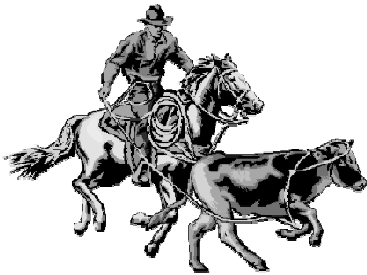




Volume XXII, Number 3

www.texasjack.org

November 2007



Fort Worth, the Chisholm Trail, and Texas Jack, Cowboy

by K. B. Chapman

During the Civil War, Texans left to fight for the Confederacy. Their untended cattle multiplied in their absence, and the war cut Texas off from a market access. Thus in 1865 Texas ranchers faced a dilemma: overstocked ranges and low cattle prices. The solution? Move the animals out of Texas to northern ranges and markets at Kansas and Missouri railheads. One of the main cattle trails passing through Fort Worth Texas on the way north was the Chisholm Trail, which ran from San Antonio, Texas, to Abilene, Kansas.

The Chisholm Trail was named after Jesse Chisholm, a well-respected trading post operator of Cherokee - Scottish birth. It was originally established as a supply link between Kansas and the southwestern Indian Tribes in Oklahoma, through his store on Chisholm Creek, also named after him. As the cattle came north from Texas, the cowboys followed this trail and in exchange for its use, named it the Chisholm Trail. (4)

When the Civil War ended in 1865, Texas Jack found his life at home unexciting. He set off for Texas from New Orleans by sea. His boat was lost in a storm and he ended up in Florida, spending about a year there teaching school and hunting. Once again he set off for Texas, this time by land, and spent the next three years or so working as a cowboy on the Taylor Ranch. The Taylor ranch became the largest ranch in Texas, and Texas Jack became its trail boss. He made considerable money by driving cattle from Texas to the northern states of Nebraska and Missouri.

Continued on page 3

from the Editor's Desk...



Hi Everyone!

I could hardly believe it was time once again to pick up the pen and delve into my favorite Texas Jack histories. I chose to write about his time as a Texas cowboy after the Civil War, because we are headed for Fort Worth next June. It's probably the last place on earth to run longhorns, and that should be fun to watch. Once again I offer copious thanks to Edna Nees for her support and to Richard Hurt of Farmville, VA, for sending wonderful information and photos from his extensive collection of "Penny Dreadfuls, Half Dime Story Papers and Dime Novels". I have enjoyed our correspondence immensely and am grateful for the support.

Juliet Virginia McKinney assures me she wants to be a cowgirl when she gets bigger and can't wait to visit the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth. So I am including a photo of her taking after her famous great grand uncle. I wish you all well and happy holidays. It's such an honor to be part of this.

Sincerely,

KB Chapman, Guest Editor



Juliet McKinney, riding her horse, a gift from her grandfather Charles McKinney of T.or C., NM

The Texas Jack Scout

Vol. XXII, no. 3

An Occasional Publication of
The Texas Jack Association, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
www.texasjack.org

Subscription is included in annual membership dues of \$25.00. Contact:
The Texas Jack Association
Stephanie Greene, Secretary
18329 Loxahatchee River Road
Jupiter, FL 33458

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.

Officers

President: Peggy Greene, Jupiter, FL
V. President: Larry Tyree, Lee's Summit, MO
Secretary: Stephanie Greene, Jupiter, FL
Treasurer: Rene Tyree, Lee's Summit, MO
Director: Rand McKinney, Aptos, CA
Scout Editors: (current issue): Guest-KB Chapman, Production, Mgr-Larry Tyree, Layout-Linda Omohundro
Historian: Edna Nees, Scottsville, VA
Founder: Frank Sullivan, Springfield, IL
First Chairman: Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., Richmond VA

Honorary Members

Edna Nees, Scottsville, VA
Mrs. Henry R. Coe, Cody, WY
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Buffalo Bill Historical Center
The Earl of Dunraven VII, Co. Limerick, Ireland
Mr. Fred H. Garlow, Cody, WY
Grandson of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody
The Knight of Glin, Co. Limerick, Ireland
Great-grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV
Mr. Herschel C. Logan, Santa Ana, CA
Author of *Buckskin and Satin*
Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost, North Platte, NE
Historian of the Plains

