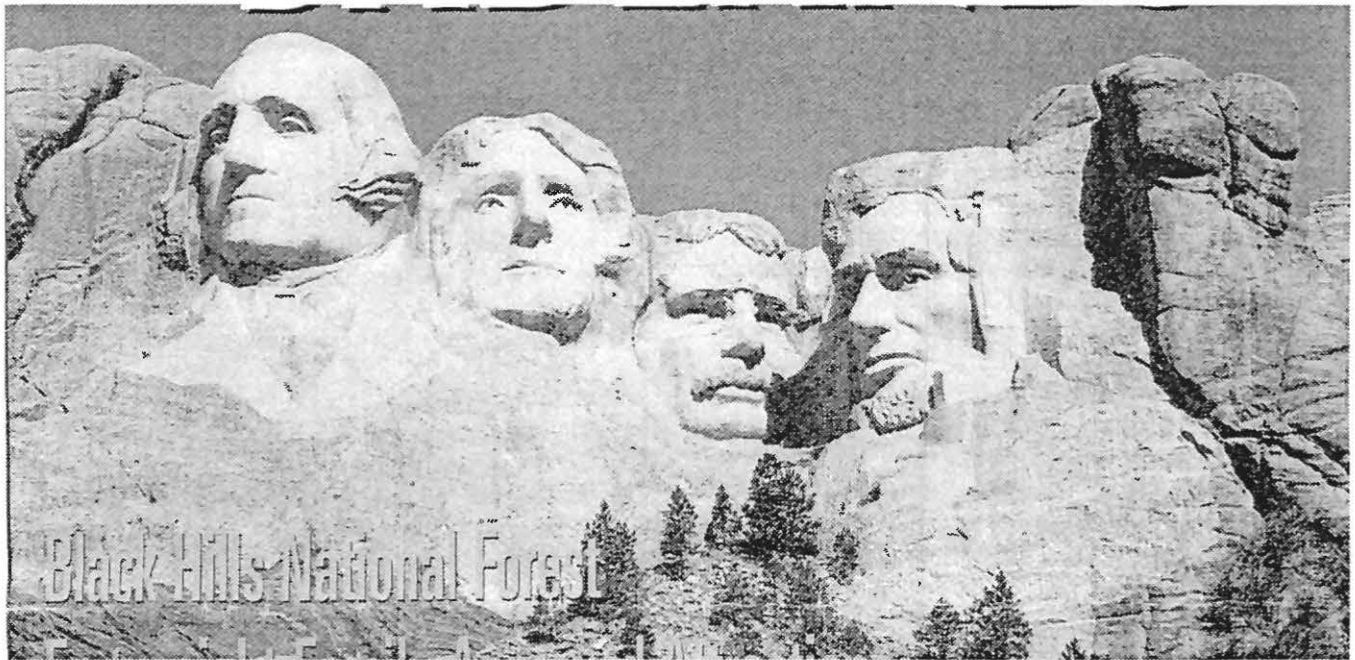


The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

Volume XVII, Number 2

April 2002



2002 Roundup to be in Deadwood City

John T. Omohundro

Plans are nearly complete for the Texas Jack Association's eleventh biennial Roundup, in Deadwood City, South Dakota, from June 26 to June 29, 2002. All TJA members are cordially invited to attend. If you've attended a Roundup before, you know how enjoyable it is to meet other association members and to revisit the life and times of John Baker "Texas Jack" Omohundro.

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Commemoration, the mission of our association, has been a prominent theme in the *Scout* lately.

First, in the January 2002 issue, Eddie Lanham described his plans to mark Texas Jack's Civil War veteran status at his tombstone in Leadville, Colorado.

Second, in this issue Robin Carmody writes of repairs to Wild Bill Hickok's grave in Deadwood City, South Dakota, the site of our Roundup this June. We'll be laying a wreath at Wild Bill's refurbished grave during the Roundup.

Finally, treasurer Edna Nees has been hard at work with volunteers clearing and fencing the Omohundro family cemetery at Pleasure Hill, Fluvanna County, Virginia. Pleasure Hill is where Texas Jack grew up, and his sister, Arabella, is buried there. A report from Edna on the cemetery work is also in this issue. She and her crew deserve a loud "Hurrah!" from all of us for their hard work and dedication.

If you're feeling in a thankful mood, consider Martha Sullivan, our intrepid organizer of the coming Roundup. Martha has visited Deadwood City and worked with dozens of people there to put together a three-and-a-half day event full of quality entertainment, fascinating local history, and scrumptious vittles. Why did she do it? (She might be asking herself that right now. . .) I think it was to commemorate her father, who founded the association and organized the first Roundup. So there's that theme again.

In Deadwood City I will pass the gavel to Julie Omohundro, my supportive vice president and first cousin, who will succeed me for a two-year term. She and I will be recruiting her replacement, the president-elect. It's also time to select a new *Scout* layout editor.

I never grow tired of pulling my TJA membership card out of my wallet to show to people and regaling them with the story of Texas

Jack and my association with him. All they have to do to set me off is to say something like, ". . . Omohundro-- that's an unusual name. . ."

It's been an honor and just plain fun to be your president and I'm sure Julie will discover the same.

John

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

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

OFFICERS

President: John T. Omohundro, Hannawa Falls, NY
Vice President: Julie J. Omohundro, Durham, NC
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Director: Richard L. Omohundro, Jr., Granby, CT
Scout Editor: (current issue): John and Susan Omohundro; production by Edna Nees

continued from page 1 . . .

If you haven't been to a Roundup — here's your chance to participate in a fine one! Organizer Martha Sullivan, daughter of TJA founder Frank Sullivan, has assembled a varied and full program of entertainment, history, socializing, and scenery.

Why Deadwood? Texas Jack's prairie pard and co-star William Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok was living in Deadwood in 1876 when he was assassinated. Rich in plains history, especially from the 1870's to the early twentieth century, Deadwood is nevertheless distinct from most prairie towns in its environment and history.

