

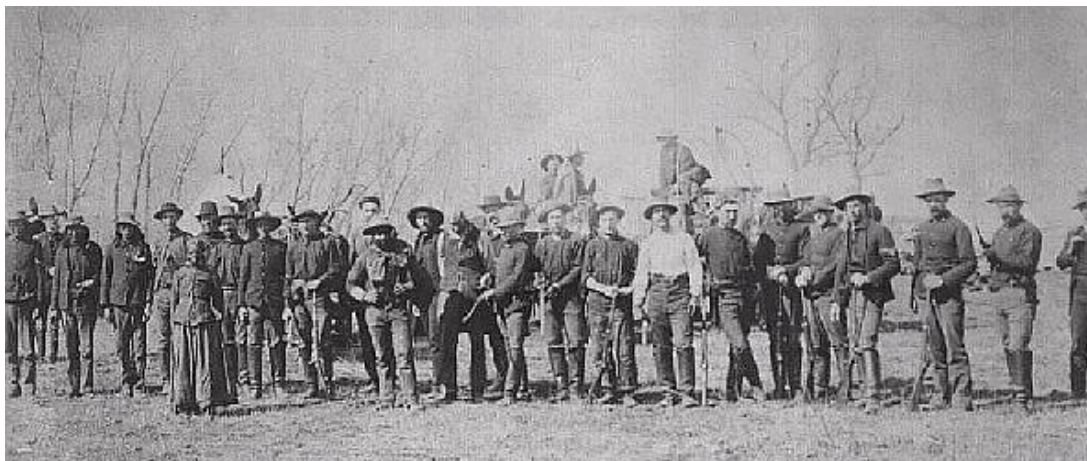


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TEXAS JACK: Battles In Which the 5th Cavalry Was Engaged By Larry Tyree



*From
History of
the 5th
Cavalry
Regiment*

[http://www.
w.
first-
team.us](http://www.w.first-team.us)

John B. Omohundro enlisted in the CSA on February 15, 1864. Some excellent information was presented in the September 2001 *Texas Jack Scout* on this topic. The author acknowledged that “...although many details of the Fifth Regiment’s activities may not be fully known, it is clear that where Fitzhugh Lee’s troops are mentioned in accounts of the war, John’s Regiment was almost certainly among the participants.” In attempting to research into more of Jack’s engagements it was possible to increase the level of confidence of his whereabouts by looking into some of the detail of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee’s battles under whose command Jack served.

I have researched and compared battle summaries in many locations and present the following in the continued quest to add to our knowledge about Jack’s involvement. These may be some of the very actions that he was involved in.

Continued on page 3

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from the Editor's Desk...



Favor from a Scoundrel

Guest Editor: Larry Tyree

Sometimes we fall into the most interesting of circumstances. Let me explain...

I have wanted to know more about the war years of John B. Omohundro (Texas Jack) for a long time. It has remained elusive for the most part except for some sketchy information. But I had planned on doing that study at a future time. Recently I discovered a parking lot which was named after Wild Bill Hickok a block away from the town square in Independence, MO. So, I decided to do some research in old newspapers of the 1870s in the Kansas City area about Texas Jack, and especially Wild Bill Hickok. I hoped to find out why the square bore his name. Maybe he had passed through on his way either to or from the east when he was on stage with Buffalo Bill, Texas Jack, and Mlle. Morlacchi. So I began my work.

In the process of gathering old articles, I stumbled on one written by Comanche George that made some odd claims about Texas Jack during the Civil War. The article that I have presented in this issue of the *Scout* was really begun to prove or disprove some of those claims made in that newspaper article from 1880.

The deeper I dug to look into those fantastic claims, the more I became enmeshed in the battles and details of the Civil War. I ended up proving that Comanche George was a scoundrel whose information could not be relied upon. I also discovered that I was looking at some very compelling information about the 5th Cavalry and battles from 1864 to 1865. One thing led to another, resulting in an entirely new quest to bring to our awareness as much detail as could be uncovered for now at least about Texas Jack's involvement, whereabouts, and likely battles of the War Between the States. So, in the long run, Comanche George did me a favor after all.

The Wild Bill Hickok parking lot still is in my bucket list. But that will have to be another story... For now, please enjoy the journey that has been thus far uncovered!

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The Texas Jack Association was founded in 1980 by Frank Sullivan to commemorate John Baker Omohundro, prairie scout, western hunting guide, and Wild West showman.

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

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Timeline 1864:

Battle of Spotsylvania Court house (briefly) May 8-10
Battle of Yellow Tavern May 11-25
Battle of Cold Harbor (Second) May 31- June 4
Battle of Trevilian Station June 11-12 (near Charlottesville)
(Jack recovers in Charlottesville--end of June-- for minor wound)
Battle of Tom's Brook Oct. 9
Battle of Cedar Creek Oct. 19
Battle of Lacey Spring Dec. 21
Battle of Dinwiddie Courthouse Mar. 31, 1865
Battle of Appomattox Courthouse Apr. 9, 1865

In the following battle summaries, I have *italicized* and **bolded** the names of the officers of Jack's 5th Cavalry for ease in identification of likely engagements that would have affected Jack. Most of the following battles and information are from the citations listed in the acknowledgements at the end of this article.

Preceding The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House

May 8-21, 1864, in Spotsylvania, Virginia

Grant's Overland Campaign

The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, sometimes simply referred to as the Battle of Spotsylvania, was the second battle in Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign. It was fought in the Rapidan River -Rappahannock River area of central Virginia.

The battle was fought along a trench line some 4 miles long, with the Army of Northern Virginia, under Gen. Robert E. Lee, making its second attempt to halt the spring offensive of the Army of the Potomac, under the command of Grant and Maj. Gen. George G. Meade. Taking place less than a week after the bloody, inconclusive Battle of the Wilderness, it pitted about 60,000 Confederate soldiers against about 120,000 Union troops.

After Lee checked the Union advance in the Wilderness, Grant decided to take advantage of the position he held, which allowed him to slip his army around Lee's right flank and continue to move south towards Richmond. He already had troops on the move by the night of May 7, just one day after the Wilderness fighting ended.

On May 6, as darkness settled over northern Virginia that evening, the Battle of the Wilderness came to a close. The first encounter between the war's most prominent military leaders, Grant, commanding all Union armies from a headquarters in the field with the Army of the Potomac, and Lee had ended.

On May 7, at 6:30 A.M., Grant issued a directive to the Army of the Potomac commander, Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade. The order, one of the most important of Grant's military career, began, "*General: Make all preparations during the day for a night march to take position at Spotsylvania Court-House.*" That night, the Union V

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Corps and the Confederate I Corps, moving independently and unknown to each other, led the marches of their respective armies toward Spotsylvania Court House.

On May 8, Grant sent Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren and his V Corps to take Spotsylvania, 10 miles to the southeast. Lee anticipated Grant's move and sent forces to intercept him: cavalry under **Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart** and the 1st Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson. What the Federals had thought would be a rapid march into open country had stalled behind these works. The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House was under way. Grant's and Meade's advance on Richmond by the left flank was stalled at Spotsylvania Court House and the Confederates won the race to get there first.

LT Note: At this point, we transition to the history that leads to the Battle of Yellow Tavern and depart from the Spotsylvania Courthouse battle.

After the inconclusive Battle of the Wilderness on May 7, 1864, as both armies prepared for what would become the Battle for Spotsylvania Courthouse, and with his reputation on the line, Union Major General Philip H. Sheridan needed to take action. Resulting from an argument with General George Meade, on May 8, he obtained permission from General Ulysses S. Grant to lead a cavalry expedition to attack Confederate General **J.E.B. Stuart's** cavalry by first luring them to Richmond, the valuable capital of the Confederacy (Gallagher 128). In Sheridan's words, the raid was to be "A challenge to **Stuart** for a cavalry duel behind Lee's lines, in his own country". Another good reason was that Sheridan's Cavalry Corps was running low on supplies, and this could provide opportunities for them to forage on their

way. Ideally, Sheridan would also destroy the two railroad lines that lay in his path, the Virginia Central Railroad and the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad, both vital supply routes for the Army of Northern Virginia.

That night the Union cavalry prepared to leave, and at 6:00 on the morning of May 9, Sheridan's three divisions, commanded by Wesley Meritt, David M. Gregg, and James H. Wilson, left their camp near the Spotsylvania Courthouse and set off for Richmond. The raid had begun, and the Cavalry Corps was a stunning sight: a single column of ten thousand horsemen four abreast, along with six batteries of horse artillery, and nearly thirteen miles long. Telegraph Road would take them south to cross North Anna River near the junction of the two railroad lines, but the bridge there was known to be well-defended. Therefore Sheridan decided to alter his route and approach the river from the northeast. The Federals

would head toward Beaver Dam Station, by way of Anderson's Ford, which would not be difficult to cross. After ten miles on Telegraph Road, they turned off at Jerrel's Mill, onto a road leading to the ford.



*Major General Philip
H. Sheridan*

Although **Stuart** knew of Sheridan's movement by 8:00 a.m., he could not send his cavalry after his enemy until Jubal Early's cavalry entrenched near the Spotsylvania Courthouse in the early

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afternoon, leaving *Stuart's* men free to go. Confederate Brigadier General Williams C. Wickham's cavalry brigade galloped down Telegraph Road and was the first to reach Sheridan's column, between 2:00 and 3:00 in the afternoon. Brigadier General Henry Davies commanded the rear ranks of Sheridan's column, and three of his units were able to successfully fight off Wickham's cavalry. Davies was deterred for only half an hour, although for the next several hours Wickham harassed the column's rear and flank. At 5:00 at Mitchell's Shop, confrontation escalated. The Federals, with the advantage, assaulted the Confederate column, which returned the assault. During the conflict, confusion ensued, and by the end of Wickham's actions against the Federal rear, Davies had lost seventy-six men, including some as prisoners. But the rest of the column had been able to move on, safe from fire.

