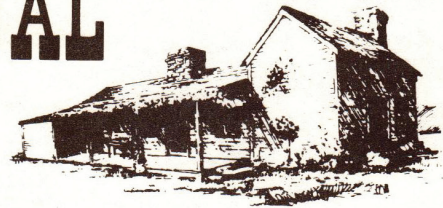


JAMES FARM JOURNAL

Newsletter of
"FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM"



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EDITOR - MILT PERRY

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Posse Member Recalls Events

The following is an excerpt from **KENTUCKIANS ARE DIFFERENT** by M. B. Morton, published in 1938 by Standard Press of Louisville.

Charles M. Griffith, one of the oldest citizens of Russellville, Kentucky, is perhaps the only man living (1938) who was a member of a posse that attempted to arrest Frank and Jesse James at the farm of Major Hite, their uncle by marriage, in the southern part of Logan County, Kentucky, about fifty-eight years ago. Two other Russellville men, the late Gran Clark and Mun Hardy, were members of the posse. All were men of fine courage, and Griffith and Clark were dead shots. Both were quiet, peaceable men, both were no doubt asked to join the posse because of their good judgment and the qualities before mentioned. Hardy was chief of police in Russellville.

Both the James boys, though born in Missouri, were well known in Logan County, because of their relationship to the first wife of Major George B. Hite and her children, two of whom, Wood and Clarence, became members of the James gang. The father of the James boys was born and reared in Logan County. Wood Hite was killed by a member of the gang. Clarence was captured, sent to the penitentiary and pardoned while on his deathbed, a sufferer from tuberculosis. He was brought home to die.

Another matter that claimed attention in Logan County was that the first bank robbery perpetrated by the James gang was that of the Norton and Long Bank in Russellville, the successor to the Southern Bank of Kentucky. Jesse was not implicated in this robbery because he was at the time suffering from a wound; but Frank, Cole Younger and three others were.

The father of the James boys was a Baptist minister, educated at Georgetown, Kentucky. It is rather an interesting fact that both Nimrod Long and George W.

Norton, who owned the robbed bank, were liberal contributors to the endowment of the college where the elder James was educated for the ministry.

There was a family resemblance between the Hite children and the James boys. All had the small, rather receding chin that characterized Frank James.

The second wife of Major Hite was said to be none too friendly with the James boys, though they were occasional guests at the Hite home. Charles M. Griffith, although eighty five years of age, is still hale and hearty in mind and body. He and Gran Clark were devoted friends. He was born in Oldham County, Kentucky, noted for producing in the old days the best apple brandy known to the human race. He is a cousin of David Wark Griffith, the famous movie magnate who produced "The Birth of a Nation." He came to Russellville in 1879, married Mamie McCallen, and has since made that town his home. His story of the raid follows:

(Continued on Page Three)

Life & Times of Jesse James

The Clay County Commission has established a non-profit group to oversee the production of the outdoor historical drama, "The Life & Times of Jesse James", as the James Farm. The group will consist of a 12 member board.

The play appeared before a number of sellouts during the 1988 season and received wide acclaim.

Reader Submissions Are Welcome

We welcome articles written by or collected by our readers for the Journal. Letters are also welcome. We hope to be able to include such material in future issues to keep you informed, not only about the restoration and operation of the old James Farm, but of interest in the Jameses and their times nationwide. Several readers have told us how much they have enjoyed the Journal and the more articles we can publish the more interest there will be.

Simply send them to Milt Perry, % the Jesse James Bank Museum, 103 North Water Street, Liberty, Missouri 64068.

We wish to thank Nora Reed for interesting items sent to us.

Paintings Donated to our Museum

Mr. Earl H. Norem is a well known artist, whose works have graced the covers of numerous national magazines. We are pleased to announce that he has presented to the James Farm Museum, two of his works, about Jesse James. "The Northfield Raid," appeared on the cover of *Real West Magazine* in December, 1984. A very spirited picture, it depicts the outlaws, wearing dusters, dashing out of town on horseback, firing at people in the streets and buildings, who are shooting at them with pistols and rifles.

"Those Dirty Little Cowards," is a painting of the murder of Jesse James, by Bob and Charley Ford, April 3, 1882, and appeared on the cover of *Real West*, May, 1988. It shows the scene at the instant just before Bob Ford pulled the trigger of his revolver, which is pointed at the head of Jesse, who is standing on a chair arranging a picture on the wall, having just dusted it.

We are most appreciative of the fine paintings. They'll be hung in the new museum.