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

Continued from page 1



In the first warm days of early spring, thousands of cattle from the plains of Texas were driven north, passing near Fort Worth and heading for the crossing of the Red River. Sometimes the drivers stopped briefly at Fort Worth, which had been a cotton-trading center during the Civil War. The famous Chisholm Trail from San Antonio, Texas, to Abilene, Kansas, passed through Fort Worth. The Chisholm Trail was two to four hundred yards wide. Beaten into the bare earth, it reached for over six hundred miles, a chocolate band among the green prairies. On either side barren circle like “bedding grounds” marked the place a great herd had spent the night.

The nearest railhead for Texans was Sedalia, Missouri, but the opposition of small farmers recently discharged from the Union Army and former enemies of the

Confederate Texans, made the longer trip to Abilene, Kansas, over the Chisholm Trail safer. The cowboys job was to gather the herd then drive them north to a railhead for shipping to large cities. In Texas Jack's own words:

Immense herds, as high as thirty thousand or more, are moved by single owners, but are driven in bands of one to three thousand, which, when under way, are designated “herds”. Each of these has from ten to fifteen men, with a wagon driver and cook, and the “king-pin” of the outfit, the boss, with a supply of two or three ponies to a man, an ox team, and blankets. Jerked beef and corn meal were the staple foods with mavericks or (unbranded) ‘doubtless owned’ yearlings for fresh meat.

Once the herd was rounded up, the Drive north began. To keep the herd in order, the wise trail boss selected a huge dominating animal and made it lead steer. In order of movement, the trail boss rode two or three miles in advance, seeking a watering place for the noon camp. Behind him was the chuck wagon driven by the cook, with the horse wrangler and remuda (extra horses) on the left or right. Then came the point with the lead steers in front and the point riders on the sides, and strung along the widening flow of the herd were the swing and flank riders. The tail or drag riders brought up the rear, the least desirable position. The drag riders had to keep the lame and weak cattle moving, and all day they rode in clouds of dust, assailed by the generated heat and smells of the herd.

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT



*Fort Worth Texas, Courthouse Square in the Eighteen-Sixties.
Fort Worth had been a cotton trading center during the Civil War. (1)*



Wild Texas Longhorns required more men on a drive than tamer, less formidable breeds. (1)

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT



Drag riders – a job usually given the beginning cowboys. As they gained experience and seniority, they moved up toward the point.(1)

Texas Jack goes on to describe what it takes to be a cowboy from an article written for the Spirit of the Times in 1877.

The cowboy must become an expert horseman...then learn how to handle a rope, catch a calf, stop a crazy cow, throw a beef steer, play with a wild bull, rope an untamed mustang, and daily endure the dangers of a Spanish matador, and with a little Indian scrape thrown in, and if there's anything left of you they'll christen it a first class cowboy. Now his troubles begin.

After getting fully underway, and the cattle broke in, from ten to fifteen miles a day is the average, and everything is plain sailing, in fair weather. As night comes on, the cattle are rounded up and held until they lie down when two men are left on watch riding round and round them in opposite directions, singing or whistling

all the time, for two hours. This singing is absolutely necessary, as it seems to soothe the fears of the cattle, scares away the wolves, or other varmints that may be prowling around, and prevents them from hearing any other accidental sound...if stopped, (the singing) would in all probability, be the signal for a general stampede.

...but on the nights when old "Prob" goes on a spree, lets the bung out of his water barrel above, prowls around with his flash box, raising a breeze, whispering in tones of thunder, and the cowboys voice ...is drowned out, steer clear and prepare for action. If them quadrupeds don't go insane, turn tail to the storm, and strike out for civil and religious liberty, then I don't know what a strike out means.

Ordinarily so clumsy and stupid looking, a thousand beef steers can rise like a flock

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

of quail on the roof of an exploding powder mill, and will scud away like a tumble weed before a high wind, with a noise like a receding earth quake. ...this is the cowboys ride with Texas 500 miles away and them steers heading straight for home; night time, darker than the word means....and if you do your duty, three thousand stampeding steers behind. If your horse don't swap ends, and you hang on them 'till daylight, you can bless your lucky stars.

Tradition has it that Jack had several brushes with the Indians, cattle thieves, and renegades during his cattle days on the Texas Plains.

It was while returning one day from

another encounter with hostile Indians that he came upon a pioneer home which had been ransacked and pillaged but a few hours before. Nearby lay the still bodies of a young man and woman, slain defending their home. After inspecting the scene, and as he was about to mount his horse, his sharp ears detected a slight whimpering sound. Investigation disclosed that before the father and mother had sold their lives so dearly, they had hid their four or five year old boy in a small hole under the floor with the warning that he was not to make a sound. When his parents failed to appear after the shouting and shooting had ceased, the little fellow, frightened as he was, could contain himself no longer. It was the muffled sobs that Jack had heard. (2)



The Stampede by Frederick Remington portrays a dangerous stampede prompted by thundershowers. (1)



Jack holding the Indians at Bay – Taken from Buel's book "Heroes of the Plains," this artist's sketch is typical of the early wood-engraved illustrations. It depicts an event in the life of Texas Jack while on the cattle ranches of Texas. (2)

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT



Young Texas Jack rescued by Texas Jack as a child. (2)

Years later in Charlottesville, VA, this young lad, then grown to manhood, told the story to Malvern H. Hill, the half brother of Jack's. He told how Jack had rescued him and had taken him to Ft. Worth on horseback. Here he was placed in good hands, and provision made for his care and raising. Not knowing his own parents' names, he took the name of his benefactor. Young Texas Jack also became a noted showman. He owned his own circus "Texas Jack's Wild West Show and Circus" which performed in many important cities around the world. In Ladysmith, South Africa, he hired a young man with a lasso act billed as the "Cherokee Kid". This was in fact America's own Will Rogers.

The quarantine against Texas cattle enacted by Kansas in 1884 (Texas cattle carried a tick which made more domesticated animals sick), the coming of the railroad, and the fences springing up everywhere, checked the northern cattle drives, which continued on a reduced basis until about 1895. Texas Jack moved on to Nebraska and the carefree life of a plainsman, scout, and hunter. 🦔

Bibliography

1. Brown, Dee & Martin F. Schmitt, Trail Driving Days, New York, NY 1952
2. Logan, Herschel C., Buckskin and Satin, Harrisburg, PA 1954
3. Omohundro, Malvern Hill The Omohundro Genealogical Record, Staunton, VA 1951
4. Ridings, Sam P., The Chisholm Trail, Guthrie, OK 1936





Fort Worth is the place to be next June 18th through the 21st! This next Roundup promises to be chock full of activities, fun, and of course western history. Our favorite western hero, Texas Jack Omohundro, surely spent time here during his turn as a cowboy. I am looking forward to the time I'll be spending in Fort Worth with as many of you that can make the trip.

On another note, rest assured that behind-the-scenes the officers have been working to not only make this Roundup one of the best ever but are making progress on association improvements. Specifically, we are actively pursuing 501c-3 non-profit status (courtesy of Larry Tyree),

centralizing our membership information (to make it easy for TJA officers who in different parts of the country to ensure that all members get the Scout and other notices in a timely and accurate manner) and are adding features to our website.

Once again, I am honored to be working with such a talented group of people. The continuing success of the Texas Jack Association is due to all of our efforts; serving as Officers and Scout Editors, paying the annual dues, and attending the biennial Roundups among other things. That being said, I hope to see everyone at the Roundup!