Later in the day, Sheridan's troops reached Anderson's Ford. Most camped on the north side of the river, while General Armstrong Custer's brigade crossed the river to end at Beaver Dam Station. Around 8:00 they sighted 278 Union infantry prisoners from the Battle of the Wilderness being escorted to the station, which was a terminal for the Virginia Central Railroad, to be transported to Richmond. After easily liberating the captives and taking Confederate prisoners, the Federals captured two trains' worth of supplies, including bacon, rations, and medical stores. That night they burned the station, derailed trains, and ripped up eight to ten miles of railway and telegraph lines. Over the next day and a half, *Stuart's* cavalry raced Sheridan to Richmond, riding hard until they reached Yellow Tavern, a strategic crossroads just north of the capital, around 10:00 a.m. on May 11.

The Battle of Yellow Tavern May 11, 1864 in Henrico County, Virginia

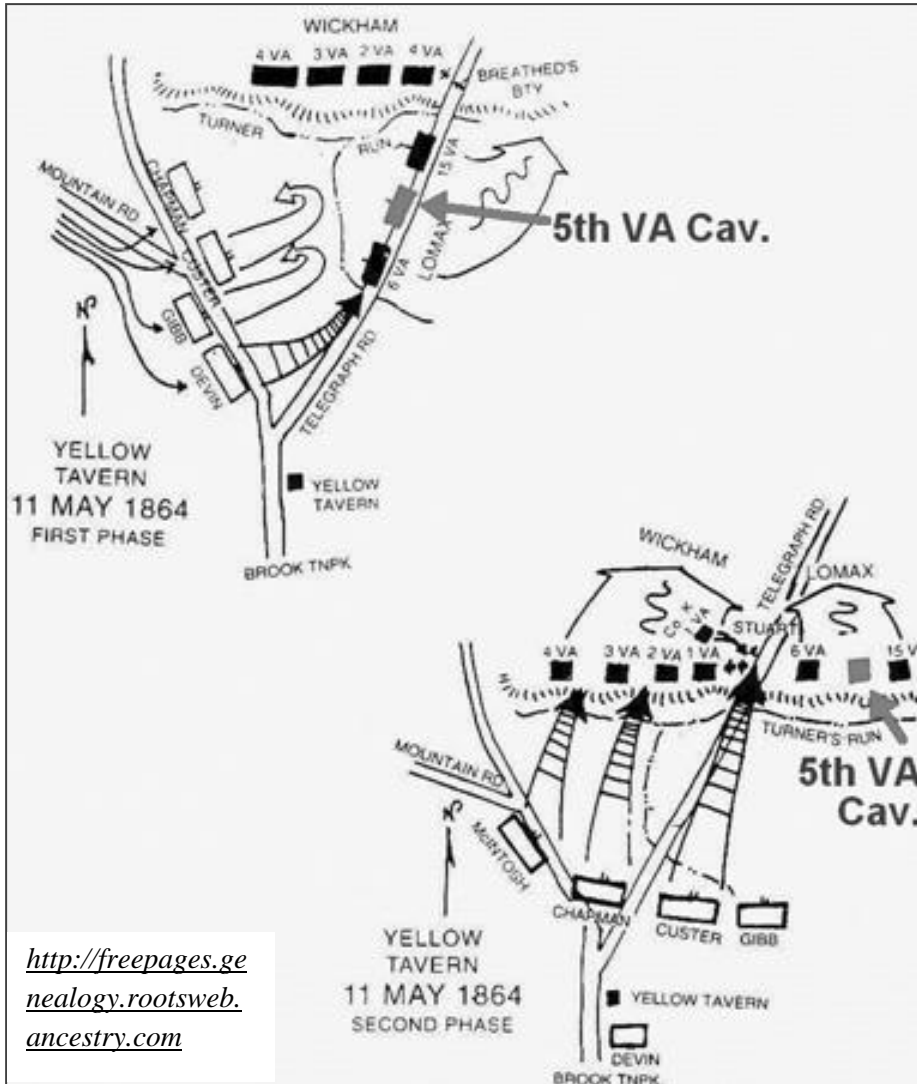
Grant's Overland Campaign
Union Forces Commanded by:
Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan
Forces 10,000
Killed or Wounded 625 *
Captured

Confederate Forces Commanded by:
Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart
Forces 4,500
Killed or Wounded --
Captured 300

**Missing and Captured
Conclusion: Union Victory



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<http://freepages.ge>
nealogy.rootsweb
ancestry.com

The Battle of Yellow Tavern was a clash between the Union and Confederate cavalry forces. It was best known for the mortal wounding of legendary Confederate cavalry commander **Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart**.

The Overland Campaign was Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 offensive against Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The two had fought an inconclusive battle at the Wilderness and were engaged in heavy fighting at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. Up to this point, Union cavalry commander Maj. Gen.

Philip Sheridan was dissatisfied with his role in the campaign. His Cavalry Corps was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, under Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, who reported to Grant. Meade had employed Sheridan's forces primarily in the traditional role of screening and reconnaissance, whereas Sheridan saw the value of wielding the Cavalry Corps as an independently operating offensive weapon for wide ranging raids into the rear areas of the Confederates.

On May 8, as the battle between Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Gen. Robert E. Lee raged at Spotsylvania Court House, Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan went over

Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's head and told Grant that if his Cavalry Corps were let loose to operate as an independent unit, he could defeat **Stuart**, long a nemesis to the Union army. Grant was intrigued and convinced Meade of the value of Sheridan's request. Grant, appreciating Sheridan's bravery and fighting spirit, said "*Let him start right out and do it.*"

On May 9, Sheridan set out with the most powerful cavalry force the Army of the Potomac had ever mounted—more than 10,000 troopers with 32 guns. It was also the most powerful cavalry force ever seen in the

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Eastern Theater. They rode to the southeast to move behind Lee's army. They had 3 goals: first, disrupt Lee's supply lines by destroying railroad tracks and supplies; second, threaten the Richmond, which would distract Lee; third, and most important, defeat *Stuart*.

They moved at a walk, 4 abreast in a column that stretched for 13 miles. Sheridan was so confident of success that he made no effort to hide his movements.

The column reached Lee's forward supply base at Beaver Dam Station by nightfall. The Confederate depot guards had set fire to their supplies before the Union troops arrived, but the Union force found other material to destroy: 100 railroad cars and 6 locomotives—1/4 of Virginia Central Railroad's rolling stock.

The Union cavalry column reached the Confederate forward supply base at Beaver Dam Station that evening. The Confederate troops had been able to destroy many of the critical military supplies before the Union arrived, so Sheridan's men destroyed numerous railroad cars and 6 locomotives of the Virginia Central Railroad, ripped up 10 miles of track, pulled down telegraph wires, and freed 378 of their men who had been taken prisoner during the Battle of the Wilderness.

On May 11, *Stuart*, told of Sheridan's force and direction, moved with 4,500 troops to get between the Union column and Richmond. After disrupting Lee's road and rail communications, Sheridan's cavalry expedition climaxed with the battle of Yellow Tavern, an abandoned inn 6 miles north of Richmond.

For 3 hours, the opposing cavalry forces fought, with the outnumbered Confederate

troops stubbornly defending their position. Not only did the Union outnumber the Confederates by 3 divisions to 2 brigades, it had superior firepower, being armed with rapid-firing Spencer carbines. Sheridan had hurled his well rested cavalrymen against *Stuart's* tired men, who held defensive positions along ridges bordering the road to Richmond. The outnumbered Confederate cavalry was defeated.

An unhorsed Union private fired a single shot at a large, red-bearded Confederate officer on a horse 30 feet away. *Stuart* was mortally wounded and would die the next day. Lee had lost his greatest cavalry officer. The fighting kept up for an hour after *Stuart* was wounded, with *Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee* taking temporary command. Sheridan continued his attacks on the Confederate position for an hour. The Confederates were slowly forced to give way. Then Sheridan called his men back from "*this obstinate contest*" and headed south toward Richmond, only 6 miles away. Sheridan continued south to threaten the Richmond defenses before joining Butler's command at Bermuda Hundred. They reached the outer defenses of the South's capital before night, and Sheridan was tempted to bust right through. After refitting, Sheridan rejoined the Army of the Potomac on May 25 for the march to the southeast and the crossing of the Pamunkey.

Besides, Sheridan's real goal had been *Stuart* all along, not Richmond. *Fitzhugh Lee's* troopers, bolstered by infantry from Richmond, slashed at the Union cavalry rear and flanks as they retreated east and then south across the Chickahominy River to Gen. Benjamin Butler's Union force on the James River.

Sheridan's raid had been an unqualified success. Their most significant victory,

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however, was killing *Stuart*. This deprived _____ commander.
Lee of his most experienced cavalry

LT Note: John's regiment, under *Gen. Lomax*, was involved in the battle at Yellow Tavern. Without the repeating carbines of Union Gen. George Armstrong Custer's unit, *Gen. Lomax's* forces managed to repel Custer and successfully defend the position. *Fitzhugh Lee* henceforth commanded the Cavalry of the ANV.

The Battle of Cold Harbor (Second)

May 31-June 12, 1864, in Hanover County, Virginia

Grant's Overland Campaign

Union Forces Commanded by:

Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj.

Gen. George G. Meade

Forces 105,000

Killed 1,905

Wounded 10,570

Captured 500*

Confederate Forces Commanded by:

Gen. Robert E. Lee

Forces 60,000

Killed 1,299 k&w

Wounded --

Captured 500*



**Missing and Captured

Conclusion: Confederate Victory

BATTLE SUMMARY

The Battle of Second Cold Harbor, the final battle of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign, is remembered as one of history's bloodiest, most lopsided battles. Thousands of Union soldiers were slaughtered in a hopeless assault against of Gen. Robert E. Lee's fortified troops. Grant said of the battle in his memoirs "*I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made. I might say the same thing of the assault of May 22, 1863, at*

Vicksburg. At Cold Harbor, no advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained."

The battle was fought in central Virginia, 10 miles from Richmond. Soldiers were disturbed to discover skeletal remains from the first Battle First Cold Harbor while digging their positions. Cold Harbor was a rural crossroads named for a hotel located in the area, which provided shelter (harbor), but not hot meals. It is located 10 miles from Richmond.

