the other.

Texas Jack Omohundro was destined to lead a short life, but one packed with adventure and achievement. Born in Virginia in 1846, young J.B. Omohundro served as courier and scout in J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry. At the close of the Civil War, Omohundro spent the next several years driving cattle over the old Chisholm Trail and working as a cowboy around Fort Hays, Kansas, where he made friends with Wild Bill Hickok and California Joe, another noted scout of the time. In the early 1870's, Texas Jack became a buffalo hunter, professional guide and scout in Nebraska. Here, he became fast friends with Doc Carver. In January 1872, Jack worked with Buffalo Bill Cody as one of the guides on the famous Royal Buffalo Hunt for the Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff of czarist Russia.

By the end of the year, Texas Jack had scouted for the 3rd U.S. Cavalry in an Indian campaign, served as a trail agent for the Pawnee Indians during their summer hunt, guided the Earl of Dunraven and his party on a buffalo hunt, and appeared on stage with Buffalo Bill and Ned Buntline in the first showing of Buntline's play "Scouts of the Prairie." The next few years found Omohundro comfortably slipping in and out of his stage career in the East and guiding buffalo hunting/scouting forays in the West. He hunted again with Cody in 1873, the Earl of Dunraven and Doc Carver in 1874, and returned to the stage with Buffalo Bill for the 1875-1876 season of the Buffalo Bill Combination stage show. Afterwards, Jack returned to the West again and resumed scouting and guiding hunters. He also wrote for the NEW YORK HERALD for a brief time. In the later years of the decade of the 1870's, Omohundro formed his own stage troupe and played in various cities, both east and west. Texas Jack's career was in full swing, with the promise of a bright future for this well-liked frontiersman, when he contracted pneumonia and died in 1880.

Although Texas Jack Omohundro's time on earth was short, he left an impression on the people of his time, as well as those of later generations. In 1908, Buffalo Bill visited Omohundro's grave with his entire wild west show. Cody paid tribute to his old friend and had a handsome granite marker placed at Texas Jack's gravesite. There were others who respected Texas Jack as well. Like Cody, Hickok, and other colorful frontiersmen, Texas Jack Omohundro became the hero of dime novels, thrilling 19th-century youngsters with glorified stories of derring-do. However, in spite of

(please see WILD WEST, p. 14)

Introducing . . .



Texas Jack's oldest sister,
ELIZABETH BAKER OMOHUNDRO ADAMS

"Bettie," as she was called, was the second child born to John Burwell and Catherine S. Baker Omohundro. (Sadly, their first daughter, Adelaide, died at age six.) Bettie was born in Wilmington, Fluvanna County, Virginia November 17, 1842. When she was three, the family moved to "Pleasure Hill," a large plantation near Palmyra where brother Jack was born the next summer.

A month after her twenty-first birthday, during the early years of the Civil War, Bettie married William Pouttney Adams. They went to live on the old Adams plantation--eight hundred acres of land on the James River. A few years later, Jack unexpectedly appeared at their door, ragged and weary, bearing the news of Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Bettie fed and clothed her brother and soon Jack was on his way to "Pleasure Hill," leaving shortly thereafter for Texas.

Over a span of twenty-one years Bettie and Pouttney had seven children, six of whom survived to adulthood. Hattie and Eleanor each married doctors. The eldest son, Solon, remained at the plantation and farmed, and the youngest three children--Clinton, Wilfred, and Malcolm--all became dentists.

Bettie was fifty-seven when her husband died in 1900. An uncle of Edna Nees worked for "Miss Bettie" at one time and said, "She was a brilliant businesswoman and would have made a fortune if she lived today where women work and run things." When she was in her eighties she was still wanting to go into the chicken business!

Malvern Hill wrote of his sister, "In the fall of 1932 Bettie made a trip from her home near Scottsville to Donalsonville, Georgia. She was ninety years old, but, true to the gypsy in the Omohundros, took the road with a glad heart." Daughter Eleanor lived in Donalsonville, and while visiting her again in 1934, Bettie died June 29.

. . . ————— . . .

[Information for this article was gathered from the GENEALOGICAL RECORD and from notes sent in by Edna Nees, whose parents grew up knowing Miss Bettie and her family. Wrote Edna, "Miss Bettie didn't hear too well and kept asking you to repeat things. Well, my mother didn't hear too well either, and kept saying, 'What did you say?' So her brother started calling her Betty. My father went to live on the Adams place in 1900. He was eleven. The land he bought in 1940 (and built the home I was raised in) was land that had originally belonged to the Adams property. He farmed the land for Everette and Malcolm, Jr. until the land was sold. We still hear from Malcolm, Jr.'s widow, Katrina."]

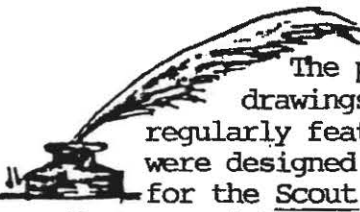
Family of ELIZABETH OMOHUNDRO and WILLIAM POUTTNEY ADAMS
 (photograph circa 1919)



From the right: Malcolm, Sr. and his wife Reavis; Wilfred and his wife Virginia (Jennie) with their daughter Elizabeth; Eleanor behind her mother; Clinton and his wife Sarah with their daughter Virginia; Solon and his wife Virginia (Virgie) with their son Everette

Photo furnished by Edna Nees.

Signature, p. 15, is photocopied from BUCKSKIN AND SATIN.



The pen and ink drawings used above regularly featured columns were designed especially for the Scout by California Western painter, Dan Balkin.

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 (See "Mail Pouch")

Handwritten signature: Dan Balkin
Handwritten text: Buffalo Park 1914

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REAR PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

Oldster Thrives on Work

by Hamilton Crockford

March 4, 1958

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, Virginia

GOOCHLAND--Malvern Hill Omohundro at 91 is still the live wiry spinner of stories, none of which beats his own.

Real estate man, lawyer, author of a six-pound genealogy, junior brother of Buffalo Bill's partner, friend of humorist Polk Miller, companion of "Mark Twain" and "Ike," he maintains there aren't enough hours in the day for him.

Nothing has changed much, Mrs. Omohundro says, except that now he lives largely on milk. Until a year ago, while he still kept bees, his sons say, "The Colonel" consumed a pound of honey a day. His lean frame evidently runs on stored energy from that.

Omohundro was born the year after the Civil War ended. But he was named from the farm, not the battle of Malvern Hill. Some of his mother's family came from the lower Henrico spot.

He was born in Fluvanna at Palmyra, and he went all the way round his elbow to get to his 140 acres east of here with the four-story white house on them, the now-defunct mill, blacksmith shop and poultry houses he built there--and his specially equipped office in the yard.

He made his first wonderful journey at 6 in 1873--by packet boat to Richmond to see his brother "Texas Jack" and Buffalo Bill at the Richmond Theater at Seventh and Broad. John Omohundro, 20 years his senior, a Stuart cavalry scout dubbed the "boy" scout of the confederacy, had become a Wild West scout of renown and later teamed up with the showman.

Malvern, "without a cent in the world," ran a store in Fluvanna, worked on the railroad in Alabama, sold real estate around Roanoke, and got married in 1892 long before he decided to study law, he said.

He married Marguerite VanLew of Richmond. She was 16. (Her father was the brother of Elizabeth VanLew the Yankee spy; they were New Yorkers originally, and while Elizabeth had her moments, "half that mess in the papers was not true," said Mrs. Omohundro.) The Omohundros have seven children.

They had three when he took his year of law at Richmond College--and he supported them and both his parents while he did it, his sons say. He passed the bar in 1897, the first examinations to practice ever given by the Virginia Supreme Court, he said.

"But after practicing, examining deeds, and seeing other people making more money than I did," he smiled, "I drifted back into real estate, too." In 1902 he started a firm his sons now own in Richmond, and "did a lot of building there." He built houses in Florida in the boom, and lost his shirt, he said, but got it back later.

He bought "Brightly," the farm here in 1915 but didn't move to it for good until 1925 after his mother died, he said.

His big house in Richmond was open to a flock of people, M.H. Omohundro Jr., remembered. Buffalo Bill visited it on his last Richmond stop years after "Texas Jack" died, and gave the family box seats to the show.

(please see OLDSTER, p. 16)

The Scouting Report

WELCOME! to. . .

Peter S. Alexis (Lowell, Massachusetts)
Katherine Cole (Virginia)
G.W. Gallup (Campbellsport, Wisconsin)
Jack Glover (San Antonio, Texas)
Steve Goodman (Shipman, Virginia)
Jane Hallman (Virginia)
C.D. Harwood, Jr. (Goochland, Virginia)
C. Douglas Harwood (Goochland, Virginia)
Otway P. Harwood, II (Goochland, Virginia)
Chip Lawson (Richland, Washington)
Steve Marqusee (New York)
McNeil Marshall (Virginia)
Virginia Smith Marshall (Virginia)
William Milstead (Frederick, Maryland)
Alvin W. Omohundro (Virginia)
David Omohundro (Novato, California)
Elizabeth (Bessie) Omohundro (Goochland, Virginia)
Jack M. Omohundro (Mississippi)
Jane Omohundro (Crowley, Louisiana)
Richard L. Omohundro (Norwich, Connecticut)

CONGRATULATIONS to. . .

Kitty VanLew Wyche and Karl Francis Pelkan who were married June 29 at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Helena, California. In attendance were TJA members Mal and Angela Wyche; Malvern, Brandon and Holly Wyche; Julie and Dennis Greene; and Stephen Omohundro.

TJA president Jack Omohundro for his guest appearance on a local radio talk show to chat about Texas Jack and to promote T.J.'s induction into the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

CONDOLENCES to. . .

the family of Miss Mary Eliza Omohundro (formerly of Lyells, Va) who died May 3. She was the daughter of the late William R. and Sarah Dora Omohundro and is survived by a sister, Mrs. Dora Riccardi of Alexandria and a brother, Thomas Edgar Omohundro of Lyells.

Send news for "The Scouting Report" to:

Kitty V. Wyche
SCOUT Editor
3013½ 63rd Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116



A VISIT TO . . .

SAN ANTONIO

PART I: EARLY HISTORY

The colorful and varied history of San Antonio began in 1691. A traveling Franciscan friar, Father Massenett, came upon a village that the local Indians called Yanaguana. As he had made this discovery on the feast day of Saint Anthony, he promptly renamed the village San Antonio, in honor of the occasion.

It was several years later, in 1718, when the first Spaniards came to establish a permanent colony. And with the founding of Mission San Antonio de Valero in that same year--closely followed by several more--modern civilization in San Antonio began.

The influence of the missions' work and teachings were felt well into the late 1700's. Then, disease and hostile Comanche and Apache Indian raids spread throughout the area, causing a decline in church influence. By the last decade of the 18th century, other missions had become abandoned and Mission San Antonio de Valero had been reduced to a military garrison for the Spanish Army.

With independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican army next found a home in the old mission of San Antonio de Valero--which they popularly began to refer to as the "Alamo" (meaning "cottonwood").

For the early "Texican" settlers, the spreading influence of Mexican rule was even less popular than Spanish rule. They became disenchanted almost immediately and began to rise up in arms against the country which they viewed as tyrannous and oppressive. This movement culminated in 1836 in the famous battle of the Alamo. After a 13 day siege by a huge Mexican army under the command of General Santa Anna, the 189 defenders of the Alamo were defeated and put to the sword on March 6, 1836. Just a few weeks later, at the battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna and his army were themselves defeated after only an 18 minute fight with the small, yet determined, Texican army. Texas became an independent and sovereign nation, and San Antonio became its largest city.

In 1845, Texas joined the United States, and San Antonio took its place in history as a center of early western commerce and the focus of Texas' cattle industry.

Today, San Antonio stands as the nation's ninth largest city with one million inhabitants. [The citizens] zealously preserve their legacy of colorful western, Spanish, German and Mexican heritage in annual festivals, fiestas, pageants and other historical events throughout the year.

For more information contact the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau,
Box 2277, San Antonio, Texas 78298 1-800-447-3372

[Information submitted by Angela Wyche. Reprinted from the SAN ANTONIO VISITOR MAP, c. 1988, San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau.]

BUFFALO BILL'S HORSE CHARLIE

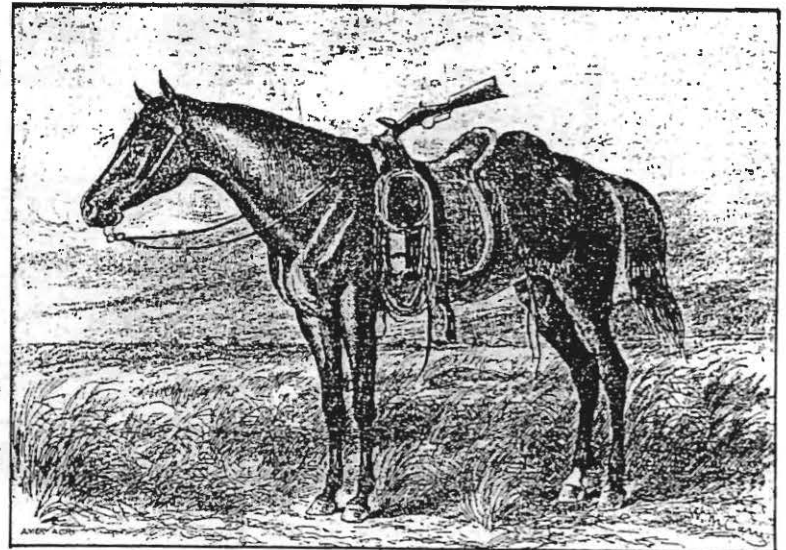
by William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill)

My gallant and faithful horse Charlie, which found a grave beneath the weltering waves of the Atlantic Ocean, was twenty years old at his death. He was a half-blood Kentucky horse, and was bought for me as a five-year old in Nebraska. From that time he was the constant and unfailing companion of my life on the Western plains and in the "Wild West" exhibition. He was an animal of almost human intelligence, extraordinary speed, endurance and fidelity. When he was quite young I rode him on a hunt for wild horses, which he ran down after a chase of fifteen miles. At another time on a wager of five hundred dollars that I could ride him over the prairie one hundred miles in ten hours, he went the distance in nine hours and forty-five minutes.

When I opened my "Wild West" show at Omaha, in May, 1883, Charlie was the star horse, and held that position at all the exhibitions in this country and in Europe, where I took the show in 1887. In London the horse attracted a full share of attention, and many scions of royalty solicited the favor of riding him. Grand Duke Michael of Russia rode Charlie several times in chase of my herd of buffaloes and became quite attached to him. In May last, the English engagement having closed, we all embarked on the "Persian Monarch" at Hull for New York. On the morning of the 14th I made my usual visit to Charlie between decks. Shortly after the groom reported him sick, and I found him in a chill. He grew rapidly worse in spite of all our care, and at two o'clock on the morning of the 17th he died. His death cast an air of sadness over the whole ship, and a human being could not have had more sincere mourners than the faithful and sagacious old horse. He was brought on deck, wrapped in canvas and covered with the American flag. When the hour for the ocean burial arrived the members of my company and others assembled on deck. Standing alone with uncovered head beside the dead, was the one whose life the noble animal had shared so long. At length with choking utterance he spoke, and Charlie, for the first time, failed to hear the familiar voice he had always been so prompt to obey:

"Old fellow, your journeys are over. Here beneath the ocean billows you must rest. Would that I could take you back and lay you down beneath the verdant billows of that prairie you and I have loved so well and roamed so freely; but it cannot be. How oft at the most quiet hour have we been journeying over their trackless wastes! How oft at break of day, when the glorious sun rising on the horizon has found us far from human habitation, have you reminded me of your need and mine, and with your beautiful ears bent forward and your gentle neigh given voice as plainly as human tongue to urge me to prepare our morning meal! And then, obedient to my call, gladly you bore your burden on, little knowing, little reckoning what the day might bring, so that you and I but shared its

(please see HORSE, p. 15)



"CHARLIE," BUFFALO BILL'S FAMOUS HORSE.

DIG

continued from p. 1

settled this conuntry, but you can't read about them in history books."

If Richard Omohundro was a relatively average, middle-class farmer, his great-grandson became a household name throughout the country. Born in Fluvanna in 1846, J.B. Omohundro--better known as "Texas Jack"--started and starred in the first Wild West shows with W.F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

The U.S. Army scout and Texas cowboy died of pneumonia in 1880, but lived on as a hero in the dime novels of the era.

Since June 5, Marqusee and the 17 Potsdam students have worked 5-by-5 grid sections in the clearing where the foundation of the Omohundro house remains. Built sometime after 1775, the 1½ story clapboard house stood near Spring Garden Creek until it was torn down sometime after 1930.

Marqusee hopes to return to Fluvanna with other classes to continue archaeological digs for several more summers. Pleasure Hill, the birthplace of Texas Jack, and another early Omohundro homestead [Ed. note: Gale Hill, home of Richard V] are good candidates, he said.

The Omohundro homesteads are perfect candidates for this type of dig because the Omohundro family has kept detailed genealogical records. Before his death in 1960, Texas Jack's half brother, Malvern Hill Omohundro Sr., completed a 1,287-page family history spanning 12 generations and 280 years.

Richard Omohundro IV (1733-1811) was a farmer and road surveyor, owning about 300 acres between Fork Union and Brems Bluff. He had 10 children, and scores of descendants now live in Central Virginia, including those who still own the homestead tract.

"You don't find the historically significant artifacts, like the silver tea service that Jefferson drank from," Marqusee said. "But you do find out what the everyday person's life was like."



Richard IV's great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren Jessica and Joshua Golladay assist Potsdam archaeology students Lucienne Diver (back left) and Mattie Rosencrance.

Artifacts turned up so far include bullet casings, the ceramic cover of a tiny jewelry box, pottery fragments, a piece of silverware, 19th Century nails and two shoes.

Working an especially productive grid, Khris Kogler, 22, of Syracuse, and Jennifer Daviau, 20, of Fairfield, Conn., unearthed a bit of a mystery on Wednesday: two sections of a small, hollow cylinder made of a silver metal.

We're not quite sure what it is," Kogler said. "It appears that the second piece might be a cap, so we think it possibly could have been a calligraphy pen."

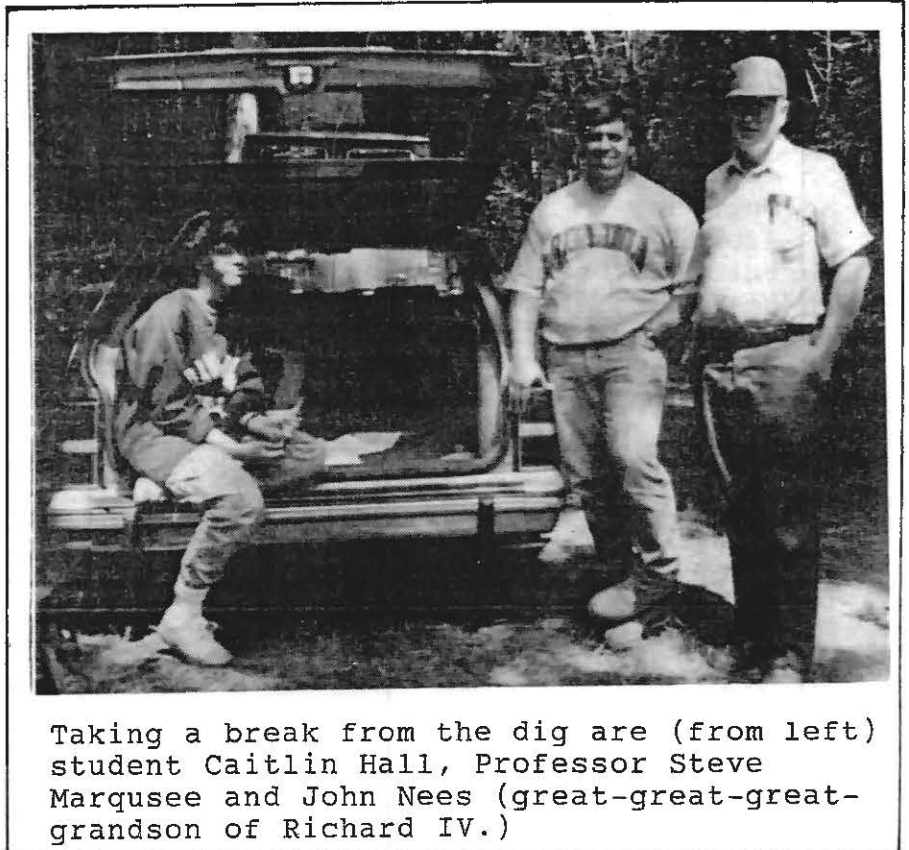
The artifacts should get progressively older and possibly more significant as the dig continues through June 27. "We're still pretty close to the surface," Marqusee said.

For Kogler, an English major, the dig has already proven quite significant.

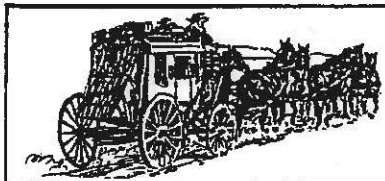
Toward the end of Wednesday's workday, Kogler announced to Marqusee that she had been meaning to talk to him about changing her major.

"After this dig, I think I'm hooked on anthropology," Kogler said.

Photographs taken and submitted with the news article by Edna Nees, who also sent this postscript: "It took two days to clear away the undergrowth and trees at The First Omohundro Place. The foundation was made of fieldstone. The three fireplaces were found and one was cleaned and dug around, which was made of home-made brick. The house had a cellar under one of the rooms. Students dug there and found many interesting things. The overall dig turned up Indian beads, arrowheads, 1888 Indian-head penny, 1910 dime, flat silverware, china, pottery, a broach, shoes, hinges, keys, locks, bottles and many other old pieces to be analyzed and dated. The old well and spring were located along with foundations of other outbuildings. Steve Marqusee got interested in the Omohundro family and its history. Needless to say, I got him to join the Texas Jack Association before he left Virginia. Steve and his family plan to join us in Texas next year at our round-up. The dig ended June 27, 1991, with all seventeen students passing the course."



Taking a break from the dig are (from left) student Caitlin Hall, Professor Steve Marqusee and John Nees (great-great-great-grandson of Richard IV.)



M O V I N G ? If you are planning to move or have already moved, please send your new address to the SCOUT C/O Jack H. Omohundro, 425 North Ave. K, Crowley, LA 70526.

DEADLINE FOR SENDING ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY '92 SCOUT IS DECEMBER 15.

WILD WEST
continued from p. 5

the hype of these pulp magazines, this celebrated scout did indeed live an exciting life and, like his counterparts, played out some true-life adventures.

Around 1867-1868, while in Texas, Jack rescued a small boy whose parents had been killed by hostile Indians. Jack took the child to the nearest settlement and left money for the boy's care. Not knowing his own true name, when the lad grew up, he adopted the name of Texas Jack in honor of the daring scout who had saved him. This second Texas Jack also became a popular showman of the late 19th century, and like his namesake

formed his own troupe of western performers.

As the above article shows, these S&W frontier six-shooters are a classic example of how gun collecting preserves and promotes an interest in history. The collecting of guns is not just the amassing of "hardware" or an accumulation of weapons. Rather, it is the fascinating harvest--and preservation--of memorabilia from the past. Collecting stems from an appreciation of these firearms and related relics, which helped to shape not only the present, but the future as well. To some, these old pieces may be nothing more than dusty leftovers of a bygone era, yet to others, this writer included, these antiques represent history in the hand. They stir the imagination and paint images in our minds that no artist could ever duplicate. By handling these old artifacts, we are brought closer to those legendary figures of another age. These arms and accoutrements were the tools of history and are all that remain that is tangible of the past. Every piece has a story to tell, and we should cherish and preserve them. Each one reflects the friendships and adventures of a handful of frontiersmen who inspired generations world wide.

[Submitted by Richard Omohundro of Hummelstown, PA]

TRUTH STRANGER THAN VICTORY!

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TEXAS JACK, THE MUSTANG KING.

Thrilling Adventures in the Life of J. B. Omohundro, "Texas Jack," the Noted Scout, Indian Fighter, Guide, Hunter, Mustang Breaker and Hunter of the "Lone Star State."

BY COLONEL PRENTISS INGRAHAM.



Texas Jack Omohundro led a short but colorful life, and for generations was the hero of dime novels. [GUNS & AMMO reprinted this from the original in the Greg and Petra Martin Collection. This is from a photocopy in the TJA Collection.]

Although the photographs accompanying "Wild West S&Ws" did not photocopy well enough to reprint in the SCOUT, the captions are informative and are presented below:

- § These S&W Americans, and the other artifacts shown, figured in the lives of "Texas Jack" Omohundro (sixguns, old photo), Doc Carver (gauntlets), and Buffalo Bill Cody (letter), three of our nation's most prominent frontiersmen. (Guns and accoutrements from Greg and Petra Martin Collection, San Martin, CA)
- § These 1873 "actors" include (center l. to r.) Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill, and Texas Jack, flanked by pals Elisha Greene and Eugene Overton. (Courtesy Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY)
- § Texas Jack Omohundro carried this standard, blued S&W .44 American six-shooter during many of his hunting and scouting forays. The well-worn sidearm is fitted with walnut stocks.
- § The sideplate on Texas Jack's personal S&W American model bears the inscription "TEXAS JACK COTTON WOOD SPRING 1872." Omohundro lived there at that time while plying his frontier skills for the army.
- § Nickeled, engraved, and stocked in ivory, Texas Jack presented this S&W American to the Earl of Dunraven after guiding the Scottish nobleman on a buffalo hunt. Ironically, from the inscription on the gun's backstrap, it appears that Omohundro must have thought that "Earl Dunraven" was the Scotsman's name rather than a title. [TJA Ed. note: Dunraven was Irish!]
- § This 1879 photo shows Doc Carver, famed sharpshooter/showman whose rifle skills are legendary to this day. (Courtesy Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY)

----- W F Lawer -----

HORSE

continued from p. 11

sorrows and pleasures alike. Nay, but for your willing speed and tireless courage I would many years ago have lain as low as you are now, and my Indian foe have claimed you for his slave. Yet you have never failed me. Ah, Charlie, old fellow, I have had many friends, but few of whom I could say that. Rest, entombed in the deep bosom of the ocean! May your rest nevermore be disturbed. I'll never forget you. I loved you as you loved me, my dear old Charlie. Men tell me you have no soul; but if there be a heaven, and scouts can enter there, I'll wait at the gate for you, old friend."

Whereupon Charlie was allowed to slide gently down a pair of skids into the water. The accompanying engraving is a lifelike portrait of Charlie when at the age of fifteen.

[Found in the AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST by Edna Nees. No date.]

At the 1915 Confederate reunion, the last big one in Richmond, the son said, they had three sittings at the table. "I slept in the attic," he noted.

His dad knew well Polk Miller and his drugstore, which stood "right where the State-Planters Bank is now, at Ninth and Main." Omohundro tells Polk Miller stories and his own. One son liked them so well he recorded them, Mrs. Omohundro said. "We play them every Christmas."

Mr. and Mrs. Omohundro took their first plane ride in 1946, to California. They've taken one South annually lately.

He ran the farm until two or three years ago, he said.

He got out "The Omohundro Genealogical Record" in 1950. "I worked on that thing 45 years," he said. "During the depression about 20 years ago I worked on it practically full time." Instead of the usual tracing back from the present, he started with the first Omohundro in the Northern Neck in 1670, he explained, and came on down. The big book contains about 10,000 names--and breezy notes never expected in such opuses.

"Mark Twain" and "Ike" are about the only ones not in it. Mark is his setter. "Ike" is "just a dog," christened during President Eisenhower's first campaign. "Someone threw him away and Malvern felt sorry for him and took him in," Mrs. Omohundro explained.

Her husband still keeps his law license. "I don't practice much, but I never have shut down," he said. "I've just been retiring by degrees... Real estate is my main business."

Last year he developed one of the two subdivision layouts so far approved by Goochland's planning commission.

He neither smokes nor drinks. He's not a church member, "but I believe in all the great principles of life," he said. "The pure and simple life is the only one worth living...Life after death though--I don't know..."

He spends most of his time attached to his green eyeshade in his office in the yard, reading, writing letters. It's lined to the ceiling with books and records. It has a low desk, a high desk, and a bed.

"When I get tired of sitting down," he explained, "I stand up. When I get tired of that, I lie down."

This interview, as well as the one reprinted in the last issue, was submitted by Angela Wyche. The photograph with the news article is of Malvern Hill at his standing desk, bedecked in eyeshade, coat, tie and vest, poised to write. Behind him can be seen the cluttered shelves and in the foreground, suspended over the desk, is a single bare light bulb.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

We would appreciate knowing how you feel about the newsletters that you have been receiving. Do they contain information that you find interesting? Or not? Do you have any suggestions or contributions? If so, we welcome them, and we need them!



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