Peggy Greene, President



NEXT SCOUT ISSUE INFORMATION

The deadline for the March, 2008 issue of *The Scout* is February 15, 2008. Please send ideas and materials to our Guest Editor:

Rand McKinney
7167 Viewpoint Road
Aptos, CA 95003

CRandMck@yahoo.com

VISIT THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

<http://www.texasjack.org>

Roundup News

Make your hotel reservations now for the 2008 Texas Jack Round-Up in Ft. Worth, Texas. This Roundup in the city "where the West begins" is shaping up to be a fun time with lots to see and do. We'll be staying at the **Hyatt Place Hotel** right in the Ft. Worth Stockyards National Historical District, just steps from lots of historic western attractions, restaurants, shops, and nightlife.

The next issue of *The Scout* will provide more details, but YOU SHOULD BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW so we can increase our allotment of rooms if needed.

IMPORTANT: You must book your room before 5/21/08 to get the special Roundup rate. Please don't wait till the last minute to make your reservations. The hotel phone number for the roundup is:

1-888-HYATT-HP(1-888-492-8847)

Arriving Weds 6/18/08; Departing Sun 6/22/08

Group Code: TXJK

Group Rate: \$119 per night (Does not include taxes.)

<http://stockyards.place.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/place/index.jsp>

Rooms include either one king-size bed or two queen-size beds.

The hotel also provides:

- * complimentary continental breakfast buffet
- * complimentary hotel-wide Wi-Fi Internet access
- * 24-hour made-to-order menu items and pre-packaged snacks
- * specialty espresso coffee drinks
- * beer and wine service
- * complimentary newspaper
- * complimentary parking
- * complimentary 24-hour fitness center
- * outdoor heated pool

2008 Texas Jack Assn Roundup Schedule - Tentative

Weds 6/18

- Arrival and no-host reception at hotel (4pm - 6pm)

Thur 6/19

- Visit Stockyards National Historic District
- Walking Tour of Stockyards (includes video presentation). We may arrange a "non-walking" tour for those with limited mobility.
- Longhorn cattle drive - 11:30 am
- Lunch together at Risky's BBQ ("Dutch Treat")
- Tour Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame and Museum
- Afternoon on your own to tour Stockyards area; lots of other activities and options

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

- Optional 1-hr ride on historic Tarantula Steam Train
- Dinner on your own

Fri 6/20

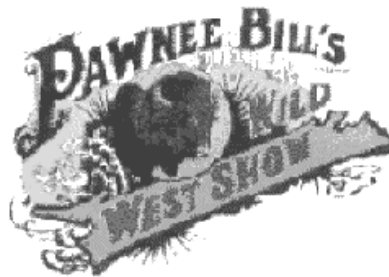
- Group bus from hotel to cultural district - 9am
- Tour Amon Carter Museum of Western Art
- Tour National Cowgirl Hall of Fame
- Group lunch at Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
- Bus tour of downtown Ft. Worth and Sundance Square; those who wish to may stay and get back to the hotel on their own.
- Bus returns to hotel approx 2pm

Sat 6/21

- Business Meeting (9am-11am)
- Lunch on your own
- Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show - 2:30pm or 4:30pm
- Evening - No Host Cocktails (5pm) and Banquet (6:30pm)

C. Rand McKinney

SCENES WE'LL SEE!



Texas Jack Association 2008 Roundup
June 18-22, 2008 Ft. Worth, TX

REGISTRATION and MEMBERSHIP FORM

DISCOUNT FOR EARLY REGISTRATION - BEFORE MARCH 1, 2008

___ Adult @ \$110/ea. (\$135.00/person after 5/1/08) = _____

___ Student (13 yrs to college) @ \$95.00/ea. (\$110 after 5/1/08) = _____

___ Children age 5-12, @ \$40.00/person (\$64 after 5/1/08) = _____

___ Children 4 and younger free (no meals) = _____

***Note:** All attendees must be current members of TJA:

___ Individual memberships in Texas Jack Association @ \$25/person
() New Member () Gift Membership = _____

___ Family memberships in Texas Jack Association @ \$40/family = _____
Names on membership: _____

___ Junior memberships (under 18) in Texas Jack Association @ \$10/person
() New Member () Gift Membership = _____

Enclose a check payable to the **Texas Jack Association** by **May 15** for **TOTAL=** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail address (Print carefully): _____

***Please give names of all who are coming so name tags can be made.**

First and Last Name: _____

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

Mail check and form by May 15, 2008, to:

Rene Tyree, Treasurer
244 NW Whitlock Dr.
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Roundup fee includes lunch Friday, banquet dinner Saturday night, bus transportation, museum and historical stockyards tours, Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, use of meeting facilities, and much more!



**INFORMATION
FOR
NEARBY
AIRPORTS**

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport

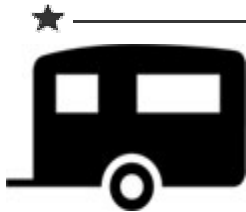
3200 E Airfield Drive
Dallas, TX 75261
(972) 574-2500
<http://www.dfwairport.com>

Meacham International Airport

4201 N Main St # 200
Fort Worth, TX 76106
(817) 871-5400
email: Michael.feeley@fortworthgov.org
<http://www.meacham.com/>

Fort Worth Spinks Airport

450 Alsbury Ct
Burleson, TX 76028
(817) 447-8304
<http://www.fortworthspinksairport.com>



**FOR THE
MORE HARDY**

Fort Worth Midtown RV Park

2906 W. 6Th St
Fort Worth, TX 76107 Phone: (817)335-9330
<http://ftworthmidtownrvpark.com/>

Sunset RV Park

800 Spur 511
Sunset, TX 76270 Phone: (940)845-2007
<http://www.sunsetrvparktexas.com/>

★ ————— ★



“Texas Jack” gifts for the Holidays!



Sweatshirt



Mug



Polo



Poster

Sweatshirts	\$20
Polo shirts	\$20
T-Shirts	\$15
Posters	\$15
Mug	\$15

We have a wide assortment of sizes available. The polo shirts come in two colors: a white polo (embroidered image), and a beige polo (a screened image).

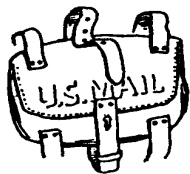
Please make check payable to the **Texas Jack Association** and mail to:

The Texas Jack Association
% Rene Tyree, Treasurer
244 NW Whitlock Dr.
Lee's Summit, MO 64081



NOW'S THE TIME TO GET THAT ORDER IN!





FROM THE MAILBAG

Richard Harris of Farmville VA writes “ In the latest issue of the Scout, I found the article about Texas Jack's days in Nebraska interesting. I have many newspapers, storypapers, dime novels and penny dreadfuls. I try to find a sentence or two of truth in them. One such story is “ The bite of the Alkali” by Horace Andrews. It appeared in Scouts of the Prairie, a juvenile hardback, published by Aldine Publishing Co., publishers of Buffalo Bill Novels and Buffalo Bill Library and edited by Wingrove Wilson. (pseudonym of Walter H. Light) This story has Characters that lived and worked near the forts and trading posts and Alkali Station. In many of the Buffalo Bill stories Texas Jack was featured. Texas Jack was the main character in many. Robert Prowse, known for his water color covers and use of animals in the artwork, did covers and plates.”

The following is an excerpt from Buffalo Bill Novels: 246 Buffalo Bill and the Rebel Spy. Chapter XII “Good Works by Texas Jack”:



As captain of the Texas Rangers of the Rio Grande, he had won an enviable name, and it was with sincere regret that he was called upon to bid farewell to one who had been his right hand man, Texas Jack. The latter, since the reader met him as one of Cecil Seldon's scouts in the Tennessee mountains, when he had captured Buffalo Bill, had changed little,

being the same cherry-faced, fearless fellow as before, ready for anything that came his way, be it a fight or sport. He was now equipped for a journey, and in answer to Buckskin Sam's question answered:

“Yes, major, I have decided to go”
“But why do you go Texas Jack?”

“The truth is Sam, luck is against me here in Texas.”

“Take a fresh deal and try again.”

“No, I have played my best cards here. When I came out of the Confederate Army I started in to ranching, and the Mexicans crossed over the Rio, burned my cabin and ran off my cattle. Then I joined the Rangers and got another start, when down upon me came the Comanches and wiped out my ranch again, not leaving me horn or hoof. So I concluded, as good pay was offered for scouts up in the North-west, I would go up there and offer.”

“But will they take a Confederate in the Northern Army?”

“Bah! There is no Northern Army now, Sam, but the United States Army, and I reckon they won't ask my pedigree if they want a real trailer, Indian fighter and scout.”

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

"But where will you strike for Jack?"

"One of the frontier Posts, of course, for do you know I am going on a trail?"

"What trail?"

"You have heard of Buffalo Bill?"

"What man has not?"

"Well, I kinder like that specimen of a man, and I am going to look him up, for I met him during the war."

"He was in the Union Army, though."

"That does not matter where a man is a true soldier, and he is all of that. I met him once and introduced myself to his with a lariat, and for the time we were acquainted we got to be real good friends, so I intend to look him up and see if has forgotten Texas Jack, the Rebel Scout, and my money says ten to one he has not."

"So I'll bet, from all I have heard of him, for they do say he is square from spur to scaplock" said Buckskin Sam.

"He is, and he is just the man whose trail I am on, or will be when I get up in his hunting ground."

"Well, Texas Jack, I hate to see you go, but I know you are bent upon it, so I will not urge you to stay. When you get to the end of your trail, drop me a line so we shall know how you are, and tell us about your meeting with Buffalo Bill. If they don't treat you right up there, come back to Texas, and you can be a Ranger again; and that isn't so bad, after all." "I should say not, Sam; but I wish to kinder spread myself, you see, and so I take the northward trail. If luck goes against me there, I'll come back to Texas, even though I have to turn cowboy and punch cows for thirty dollars a month and grub when you can get it. Good bye, Pard of the Saddle, and remember Texas Jack is still one of you in spirit and always will be."


Ed. note: The story goes on to describe Jack's journey through New Mexico, his sighting of a large Sioux war party and his encounter with nine of their scouts-an encounter which ended in three dead scouts and a daring get away by Texas Jack, who rode off to warn the nearby Fort of the presence of the war party.

...Reaching the plain he made rapid headway to the Fort and arrived there as darkness was setting in. On making himself known to the men on guard the Texan was told that the commandant was just then engaged with Buffalo Bill, the chief of scouts for that district. "The very man I want!" exclaimed Jack. Ten minutes later he was admitted to headquarters and quickly told what he had seen on his journey there-of the large force of Sioux evidently contemplating a surprise attack on the Fort. Preparations were at once made to meet the danger, couriers being dispatched to neighbouring military posts to summon assistance.

Three days went by, however, without any sign of a Sioux raid, and skirmishing parties sent from the Fort came back and reported that the redskins were making all haste back to their villages. Evidently they had discovered that the palefaces were too ready for them for their intended assault to be successful.

It was of course due to Texas Jack that the peril was thus averted, and when he asked to be enrolled as a scout under Buffalo Bill. The latter gladly accepted him remarking: "We were enemies a short while ago, pard, but I guess we'll be good friends from now on."

"You may bet your last cent we shall," replied Jack, and we all know what lifelong pards they proved to be.

Richard writes: "This story, Buffalo Bill and Rebel Spy from Buffalo Bill Novels #246 appears over and over in these penny dreadfuls. This copy is from the 1920's. The basic story has Texas Jack (The Rebel Spy) befriending Buffalo Bill during the Civil War (didn't happen?) leaving Texas after the war, telling Buckskin Sam (real person, real Texas Ranger) and meeting Cody once again. The picture of the cover has Texas Jack lassoing Cody in a Ranger-type uniform. Main problem is most didn't have them, just solid work shirt and white or buff hat." 

IN THIS ISSUE...

Fort Worth, the Chisholm Trail, and Texas Jack, Cowboy.....1
From the Editor’s Desk..... 2
President’s Message.....8
Next *Scout* Information.....8
Roundup News.....9
Roundup Registration.....11
More Roundup Information.....12
Texas Jack Gifts.....13
From the Mailbag.....14



The Texas Jack Scout

Stephanie Greene
18329 Loxahatchee River Road
Jupiter, FL 33458

TO:

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT