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On May 26, during the night, from behind the North Anna River, the Union army initiated another movement beyond the Confederate right flank. Grant, personally directing operations of Meade's army, ordered Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan with 2 cavalry divisions southeastward. The cavalymen rode throughout the night in a pelting rainstorm.

On May 27, by 9:00 A.M., Sheridan had secured a vital crossing on the Panmunkey River. For the next 2 days, the 4 Union infantry corps shuffled toward the river.

On May 28, Grant had 3 corps across the stream, rimming Hanover Town, on the road to Richmond. During the second day, Brig. Gen. David M. Gregg's Union cavalry division, reconnoitering to the west, struck 3 brigades of Confederate cavalry on a similar mission. For 6 hours, the two forces, fighting dismounted, contested the ground around Haw's Shop.

Since Grant's departure from the North Anna, Gen. Robert E. Lee had cautiously begun moving toward Richmond. Lee believed correctly that Grant would cross near Hanover Town. With the intelligence gathered at Haw's Shop, *Lee's 3 infantry corps* was covering the roads between the Federals and Richmond by darkness of May 28. The artery of approach still open passed through New and old Cold Harbor.

On May 29-30, little movement occurred, though skirmishes flared periodically along the front. The 2 armies had now become so interlocked that each could readily discover the other's movements. Grant received reinforcements from Bermuda Hundred—the XVII and part of the X Corps, numbering 16,000. Lee, likewise, secured Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke's 6,000-man

division from the defenses south of Richmond.

On May 31, in the morning, Grant ordered Sheridan to seize Cold Harbor and the intersecting roads. The battle began when Sheridan's cavalry occupied the crucial crossroads of Old Cold Harbor. Grant hoped that one more attack might finally break Lee's outnumbered Army of Northern Virginia. When Lee learned of Sheridan's movement, he ordered Lt. Gen. Richard H. Anderson, commander of the I Corps, to retake the crossroads early on June 1.

Over the next 2 days, Lee and Grant, having disengaged from a standoff at the North Anna River 10 miles to the north, took up new positions. Having received reinforcements, Grant brought 105,000 men onto the field. His reinforcements were often raw recruits and heavy artillery troops unfamiliar with infantry tactics. Lee had managed to bring about 60,000 men, mostly veterans moved from inactive fronts. They were strongly entrenched in fortifications. Grant, unaware of the strength of the Confederate earthworks that confronted his army, directed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade to mount an assault. Meade and his corps commanders failed to conduct any meaningful reconnaissance of the enemy position.

On June 1, at dawn, Anderson's troops advanced on the Union cavalymen. Two brigades of Maj. Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw's division led the charge. Advancing across an open field in serried ranks, the Confederates stormed forward. Sheridan's troopers, armed with Spencer repeaters, riddled the Confederate lines, killing a brigade commander. The Confederates reformed and came again, only to be swept back by a withering fire.

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About noon, Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright's VI Corps replaced the cavalrymen. Wright, ordered to attack when Maj. Gen. William F. Smith's XVIII Corps arrived, waited the entire afternoon. Smith had been ordered to the wrong place, not arriving until 4:00 P.M. Finally, an hour later, 6 Union divisions charged against Anderson and Hoke. The Federals momentarily broke through on one part of the line, but a Confederate counterattack dislodged the Federals.

The news of Wright's and Smith's repulse concluded a difficult day for Grant, one of disjointed operations and missed opportunities. Rightly believing that an early morning, coordinated attack at Cold Harbor could secure the field, Grant ordered Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps on an all-night march to the crossroads. What Grant asked for, however, the army could not deliver. The torpid heat, suffocating dust, and bone-weary fatigue slowed Hancock's march to a crawl. Not until 6:00 A.M. on June 2nd, did the exhausted leading elements of the corps reach Cold Harbor. Grant held the assault till 5:00 P.M., but additional delays and the condition of Hancock's men finally cancelled the attack until the next morning. The best opportunity of the entire 30-day campaign had slipped by. The failure provided Lee's army all the time they required.

On June 2, Lee funneled his units toward Cold Harbor. By late afternoon, the entire army was filing into their positions along the front, which extended for 7 miles, from Pole Green Church on the north to Grapevine Bridge on the south. The expert Confederates blended their line with all the natural features of the land. With interlocking sectors and overlapping fields of fire, the position was probably the best the Army of Northern Virginia ever

defended.

On June 3, precisely at 4:30 A.M., Meade's assault on the Confederate right flank was conducted by 3 corps: Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps, Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright's VI Corps, and Maj. Gen. William F. "Baldy" Smith's XVIII Corps. In double lines along a 6-mile front, they charged the nearly impregnable Confederate position. *The Confederates, consisting mostly from the I and III Corps*, who fought from behind earthworks, slaughtered the Federals as soon as they moved forward.

Before the assault, the Union soldiers had been in no doubt as to what they were up against. Many were seen writing their names on papers that they pinned inside their uniforms, so their bodies could be identified. The II and XVIII Corps, followed later by the IX Corps, assaulted along the Bethesda Church-Cold Harbor line. The concealed Confederates waited patiently; the earthworks suddenly bristled with thousands of rifles. Seconds later, in a volcanic blast of sound and flame, the Confederate line erupted. Then the "*inexplicable and incredible butchery began.*"

Along the entire Union line, the men on the line crumpled in heaps from the Confederate fire. Wright and Smith made little headway in the crossfire. Only on the Union left did 2 brigades of Hancock's corps penetrate the Confederate line. The Federals stood on the breastworks momentarily before being blown away by rifle and canister fire. The assault along the entire front had been completely repulsed in less than a half-hour. Union forces lost between 3,000 and 7,000 men in about 40 minutes. Grant called off the attacks at midday after visiting his corps commanders.

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On June 4, Grant launched no more attacks on the Confederate defenses. He later said that he regretted for the rest of his life the decision to send in his men. The two opposing armies faced each other for nine days of trench warfare, which featured no more large assaults, but nevertheless

resulted in doubling casualty figures for the entire battle. Grant was criticized in the Northern press for refusing to negotiate an immediate temporary truce with Lee for the purpose of gathering bodies and treating the wounded between the lines.

The Battle of Trevilian Station

June 11-12, 1864 in Louisa County, Virginia

Grant's Overland Campaign

Union Forces

Commanded by:

Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan

Forces 8,000

Killed 85

Wounded 490

Captured 160*



Confederate Forces

Commanded by:

Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton

Forces 5,000

Killed --

Wounded --

Captured 370*

**Missing and Captured

Conclusion: Confederate Victory

BATTLE SUMMARY

In order to capture Petersburg the Union army had to cross to the south side of the James River in the face of General Robert E. Lee's Confederate army. To draw off Lee's cavalry and thus blind the Confederate commander as to his intentions, Grant sent General Philip Sheridan and two divisions of cavalry on a diversionary raid toward Charlottesville. Sheridan had orders to tear up as much of the Virginia Central

Virginia Railroad as came within his grasp, then push on to Charlottesville and unite with Hunter. Together, the two men would advance on Richmond from the west, while Grant enveloped the city from the south.

Sheridan left the Army of the Potomac on June 7th and headed west up the North Anna River toward Trevilian Station, a stop on the Virginia Central Railroad. He took with him the mounted divisions of Generals Alfred

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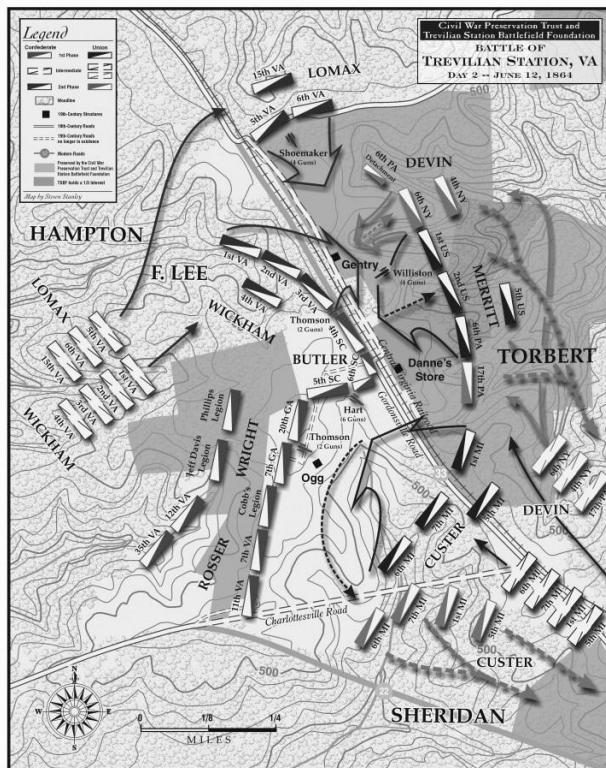


Torbert and David M. Gregg, totaling 8,000 men, 24 guns, and 125 wagons.


Lee sent the cavalry divisions of Generals Wade Hampton and **Fitzhugh Lee** in pursuit of Sheridan on June 9th. Hampton had overall command of the 5000-man force. Traveling by a shorter route than that used by Sheridan, Hampton reached the Trevilian area on June 10, one day ahead of the Union column. **Fitz Lee** bivouacked at Louisa Court House, a few miles east of Trevilian. Rather than take a defensive position, Hampton planned to attack the Federals at their camp, located at Clayton's Store. Two roads ran from Clayton's Store to the railroad: one struck the railroad at Trevilian Station, the other at Louisa Court House. Thick woods lay between them. Hampton took the first road and **Fitzhugh Lee** the second.

Hampton's men fought furiously for several hours while anxiously awaiting the sound of Lee's attack on the right. Vastly outnumbered, the Confederate horsemen were gradually being pushed back toward the railroad when the sound of battle suddenly erupted from their rear. Hampton quickly disengaged 1 of his 2 brigades and returned to Trevilian Station. He discovered that a Union brigade commanded by Gen. George A. Custer had slipped past **Fitz Lee's** command and was capturing the station and Hampton's horses and wagons. Custer's fortunes quickly changed, however, when his men were suddenly attacked from 3 directions by angry Confederate troopers. A Confederate reserve brigade charged from the west, while Hampton's men hit from the north, and **Fitz Lee's division** came charging in to attack from the east.

The Confederates quickly recaptured their wagons and horses as well as Custer's headquarters wagon and a large number of Union prisoners. Custer's brigade was on the verge of being completely overwhelmed in the furious battle. Stepping up the pressure from the north, Sheridan pushed aside the brigade Hampton had left behind and came charging into Trevilian Station from the north. The cavalry battle became a wild melee of saber strokes and pistol shots that ended when the Confederates, outnumbered eight to five, withdrew and left the Union troopers in possession of the station. Sheridan did not pursue but began instead to tear up the 4 miles of railroad track he had captured. Sheridan withdrew after destroying about 6 miles of the Virginia Central Railroad. Confederate victory at Trevilian prevented Sheridan from reaching Charlottesville and cooperating with Hunter's army in the Valley. This was one of the bloodiest cavalry battles of the war.



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General Hampton reported: *“At 3:30 p.m. (12th) a heavy attack was made on my left, where Butler’s brigade was posted. Being repulsed, the enemy made a succession of determined assaults, which were all handsomely repulsed. In the meantime General Lee had, by my direction, reinforced my left with Wickham’s brigade, while he took Lomax’s across to the Gordonsville road as to strike the enemy on his right flank. This movement was successful, and the enemy, who had been heavily punished in front, when attacked on his flank fell back in confusion. I immediately gave orders to follow him up, but it was daylight before these orders could be carried out, the fight not having ended until 10 p.m.”*

BATTLE OF TOM'S BROOK

October 9, 1864

County: Shenandoah, VA

Campaign: Sheridan's Valley Campaign

Principal Commanders: [c] *Maj.*

Gen. Thomas Rosser, Maj. Gen. Lunsford Lomax; [u] Brig. Gen. Alfred Torbert

Forces Engaged: [c] Two cavalry divisions (*Rosser and Lomax*) about 3,500; [u] Two cavalry divisions (Wesley

Merritt and George A. Custer), about 6,300

Casualties: [c] 350 (20k/50w/280m&c); [u] 57 (10k/47w)

Significance: Tom's Brook was a battle of strategy and maneuver that pitted cavalry against cavalry. The CS cavalry were eager for revenge against the US cavalry, which had been burning barns and mills in the Valley for the previous week. In the resulting conflict, the US troops routed the CS cavalry, impairing its morale and efficiency for the remainder of the campaign. The CS flight was referred to by Valley residents and victorious Union troopers as the "Woodstock Races." The fighting on the Back Road at Spiker's Hill

pitted two former West Point roommates against one another--*Tom Rosser* and George Armstrong Custer. Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan watched the battle unfold, reputedly from the summit of Round Hill.

Description of the Battle

Phase One. Disposition of Forces: On October 8, 1864, the Confederate Cavalry under overall command of Maj. Gen. *Thomas Rosser* harried the withdrawing US cavalry on the Valley Pike and the Back Road, fighting a brisk skirmish along Tom's Brook near the Back Road. The CS cavalry were enraged by the destruction of the Valley they had witnessed in the last week and were attempting to arrest further destruction. *Rosser* had been dispatched to the Valley from Petersburg to command the CS cavalry and had generally been hailed by the local populace as the "Savior of the Valley." At dark, *Rosser* halted his division of three brigades (about 2,500 men) on the Back Road in the vicinity of Spiker's Hill and pushed skirmishers beyond Tom's Brook to Mt. Olive. The Middle Road was covered by a force of observation of unknown size. *Maj. Gen. Lunsford Lomax's* Division of two brigades and a battery of horse artillery (about 1,000 men) bivouacked on both sides of the Valley Pike behind Jordon Run just south of the hamlet of Tom's Brook.

Brig. Gen. Wesley Merritt's US cavalry division (about 3,500 men) under overall command of Brig. Gen. Alfred Torbert encamped at the base of Round Hill. Brig. Gen. George Armstrong Custer's division of two brigades (about 2,500) bivouacked "behind Tumbling Run" northeast of Mt. Olive on the Back Road. Upset by *Rosser's* aggressive tactics of the previous days, army commander Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan ordered Torbert to move at daylight of October 9, 1864, and "whip the rebel cavalry

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or get whipped himself."

Phase Two. US Advance on Valley

Pike: Torbert planned to bring an overwhelming force against *Rosser's* division on the Back Road while holding *Lomax's* division at bay with a reinforced brigade on the Valley Pike. *Lomax's* main battle line was deployed behind Jordon Run on both sides of the Valley Pike, supported by six guns. His front line was dismounted, while he maintained a strong mounted reserve on the pike.

At dawn, Lowell's brigade (Merritt) advanced to Tom's Brook on the Pike, deployed, and pushed forward "one-quarter of a mile" where it found *Lomax's* main line, dismounted behind Jordon Run. The CS line was supported by six guns placed on either side of the Valley Pike and a strong mounted reserve. While Lowell was engaged, Kidd's brigade rode north along Tom's Brook to connect and cooperate with Custer. Devin's brigade followed, but veered off on the Harrisville Road (or overland) and advanced to the vicinity of St. Johns Church, maintaining a connection with the force on the Valley Pike and at the same time extending a skirmish line to connect with the Kidd's brigade on the right.

Phase Three. Custer's Advance/ Fighting

on Back Road: *Rosser* dismounted most of his troops behind Tom's Brook at the base of Spiker's Hill behind stone fences and rudimentary fieldworks (his brigades from left to right, Munford, Payne, and the Laurel brigade). *Rosser's* six guns unlimbered along the crest of Spiker's Hill slightly behind a second line of barricades. A mounted reserve was maintained on the ridge; the right was extended toward the Middle Road with mounted skirmishers.


Advancing beyond Mt. Olive, Custer pushed

forward three regiments of dismounted skirmishers against the main CS position. Three other regiments and Wells' brigade were kept mounted and maneuvered for position behind the skirmish line. A battery of artillery unlimbered on the hill in front of present-day St. Matthews (or Sand Ridge) Church and engaged the Confederate artillery on Spiker's Hill. When Kidd's brigade made contact with Custer's left, Custer extended his right flank along the shoulder of Little North Mountain, supporting the movement with a battery. Kidd deployed over the hill, driving *Rosser's* skirmishers before him, and unlimbered another battery to enfilade the CS position. The Confederate line was gradually forced back into a horseshoe around the front of Spiker's Hill. A regiment of US cavalry (probably of Devin's brigade), moving on the Middle Road from Harrisville arrived on a hill overlooking Sand Ridge Road (intersection of Middle Road) and to the right and rear of *Rosser's* main force. Reacting to this threat, *Rosser* ordered a withdrawal. His men raced to mount their horses. At this point, Wells brigade attacked Spiker's Hill up the Back Road, taking few casualties. At the crest, Wells encountered Munford's brigade and a mounted melee ensued. *Rosser's* force retreated, partly down Back Road to Pugh's Run, partly on Sand Ridge and Middle roads toward Woodstock. Custer's and Kidd's troopers pursued. General Sheridan is said to have watched the action from Round Hill, where there was a US signal station during the battle.

Phase Four. Fighting on the Valley

Pike: In the meantime, fighting continued along the Valley Pike. Lowell's brigade drove CS pickets back to Jordon Run and deployed on both sides of the pike. The 1st Michigan (Kidd's brigade) supported Lowell's right flank, while Devin's brigade

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moved farther to the right along the Middle Road beyond St. Johns Church. As Devin maneuvered, *Lomax* counterattacked down the Valley Pike, driving the Reserve brigade back to Tom's Brook. Lowell, in turn, attacked until stopped by artillery. At last, Devin reached a position from which to operate against the flanks of both *Lomax* and *Rosser*. He advanced the 9NY and other elements against *Lomax's* left and rear (probably down current rte. 657), making *Lomax's* position untenable. The Confederates began to retreat up the pike toward Woodstock.

Phase Five. Rear Guard Action at Pugh's Run: *Rosser* retreated, losing at least two of his guns at Spiker's Hill. Munford's brigade attempted a stand behind Pugh's Run on the Back Road, but this position was quickly breached. The CS cavalry continued to retreat to Columbia Furnace, losing the rest of its artillery and all of its wagons. Perhaps 150 CS prisoners were captured during this phase of the retreat.

Phase Six. Rear Guard Action at Woodstock: *Lomax* retreated up the Valley Pike to Woodstock, where he was joined by a confused portion of *Rosser's* command. The forces attempted to stand behind Pugh's Run but were soon scattered. Union troopers pressed forward, driving the CS cavalry to Mt. Jackson. *Lomax* lost five pieces of artillery and his rolling stock during this rout—two pieces at Woodstock, two at

Edinburg, and the fifth beyond Stony Creek. The Union cavalry retired to the vicinity of Woodstock where it bivouacked for the night.

BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK

October 19, 1864

The **Battle of Cedar Creek**, or **Battle of Belle Grove**, fought October 19, 1864, was the culminating battle of the Valley Campaigns of 1864 during the American Civil War. Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early launched a surprise attack against the encamped army of Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan, across Cedar Creek, northeast of Strasburg, Virginia.

Early's men began to form into three columns on the evening of October 18. Gordon's column (the divisions of Ramseur, Pegram, and Evans), with the farthest to march, departed just after it became dark, about 8 p.m. They stealthily followed a narrow path (a "pig path") between the Shenandoah and the nose of Massanutten Mountain, previously scouted by Gordon and mapmaker, Maj. Jedediah Hotchkiss. The path required single file passage in places, and did not support the movement of artillery. The columns of Wharton and Kershaw departed at about 1 a.m. on October 19, and all three columns of infantry were in position by 3:30 a.m. *Rosser's cavalry* prepared to advance along the western side of the valley to attack in the vicinity of Cupp's Ford. (The 300-man cavalry brigade of Col. William H. Payne, *Rosser's* division, was assigned to lead Gordon's men to the battle and then break off in an attempt to reach Belle Grove and capture General Sheridan from his headquarters. The Confederates were unaware that Sheridan was not present that morning.) *Lomax's* cavalry was to advance on the Front Royal–Winchester Road to cut



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off any Union withdrawal in the area of Newtown (current Stephens City).