That "Unsafe Feeling"

An old safe was given to Clay County last summer, to be used in the new James Farm Museum. To prepare it for an exhibit, of which it is to be a part, we engaged a locksmith to open it and to drill an opening in the back for wiring. This man was Elmer Pingleton.

He and I went over to the old office building and inspected the safe, but we couldn't get the door open, even though the combination worked. Pingleton tapped around the door several times with a hammer, to loosen it, but it wouldn't budge, so he squirted penetrating oil around the opening and went back next morning. He and his son opened it with a block and tackle, but when he saw what was inside, Pingleton froze. He told his son to run as fast as he could and hide behind a building, a hundred yards away, and followed himself.

What was inside, was a small box, holding two vials of yellow liquid, wrapped in cotton.

Pingleton told me he knew what nitroglycerin looked like and this safe had not been opened for thirty years, which meant to him, an explosive would be very unstable.

He called the Liberty, Missouri, police, who called the Fire Department, who called the Kansas City Fire Department, which has a bomb disposal squad.

In the meantime, a two-block area was cordoned off and traffic re-routed around the busy intersection.

Firemen, dressed in protective gear, placed the vials in a small case, which was put in a bomb-proof trailer and took them to the Missouri River bluff, some miles away. The suitcase was placed on a hillside and explosives attached to it. With the cry, "Fire in the hole," it was blown up.

The owner of the building contends the

bottles held tear gas, placed there to deter safe breakers.

Pingleton still thinks he saw nitro there. "It's a wonder it didn't blow up," he said. "It's the Good Lord looking after me."

(I have thoughts about this, too, for the previous day when he was banging away on the safe with his hammer, he remarked he hoped there was no explosive there, for it might blow up!)

No one will ever know what was there, but the authorities wisely took no chances.

The Friends have had the original Master of Arts diploma of Robert S. James, from George-town College, Kentucky, awarded in 1847, cleaned, re-mounted, and framed, behind filters, for exhibit. This is the earliest known existing diploma of this institution.

Northfield Receives James Gang Relic

A saddle cut from one of the dead horses of one of the outlaws, who tried to rob the bank at Northfield, Minnesota, September 7, 1876, has been returned. It had been in the Whittier, California, home of the daughter of the man who saved it, and was left in her will to be given to St. Olaf College, Northfield. Charles Benbow, a neighbor, took it to Northfield aboard a Northwest Airlines DC-10, nestled in its \$200.00 seat. "We were afraid to put it in the baggage compartment," said Benbow.

To celebrate the return, Northfield staged a re-enactment of the robbery. The saddle will fittingly, be displayed in the bank museum.

Yes, I wish to join the Friends of the James Farm

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Individual \$ 20.00 per year
- Family \$ 30.00 per year
- Student \$ 15.00 per year
- Supporting \$ 50.00 per year
- Benefactor \$100.00 per year
- Corporate \$100.00 per year

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Posse —

Continued from Page One

George W. Hunter, a noted Georgetown, Kentucky, detective, had received a letter from Mrs. Hite telling him that Frank and Jesse James were at her house. Hunter organized a posse and came to Russellville to attempt the capture. Beside Gran Clark and Griffith, he had a posse of fifteen men among them Captain Adams of Bowling Green, Detective Rosenheim of Cincinnati, and Sheriff Plummer of Simpson County.

The party met in the law office of Wilbur F. Browder and after receiving full instructions left at ten o'clock at night for the Hite farm. Near the Hite house, they divided into two parties. One advanced to the front of the house, the other covered the rear, by the way of the orchard and stable. The latter saw a man coming from the house towards the tobacco barn and halted him. He proved to be Major Hite. Mrs. Hite called to her husband that men were advancing to the front door. Major Hite responded that men were also advancing to the back door and that they had him.

Entering the house the men found Wood Hite, but not the James boys. As Wood Hite was not then identified with the James gang, he was released. After making a thorough search Hunter and his men left empty-handed.

Mr. Griffith says that afterwards Harvey Calloway, a Russellville man who had married one of the Hite girls, told him that he had ridden to the Hite home ahead of the posse and notified the James boys, who left the house and hid in a straw stack.

Mr. Griffith says that after Frank James had surrendered to Governor Crittenden of Missouri and had been acquitted, he met him at the Guthrie, Kentucky, fair. They had a long talk together, when James said to him:

"Griffith, if you fellows had found us that night, we would have raised hell with you."

"Gran Clark and K were pretty handy with forty-fives." Griffith replied, and "we would have raised some hell, too."

The robbery occurred March 21, 1868. I was then nine years old and living on my father's farm three miles from Russellville. My grandfather was cashier of the bank, and when the robbers retreated they passed by my father's farm, and consequently it made a vivid impression on my mind.

There were five men engaged in the robbery. They came to town several days beforehand, announcing themselves to be horse traders. They were well mounted by traded horses every time they could get a better horse. They went to the bank more than once, presenting a worthless Mis-

souri bond for sale. Mr. Long became irritated at their persistence, after he had pronounced the bond worthless. Their persistence was no doubt due to the fact that they wanted to become familiar with the bank and its surroundings.

Every day they took a long ride out into the country, evidently to select the best line of retreat.

About noon, March 21, 1868, the five men rode up to the old bank, the residential part of which had been used by George W. Norton before he had removed to Louisville to manage the firm's Louisville Bank. The residential section was occupied at the time of the robbery by M. C. Owens, a prominent merchant. The building had been constructed by the Southern Bank of Kentucky, and was used by that institution until it went out of business, selling its assets to Messrs. Norton and Long.

Three of the robbers dismounted and entered the bank, the other two holding their horses and remaining mounted.

In the bank behind the counter were Hugh Barclay, Jr., a clerk, and Harvey Simmons, a wealthy farmer. The three robbers jumped over the counter, which was not protected by iron grating like the banks of the present day. Two of them covered Barclay and Simmons with navy sixes, and the third, who is said to have been Cole Younger, proceeded to scoop up all the money in sight and put it into a wheat sack. In all subsequent robberies the James gang always put their loot into a wheat sack. While Younger was busy gathering in the money. Mr. Long entered from a private office in the rear. He was then a strong man in the prime of life and afraid of nothing, so he at once attacked Younger, though he was not armed and Younger was. Younger was also a powerful man, and, as he did not want to kill because it would make it so much worse for any of them who might be captured, tried to knock Mr. Long down. During the fight, both men stumbled into the private office, and being unable to subdue Mr. Long, Younger shot him in the forehead. He then came back into the bank, remarking: "I guess I finished that fellow," and proceeded to enter the vault, which was standing open. In all he got about \$10,000.

Meantime the town was being aroused. Mr. Long was only stunned by the shot that had struck his forehead and glanced over his scalp. He was soon on his feet and ran out the side door, giving the alarm while the horsemen at the corner sent a hail of bullets after him. People in the business section began to cry: "There is firing at the bank." Many who heard the cry thought they said: "There is a fire at the bank," and as was the custom in that far away horse-and-buggy day, they started to the bank each carrying a bucket of water.

M. C. Owens went the back way and

entered his home, in the residential portion of the bank, secured his then new model .32-caliber Smith & Wesson pistol, which shot like a rifle, and began firing at the robbers on horseback. The latter at first tried to frighten him away from the front door by shooting around him, but as his shots continued to whistle about their ears, they shot him. The ball struck him in the side, and ranged around into his back. He fell and was out of the fight, though he eventually recovered and lived for many years.

Colonel John W. Caldwell, who was practicing law in Russellville, after four years in the Confederate army, and a few others were approaching the bank on Main Street, armed with all sorts of nondescript and mostly useless weapons. As they drew near the robbers began to fire at them. The attackers were seeking shelter behind the large locust trees that then lined both sides of Main Street. Colonel Caldwell was imprisoned behind one of them, and every time he peeped around to fire his little pistol, the robbers' shots would peel the bark off the tree near his head. It is useless to say the robbers were good shots, for they had served with Quantrell in Missouri, and some of them were with him when he received his fatal wound in Wakefield's barn in Nelson County, Kentucky.

The robbers were getting into a hot spot which was growing hotter. Cole Younger and his two companions emerged from the bank carrying their wheat sack containing the bank's money. They mounted and all galloped down College Street towards the Bowling Green road. A few shots were fired at them as they fled, and Mr. Malone, the Methodist pastor, claimed he shot one of them, whose arm seemed hanging loose. Be this as it may, the claim was never confirmed.

Item —

Jim Newsom and Joe Gall won a defense verdict for Cargill, Inc., on Friday, May 20, before a federal jury in Kansas City, in a nuisance action. Plaintiffs complained about the noise and odor associated with a Cargill turkey growing operation near Otterville, Missouri, and sought \$500,000.00 actual damages and \$5 million punitive damages. The jury found that the turkey growing operation did not constitute a nuisance.

The jury trial, which lasted four days, was notable in part for the interesting cast of characters. Prior to trial, plaintiff Henry Stamberger told Newsom and Gall that the outlaw shot in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Bob Ford, commonly believed to be Jesse James, was actually Stamberger's great grandfather and that Jesse James lived out his natural life in Oklahoma, having assumed Stamberger's identity.

— "Law Lines," June 16, 1988, submitted by Fred Lee.

The Great Train Robbery

Reprinted from *ADAIR NEWS*, Summer 1986 Special Edition.

The Rock Island Railroad in 1868 built a section house in Adair, Iowa. These section houses were used to house the engineers who were surveying for the track. Section foreman Robert Grant and his wife, Mary, lived here. Little did Mary Grant know she would be making history on July 21, 1873, by serving two young men some homemade bread and pie. These two young men turned out to be Jesse and Frank James.

Early in July, the gang had learned that 75,000.00 dollars in gold from the Cheyenne region was to come through Southwest Iowa on the recently built mainline of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

Jesse sent his brother Frank James and Cole Younger to Omaha to learn when the gold shipment was to reach there. Jesse, Jim and Tom Younger, Clell Miller and Bill Chadwell remained camped in the hills in the Adair area.

Finally Frank James and Cole Younger got their tip that the gold shipment was on its way east and they brought the report to Jesse who had made plans for the train robbery. The afternoon of the robbery, the bandits called at the section house and Mrs. Grant served them homemade bread and pie and gave them some supplies.

In the meantime, the bandits broke into a hand car house, stole a spike bar and hammer with which they pried off a fish plate connecting two rails and pulled out the spikes. This was on a curve of the track near the Turkey Creek bridge on what is now Iowa Highway 83 (former U.S. No. 6).

A rope was tied on the west end of the disconnected north rail. The rope was passed under the south rail and led to a hole they had cut in the bank in which to hide.

When the train came along, the rail was jerked out of place and the engine plunged into the ditch and toppled over on its side. The engineer, John Rafferty of Omaha, was killed by the steam and the fireman injured as well as several passengers.

However, the gold shipment had been delayed and Jesse was surprised to find no gold, but several silver bars instead. The gang strolled through the passenger cars and quickly demanded the cash, jewelry and valuables from the startled passengers. Jesse collected only about 3,000.00 dollars and as quickly as they had boarded the train, they rode due south of the robbery site.

By the time a railroad employee, Levi

Clay, had walked to the town of Casey, 7 miles east of the robbery site where the alarm was sent by telegraph to Des Moines and Omaha, Jesse and his gang had dumped the canvas mail bags and other papers from the train onto the ground and had sorted the money and bonds.

The Rock Island Railroad sent a special train from Omaha, Nebraska, loaded with sheriffs and posse members, along with saddled horses and had stopped at each town to let several armed men off to track the gang. By the time this special train arrived at the train robbery, Jesse and his gang had escaped back across the Missouri border to safety, where they split up and were sheltered by friends.

Horses and volunteers were called to help fix the track and approximately 12 hours later the gold shipment was sent and no problems were experienced.

Later the governor of Missouri offered a 10,000.00 dollar reward for the capture of Jesse James, dead or alive. On April 3, 1882, the reward reportedly proved too tempting for Bob Ford, a new member of the James Gang, and he shot and killed Jesse in the James' home in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mrs. Grant, who was 40 years old at the time, did not know until sometime later that she had served a meal that would put her into the history of the world on July 21, 1873. She lived to be 105 years old. She vividly remembered the very shy and polite young men that knocked at her door and requested food and supplies. He offered to pay well for the food. Mrs. Grant was not aware of the intent of the visitors, as they told the Grants they were in the area to purchase prairie to settle on.

It would be well worth your time to visit the house where Jesse and Frank James and seven other gang members stopped for a meal before "The Great Robbery of a Moving Train" in 1873. Walk through the restored kitchen where the gang actually ate the meal prepared by Mrs. Grant. Also in a showcase in the upstairs of the museum, among other treasures, hosts two rail joints that Jesse and Frank used to tie the ropes to, to loosen the rail before the robbery, and a brass plate which came from around the wooden water tanks on the locomotive.

Marjorie Sublett is the Engineer (owner), and Jackie Wilson, Conductor (operator) of this wonderful old museum. They had to do considerable work to restore this historic home and more work is being done all the time. Although almost burning twice and sitting empty for some time, the house's structure has stood up well.

Frank James Race Starter Agreement Obtained for Museum

After his days of an outlaw were over, Frank James often appeared at horse races at county and state fairs, as an official starter. It was not only a way of appearing before the public, but a way of additional income for him.

The Friends have obtained a rare original agreement for him to serve as a starter for the Highland Park Racing Association in Robinson County, Illinois, August 14, 15, and 16, 1907. He was to be paid \$150.00, after races.

This interesting item will be exhibited in the new James Farm Museum.