The Region

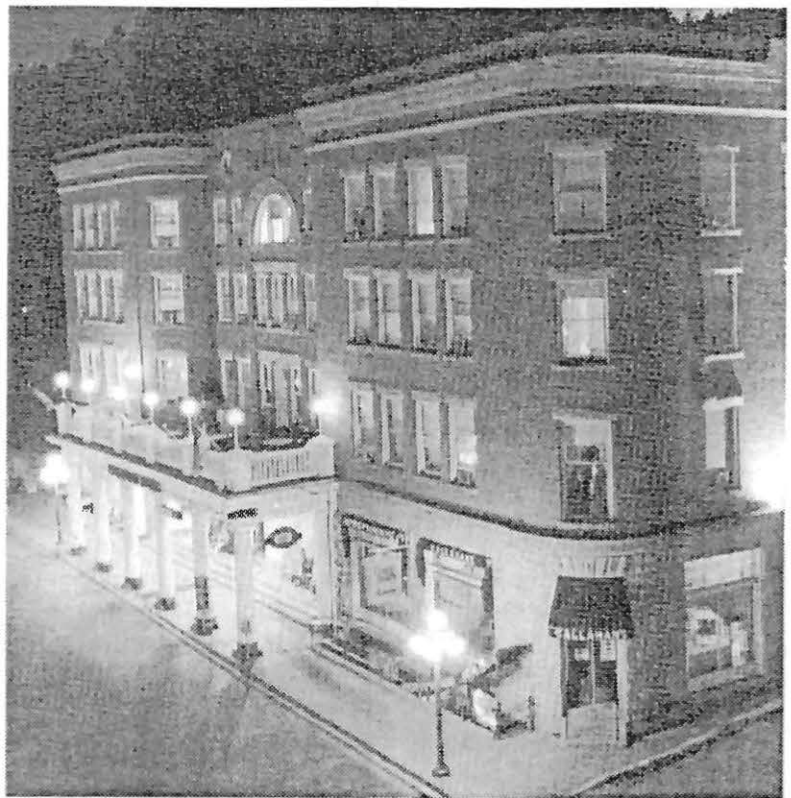
Deadwood is deep in the Black Hills, which have been described as "an island of mountains in a sea of prairie." Pine-covered mountains, fishing streams, lakes, hiking and horse trails, and scenic gorges make the Black Hills distinctive on the austere prairie. For example, the Hills are home to the largest concentration of free-ranging American Bison in the world.

Historically, the Black Hills are the site of the last great gold rush in the US. Historical figures who have placed their mark on this area include Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, Red Cloud, General George Custer, Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Jim Bridger, and Jedediah Smith.

A couple of hours to the southwest of the gorgeous Black Hills are the severe Badlands—a harsh place which migrating pioneers made sure to avoid, but you'll want to head right into them.

Deadwood City

Deadwood may be technically a city, but it's a small one, with just a few thousand permanent residents. The avid and fit can walk from one end to the other—and should do so, because there is an excellent self-guiding historical and architectural walking tour. An inexpensive trolley shuttle service runs up and down town from 7 am until



The Historic Franklin Hotel, site of the Roundup. See the sidebar describing the special rooms available.

the wee hours of morn.

Deadwood City was founded in the 1870s in response to the gold rush at Deadwood Creek, the last gold rush in the US. It burnt and flooded numerous times but has always been rebuilt, kept alive in part by its railroad, the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley RR. The downtown architecture is now carefully restored with funds from the state's gambling income.

Deadwood has been the home of Calamity Jane, California Joe and Potato Creek Bill, and the assassination site of Wild Bill Hickok, who is buried in the cemetery nearby on Mt. Moriah, overlooking the city.

The "new gold" is gambling. Gaming rooms (usually sumptuous Victorian style) are everywhere. There are also two golf courses near Rapid City and another nearby in Sturgis.

To learn more about attractions in the region (other than the many we've placed on your itinerary!) visit www.deadwood.org and www.deadwood.net.

Accommodations

Martha has arranged for the century-old Historic Franklin Hotel, in the middle of "downtown," to

Here are brief descriptions of some of the small and large suites available at the Historic Franklin hotel

Small Suites:

The Blanche Coleman- two rooms, two queen beds
The Babe Ruth - two rooms, one queen and one twin bed
The Jann Wenner (nonsmoking) - two rooms, one queen bed. Nice antiques.
The Jack Dempsey (nonsmoking) - three rooms, two double beds.
The Rusty Gimble (nonsmoking) - two rooms, two double beds.
(and others: The Harrington, the Costner, the Governors. . .)

Large Suites:

The Willy Nelson Bridal - three rooms, one king and one double bed. Wet bar, jacuzzi, big TV.
The Roosevelt (nonsmoking) - living room, two bedrooms, two doubles, a twin and a double bed. Overlooks Main St.
The Will Rogers (nonsmoking) - living room two bedrooms with one king and two double beds. Overlooks Main St.
The Mary Hart - living room, two bedrooms with one king and two queen beds. Overlooks Main St.
(and others: the William Taft, the Hilda Klein. . .)

be the site of our Roundup, and we urge participants to reserve rooms there. It's an architectural history buff's dream, with many turn-of-the-century Classic Revival features. Antiques and original furnishings create a delightful atmosphere. Parking is free.

The Franklin has recently undergone five years of renovation at a cost of \$2 million. It offers 80 guest rooms, including large elegant Victorian suites, small suites, king- and queen-size doubles, and numerous economy motor lodge rooms.

Prices are remarkably low: from \$79 for large suites, \$59 for small suites, \$49 for two double-beds; and economy rooms for as little as \$39. These prices will also apply for three days before and after the Roundup, for those of us who intend to see more of the area. Continental breakfast from 7 to 11 am is included in the room package.

See side panel for details on some of the rooms.

A century has seen the Franklin always in the middle of city life. During the Depression, the hotel housed the only public restrooms in the village, which were maintained by the city. The first radio broadcast in the state was from here. On premises are a fine steakhouse, the 1903 Dining Room, the oldest in town, as well as an Irish pub and a sports bar. The hotel also operates the Silverado Casino.

Conference registrants are asked to make their own hotel arrangements. The Franklin may be reached at 800-688-1876, or franklin@deadwood.net.

Alternative lodgings may be investigated at www.deadwood.net.

Itinerary

Wednesday June 26

- 4 - 6 pm - Reception on the Veranda of the Emerald Room, Franklin Hotel. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.
- Registration and sale of Texas Jack paraphernalia in the adjoining Fainting Room.
- 6 pm - Dinner on your own. We recommend the 1903 Dining Room in the hotel. *If you request on the registration form, we'll reserve a place for you.*

Thursday June 27

- 9 am - Bus tour of Deadwood and wreath-laying ceremony at Wild Bill Hickok's grave at Mt. Moriah cemetery, a scenic site overlooking Deadwood.
- Catered gourmet picnic buffet in the city park. Vegetable and relish platters, assorted dips, veggie pasta, turkey breast and smoked ham on buns, gourmet coffee, dessert.

- Afternoon free. Recommended: The Adams House, a recently restored Queen Anne-style residence, and the Adams Museum, a premier museum of the history and natural history of the Black Hills

- Also recommended for the day:
4 pm Shootout at Wild West Cafe
5 pm cocktail social at Old Style Saloon #10
6 pm dinner at Old Style Saloon #10. *If you request on the registration form, we'll reserve a place for you.*
7:30 reenactment of shooting of Wild Bill Hickok
8 pm reenactment of Trial of Jack McCall in Deadwood Theatre

Friday June 28

- 8:30 am - begin all-day bus tour of region
- Yeararound Christmas shop
- Mount Rushmore. Walk the one-mile Presidential Trail to the very foot of the mountain.
- Crazy Horse Monument. So huge that the chief's face covers an area greater than all four of Rushmore's heads together. Fifty years in the making and still taking shape.
- 11:30 am - Lunch at the Alpine House.
- 2 pm - 1880 train ride on Black Hills Central RR, from Hill City to Keystone through beautiful Black Hills scenery
- Visit Borglum (Rushmore sculptor) Museum and prowl Keystone
- 6 pm - Circle B Ranch chuckwagon supper of beef, chicken, beans, and biscuits, and

country western show, with Circle B Cowboys.

- 10 pm - return to Deadwood

Saturday June 29

- 9 am - Association biennial meeting, private room at Franklin Hotel. Come learn what we do and put in your two cents' worth. All Association members are voting members and their opinions, time and money are what keeps our organization alive.
- Afternoon free. By now you'll have *many* options from which to choose!
- 6:30 - cash bar, private room, Deadwood's Wild West Casino.
- 7 pm - Association banquet in private room, at Wild West Casino Theatre, featuring prime rib (or lemon pepper chicken). Music by Lyndall and Dan Foral.

Getting There

For those flying, the airport is in Rapid City, South Dakota, 45 miles east of Deadwood. Ride to Deadwood on the shuttle or rent a car (see the side panel on rental rates.)

For those driving, Deadwood City is in the southwest corner of South Dakota, just south of Interstate 90 and 25 miles east of the Wyoming border.

Weather in late June

According to Deadwood's official website (www.deadwood.org): "Summer comes early to Deadwood. The days start heating up in May, and

Enterprise Car Rentals in Rapid City offers a special group rate for TJA participants in the Roundup.

Contracts include first 150 miles free, \$.25/mile thereafter.

economy to intermediate:	\$29.99/da
midsize-full size :	\$36.99/da
SUVs:	\$48.99/da
minivans:	\$48.99/da

To make a reservation for a vehicle, which are available as first come, first served, call the Rapid City office, 110 No. Campbell St., Rapid City SD 57701; tele 605/399-9939. Fax 605/348-6286.

Be sure to mention you're with the TJA.

they stay warm well into early fall. At an elevation of 4,533 feet, Deadwood's July temperatures rarely dip below 60 degrees. Even when you venture a little higher into the Hills, near Terry Peak or Deer Mountain, you'll enjoy these same ideal summer conditions."

That sounds to us like sweaters at night or on cloudy days. Hot days may call for a hat, sun blocker, or parasol.

Registration

Registration for the entire Roundup for persons over age 10 is \$135. Children age 10 and younger are \$125. Someone in the household must be a Texas Jack Association member, so join or renew now.

The registration fee includes the Wednesday reception, two bus tours, two lunches, a dinner and the banquet, the train ride, admission to tour sites, and two musical shows. Registrants will need to provide for themselves only two dinners and one lunch during the Roundup. Coupled with the very reasonable rates at the Franklin, this is a fine price for three and a half days of Roundup.

Persons who can attend only Thursday may register one day for \$30 (\$35 non-members); those who can attend only Friday may register one day for \$75 (\$80 non-members); those who can attend only Saturday may register one day for \$30 (\$35 non-members).

If you wish vegetarian options to the meat dishes in the two lunches and two dinners, please mark that on the registration form.

If you prefer the lemon chicken

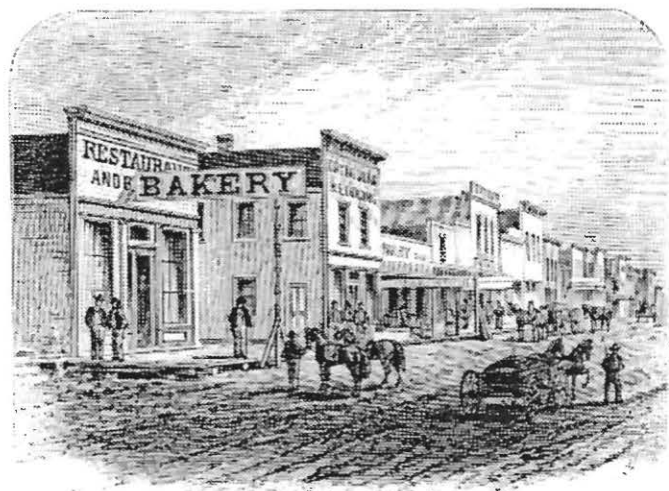
alternative to the roast beef dinner at the Association banquet, please mark that also.

Fill out the registration form in this issue and mail it in today!

* * *



Dan and Lyndall Foral will provide the musical entertainment Saturday night at the banquet. Dan plans to set a poem about Texas Jack to music.



The No. 10 Saloon in Deadwood City, where the shooting of Wild Bill Hickok occurred on August 2, 1876, has been known for years. Until now, there has previously existed a large amount of confusion and mystery as to the actual site location of the theater operation that was used for the trial of his murderer, Jack McCall. The Gem Dance Hall, Bella Union Variety Theatre, Langrishe Theatre, McDaniels Theatre, Deadwood Theatre, and even the No. 10 Saloon have all been suggested as potential site locations by various writers over the years.

The Gem Dance Hall had opened on lower Main Street during the first part of the summer of 1876, and was located across the street and just east of the No. 10 Saloon. The Gem was at first was only a saloon and dance hall, and later in the spring of 1877 added a variety theater with live entertainment. The Gem did not have a theater operation in 1876.

The Bella Union Variety Theatre is probably the most popularly misidentified location of

elected Judge of the McCall trial, recalled:

"...after arguments of counsel I charged the jury about sundown, and as the theatre could not be used that night, the saloon where the killing occurred was selected to receive the verdict.... "

The man who would provide Deadwood with its first true theater operation was John "Jack" Langrishe, who came to Deadwood with his theatrical troupe in July of 1876. *The Pioneer* provided a story of Langrishe's opening debut at the new Deadwood Theatre in their July 22nd edition:

"THE THEATRE- The Langrishe troupe will make their first appearance in their mammoth pavilion theatre, and give the first dramatic renditions ever witnessed in Western Dakota . . ."

Jack Langrishe started regularly

WHERE WAS THE TRIAL OF JACK MCCALL? Which Hotel Served as the Courtroom for Will Bill Hickok's Killer?

by Thadd Turner

Jack McCall's Deadwood City trial. The Bella Union was built the first part of September 1876 by Tom Miller, and was located next door to the east side of the No. 10 Saloon. The September 9th edition of the *Black Hills Pioneer* reported the opening of the Bella Union Variety Theatre, listing Miller as one of its regularly scheduled performers: "THE BELLA UNION VARIETIES- Tom Miller, Proprietor, will open Sunday, Sept. 10th, with a first class variety company...." Thus, the Bella Union Variety Theatre was not the trial location.

Carl Mann, Jerry Lewis, and Billy Nuttall's now famous No. 10 Saloon was first announced to the public in the June 17th edition of the *Pioneer*. Wild Bill Hickok drank, gambled, and was killed in the No. 10, but next day the brief trial of Jack McCall was not held in that same place.

However, the No. 10 Saloon location may very well have been used as the place where Jack McCall's verdict of "Not Guilty" was read after the first elements of his trial were held in the nearby theater building. In his 1917 book, *Frontier Days*, Judge William L. Kuykendall, the

advertising the Deadwood Theatre business operation in *The Pioneer*, starting with the July 22 issue, and listed himself as John Langrishe, Manager. The Deadwood Theatre provided the only authentic theatrical stage productions in Deadwood throughout all of 1876. There are no advertisements or feature stories in the 1876 *Pioneer* for a McDaniels or Langrishe Theatre.

The Deadwood Theater was built for Jack Langrishe by James McDaniels, who owned and operated a popular and successful theater in Cheyenne, Wyoming, known as the McDaniels Theatre. Over the years many writers and researchers have confused the theater that McDaniels built in Deadwood City for Jack Langrishe as the "Langrishe" or "McDaniels" Theatre. Identifying the name of the builder, and the operator of the original theater, has historically been a common mistake.

Thus the Deadwood Theatre was the site of the Deadwood City trial of Jack McCall.

James McDaniels realized that for necessary seating the theater building would need to be at least 30 feet wide and 100 feet deep. McDaniels purchased one 25-foot wide city lot



"Wild Bill" by Joe Netherwood

on upper Main Street and acquired an additional five feet of frontage from the adjoining lot next door. This would include all of Lot #9 and a portion of Lot #7, of Block #4 in the original 1877 Fine and Smith Deadwood City survey map.

Seth Bullock made note of the Deadwood Theatre in his unpublished manuscript, as provided by Bullock's grandson and author, Kenneth Kellar, in his 1972 book, *Seth Bullock- Frontier Marshal*:

".... Jack Langrishe and his theatrical troupe arrived in Deadwood.... shortly before their arrival, a theatre had been erected on Main Street, thirty feet front by one hundred feet deep, with a canvas roof... The theatre was used for murder trials, dances, and other gatherings....."

By 1878 Jack Langrishe would relocate the Deadwood Theater to the Sherman Street area of South Deadwood. As fate would have it, the terrible fire of Friday, September 26th, 1879 would start in the Empire Bakery building located near the rear of Langrishe's second theater site.

The original Deadwood Theatre building site location was reconstructed of brick after the Deadwood City fire of 1879 by Ben Baer and Max Fishel, who each occupied one side of the 30-foot wide building with separate business operations- a clothing store and a book store.

The entire building was subsequently purchased and occupied by Sol Levinson in 1909,

who remodeled the structure with a new facade and second story addition in 1910. In 1938, the Old Style Saloon opened on Deadwood's Main Street in this same historic building, where it has maintained its present location since that time. Sol Levinson's name is still visible today on the front cornice of this building.

In an ironic twist of history, the current location of the Old Style Saloon No. 10--the saloon daily reenacting Wild Bill's murder-- appears to have been the site of the Deadwood Theatre-- where his murderer Jack McCall was tried on August 3, 1876. An incredible coincidence of fact coming to light on the 125th anniversary of this historic event.

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Now released in hard-cover:
Wild Bill Hickok: Deadwood City ~ End of Trail
by Thadd Turner

See it & Place your order:
www.oldwestalive.net

* * *

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Inform our secretary, Edna Nees

PAID YOUR 2002 DUES?

Support your Association!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Hal and Ellen Grindle, Wasilla, AK
Dowd Sullivan, Springfield, IL
Deborah Sullivan, Fort Collins, CO
Cindy Bacon, Lakewood CO
Bonnie Sherwood, Carbondale, CO
Matthew Tyree, Lee's Summit, MO
Victor Burgess, Union, WV
and
Charles Hunt, Rapid City, SD
[not *George*, as reported in the last issue!]

Texas Jack Association
Roundup
Deadwood City, South Dakota
June 26-29, 2002
REGISTRATION FORM

(--Participants must make their own hotel arrangements--)

_____ persons over 10 years old, @ \$135 = _____

_____ children 10 and younger, @ \$125 = _____

_____ memberships in Texas Jack Association @ \$15 = _____
(There must be at least one current membership in household to register)

Day Registrations:

_____ persons for Thursday only @ \$30 (\$35 nonmembers) = _____

_____ persons for Friday only @ \$75 (80 nonmembers) = _____

_____ persons for Saturday only @ \$30 (\$35 nonmembers) = _____

I enclose a check to Texas Jack Association for total: _____

Send this completed form and check to :
Edna Nees, 213 Coles Rolling Rd., Scottsville, VA 24590

Name:

Address:

Phone: ()

email address (optional):

Anticipated date of arrival _____

Anticipated date of departure _____

_____ number of persons requesting a vegetarian alternative at the two scheduled lunches
and two scheduled dinners

_____ number of persons requesting the lemon chicken instead of the roast beef at the
Association banquet

optional:

Please reserve spaces for _____ people in the 1903 dining room for the on-your-own
dinner Wednesday, June 26

Please reserve spaces for _____ people in the #10 Saloon for the on-your-own dinner
Thursday, June 27



Edna examines Arabella's gravestone in the Pleasure Hill family cemetery before cleanup

THE PLEASURE HILL CEMETERY FENCE

Report from Edna Nees

In the President's Column of the January 2002 *Scout* it was reported that the executive committee had authorized Edna to purchase and install a fence around the Omohundro family cemetery at Pleasure Hill. She's been busy since then. She managed to acquire wire fencing material sufficient to enclose a 40 by 40-foot space for about \$600. And she enlisted the assistance of a number of people who very kindly donated their time to a major cleanup of the area, as she reports:

"All of my friends and family have helped me clean the cemetery for free. I had seven people helping me and we spent two days cleaning it. My sister and her friend, and several friends of mine helped me do the work. They furnished their tools, trucks, lunch, drinks, gas, chain saws, clippers, shovels, rakes, 4-wheeler, small trailer, big trailer and a brand new chipper was brought in there for us to use. Boy was it cold and windy but they never stopped."

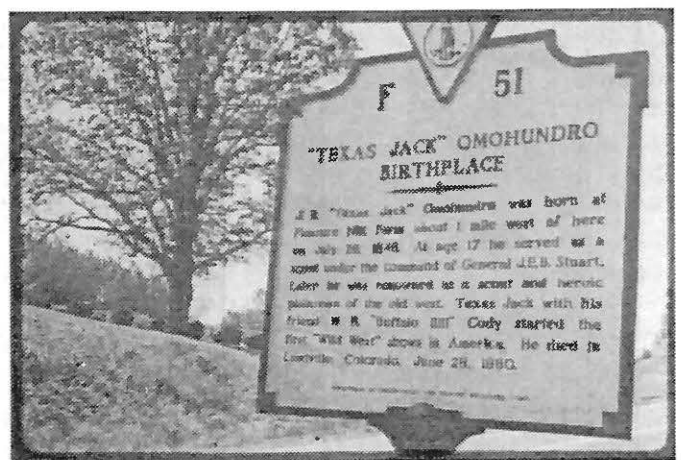
Edna and her husband John used to maintain the cemetery but it had received no care for several years after his death.

The next task is to put up the fence. Edna's friends will pick up and deliver the materials. The plan is this: "It is 15 fence posts that they will have to dig by hand and set in concrete.

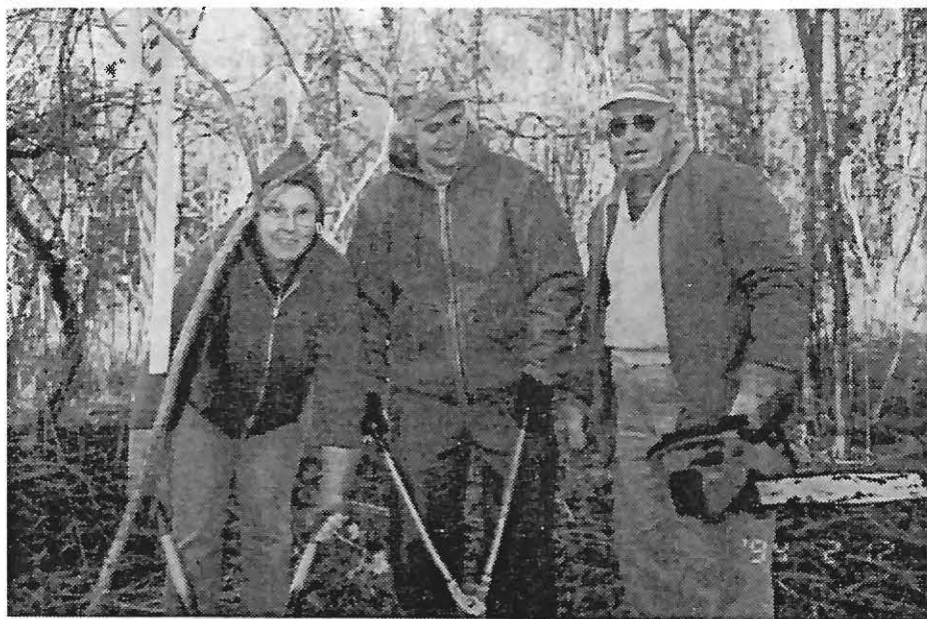


ARABELLA OMOHUNDRO
WOHLBRUCK NEES (6 G)
Age 41

Arabella always wanted to go back to Pleasure Hill to be buried with her mother, so her Charles Nees, her son, carried her back.



Highway historical marker near Pleasure Hill draws attention to family home site of Texas Jack



Some of the cleaning crew at Pleasure Hill in February 2002: Left to Right: Margaret Tooley, Tammy Swingle, and Raymond Grandstaff.

It has been dry and it takes a while to dig the holes and make the mortar to put around the posts, but we are getting there. The men help when they can. We are planning to put a 4-foot gate so we can drive a lawn mower or a 4-wheeler and small trailer through if we need to get inside the fence and do some work."

Edna adds: "I was going through some old pictures of the cemetery from back in the 1940's-50's and I saw a picture of Arabella's footstone. It wasn't there now so we dug and dug and finally found it down in the ground. We got it up and set it in concrete, and also put concrete under the headstone as it had come off the foundation."

Arabella Adalaide Omohundro Wohlbruck Nees (1849-1939) was the sister of Texas Jack. Their mother, Catherine Salome Baker O. (1824-1864) is also buried at Pleasure Hill. Several of Catherine's eleven children died young and are also in the family cemetery (see the list at right). We'll try to provide a fuller account of Texas Jack's childhood home in the next *Scout*, when we wrap up description of the work to restore order at the cemetery.

Buried at Pleasure Hill Cemetery

Catherine S. Baker Omohundro 7/1/1824-/11/16/1864
Adelaide Virginia Omohundro 10/15/1841-4/16/1848
--Catherine's first child, d. age 6
Catherine Mary Omohundro 11/13/1847-6/8/1848
--Catherine's fifth child, born next after Texas Jack
Seldon Bickerton Omohundro 9/7/1858-3/5/1863
Manassas Omohundro 7/21/1861
--Seldon and Manassas were Catherine's last two children
Arabella Adelaide Omohundro Wohlbruck Nees
7/22/1849-11/8/1939



Tammy Swingle uncovering footstone of Arabella Omohundro Nees, Texas Jack's sister, in the Pleasure Hill Cemetery.

Trumpet on the Land

A Novel by Terry C. Johnston

Review by Susan Omohundro

Texas Jack was a prominent character in several dime novels of the late 19th century written by Ned Buntline and other popular authors of the day. That tradition continues today, in a fashion, inasmuch as Texas Jack's name and character are invoked in a number of western novels. As we head into the 21st century, it appears authors will continue to take liberties with the historical record as much as they did in the 19th century. How many readers will know or care, so long as the setting seems authentic, or at least plausible?

Trumpet on the Land (Bantam Books, 1995) is part of a long-running series of novels called The Plainsmen Novels. This one deals with the aftermath of the Custer Massacre. It is fictionalized but based in the historical record. Buffalo Bill is one of the characters; his killing of Yellow Hand (or Yellow Hair) is recounted.

Texas Jack is referred to a number of times. First in Chapter Two, beginning on p. 20, which is set in June 1876 and discusses the early history of Buffalo Bill's stage career. A "Scouts of the Prairie" review begins on p. 26. Various newspaper reviews are cited. Wild Bill is mentioned, and Ned Buntline. However, Texas Jack is not mentioned by name here, which is a little odd, because he is referred to later on. He is first mentioned by name on p. 277, when Buffalo Bill is reminiscing about his scouting days and lists Texas Jack as one of the good scouts. Then on p. 320 (set in Aug. 1876) Buffalo Bill is thinking about leaving the military campaign organized to vindicate Custer, and says he is thinking about going back on the stage. "Me and Texas Jack ought to make another go of it."

The last reference to Texas Jack begins on p. 355, when, on Aug. 25, the steamer Carroll is heading down the Yellowstone with Buffalo Bill on it planning to return home, but the steamer turns around when upcoming steamers, the Josephine and the Yellowstone, report Indian attacks downriver. Buffalo Bill isn't happy about going back upriver.



John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, publicity photograph 1877.

"Bill had no sooner begun to register his colorful complaint than a familiar voice called out his name. "Buffalo Bill!" Turning, Cody found the face of an old friend and business associate. "Texas Jack!" Jack Omohundro, a longtime friend on the plains as well as Bill's recent partner in their stage productions back east, raced up the gangplank just as he Carroll's crew hoisted it out of the way and put off from the bank. " Dialogue continues for a couple of pages. The gist of it is that Jack wants to do some scouting for the Fifth Infantry under Nelson Miles. At this point in the plot a courier is needed to take messages to General Terry and Cody volunteers to take them. p. 357: "Omohundro asked quietly, "Just where were you going when we bumped into you, Bill?" "Home, Jack." "Christ, Cody - I was coming out here to grab some of the adventure and fun for myself, and here you're booking it in." Bill smiled. "Doesn't appear I'm done for . . . not just

yet." And here Cody takes off, against Jack's remonstrances. Texas Jack is never mentioned again, so we don't know if he got into the action. I'd say there are some loose threads in the plotting of the novel.

According to Herschel Logan (*Buckskin and Satin*), Texas Jack was a scout and reporter for the *New York Herald* in the late summer of 1876, sending dispatches on the aftermath of Custer's defeat and the attempts to avenge it. And Buffalo Bill did record meeting Texas Jack on the river. The *Herald* published an article by Texas Jack on Sept. 30, 1876 in which he described his trip upriver, the attack on the boat by Indians, and his travels through the country. Texas Jack's own account is every bit as exciting and dramatic as the novel's version. We'll never know if he spiced up his own story at all, but I get the impression from his newspaper writing that he was attempting a precise, factual account of the summer's events as he saw them. Clearly, Texas Jack relished adventure and wasn't afraid of danger, so he got right into the thick of things and had plenty to talk about without resorting to fiction.

In sum, I think Texas Jack and other genuine historic figures are introduced into *Trumpet on the Land* primarily in order to make the actions of the purely fictional characters seem more believable. There's nothing wrong with this, except the blurring of fact and fiction makes it harder for the student of history to separate myth from reality. Do we want to know who the real Buffalo Bill was, or the real Texas Jack? I think we do, sometimes. But we can't expect to get the real man from western novels, old or new.

* * *

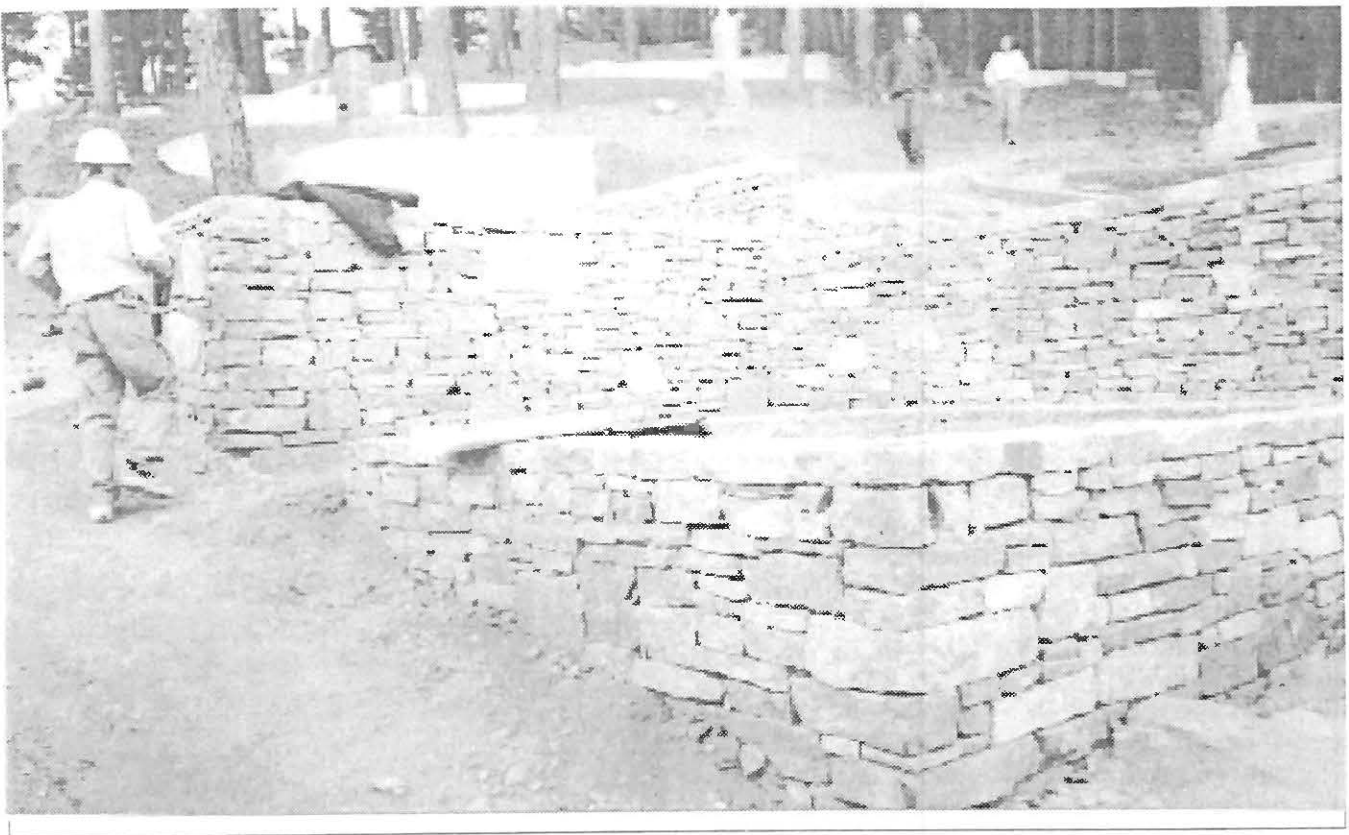
Duke Hamilton is Dead!
by Victor Stater,
Hill & Wang, 1999

Susan Omohundro

I found this book review in the March, 1999 issue of the Atlantic Monthly. I haven't read the book yet but I intend to. I'm hoping discussion of the Mohun family will give me some idea whether there could be a connection to the Omohundro family. The book review makes it sound like anyone interested in English history and the low behavior of the highly placed will enjoy this book. - Should we blame Lady Mohun for being annoyed about her bedspread? I'll let you know what I find out.

The fourth Duke of Hamilton was Scottish and a Tory - more or less. The fourth Baron Mohun was Cornish and a Whig. Both were ambitious, well-known politicians and, like most of their peers, heavily in debt. Through family marriages, both had inheritance claims to a valuable estate. On the morning of November 15, 1712, they duelled in Hyde Park. It was no first blood, honor satisfied affair. They fought to kill, and both succeeded. Lady Mohun was annoyed because her husband's bloody corpse damaged a bedspread. Lady Hamilton fled the dank ancestral stronghold to become a social ornament in London. The inheritance row continued to drift 'upon the sluggish waters of the Court of Chancery.' To the country at large, the affair was a symptom of the bitter quarrel over who was to succeed the ailing Queen Anne. Mr. Stater approaches the case from that point of view, providing an interesting and informative study of a period when changing social and financial patterns made politics a truly dangerous game. The story includes much anecdote, savage journalism, and characters ranging from a polished Irish scallawag to Peter the Great.

* * *



Wild Bill Hickok's gravesite in the Mount Moriah cemetery, on the hill above Deadwood City, South Dakota, undergoing a massive facelift in 2001

RESTORATION OF WILD BILL'S GRAVESITE

Robin Ivy Carmody

It occurred to me that because the Roundup will be held in Deadwood, South Dakota this June, *Scout* readers may appreciate the changes which have been occurring at Mount Moriah Cemetery.

In 1994 on my first trip to Deadwood I went to the cemetery to pay my respects at Mr. Hickok's grave. The photos I've enclosed show the obvious differences in stonework between then and my latest visit in October 2001. Organizers of the restoration project, as quoted in the *Black Hills Pioneer 2000*, wanted to be able to reproduce the gravesites of Wild Bill Hickok

and Calamity Jane to "the most historically accurate and appropriate" possible.

Grave access routes and some of the streets will be changing as well. Gone are the days when pedestrians or tour busses have to travel over the tops of existing graves. In my 2001 photo are barely visible the poured concrete forms in many layers of the hill. As I was told by one construction worker, something needed to be done to prevent continued soil erosion and improve drainage. Storms, although they provide much needed precipitation to the region, are

destructive to a cemetery located on a steep hill.

This isn't the place to go into great detail about Wild Bill's burial, but I should note that the "new" area surrounding his grave will once again look as it did in the early 1890's. J.H. Riordan sculpted the original "Riordan Bust" of Mr. Hickok, which by 1893 was surrounded by a decorative cast iron fence. Unfortunately, this original sculpture was damaged, mostly by vandals, and by 1903 was virtually unrecognizable. In 2001, another sculptor, David Ford, was commissioned by the City of Deadwood to recreate the "Riordan Bust" in bronze. Upon its completion, it will stand in its original position at Mr. Hickok's grave.

According to the leaders of the restoration project, Calamity Jane's gravesite will also undergo restoration of the stone surrounding her grave. An urn with base which had been donated by one of her friends, Dora DuFran, after Calamity's death, will also be placed.

It was truly an amazing sight to see such a great deal of change going on at this cemetery. The only people around last October were the construction workers and the masons. When I first approached the area, I saw Wild Bill's headstone lying on the street, which is the first "layer" to Mt. Moriah. My heart skipped a beat as I thought they may be moving him *again!* Then, as I saw the construction workers working, I realized they were not there to pay respects, but to freshen up the place.

Wild Bill's original place of burial was Ingleside Cemetery, but by 1879 the city's population growth made it necessary to move his remains to Mt. Moriah. This was done by his close pard, Colorado Charlie.

I paid my respects, and was on my way. During this most recent trip I did not venture up to the top of the hill where Seth Bullock and his bride are buried. The walkways were not where I remembered them to be, and I figured someone was going to come after me as it was,

Hickok's tombstone
and stonework
memorial,
with iron fence,
as it was in 1994

for jumping over the orange temporary fence which had lined the bottom rung.

I have not heard of a finish date for the restoration project, but I do look forward to joining my Roundup pards in laying a wreath at Wild Bill's grave.

See you in Deadwood!

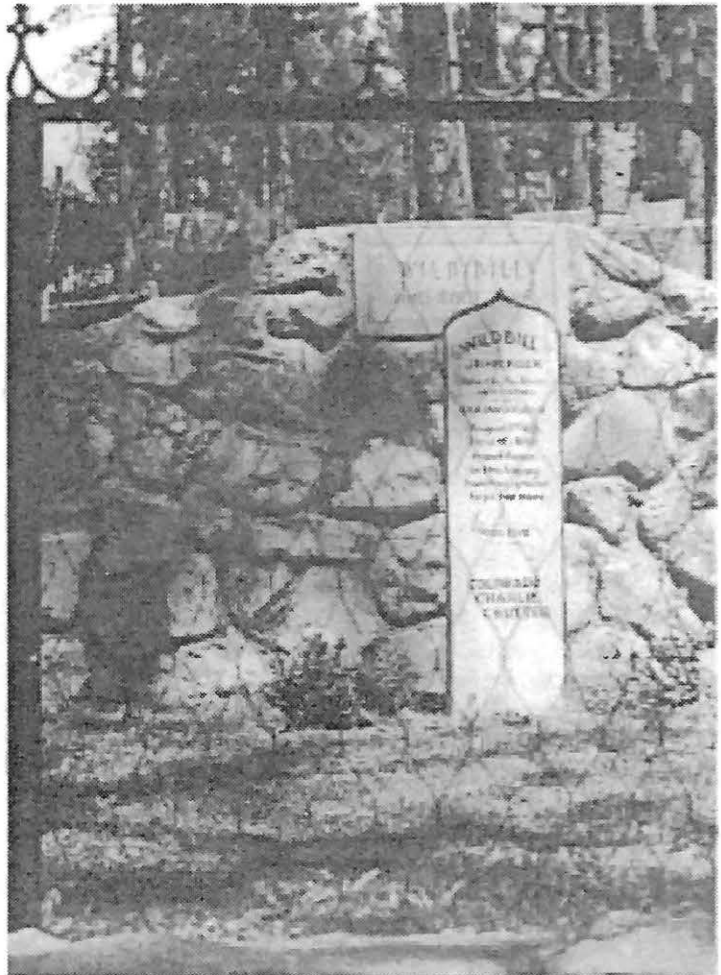
* * *

For additional information, consult these works:

Mount Moriah, "Kill a Man-Start a Cemetery", Helen Rezatto. Rapid City, South Dakota: Fenwyn Press, 1989

They Called Him Bill, Joseph Rosa. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964

Deadwood City - End of Trail, Thadd Turner. Old West Alive! Publishing, 2001 (see p. 8).



from the Editor's Desk...



If you enjoy using your computer perhaps you would like to try your hand at editing and computer layout of the *Scout* newsletter. Susan and I have served as editor/layout since 1997 and would like to retire to the position of occasional guest editors. The association will select a new layout editor at the Roundup business meeting in June.

If you were the layout editor, here's what you'd do: Three times a year the guest editors send you material for articles, mail, pictures, new members, obituaries, etc. Then you assemble these on your computer using a newsletter program (I use Adobe's HomePublisher; others might use Microsoft's Publisher). Then you print and send the master to Treasurer Edna Nees for printing and distribution. After the first issue, you'll find the technical aspects routine and you'll get faster.

The job favors someone who attends to details (some call that "fussy") and has a friendly way of nudging the guest editors to get their stuff in on time. For us newsletter wonks, a nice

looking publication is the ample reward.

Call or e-mail us if you'd like more details. Even if you can't come to the Roundup this June, we can work out a smooth transition of the layout editor position.

--John and Susan Omohundro
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Deadline for materials for the the next issue of the *Scout* is August 15, 2002.

send to:

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WILD BILL IN THE FUNNY PAPERS

From the *Washington Post* in 1955; donated by Joyce O. Miller of HoHoKus, New Jersey

WILD BILL HICKOK

By Russ Winterbotham and Ralph Lane

In New York, Wild Bill Hickok looked up Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack Omohundro, who were appearing on the Broadway stage.

A role was found for Hickok, but after critics got through with him, he was ready to return to Hays City and Abilene, Kan.

A reason for his remaining in the East was Mrs. Agnes Lake, whom he met in Abilene, the widow of a circus proprietor. Bill proposed, but she asked time to consider.

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SEE YOU AT THE ROUNDUP. . . !



**DEADWOOD
CITY, SOUTH
DAKOTA
JUNE 26-29**

**FULL DETAILS
INSIDE**

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2002