During the morning of October 19 fighting, seven Union infantry divisions were forced to fall back and lost numerous prisoners and cannons. Early failed to continue his attack north of Middletown, and Sheridan, dramatically riding to the battlefield from Winchester, was able to rally his troops to hold a new defensive line. A Union counterattack that afternoon routed Early's army.

At the conclusion of this battle, the final Confederate invasion of the North was effectively ended. The Confederacy was never again able to threaten Washington, D.C. through the Shenandoah Valley, nor protect one of its key economic bases in Virginia. The stunning Union victory aided the re-election of Abraham Lincoln, and Sheridan won lasting fame.

BATTLE OF LACEY SPRING

Site inscription reads: "On the early morning hours of December 21, 1864, part of Union Gen. George A. Custer's cavalry division was eating breakfast here and preparing to advance, when it suddenly came under attack. Custer had bivouacked the night before not expecting any interference from **Confederate Gen. Thomas L. Rosser's** smaller cavalry division nearby. After a brief and spirited skirmish, Custer elected to withdraw north and abort his mission to march to Staunton and support a larger cavalry operation on both sides of Massanutten Mountain. Custer lost forty men captured, along with a few horses and camp equipment. Lacey Spring was one of many smaller actions that followed Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's crushing defeats of Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early in

September and October." Custer and **Rosser** were friends and members of the class of 1861 at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

BATTLE OF DINWIDDIE COURT HOUSE

Date: March 31, 1865

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan [US]; Maj. Gen. George Pickett and **Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee** [CS]

Forces Engaged: 65,277 total (US 45,247; CS 20,030)

Estimated Casualties: 821 total

Description: On March 29, with the Cavalry Corps and the II and V Corps, Sheridan undertook a flank march to turn Gen. Robert E. Lee's Petersburg defenses. A steady downpour turned the roads to mud, slowing the advance. On March 31, **Maj. Gen. W.H. Fitzhugh Lee's** cavalry and Pickett's infantry division met the Union vanguard north and northwest of Dinwiddie Court House and drove it back, temporarily stalling Sheridan's movement. With Union infantry approaching from the east, Pickett withdrew before daybreak to entrench at the vital road junction at Five Forks. **Lee** ordered Pickett to hold this intersection at all hazard.

BATTLE OF FIVE FORKS

LT Note: It has been previously thought that Jack would have been present at the Battle of Five Forks (April 1, 1865). However, it is common knowledge that his leaders were otherwise occupied, recovering from action the previous day. General Pickett was scheduled to participate in Five Forks but... "Pickett's unfortunate military career suffered another humiliation—he was

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two miles (3 km) away from his troops at the time of the attack, enjoying a shad bake north of Hatcher's Run with *Maj. Gens. Fitzhugh Lee* and *Thomas L. Rosser*. He had neglected to inform his men of the generals' absence, leaving them leaderless. Atmospheric conditions muffled the sounds of battle sufficiently that Pickett was unaware of the fighting. By the time he returned to the battlefield, it was too late.”

BATTLE OF APPOMATOX COURT HOUSE

Early on April 9, the remnants of John Broun Gordon's corps and *Fitzhugh Lee's* cavalry formed a line of battle at Appomattox Court House. Gen. Robert E. Lee determined to make one last attempt to escape the closing Union pincers and reach his supplies at Lynchburg. At dawn the Confederates advanced, initially gaining ground against Sheridan's cavalry. The arrival of Union infantry, however, stopped the advance in its tracks. Lee's army was now surrounded on three sides. Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9.

SOURCES:

Albea Edward Scruggs memorial webpages. He was a private in the 5th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Company "B". The site is located at:

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/MILITARY%20%20Vets%20-%20Units/Military%20Units/5th%20VA%20Cavalry%20\(CSA\).htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/MILITARY%20%20Vets%20-%20Units/Military%20Units/5th%20VA%20Cavalry%20(CSA).htm)

Sheridan's Raids at Spotsylvania Courthouse information webpages at:
<http://fredmarkers.umwblogs.org/2008/02/29/sheridans-raid-2-markers/>

Tipton T. Omohundro, *The Texas Jack Scout*, Vol XVI, Number 3, September 2001, "Texas Jack" Omohundro, CSA Cavalry, Army of Northern Virginia, in The Wilderness Campaign—May 1864.

Battle of Trevilian Station website at: <http://www.trevilianstation.org/battle.htm>

5th Virginia Cavalry: Robert J. Driver, The Virginia Regimental Historical Series, 1997, H.E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, Virginia, pages 116-117.

<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/lunsford-lindsay-lomax.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/shenandoah/svs3-14.html>

<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/HistoricSites/LaceySpringWestPointClassmatesatOdds1864ValleyCampaigns/>

<http://www.beyondthecrater.com/resources/battle-summaries/petersburg-campaign-summaries/ninth-offensive-summaries/the-battle-of-dinwiddie-court-house-march-31-1865>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sheridan_at_Cedar_Creek.jpg

http://americanhistory.about.com/od/civilwarbattles/p/cwbattle_appom.htm

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A PARTIAL LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE FIFTH VIRGINIA CAVALRY

THIRD CORPS

General J.E.B. Stuart

Gen. Fitzhugh Lee (replaced Stuart on his death)

Lieutenant General Jubal Early

Maj. Gen Wade Hampton

Brigadier General Lunsford L. Lomax

Colonels: *Thomas Lafayette Rosser*, Henry Clay Pate, and Reuben Beverly Boston.

Company E

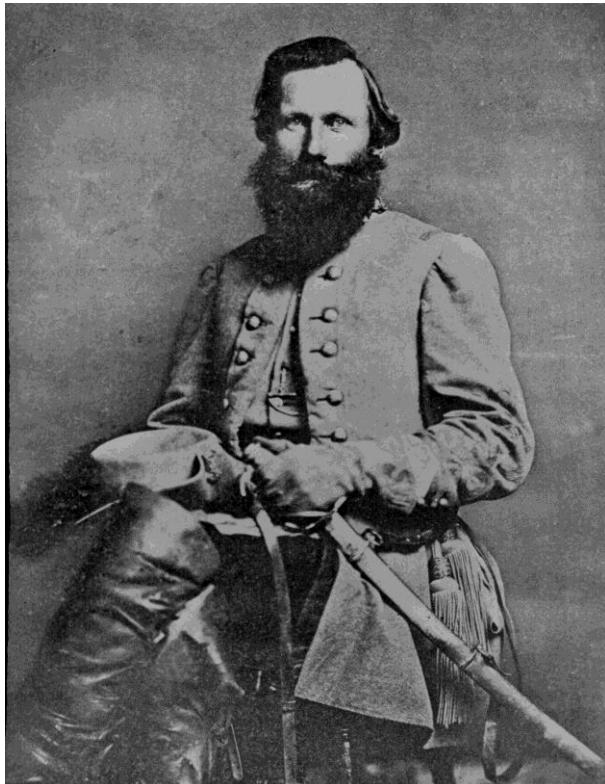
Captains: Marius Pendleton Todd, *Edward Campbell Fox*, and William Christopher Nunn.

Lieutenants: William P. Bohannon, William Sheperd Dix, *John Orville Calhoun Omohundro*, William Hoskins and Robert B. Hart.

Company G

Captains: McNairy Hobson, Thomas W. Clay and E.J.Hudson, Jr.

Lieutenants: C.G. Harwood, Thomas J. H. Douglas, Joab King, John L. Ragsdale, William Ragsdale and George Fred Potter.

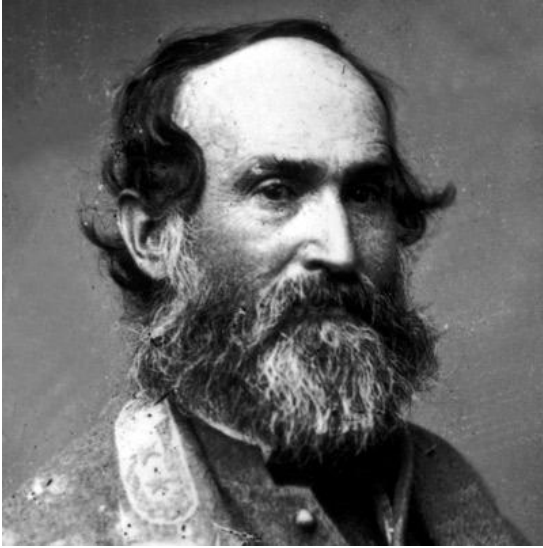


J.E.B. Stuart <http://upload.wikimedia.org>

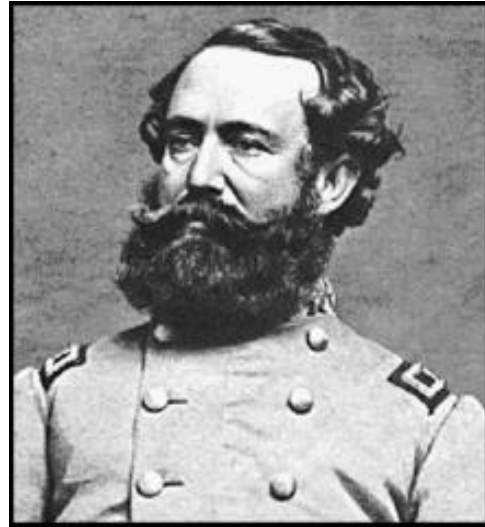


Fitzhugh Lee <http://upload.wikimedia.org>

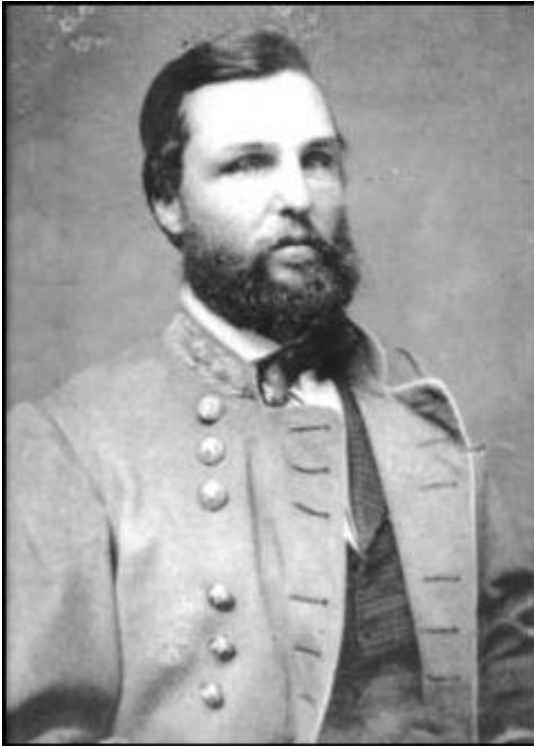
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Jubal Early <http://www.biography.com>



Wade Hampton <http://upload.wikimedia.org>



Thomas L. Rosser <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>



Lunsford L. Lomax <https://upload.wikimedia.org>

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Capt. Edward C. Fox, Co. E

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>



JOHN B. (TEXAS JACK) OMOHUNDRO & ORVILLE C. OMOHUNDRO
1861
EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTO OF TEXAS JACK AND HIS OLDER BROTHER


John B. Omohundro Orville C. Omohundro
(joined Co. G) (joined Co. G, then E)
Omohundro Genealogical Record by Malvern
Omohundro



5th Virginia Cavalry Flag

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>



I have identified here only a partial list of the officers that are known in the overall commanders, down to the individual companies that Orville and Jack were in. The decision to stop with this battle in October of 1864 is due to knowledge that Jack was wounded slightly and recovered for a short while in Charlottesville in late June of that year. Since we do not know for sure when he regained the field, it still is likely that it would have been by roughly 3 months later. We are indebted to the individuals who have already provided much research into these histories and will add what we can, once more can be uncovered. LT 





Hank Monk, Legendary Stagecoach Driver

By John Omohundro

Last year while exploring online some local history here in northern New York, I stumbled across a reference to Hank Monk and promised myself I'd follow up on it someday for an article in the *Scout*. Our cousin, John Baker "Texas Jack" Omohundro (1846-1880), was, in his short life, a legendary Wild West character, celebrated in dime novels, newspapers, and on stage. (Some of that celebration he created himself, in newspaper interviews. He was a good publicist, as he needed to be). As a longtime member of the Texas Jack Association, I of course sat up when Hank Monk, another legendary character, appeared on my screen.

I'm struck by how rough westerners like Hank and Texas Jack were the fodder for so much myth making, songs, stories, and good

newspaper copy for an eastern audience eager to experience the Wild West, if only from a distance.

The New York Years

Henry James "Hank" Monk was born in 1826 in Waddington, New York, a small village on the St. Lawrence River, the border with Canada. He was the oldest of four. (1). He began driving stages from Waddington to Massena, 12 miles away, at the age of twelve. His younger brother George, who also became a stage driver, recalls him: "from the days when he was a mere boy at Waddington, and could scarcely trudge around and was only strong enough to snap a whip with great exertion of his little arms."



Jim Hotelling with Edd Burnham's old Coach taking passengers and mail to and from DeKalb Junction and Hermon.

This stage in northern New York, with a lovely paint job, is here photographed in the later 1800s but it is not unlike those

operating when Hank was a boy in the 1840s.

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His brother continued,

"When gold was discovered in 1849 Hank wanted to make a trip to the coast. Mother objected strongly, and he deferred the trip for a time, holding to the stage route while he remained in this part of the country. But when he was twenty-four years of age, in 1852, the fever was too much for him and he went West."(2)

Hank the Driver



Hank Monk, celebrated stagecoach driver in Nevada, began his driving career as a young boy in Waddington, New York. Photo of a portrait at Wikipedia.

Monk began in 1852, driving stage between

Sacramento and other California towns for the California Stage Company. Beginning in 1857, he drove the stage for J.B. Crandall between Placerville, California, and Genoa, Nevada. He ended up driving for Wells Fargo and Company. He drove Nevada stages for more than twenty years.

Stagecoach drivers, perhaps like race car drivers today, were admired by the public. One of his chroniclers, Yearrington, reports that drivers were often called "jehus." The term comes from the Old Testament, 2 Kings 9:20: "and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously." Hank Monk earned a reputation for driving furiously, which others spread far and wide.

Horace Greeley's Famous Ride

Hank's most widely-read promoter was Mark Twain, who wrote in *Roughing It*, his memoir of his own adventures in territorial Nevada:

"This reminds me of a circumstance. Just after we left Julesburg, on the Platte, I was sitting with the driver, and he said: "I can tell you a most laughable thing indeed, if you would like to listen to it. Horace Greeley went over this road once. When he was leaving Carson City he told the driver, Hank Monk, that he had an engagement to lecture at Placerville and was very anxious to go through quick. Hank Monk cracked his whip and started off at an awful pace. The coach bounced up and down in such a terrific way that it jolted the buttons all off of Horace's coat, and finally shot his head clean through the roof of the stage, and then he yelled at Hank Monk and begged him to go easier—said he warn't in as much of a hurry as he was awhile ago. But Hank Monk said, 'Keep your seat, Horace, and I'll

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get you there on time'—and you bet you he did, too, what was left of him!"(3)

Hank covered the forty miles in four hours, more than an hour faster than "standard" travel time. Greeley wrote also of the trip, and one of Greeley's detractors in Congress had a humorous recounting of the adventure read into the *Congressional Record*.

Hank in the Myth Machine

Idah M. Strobbridge published *The Land of Purple Shadows*, (1909) about her life in pioneering California and Nevada.(4) One of her chapters, "In the Days of Hank Monk," describes a midwinter trip she and her mother took during the Civil War from San Francisco to a mining town on the other side of the Sierra. She wrote,

Hank Monk, the incomparable! The most daring - the most reckless of drivers; and the luckiest. The oddest, the drollest of all the whimsical characters who made Western staging famous the world over. . . . It was a dream come true! I'm quite sure that had anyone asked me which of the two I would rather see - hear - speak to, Hank Monk, or the President (and by that I mean Abraham Lincoln), it would have been the former I unhesitatingly would have chosen. Without a doubt my youthful judgment was biased, but the fact remains.

Some of Hank Monk's rides appeared in the news for New York readers, also. A correspondent traveling Nevada in Hank's stage, reports the following in the *Ogdensburg Journal*, Nov. 1, 1875.

A mile or two further down the grade he was met with the Glenbrook passenger coach. The road skirted a steep hillside, and there was room but for one of the

vehicles in the track. Hank took in the situation at a glance, and taking his horses well in hand, he artistically hugged the brink of the precipice and swung the hind part of the stage over the grade. There it hung, apparently within a hair's breadth of destruction, while the carriage swept safely past it. . . . The thanks and admiration of the ladies for this somewhat reckless exhibition were sufficient compensation to Hank, and when they learned that he was the veritable Hank Monk who had driven Horace Greeley across the mountain "on time," they were disposed to turn back and renew their expressions of appreciation.

The journalist J. A. Yearrington publicized Monk in "Stories of Hank Monk," a Twain-like series of anecdotes of Monk's trips and practical jokes. Monk particularly liked to squelch touts as they were sweet-talking the ladies by pretending to carry a message from the fellow's wife at home that the baby was suffering from colic, whether or not the fellow actually had a wife or a baby. (5)

A song dedicated to the memory of the late Hank Monk was published in 1885 with poet Joaquin Miller writing the lyrics and John Philip Sousa composing the music. It was entitled "Tally-Ho," Hank's name for his stagecoach. Another song, composed by J.P. Meder in 1878, before Hank died, was entitled, "Hank Monk Scho__ttische." This composition strikes me as appropriate primarily for eastern cotillions of Hank's fans and not something he'd whistle while cinching tackle onto horses.

Hank Monk died of pneumonia in Carson City, Nevada, on February 28, 1883. Nevada's *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise* published a fairly typical obituary of lush prose:

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Hank Monk, the famous stage coach driver is dead. He has been on the downgrade for some time. On Wednesday his foot lost its final hold on the brake and his coach could not be stopped until, battered and broken on a sharp turn, it went over into the canyon, black and deep, which we call death....(6)

Yarrington quotes a Carson City newspaper obituary in the same style:

His friend Horace [Greeley] ought to

do the fair thing by him and be on hand at the pearly gates with a blazing chariot and a spanking team of angels, and send Hank spinning over the golden pavements at a speed that would remind the old Jehu of other days.(7)

Yarrington also arranged for Monk's old stagecoach, "Tally Ho," to serve as the coach for the State of Nevada at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1903.



Currier and Ives print of Hank Monk's stage, or one very much like it, en route from Nevada to Oregon. The ride in this image appears more restful than some that Hank was famous for. He was born in northern New York, near this author's current residence, and learned to drive stage there at age 12. Image from Wikipedia.

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Hank's life was remembered in the North Country, too. The *Gouverneur Northern Tribune* reported,

The monument subscribed for by the citizens of Nevada to Hank Monk, the famous stage driver, whose body lies in a lonely defile in the Colorado mountains, near the Clear Creek road, will bear these words:

Hank Monk

The Wildest, Biggest Hearted and Best
Known Stage Driver of the West,
Who was Kind to All and Thought Ill of
None.

He Lived in a Strange Era and was a Hero,
And the Wheels of his Coach are Now
Ringing on Golden Streets. (8)

Hank's brother and sister, still living in northern New York, were invited to reminisce:


Living in the town of Rossie today are George Monk and Mrs. Charlotte Kellogg, who had a brother, Hank Monk... This is the interesting story in connection with the watch [surfacing in the possession of the recently late Dr. Benton, stage coach

owner in Reno, Nevada].

Back in the sixties, Hank Monk was handling the ribbons [reins] on one of the Benton coaches. [After the famous Horace Greeley ride] ...the trip became the topic of conversation of the entire coast region and admirers of Monk presented him with a solid gold watch bearing this inscription:

"Presented to Hank Monk in commemoration of his celebrated drive in landing Horace Greeley on time. 'Keep your seat, Mr. Greeley, I'll get you there on time.' "

When Monk died in 1883, the watch was given to Dr. Benton, and it has remained in his possession since. It was exhibited at the St. Louis exposition in 1904. (9)

Hank is the subject of two books, *Hank and Horace: An Enduring Episode in Western History*, by Richard G. Lillard and Mary V. Hood (1973), and *Hank Monk: He'll Get You There On Time*, by Richard Pitter (1995). 

Notes

- (1) J. A. Yearrington, "Stories of Hank Monk," *Sunset Magazine*, XLL, 24 November-28 November 1903
- (2) October 4, 1901, *Plattsburgh Sentinel*, Plattsburgh, NY, in <http://news.nynl.net/titles.html>
- (3) Mark Twain, *Roughing It*, 1911, New York, Tichner and Fields
- (4) Idah Meacham Strobridge, *Sagebrush Trilogy*, University of Nevada Press, Reno and Las Vegas, 1990; p. 88f
- (5) J. A. Yearrington, *ibid.*
- (6) Quoted by Chad Hays, *True West Magazine*, on website truewestmagazine.com

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(7) *Washington Times*. Sept. 17, 1903, p 5

(8) *Gouverneur Northern Tribune*, Nov. 12, 1887

(9) *Gouverneur Free Press*, May 13, 1925



Updated Texas Jack Website by Rand McKinney



The TJA has a new website at <http://www.texasjack.org>. The site has much of the same content that it had before, including a detailed history of Texas Jack, general information on the Association and Roundups, forms for paying dues and contact information. What's new is that it is based on a software system called WordPress. Although frequently used to create blogs, WordPress can also be used to create a website. The big advantage is that anyone can easily

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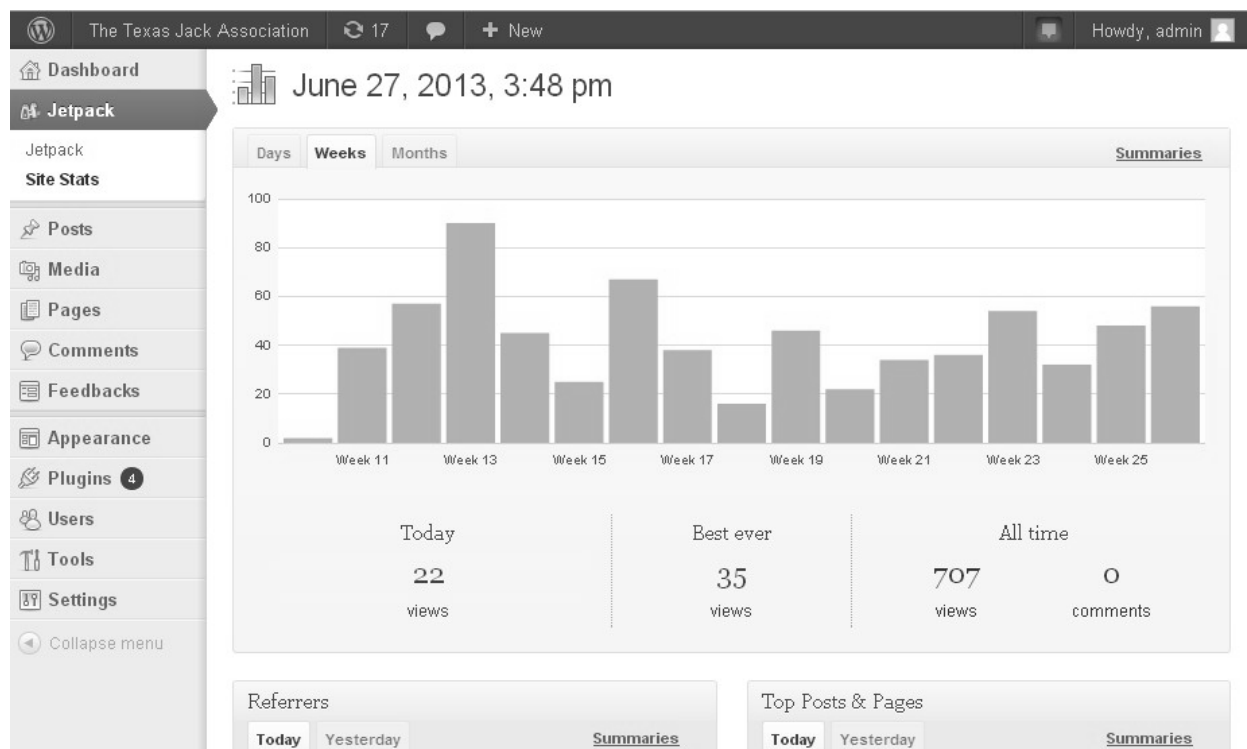


update the site with little or no technical background. An administrator can easily set up logins for anyone who wants to contribute to the site. If you are interested in helping with the website, please contact me at webmaster@texasjack.org. You don't need any technical or web knowledge, because WordPress provides simple interfaces for adding and editing articles, updating menus, and so on. It's mostly a matter of point-and-click.


WordPress also provides useful tools such as site statistics (see screenshot below) so we can track how many people are visiting the

site and how they find it (Google, direct links, and so on). We could also add features such as comments and blogging to the site if we decide to. The website now has some photos from the 2012 Roundup on the site (courtesy of Rick Omohundro). A few of the things I'd like to do:

- Better integrate our web presence with our Facebook page and Twitter account.
- Add photos from other past Roundups.
- Include PDFs of back issues of the *Scout*.



You may notice that pages on the site seem to load a bit slowly. I suspect that this may be because as a non-profit organization we are getting free hosting from our hosting provider BlueHost. If we want to upgrade to a paid site I suspect we can improve the performance. This might be something to discuss at the next meeting.

Although the site is still a work in progress, we are now using a platform that is easier to update and maintain, and that will grow and evolve with the Association. 



In memoriam: Charles L. McKinney



Charles L. McKinney passed away on May 21, 2013 in Santa Cruz, CA. He had been a member of the Texas Jack Association and

was the father of past president Rand McKinney. Some may remember him from the 2006 Cody, WY, Roundup.

He was born in Selma, Alabama, in 1929 and received his B.S. from Jacksonville State College in Jacksonville, AL. He proudly served four years as an officer in the US Navy, sailing on the USS Midway during the Korean War. He received his PhD. in Education Administration in 1963 from Florida State University. In 1966 he became the first president of the South Campus of Tarrant County Junior College in Ft. Worth, TX, and held that position until 1989, leading the campus through times of

growth and great change. After retiring, he settled in Truth Or Consequences, NM, where he helped to establish the "Bountiful Alliance", a non-profit organization dedicated to creating community sustainability through projects such as the farmers' market. After suffering a major stroke in 2008, he convalesced at Kindred Santa Cruz Healthcare center, attended regularly by his family and friends. Charles was a consummate Southern gentleman, a kind and thoughtful man who made friends wherever he went. He was a true scholar who loved books and reading and had a deep and quiet Christian faith.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Dr. Charles L. McKinney Scholarship, Tarrant County College Foundation, 1500 Houston, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, attn.: Liz Sisk.



NEXT SCOUT ISSUE INFORMATION

The deadline for the November 2013 issue of the *Scout* is **November 1, 2013**. Please send ideas and materials to our Guest Editor:

Aaron Poff aka "Driftin' AaronG"
169 Owings Creek Road
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-291-0361
poff41@yahoo.com

The Texas Jack Scout



THE AWESOME WILD THREESOME...January 2011 “A Tale of Sophia, Sam and Grandpa”

By: Driftin' AaronG

*This is an exciting adventure tale of the awesome wild threesome
It's about Sophia, Sam, and grandpa ridin' horses across a great western kingdom*

*Sophia on Spirit, the wild mustang stallion of the plains
An' Sam ridin' Apache, a black 'n' white paint with him hold'n' tight onto the reins*

*An' here comes grandpa on to his ol' bay laggin' behind slow an' easy jus' watchin' the land change
This awesome wild threesome ridin' across Minnesota, Kansas, Montana an' all the western range*

*Wild outlaws on the prod the newspapers did say
Robbin' and stealin' what's not theirs to take almost ever' day*

*Sophia an' Sam thought about the outlaws an' made up their mind
They'd go after 'em 'cause the bad guys were not a good kind*

*With ma an' pa havin' to work to keep up their little ranch
It was up to grandpa to ride an' give his grand-kids a fair chance*

*So on his ol' bay horse he mounted and rode west keepin' 'em in sight
Jus' knowin' they were honest an' would stop the outlaws 'cause it was only right*

*All across the western land they followed the trail
Only wantin' to send those outlaws off to jail*

*The awesome wild threesome trailed the outlaws through Wyoming an' Utah
Then west toward Nevada an' turned toward Idaho an' the outlaws they finally saw*

*A ridin' their horses hard an' fast tryin' to get away from Sophia an' Sam an' grandpa too I must say
There they were jus' catchin' up with those outlaws who were tryin' to get away that very day*

*Sophia an' Sam were smart an' was herdin' them outlaws toward a box canyon ahead
An' a posse comin' to help these three awesome wild ones whom the outlaws did dread*

*The outlaws caught and taken to jail, the awesome wild threesome headed home to ma an' pa's ranch
The adventure of a lifetime they had, the awesome wild threesome, the outlaws didn't have a chance*





The Wild West History Association is an international organization composed of more than 600 members.

Whether you enjoy the histories of gun fights or ghost towns, renegades or red light madams, our active community provides a strong forum for you to further your special Wild West interest areas with some of the premier writers, collectors and historians in the field.

Join us in the study and preservation of our nation's colorful frontier history, and celebrate our nation's intoxicating Old West heritage at our annual Roundups.

2013 Conference Highlights

PRESENTATIONS

Rube Robbins:
Legendary Idaho Lawman

Wyatt Earp:
The Deputy Sheriff of
Eagle City, ID

Butch Cassidy:
Regional Bank Robberies
(Montpelier, ID and
Winnemucca, NV)

Harry Orchard:
Hired Assassin of the Governor
of Idaho. Resulted in the
"Trial of the Century"

"China Polly":
Chinese Slave. Saved her owner's
life after he was shot during a
poker game dispute.

Kittie Wilkins:
Beautiful and famous for selling her
fine horses to the U.S. Cavalry

ADVENTURES

Idaho Historical Society:
"Abraham Lincoln and Idaho"
Museum Exhibit

Idaho Territorial Prison:
Tour of the former home of Harry Orchard, Bub Meeks, and other
"model citizens."

Idaho City:
Visit the oldest and once-largest
city in Idaho. Gunfights,
stagecoach ride, chuckwagon dinner.

**YOU'VE HEARD THE WILD WEST
LEGENDS, NOW DISCOVER
THEIR TRUTHS!**



Texas Jack Condit
Wyatt Earp
William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody

6th Annual
WILD WEST HISTORY ROUNDUP

July 10-13, 2013

RIVERSIDE HOTEL
Boise, Idaho

2014 ROUNDUP
Denver, Colorado

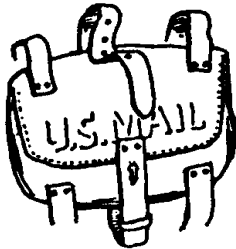
2015 ROUNDUP
Amarillo, Texas



For additional information about Roundups, Book Recommendations and Reviews,
Published Articles, Group Activities, and how you can become a member, visit:

wildwesthistory.org

This is a page from the April 2013 issue of the Wild West History Association's publication. Please see Larry Tyree's email on the Mailbag page about it.



From the Mailbag

From: Robin Steele <steelerobin@ymail.com>
To: info <info@texasjack.org>
Sent: Tue, Jan 1, 2013 5:26 pm
Subject: Scouts of the Prairie/Plains

Hello -

I've heard a lot lately about the play in which Texas Jack, William Cody and James Butler Hickok participated, called "Scouts of the Prairie" (aka "Scouts of the Plains").

Do you have any information about the actual text of the play? Do copies of the text still exist anywhere? With your extensive knowledge and commitment to Texas Jack Omohundro, I thought you might know of a source for this info. Any direction or information would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much, and sincerely,

Robin Steele
Woodland Hills, CA

Sun Jan 20, 2013
From ltyree5353@cs.com
To steelerobin@ymail.com
CC omohndro@sbcglobal.net

Hi Robin,

I have forwarded on your question to other Board members of the Association. I have never heard of a text but that doesn't mean that someone doesn't have one either. There is reference to content in the book "Buckskin and Satin" which gives a good idea what much of it was like, even describing Wild Bill Hickok's antics.

Thanks for your question and I will certainly pass on anything that we may come up with.

Best wishes,
Larry Tyree
Managing Editor: The Texas Jack Scout

From Larry Tyree about page 30:

"I receive copies of the Wild West History Association's publication and we send them a copy of the *Scout* when we publish. They came to us a couple years ago when they ran a photo of Texas Jack on their cover. They publish photos of individuals and historical events in their Journal as well as lots of research into Western History as we do. They also have an annual Roundup.

"I happened to be thumbing through their April issue today since I had not had a chance to get to it yet and was pleased to see that they used a photo of Texas Jack again which you will recognize. They do a lot with the Cody museum in Wyoming, and have extensive networks of contacts. At first when I saw the byline to their Roundup I wondered if they were having a presentation about TJ but they are having presentations on totally different topics. They just liked the photo of Bill, Wild Bill, and Texas Jack."



The President's
MESSAGE

Happy summer! I pray the weather has been kind and that you are enjoying some vacation time and relishing opportunities spent with family and friends. Here in the East, we have enjoyed record rainfalls for the spring and Mother Nature has responded with beautiful landscapes and bountiful gardens. While having had several storms producing 3 or more inches of rain in a very short period, we have had only minor occurrences of flooding. We have also enjoyed the appearance of the “17 year locust” or cicadas this spring. Interestingly enough, the cicadas rise from beneath the soil, leaving large holes as they exit the ground. In walking through the woods these past few weeks, it struck me at how the thousands of holes have aerated the soil much as we would in caring for our lawns. I realize that so much of the water having fallen from the sky has been allowed to reenter the ground through these holes. Coincidence? I think not.

As we approach the celebration of our nation’s “midsummer holiday”, I do hope we are taking time to give Thanks for the liberties and freedoms we enjoy. We spend too much time bemoaning all of the things we feel have gone wrong with our country. While there are things we would love to see changed, things we feel would make our lives easier and better, I suspect

that few, if any of us, have placed our homes and properties on the market and secured new living quarters outside the confines of these fifty United States of America. We live in the greatest country on this earth. A country fought for, lived for and died for. A country having opened its doors, its arms and its heart to the oppressed and those with a dream. While we pride ourselves in being Americans, we must remember that at some point in our ancestry, we were all sojourners in this land.

We live our lives at such a pace that we forget the sacrifice so many have made. We take for granted the liberties, freedoms and conveniences we enjoy daily. As we celebrate the anniversary of our nation’s freedom, may we take time to remember. May we remember and give Thanks for those who have given all for our way of life. May we remember and give Thanks for those in uniform serving in all parts of this world to allow us the peace and prosperity we treasure. May we remember and give Thanks to our Creator, without whom, none of this would be possible. God Bless You!

God Bless the United States of America!

Randy Golladay,
President



The Texas Jack Scout



It was discussed at the business meeting at the 2012 Roundup that the TJA should report their Profit and Loss quarterly. Following is the report of the 2nd quarter of 2013 from Treasurer, Rick Omohundro:

Quarterly Financial Report

4/1/2013 to 6/30/2013

INCOME	304.92	from dues
EXPENSES	<u>-367.41</u>	Scout printing & mailing
TOTAL	-62.49	

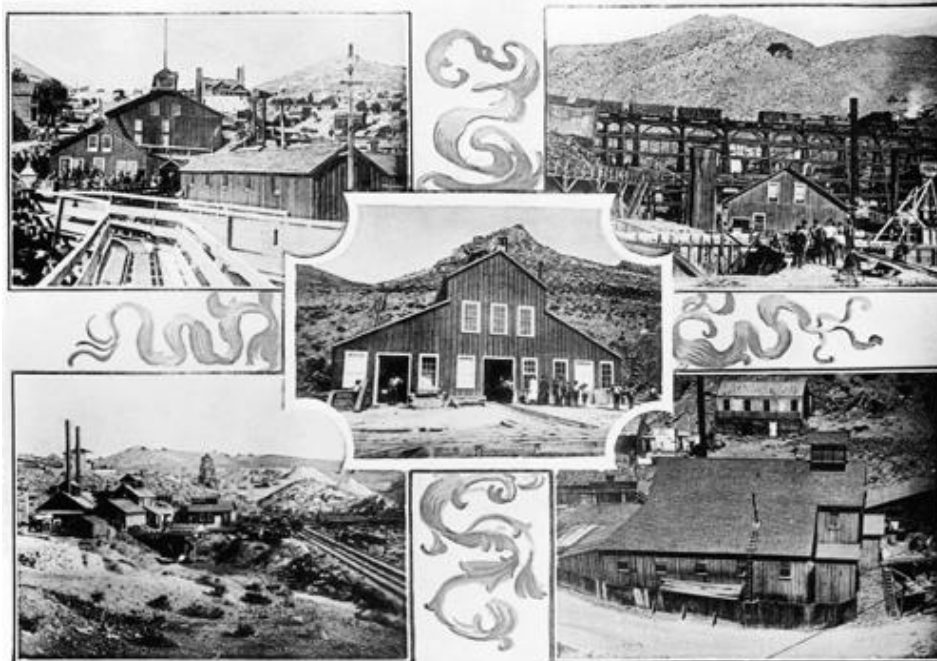


To all who have not paid your dues yet, please do so. They are needed for our basic operations. Eventually we will be able to send out reports by email. Please be sure to include your email address on your membership renewal form. Thank you!



VIRGINIA CITY, HERE WE COME! 2014 ROUNDUP

BEFORE



Word of the discovery spread of gold spread like wildfire and lured California gold miners in a reverse migration back over the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and within no time, a ramshackle town of tents and shacks was born. When a miner named James Finney, who was more often called "Old Virginny" from his birthplace, dropped a bottle of whiskey on the ground, he christened the newly founded tent-and-dugout town "Old Virginny Town" in

honor of himself. It was later changed to Virginia City. By 1862, the population had soared to some 4,000 and would continue to increase over the next decade and a half. <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/nv-virginiacity.html>

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AFTER



These days Virginia City is a fun tourist spot with old timey saloons, cowboys and mining museums.
<http://abattylife.com>

A VERY WELCOMING CITY!



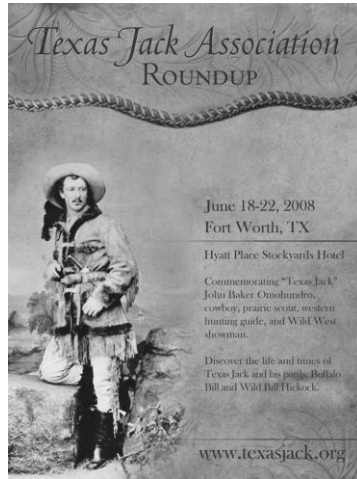
The Texas Jack Scout



TEXAS JACK GEAR



Posters \$15



2010 Roundup Poster Only \$5



tan ball caps



travel mugs - \$15



ceramic coffee mugs - \$15



**Cream Sweatshirts - XXL, XL \$20
Cream T-shirts - Small - \$15**

**White short sleeve polo
XXL, XL, L - \$20**



*Prices do not include shipping.

Please make check payable to **The Texas Jack Association** and mail to:

**Mary Golladay
93 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590**

The Texas Jack Scout



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The Texas Jack Scout

The Texas Jack Scout
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TO: