



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our 2023 annual reunion started out with the dedication of a tree to Angie Borgedalen, an early board member of the Friends. She was the editor of the Liberty Tribune newspaper and as such she both had an influence on the politics of Clay county and also was a fierce supporter of the Friends. The dedication was attended by some of our most influential early members as well as some of our current board members, FOTJF members and a few tourists. The tree is a Golden Waterfall Redbud. In the spring, it has the usual red flowers and it's drooping branches have light green, nearly golden, leaves. It is a beautiful tree.

The first speaker, Tom Rafiner, was unfortunately not able to attend. His topic was to be Order Number 11, an order by Union General Ewing that threw people out of their homes in over three counties and burned them down. One of these people was Harry Truman's grandmother who neither forgave or forgot. The presentation has been re-scheduled. Details are on page 13 of this edition. Our second speaker, Richard Gooch, gave a talk on the book by John Newman Edwards titled, Noted Guerrillas. He said it was very informative but couldn't be counted on to have much historical value. The third speaker, Susan Grinlinton, told stories passed on by her grandmother who took care of Zerelda in her later years. I had to leave for a family celebration of life and therefore missed this presentation. Those who heard it have told me it was very interesting and we thank all the presenters for their contribution to our day.

Attendance wasn't as good as I had hoped, having invited members of all of our area historical groups, but it was great to see familiar faces and we thank those who came out to see us, we hope you had an enjoyable time.

Our 7/22 shoot went well and our last shoot of the year on Sept. 24 will have a 12:30 check in (because it is a Sunday) and a 1:00pm start. This shoot will include a Rifle component for those who want to also shoot that as well as revolvers.

Our secretary/treasurer, Vivie Tison, who makes everything work and keeps it all together, didn't get an opportunity to give her treasurer's report at the reunion so I am including it here. Bank balance (checking account) 3,129.86. Our 4 cd's total, 11,631.56. Overall total, 14,761.42. In addition, we have a little less than \$9,000 wholesale value in James farm books.

Thank you for your continued support. **Bryan Ivlow**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

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**Last shoot of the year...**

**September 24, 2023**

# The Friends of the James Farm

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[www.jessejames.org](http://www.jessejames.org)

Friends of the James Farm  
c/o The Jesse James Birthplace  
21216 Jesse James Farm Road  
Kearney, Missouri, 64060

Newsletter Proof Reading  
Elizabeth Rains Johnson

Additional Research  
Linda Gay Mathis

# VISITORS TO THE JAMES FARM!



In May, authors Bob Boze Bell and Mark Lee Gardner paid a visit to the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum! The pair were touring James related sites in preparation for Bob's next book, *The Illustrated Life and Times of Jesse James*, due for release this holiday season. Their travels included stops at Centralia, Otterville, Jefferson City, Sedalia, the Muddy Fork cemetery and St. Joseph.

Of course, Bob Boze Bell is a keen blogger and co-owner of True West Magazine so the sites enjoyed some very enthusiastic social media publicity! "We hit the high spots," Bob wrote, "from the Jesse James Farm to the Jesse James Home in St. Joe... Besides the rich history, we encountered great people and great food." You are welcome anytime!



A page from True West Magazine.



# FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM SHOOT APRIL 30, 2023



Our first Sunday shoot was not as well attended as some of our summer shoots but all who came were very welcome and added \$425.00 to our funds, so a huge thank you to you all. We hope you had a great afternoon. The weather was cool and sunny but it got pretty windy. We also sold a couple of our raffle tickets!

Board member, Caleb Pooker, has taken over responsibility for the shoots. His setup for our new rifle component went very well.

Winners are as follows...

### THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Del Warren
- Third place: Gary Blackwell

### THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Del Warren
- Third place: Gary Blackwell

### THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF GENERAL SHOOT

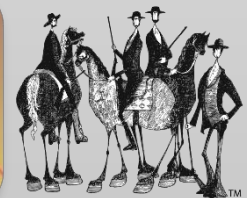
- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Gary Blackwell
- Third place: Derrick Graham

### THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Gary Blackwell
- Third place: Derrick Graham

### RIFLE TARGET WINNERS:

- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Dan Carder



Yep folks, it's that time of year again when Northfield clears the streets for outlaws!

If you are able to attend, Northfield are hosting a whole range of activities culminating in the Bank Robbery Re-enactments on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please see [djjd.org](http://djjd.org) for a full list of events.

We take this opportunity to join Northfield in remembering Joseph Lee Heywood.

Images from [djjd.org](http://djjd.org)

# FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM REUNION JULY 8, 2023

*Friends and family gathered for the annual FOTJF Reunion which, due to inclement weather, was brought inside. Historic Interpreter, Linda Brookshier, was there and sent this report.*

The first speaker was Richard Gooch who spoke on the famous newspaper editor, John Newman Edwards, that basically gave Jesse James the title of (then) modern-day Robin Hood. While we would love to think that was true, there’s really been no evidence that Jesse was a Robin Hood! Richard spoke of how Frank James was more quiet and how Jesse James would actually write his own press releases and send to John Newman Edwards at the Kansas City Star!

Richard also spoke on the famous guerrilla leaders, William Quantrill, and William “Bloody Bill” Anderson. Quantrill was actually quite the opportunist. At the beginning of the war, he was working for both sides - the north and the south. It was all about the money! Anderson, on the other hand, was not someone you would ever want to cross paths with. When he was killed at Albany, Missouri, the little settlement outside of present day Orrick, Missouri, it was said that he had a cord on his saddle with 53 knots in it – a knot for every man that he had killed.

Thank you, Richard for this Great presentation!

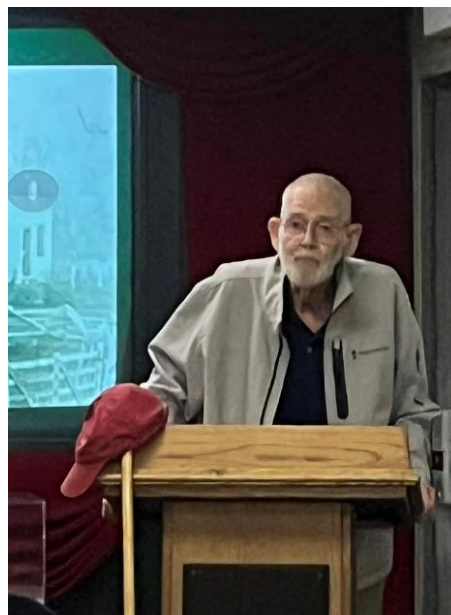
The second speaker was Susan Grinlinton. I knew she was going to speak on Jesse James’ mother, Zerelda Cole James Samuel, what I didn’t realize was that she is the granddaughter of Mary Ellen Hill Clemmens. If that name doesn’t ring a bell that’s totally understandable!

I think that her name should go down in history as one that had quite the job opportunity when Zerelda’s son-in-law, Joe Hall, advertised that there was a need for someone to come and live with his elderly mother-in-law, who was living alone and handicapped after having lost her right arm during the 1875 attack on the James Farm by Pinkerton operatives and local law enforcement. This was in 1909 and 19 year old Mary Ellen Hill of Weston, Missouri took the job! I can only imagine her surprise when she found out who her employer was going to be! By all accounts, Zerelda Samuel was feisty, but apparently Mary Ellen Hill was up to the challenge!

Susan works part time at the historical museum in Weston, and can share all kinds of stories with you about her grandmother’s experience taking care of Jesse James mother!

The day was fun and over too soon... The food was delicious that the FOTJF supplied for us...

Until next year... **LB**



Top: Richard Gooch  
Above: Sue Grinlinton.  
Left: Mary Clemmens Hill.

Photographs by Linda Brookshier

## OLD DAN, FAVORITE HORSE OF FRANK JAMES



Safe to say, Old Dan was a favorite of Frank James. Famously photographed with Frank and dog, Jerry, in 1910, Dan was described by the press as a “famous thoroughbred Arabian noted for speed and beauty” and by Annie James, Frank’s wife, as a “very faithful horse” that was “driven a great deal in the late days of Frank James. When young,” she added, “the horse was on the racetrack and was raced in Texas by Mr. James.”<sup>1</sup> Inevitably, the horse was linked to Frank’s outlaw days and, perhaps for added effect, was often cited as belonging to Frank’s arguably more famous brother, Jesse. “He could go faster than most horses,” a reporter for the Osceola Tribune explained, “he had endurance, and he could stand more hardships and privations, qualities valuable in a bandit’s steed.”<sup>2</sup>



BY MICHELLE POLLARD

It seemed inevitable that stories about Dan would be passed on down the generations. Scott Cole, a descendant of Jesse Richard Cole, relates an often told family story that, “upon the death of Old Dan, Frank telephoned the Cole farm asking for help in burying his beloved horse. My great grandpa, Jesse R. Cole II, and two uncles, Grover and Vernon Albright responded and got Old Dan buried. Frank gave each of them one of Dan’s horseshoes and kept one for himself....which was at one time imbedded in the sidewalk in front of the house at the James Farm.”

Stories also told of how Frank, wanting to show the grave of Old Dan to his many visitors, would walk them out to his tombstone but with each passing year Frank grew weaker, and the stone was moved closer and closer to the house until it was outside the front gate! If you are fond of these old stories, you should probably stop reading now!

On April 5, 2021, I sent a simple message to Linda Gay Mathis and attached a newspaper article from the Marion County Herald, [Palmyra, Mo] of August 28, 1923. It detailed the death of old Dan, favorite horse of Frank James.

*Me: I think I messed up another story.*

*Gay: Well, you didn’t mess it up.*



Hope lingered however with the fact that the article had been copied from the Liberty Tribune so perhaps it was a nostalgic entry – one of those articles from a much older newspaper reprinted on an anniversary or to fill a gap. But no. Further research confirmed that Old Dan had died in August 1923, eight years after Frank James had passed.

Gay, like any good racehorse, always takes an idea and runs with it.

*Gay: Best I can tell, regarding horses from the inventory of Frank James' estate in 1915 lists: One Span Draft Mares One Draft Mare Colt (Undivided 1/2 interest) One Draft Horse Colt (Undivided 1/2 interest)*

*Me: I guess the last one could be Dan?*

*Gay: I am not sure, but could be. Would Dan still be considered a colt approx. 5 years on from the image circa 1910? [shown at the start of this article]*

We decided probably not and, worse, considering Dan's advanced years, maybe the opposite was true - he was not worth recording.

*Me: Poor Dan.*

News of Dan's death spread across the country. As the hand-me-down story states, he was buried "with due rites" somewhere on the James-Samuel farm and, a short time after his death, Mrs. James was seen in Liberty where, "at Daily and Dugan's, she ordered a small stone with the name "Dan" to be cut on it that will be taken to the farm near Kearney and placed on the grave."<sup>3</sup>

*Gay: Daily & Dugan Monument Works--History of Clay County, Missouri--By William H. Woodson--1920 [The photo at left was attached.]*

*Me: That looks pretty depressing!*

*Gay: Since you mentioned depressing about this building. This publication also shows a photo of the same building I sent you. American Stone Trade, Volume 20--March 1921--pg 14. "Daily & Dugan, Liberty, Mo., recently completed their new place of business, consisting of a modern show room in front and an up-to-date work-shop in the rear. A broad concrete platform or dock extends the whole length of the building, which is of pressed brick construction, designed for convenience in loading and unloading work, and at the same time, makes a fine place for outside display of monuments in stock. This platform is on a level with the floors of the shop and show-room. This enterprising firm considers that nothing is too good for their business in Liberty, and they know their modern equipment will be appreciated and pay them well."*

*Me: Well, I guess they sacrificed pretty for functional.*

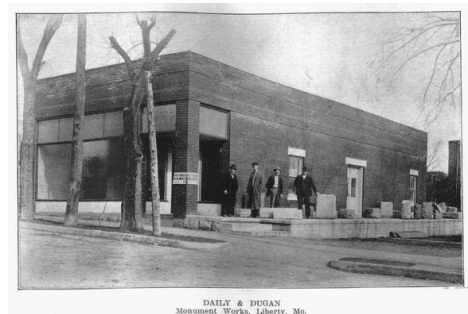
*Gay: Yep...*

With the memorial on its way, Mrs. James set about finding men to set it in place. Such was the excitement that the Osceola Tribune predicted "if Mrs. James needed help in erecting a memorial to "Dan" it would be found that hundreds of good law abiding citizens would be willing to contribute to that by saying they admired the horse when in reality it would be a desire to have connection with those celebrated old sinners, the James brothers."<sup>4</sup>

*Gay: Where's Jerry buried?*

**FOR FRANK JAMES' HORSE**  
 "Old Dan," a fast pacing horse owned by the late Frank James and who died recently, is to have a stone to mark his grave. Mrs. James was in Liberty Tuesday and while at Daily & Dugan's she ordered a small stone with the name "Dan" to be cut on it that will be taken to the farm near Kearney and placed on the grave.  
 Mrs. James said Dan was a very faithful old horse and was driven a great deal in the late days of Frank James. When young the horse was on the race track, and was raced in Texas by Mr. James. On the same farm is the grave of "Old Betsy," a fast racing mare owned by Jessie James.—Liberty Tribune.

Marion County Herald, [Palmyra, Mo]  
 August 28, 1923



DAILY & DUGAN  
 Monument Works, Liberty, Mo.

It was time to share our findings with Scott Cole.

*Scott Cole: Well, that blows a small hole in my Ol' Dan story.....apparently it was Annie who called my grandfather and uncles for assistance in burying Dan. I had no idea that Dan survived Frank by so many years. I do still believe that my grandfather and uncles were involved.....I have heard the story from too many different sources, including one outside of the immediate family. Uncle Grover (Cleve) Albright worked for Frank and Zerelda off and on for years....it only makes sense they would look to him for help.*

That made sense and with that done, we could move on to the next interesting detail highlighted by Dan's passing – the fact that he “was a son of Betsy, the favorite horse of Jesse James,” a horse also buried on the James-Samuel Farm and who, according to reports at the time, “will be remembered in the memorial.”<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Samuel, always the story teller, included Betsy in one of her tales.

“I remember one day during the war Jesse and three more of Quantrell's men rode up to the house to wash. They told me Federals were chasing them... By and by I saw about forty Federal soldiers going up through the field over toward old Dan Askew's house. Dan was a Northern spy. I shouted to Jesse: ‘I see some Federals’

“‘How many mother?’

“‘About forty’

“‘Well, keep your eye on them, mother,’ said Jesse and then went right on washing.” The Federals turned toward the house and Mrs. Samuel passed on a warning but Jesse didn't seem worried, saying four guerrillas could easily beat forty Federals. “I got scared and I ran back to where the boys were washing and I begged them to run.” Jesse laughed, saying he wasn't going to face the enemy while his neck was still dirty and “did not mount their horses till the soldiers were at the front gate and they heard the latch rattle.” At that point, the guerrillas headed across the pasture. “The Federals galloped around the house, part one way and part the other and pulled their cavalry pistols and such shooting and cursing you ever heard. Our boys shot back as they ran and the last I saw of them was a waving line of horses going over the top of the hill.” Mrs. Samuel waited half an hour and then could stand it no longer. “I got on my horse, Betsy, and went up over the hill, expecting to find the bodies of our four boys shot full of holes.” About a mile from the house, Mrs. Samuel was hailed by her son, alive and well, and returning to collect their hats after all losing them in the chase.<sup>6</sup>

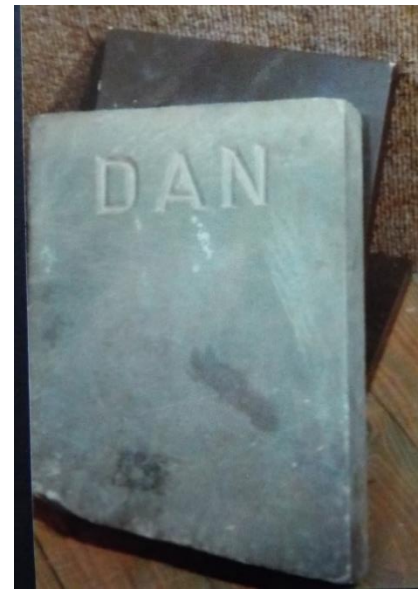
*Gay: Here's something about "Betsy's death"--I Knew Frank. I Wish I Had Known Jesse. Family, Friends And Neighbors In The Life And Times Of The James Boys by Samuel Anderson Pence--Pg 382. I remembered Pence had a lot of Liberty Tribune newspaper article clips in it.*

Sure enough, on July 26, 1895, the Liberty Tribune had included a notice from Mrs. Zerelda Samuel. She “writes us that her fine bay mare Betsy died on the 10th instant. Frank got the animal from a cousin, Obadiah Calvert in Scott county, Kentucky, 26 years ago and rode her to his home in this county. Betsy was 31 years old and Mrs Samuels regrets her death.” Obadiah Calvert was married to Elizabeth Lindsay, sister of the James' maternal grandmother, and, if the reports were correct, handed over a horse to Frank that was born around 1864.<sup>7</sup>

*Me: Scott says we are good at flogging a dead horse!*

*Gay: Jerry should have a stone, too.*

Both Betsy and Dan (and possibly Jerry!) are still at rest, somewhere on the family farm. **MP**



Dan's memorial can now be seen in the Jesse James Birthplace Museum.



The stone at the front of the house which contained Dan's horseshoe.



1. Lebanon [Penn.] Semi-Weekly News, August 20, 1923; Marion County Herald [Palmyra, Mo.] from the Liberty Tribune, August 28, 1923.
2. Tri-County News [King City, Mo.], October 12, 1923 from the Osceola Tribune.
3. Ibid; Marion county Herald [Palmyra, Mo.] from the Liberty Tribune, August 28, 1923.
4. Tri-County News, op. cit.
5. Lebanon [Penn.] Semi-Weekly News, August 20, 1923; Marion County Herald [Palmyra, Mo.] from the Liberty Tribune, August 28, 1923; Modesto [Ca.] Evening News, August 17, 1923.
6. The Chillicothe Constitution Tribune, February 11, 1911.
7. Ailsey Lindsay [nee Cole] 1769 – 1848 was Jesse and Frank’s maternal great grandmother, the daughter of Richard and Ann Cole. She married Anthony Lindsay in Woodford County, Ky, 1788. They had eleven children including Sallie Lindsay Thomason, Jesse and Frank’s maternal grandmother. Sallie’s sister was Elizabeth Lindsay Calvert who married Obediah Calvert. With many thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.



**September 8, 9, 15-17**

**Jesse James Park, Kearney, Missouri**

There will be plenty to entertain at this year’s festival including a kid’s dance, 5K/10K runs, demolition derby, cat fishing tournament, arts and crafts alley, a kite show, mud volleyball tournament and, of course, the grand parade!

Please see [jessejamesfestival.com](http://jessejamesfestival.com) for full details.

## TREE DEDICATION AT THE JAMES FARM



During the recent FOTJF Reunion, a tree was dedicated to the memory of Angie Borgegalden, the long time Friend of the James Farm who passed recently. If you wish to visit the tree, it is located along the pathway between the Museum and the old homestead.







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## MORE REUNION PHOTOS!!

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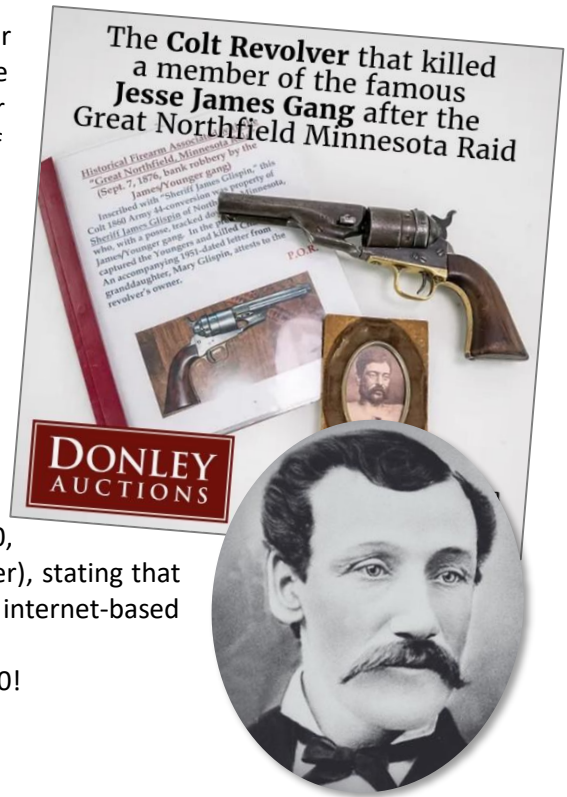
# HISTORIC GUN GOES UP FOR AUCTION IN ILLINOIS

On May 20, a rare opportunity to buy a piece of James-Younger history was presented by Donley Auctions of Union, Illinois. "We are excited to offer the Colt 1860 Army .44 conversion revolver serial No. 2639 which belonged to Sheriff James Glispin of Watonwan County, Minnesota, who killed a member of the Jesse James gang," their website explained. "After the famous Jesse James Bank Raid in Northfield, MN on September 7, 1876, Sheriff Glispin, with a posse, tracked down the remnants of the James-Younger gang near Madelia, Minnesota on September 21, 1876. In the ensuing gunfight, Sheriff Glispin killed Charlie Pitts, and the three Younger brothers were wounded."

The revolver was described as "a .44 conversion in good condition with wood grips" with an engraving on the back strap that read, "Sheriff James Glispin."

Accompanying the pistol was a typed letter dated Feb. 20, 1951 and signed by Mary Glispin (James Glispin's granddaughter), stating that the revolver belonged to her grandfather, an extensive file of internet-based research and photos of both James Glispin and Charlie Pitts.

With a starting bid of \$25,000, the gun finally sold for \$37,500!



All information used by permission of Karin Graddy at Donley Auctions.



## Second Saturdays at the James Farm

The Second Saturday Speaker program continues through to the winter season! The presentations are free to attend, everyone is welcome and be sure to tour the old homestead before you leave.

### August 12 - 10am - Young Jesse James and Lou McCoy's Unintended Role in the Man He Became.

Author and historian, **Diane Rogers**, will describe what happened on May 19, 1863, in Missouri City, how the ripple affected what happened to Jesse James a few days later and how his beating that day most likely changed the course of his life.

Admission to the presentation is free. Admission to the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum is charged at the normal rate.





## THE MURDER OF WOOD HITE

In December 1881, a confrontation in Ray County Missouri would prove to be a turning point in the life of Jesse James.

The turning point involved three members of his gang. It also involved the lust of a woman, the greed for money, blind ambition, and envy - all leading to the downfall of a folk hero. While most of the problems were between two members with a feud, the third became involved unexpectedly.

Following the Blue Cut train robbery, Jesse James divided the take among all those that were present. Dick Liddil and Wood Hite were two of the robbers receiving funds from the holdup. Hite came to believe that he had been shorted \$100 and discussed the matter with Liddil. It became a point of contention between the two. Another point of contention was when the two were at Wood Hite's residence in Kentucky. Hite advised Liddil that he was paying too much attention to his father's young wife. Liddil took offense. The two exchanged gunfire while in Kentucky but no one was hurt. Any friendship between the two was over.



BY RICHARD  
GOOCH



Martha Bolton, sister of the Ford brothers.  
James Andrew 'Dick' Liddil.

Martha Elizabeth Ford Bolton, Bob Ford's sister, lived in a house not far from the Ford homestead just east of Richmond, Missouri. Mrs. Bolton, a widow, lived at the house along with her children. The house was a known place of refuge for members of the Jesse James gang. Members would occasionally come and go after she provided them with lodging and meals.

Wood Hite arrived at the Bolton residence about mid-November of 1881, saying that he was looking for Jesse James. Mrs. Bolton advised she had not seen Jesse. After learning that Jesse was not there, Hite decided to wait and stayed for about two weeks.

Dick Liddil appeared at the house on what most sources indicate was Sunday, December 4, 1881. Mrs. Bolton was cooking breakfast, and Dick Liddil was sitting in the dining room when Wood Hite entered. Liddil wanted to know what Hite was doing there and began to argue. Also in the room was Bob Ford, who was standing away from Liddil and Hite. The argument turned bitter when Wood Hite pulled his revolver and shot at Liddil. Liddil returned fire. Both combatants continued to fire at each other until Liddil had been hit seriously in the leg and Hite in the arm. A total of about ten shots had been fired when Bob Ford drew his revolver, walked up to Hite and put a bullet into Hite's head. Although he had not been involved in the gunfight, he later claimed that since Liddil couldn't end in the fight, he would. Ford also claimed that he killed Hite out of the fear of his sister's safety. Mrs. Bolton rushed to Wood Hite but there was nothing that could be done.

Wood Hite was carried upstairs to a bedroom, remaining there for the rest of the day. He was stripped of his clothing and wrapped in a blanket. Toward the end of the evening, Cap, Wilbur, and Bob Ford carried the body from the house. One of Mrs. Bolton's sons accompanied them to the burial site. They dumped the body in a well and then covered the well with branches concealing the murder they had just committed.

Dick Liddil and Bob Ford had just killed one of the favorite cousins of Jesse James. They were certain that Jesse would take revenge for

the killing. Rumors suggested Jesse had already killed Ed Miller, a gang member, so Dick Liddil surrendered to the Sheriff. Liddel made a deal to testify against Jesse and Frank James when, and if, they came to trial. In return he would be pardoned. His pardon did not extend to the killing of Wood Hite because the Hite murder was unknown at the time.

Martha Bolton arranged for Ford to meet with Governor Crittenden. At the meeting Bob Ford agreed to help law enforcement officials arrest Jesse and Frank James. He was to receive the reward money posted for the arrest of the James brothers. Again, he failed to mention that he had been involved in the murder of Wood Hite. Ford saw the golden opportunity to make a large sum of money and stroke his ego by killing the one man he envied. Here was the chance to become a legend himself. He would receive a full pardon for the murder of Jesse James.

Upon Charley Ford's recommendation, and according to their testimony, Bob Ford was included into the small circle planning to rob a bank at Platte City. Bob told Charley the plan to kill Jesse before he found out about Wood Hite's murder unaware that he already knew.

Robert Ford saw a chance to kill an unarmed Jesse James and shot him in the back of the head on April 3, 1882. Charley and Bob Ford were arrested and tried for murder. They were convicted but within hours, Gov. Crittenden had pardoned them both. Bob Ford received a small part of the reward but not the full \$10,000 he thought he deserved.

On October 5, 1882, Frank James returned to Missouri and surrendered himself to Governor Crittenden. Frank stood trial in Gallatin, Missouri for the July 15, 1881, train robbery at Winston, Missouri. Dick Liddil testified against Frank James as per his pardon agreement. Frank James was found not guilty by a jury. He was sent to Muscle Shoals, Alabama to stand trial for federal payroll robbery. Dick Liddil again testified for the state against James who was found not guilty by a jury.

The body of Wood Hite was discovered on April 5, 1882 after Jackson County Coroner Bohanan received a tip from a 13-year-old boy of where the body of Wood Hite may be located.

On April 14, of 1882, the inquest was held into the killing of Wood Hite. Hite was buried in the Richmond city Cemetery, in Richmond Missouri. The jury determined that Hite came to his death from a pistol shot fired by either Dick Liddil or Bob Ford.

Bob Ford was indicted for the murder of Wood Hite and stood trial in Plattsburg, Missouri on October 19, 1882. On October 26, 1882, Robert Newton Ford was found not guilty in the murder of Wood Hite.

Dick Liddil was arrested but released without going to trial. In 1901, Liddel was reindicted but did not stand trial for the crime. He died three months later. **RG**

Liberty Tribune, April 14, 1882.

Chicago Daily Tribune, April 6, 1882.

St. Joseph Daily Herald, April 7, 1882.

St. Joseph Western News, April 14, 1882.

St. Louis Post Dispatch, Sept. 11, 1882.

Kansas City Evening Star, October 18, 1882.

New York Tribune October 22, 1882.

Kansas City Evening Star, October 26, 1882.

James Farm Journal, Volume 34, Issue 2.

#### The Killing of Wood Hite.

As is well known, Bob Ford, immediately after his release on Governor Crittenden's pardon, was rearrested at St. Joe on the charge of having killed Wood Hite, in Charley Ford's house, on the 3d of December. His brother "Cap" had but a short time before been arrested, charged with having had a hand in putting an end to Hite's career, but he was soon released.

"I must go back to Missouri in a short time," said Bob, speaking of the Hite case, "for my trial comes off on the 9th of next month. That doesn't worry me any, for I am satisfied of being acquitted."

"Wood Hite was killed in your house, was he not?" asked the reporter of Charley.

"Yes, but I was not there."

"I was present, though," said Bob, and on being asked for the story of the killing from the beginning, Bob went on as follows:

"Some time previous to Wood's death he was down to his father's house in Logan County, Ky., with Dick Liddle. Wood accused Dick of being too familiar with his (Wood's) mother-in-law, and they had a fuss, and pulled their pistols and exchanged shots, but neither man was hurt. This put an end to their friendship, and Dick left and came back to Missouri. Not long after that little episode Wood killed a darky that had been working at the house because he suspected he would betray him to the authorities. He took the fellow out into the woods and shot

St. Louis Globe-Democrat,  
September 11, 1882

## Ford Brothers seminar



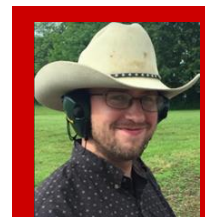
**September 9, 2023**  
**Farris Theatre,**  
**Richmond, 7pm**

Be sure to go along to the Ford Brothers Seminar where Richard Gooch will be presenting *Jesse James: Hero or Villain* alongside a counter presentation, *Bob Ford: Hero or Villain!*



# THE FOTJF FRONTIER REVOLVER SHOOT JULY 22, 2023

We had a good turnout for the July Frontier Revolver Shoot. Though the weather was definitely sunny, the heat did not move in until we were wrapping up the shooting, so we had quite the pleasant time. Of the fourteen shooters, we had multiple people travel from out of state, most of whom have shot with us before, though not recently.



BY CALEB  
POOKER

The winners are as follows:

### THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place:** Caleb Blackwell
- Second place:** Wayne Leatherberry
- Third place:** Tim Washburn

### OVERALL CAP & BALL WINNERS

- First place:** Del Warren

### OVERALL CARTRIDGE WINNERS:

- First place:** Caleb Blackwell
- Second place:** Wayne Leatherberry
- Third place:** Gary Blackwell



### THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place:** Del Warren

Only one person shot in the Cap & Ball Division for this shoot, so for everyone who owns a cap & ball revolver, you might want to break it out for the next shoot.

We look forward to seeing everyone and their friends on Sunday 24 September 2023 for the next Frontier Revolver Shoot. Remember that there will be an optional rifle component for an additional \$5.00. Any lever gun in the spirit of the Old West is welcome. We have two categories to keep the competition fair: one category uses regular iron sights (v-notch, buckhorn, etc.), the second category is an open division with tang sights, traditional scopes, etc. being welcome.

Contact Caleb Pooker with any questions at 816-799-8667 or [calebpooker@gmail.com](mailto:calebpooker@gmail.com). CP

## ORDER NO. 11 PRESENTATION RE-SCHEDULED



Photo by permission. Admission is free. In association with Missouri Humanities.

### September 23 – 10am – Jesse James Birthplace Theatre

Here is your chance to hear the postponed presentation, *Exodus: Order No. 11's Impact on Western Missouri*, by Tom Rafiner.

Using the 'Cass County Exodus' mural as a focal point, Tom Rafiner, a published University of Missouri graduate who has spent 20 years researching the Burnt District, promises to take you on a journey into the personal experiences of those affected by General Ewing's infamous Order.



## ANOTHER GUN MAKES IT TO AUCTION

Billed as ‘the most thoroughly documented Jesse James gun ever to appear at auction’, the Colt Single Action .45 Caliber Revolver [serial number 70579] was offered for sale by Heritage Auctions in July.

The gun was first seen as part of a collection “put together by Jesse James Jr.” A photo of the collection, including the revolver, appeared in a rare volume of *The Crittenden Memoirs*, dated 1936, with a note – “May 4<sup>th</sup> 1923 to H. H. Crittenden. This is an authentic picture with my compliments, Jesse James Jr.”



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

In 1924, this gun and another firearm changed ownership. Missouri physician Dr. Lowery claimed he was given the guns to cover medical expenses, while the James family claimed they had merely lent him the guns as insurance until the money could be found. “Surviving documents indicate that the guns passed legitimately to Dr. Lowery,” the Auction house explains. “A 1935 report by R. E. Donnellan, Captain of Investigations for the Excelsior Springs, Missouri, police department, states that the guns were voluntarily turned over to Lowery by James under the supervision of Sheriff Elgin, who became involved when Jesse Jr. was unable to pay a substantial medical bill owed to Lowery.” As the family suggested, the guns were to be security for the payment of the bill but, according to Capt. Donnellan, “the bill was never paid, and Dr. Lowery retained possession of the guns.”

Stella James, wife of Jesse Edwards James tried hard to return the guns to the family, even going so far as to sue Dr. Lowery, but the doctor died before judgement could be made and the guns disappeared, only to resurface in 1935 in possession of U.S. Senator Harry B. Hawes at which time, Stella’s daughter, Josephine, unsuccessfully took up the fight to get the guns back.

The lengths the James family went to try to recover the guns was cited by the auction house as the best sign of authenticity in their origin.

Source: Heritage Auctions website.

### Recent Donation

During a recent visit, Terry and Leona James, from New York, donated three Jesse James dime novels to the Birthplace and Museum.

Dime novels were popular between 1860 and 1915 and were cheap, weekly “melodramatic novels of adventure”!

Thank you so much so this generous donation!!





## OBITUARIES



### Shirley Mae Wells

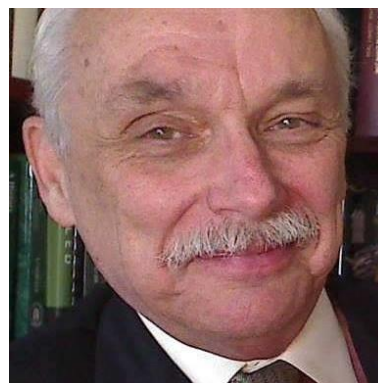
November 25, 1939 – April 30, 2023

Shirley Wells was a native of Phoenix, Arizona, and attended modelling school there. In 1959, she married her high school sweetheart, Joe, and they had three children before moving to California, where Shirley worked in real estate then as a journalist in the rural community of Ramona. In that capacity, Shirley interviewed all kinds of interesting people and carved out an enriching career, writing and speaking.

After retiring, Shirley concentrated her efforts on writing the histories of her two families, including that of her husband's relative, Charlie Pitts (real name Sam Wells). Members will remember that Charlie Pitts was killed after the unsuccessful raid on the Northfield, Minnesota, bank in September 1876.

*We send heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Shirley and Eric.*

Information from online obituaries and the Stray Leaves website. With thanks to Nancy Samuelson.



### Eric F. James

January 14, 1943 – May 24, 2023

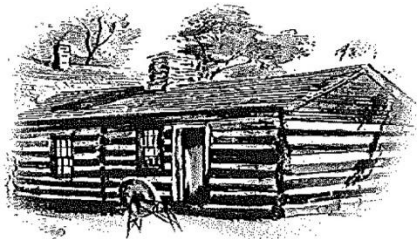
Eric James led an eventful life. Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, Eric was a member of the original Second City Theatre there and appeared many times on stage and screen. After emigrating to California, Mr. James became a high-end estate broker, realty journalist and City Commissioner of the city of Dana Point from 1993 to 1999. While in California, Eric became acquainted with Judge James Ross, great grandson of Jesse James and an interest in the James family became a passion. He co-founded The James Preservation Trust with Judge Ross and Steve Leonard with a clear mission to “look after the historical interests of the family of Frank and Jesse James through advocacy, education, research, publication, acquisition, maintenance, and public display of artifacts, information and places relating to the James and their related families.” Eric was strong in his opinions, free with his sharing of them and resolute in his dealings with those he believed sought to mislead the public.

He took the role of archivist for the Joan Beamis Research archive of the James family tree and created the Stray Leaves website and Leaves of Gas blog, identifying a database of hundreds of relatives which later appeared in his book, Jesse James Soul Liberty, Behind the Family Wall of Stigma and Silence.

For much of his later years, Eric resided in Kentucky and was on the board of directors for The Midway Museum. He gave presentations to that organization and to members of the James-Younger Gang.

**Friends of the James Farm**

c/o Jesse James Birthplace and Museum  
21216 Jesse James Farm Road  
Kearney, MO 64060  
www.jessejames.org  
816.736.8500



James homestead cabin —  
Original art by Jim Hamil

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Kearney, MO 64060



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history.

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- ROAD AGENT \$100.00
- LONG RIDER \$250.00
- HOME GUARD \$500.00

Outside the continental US please add \$5  
to your membership contribution.