



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The shoots are over for the year. This year they were done by Caleb Pooker. Gary Blackwell managed the actual shooting to ensure that safety standards were maintained. During the last shoot we had three young people who had fun and got a valuable shooting safety lesson from Gary. This shoot made over four hundred dollars and our last revolver raffle made four hundred ten dollars over the cost of the gun. A picture of our three new Friends members is included in Caleb’s Shoot Report.



BY BRYAN IVLOW

I am pleased to report that our financial position is good. Our four CDs that we have maintained since the 1990s are moving from the 2% interest range into the 4.5% range. They total well over ten thousand dollars. Our James Farm book sales stand at \$1400.00 and we have \$9000.00 left in unrealized profits from future sales. Our checking account has nearly \$5000.00.

In our future, former president Jeanne Ralston is donating her extensive collections of James books and Civil War books to the Friends. We plan to offer books from both collections for sale in future Journals. These future Journals will share sale items and selected news with the Civil War Roundtable newsletter.

Also in our plans are running another revolver raffle for our first shoot next year and a Board of Directors Christmas Party.

We wish all members Happy Holidays! See you in 2024! BI



Fall has arrived at the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum.



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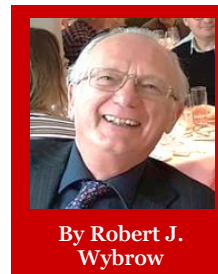
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## “FRANK JAMES’S FRIEND”

The ‘friend’ alluded to in the headline in a Nashville newspaper in March 1884 was blacksmith, Jonas Taylor. Introducing him, it was said: “Mr. Jonas Taylor, the stalwart blacksmith of No. 9 North College street, would fill the bill in every respect as a border hero. He is large enough, broad shouldered, and perhaps has as much, or more muscle than any other man in Nashville. Mr. Taylor becomes of interest now as being one of the witnesses in Frank James’ case.” The interview with Taylor by a reporter from *The Daily American* was as follows:



By Robert J.  
Wybrow

An American reporter yesterday went in search of Mr. Taylor, and found him in his shop busily engaged in washing with a lotion the feet of a very large, restive black horse. He was very loath to be interviewed at first, but finally consented to show the reporter a letter written by Frank James, and dated “March 1, 1884, in jail. Huntsville, Ala.” The letter was written in a handsome round hand, and recalled to Mr. Taylor’s mind many facts relating to the writer’s residence in this county in 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1882. He said that Frank James went by the name of B. J. Woodson, and occupied the Smith farm, which is situated between the White’s Creek and Beuna [sic] Vista Ferry pikes.

“Do you believe Frank James was engaged in the Muscle Shoals robbery?” asked the reporter.

“As far as that goes,” said the stalwart blacksmith, “it was utterly impossible, because I remember shoeing a horse for him on March 11, 1881, the day of the robbery, and on the 12th, the next day, he paid me what he owed me, \$100.25. My day-book and ledger show this and it was by means of these entries that I refreshed my memory of the matter.”

Mr. Taylor then produced a very old day-book and ledger, and turning to page 242 showed the following account which the reporter obtained permission from him to copy:

“B. J. Woodson, 1879, Feb. 6, removing eight shoes \$2; 5th [15th?], putting on four shoes \$2; 17th, removing four shoes \$1; March 12th, shoes 50c; April 9, four shoes \$2; 14th, four shoes removed \$2; Jan. 2, 1880, money loaned \$2; Feb. 3, money loaned \$1.25; April 9, four shoes \$2; April 26, four plate shoes \$4; April 29, cash loaned \$50; May 9, cash loaned \$25; Mayes livery bill \$1.50; 1881, January, Patterson and Carmichael’s bill, livery, \$1.50; 1881, to registering deed \$2; March 11, four shoes \$1.50; total \$100.25.”

“March 12. By cash received \$100.25.”

All these entries appeared properly made on the ledger from which they had been transferred from the day-book.

Mr. Taylor also stated that he knew Jesse James when he lived in Edgefield during 1878 and 1879. He was then engaged in speculating in grain and flour under the name of John D. Howard. He went to Humphreys county, Tennessee, in 1879, and stayed there two years, after which he returned and farmed with Frank on the Smith farm. In 1880 Jesse James operated a boarding-house at the race track, near Taylor’s chair factory, and kept it for some time. He afterwards hauled saw-logs for one of the mills in this city.

“As for working,” said Mr. Taylor, “I never did know two men who were harder workers than Frank and Jesse James while they lived here. Frank put in the hardest sort of work on the farm. He had several farm horses that I knew by name and Jesse owned a large pair of mules. It was not reasonable to suppose that men who worked for a living as hard as they did would resort to highway robbery to get money.”

Mr. Taylor then showed the reporter several letters written during a period extending over a number of years.

They were all in the same clear, handsome round hand-writing. Some of them were signed Frank James and some B. J. Woodson. They all contained a great many references to the writer’s wife and little son, showing him not only to be a loving and gentle husband and father, but a true friend to the men who had befriended him. The letters from the jail at Gallatin, Mo., all showed a cheerful, manly tone. In one of these epistles Frank James says that if they kept him confined in the Gallatin jail much longer, he was satisfied he would die.

All of the letters showed that the man who wrote them was high-spirited, brave, determined and possessed of great fortitude. Not one word tending to show him wanting in gentlemanly instict [sic] and culture could be found in them. No word tending to show that the writer was engaged or ever had been engaged in any but his legitimate calling, farming, appeared in any of these letters.

Mr. Jonas Taylor and Mr. Joe Warren, of Warren Brothers, leave for Huntsville, to-day, for the purpose of visiting Frank James. They both expect to return next Tuesday, but as Mr. Taylor is a witness in the case he expects to return to Huntsville when the trial begins in April.

One of the letters stated that the writer expected to be at the Mussel Shoals robbery case in a gallop, and thought it a regular walk-over.<sup>1</sup>

Taylor loaning money to Frank James, could mean he also lent money to Jesse, for in one of the latter’s letters he writes of a problem with a “Mr. Taylor”:

Boxes Station Tenn Dec 13, 1878

Mr J R B \_\_\_\_\_

Gallatin, Tenn

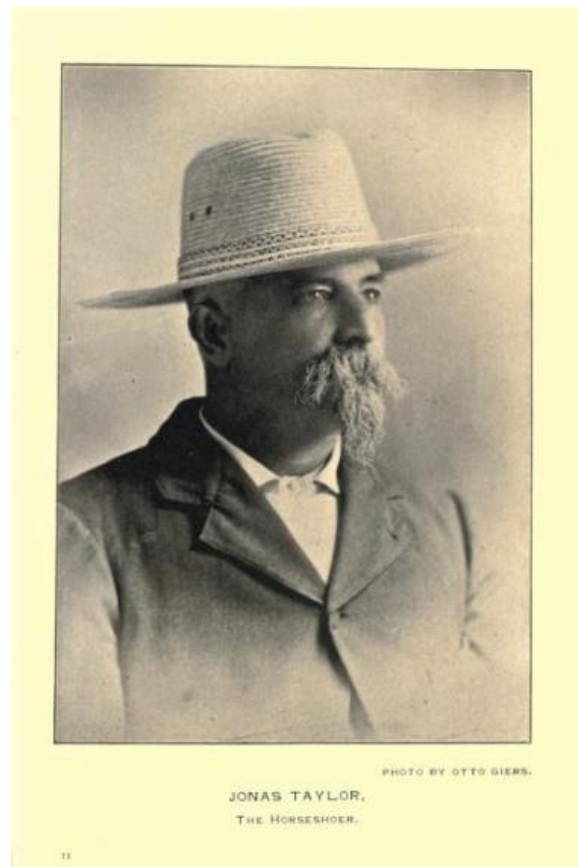
Dear Sir,

Your letter to hand and contents noted. I will accept your proposition on the note I will pay you \$210<sup>00</sup> and take the note up between this and Jan the 1th 1879. Deposit the note at Fourth National Bank Nashville and a Bill of sale of the Colt to Mr B J Woodson and I and Mr Woodson will pay off the note. I am anxious to get everything settled satisfactory for if Mr Taylor and I don’t desolve partnership the probabilitys are we will becom envolved in a law suit and he bothered about it and if you have your money you are safe and I have the Colt so I will be protected. I will leave home in 2 or 3 days to be gone two weeks but Mrs H will attend to the note if I don’t. If my proposition is agreeable to you please let me know by return mail.

Your friend

J. D. Howard

It does not suit me as well to express mony as to pay it from the 4<sup>th</sup> Bank.<sup>2</sup>



Taylor said in his evidence at Frank’s trial, “Howard [Jesse] and I owned two race-horses, Jim Scott and Col. Hull.”<sup>3</sup> Although the reporter said, “All these entries appeared properly made on the ledger from which they had been transferred from the day-book”, there was an inconsistency in Taylor’s style of dating the entries: all the dates for 1879 and 1880 were shown as month and day, while the first two of 1881 were either just given as January or no date at all before the important one of March 11. The prosecuting attorney at Frank’s trial for the robbery

noticed this inconsistency and noted the day-book “is very much blotted with ink and the dates sworn to can scarcely be read.”<sup>4</sup>

While Taylor may have been a ‘friend’ of Frank James, it was only circumstantial that he deliberately ‘doctored’ his day-book to help Frank. Nevertheless, after examining it with a magnifying glass, the prosecution were “perfectly satisfied that it had been tampered with. There were ink blots on almost every page and the writing was in several different hands. Taylor expressed that he had several persons to keep his books at different times, being not well educated himself .... As in the condition of the book he explained that in carrying out his desk in the fire of May, 1881, the book was damaged and ink thrown upon it. As to the entry of the dates March 11 and 12 in his own handwriting he stated that he did not wait for his book-keeper but balanced the account himself.”<sup>5</sup>

So, Taylor was not only an important ‘friend’ to Frank James but also to Jesse.

1. The Daily American, Nashville, Tennessee, March 8, 1884.
2. Robert J. Wybrow, “*Jesse James, Prince of Robbers!*”, The English Westerners’ Society, 2015, p.431.
3. *The Daily American*, Nashville, April 21, 1884.
4. *Birmingham Iron Age*, Alabama, April 24, 1884.
5. *The Daily American*, Nashville, April 21, 1884.

Photo of Jonas Taylor, with thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.

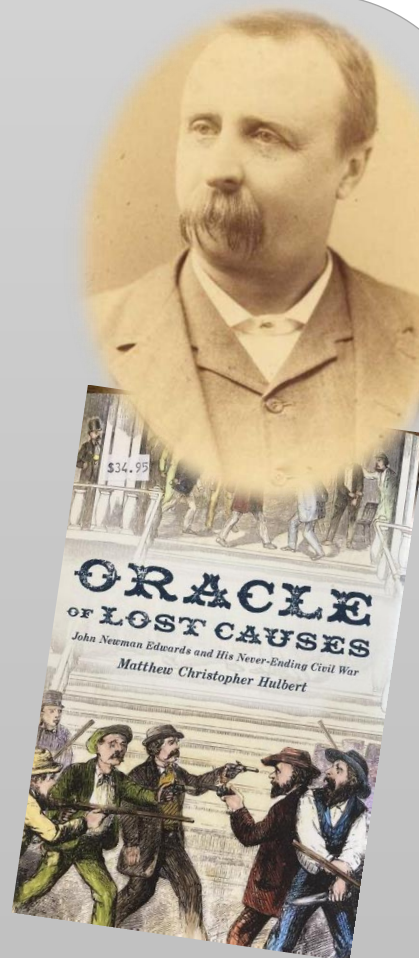
For Liz in Scotland for the memories. **RJW**

## NEW BOOK ON THE JAMES BROTHER’S FRIEND AND ADVOCATE

Scholars of the James story will know the role John Newman Edwards played in creating much of the myth around the subjects he wrote so passionately about. And those same scholars may also be aware that Edwards often ignored events in his own life in preference to glorifying the lives of others.

In a new book, *Oracle of Lost Causes – John Newman Edwards and His Never-Ending Civil War*, Matthew Christopher Hulbert explores the life and times of this extraordinary man, covering his apprenticeship with the Front Royal Gazette, his time as J. O. Shelby’s adjutant and later POW during the Civil War, his time in Mexico, his struggles with alcoholism, his many literary achievements and, of course, his relationship with the James brothers.

For those of us who have struggled with the fanciful prose of John Edwards, this easy-to-read biography is welcomed and long overdue. It is fast-paced, interesting and well researched. And it is available now in the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum gift shop.



## YOUNG JESSE JAMES AND LOU MCCOY'S UNINTENDED ROLE IN THE MAN HE BECAME

Throughout history, people have been judged by their worst actions. Jesse James is one of those people. Cole Younger is another. Before we talk about Jesse, let's talk about Cole.

In the fall of 1861, in Harrisonville about 40 miles south of Kansas City, Colonel Mockbee, a Unionist, hosted a sixteenth birthday party for his daughter. At that party Union Lieutenant Irvin Walley asked one of Cole's sisters to dance. He was refused. He made some insulting comments and Cole stepped in to defend his sister. A fight ensued. In Walley's anger, and possibly as a show of his power, he accused Cole of being a spy and openly threatened to hang him. Cole was the son of Henry Younger, the Mayor of Harrisonville. Cole was only seventeen.

Cole left the party, went home, and told his father what had happened. Henry Younger advised his son to go to a farm he owned in Clay County, so Cole made his way there. Walley sought out Cole for a long time, but couldn't find him. In February of 1862, Cole joined up with Quantrill.

On July 20th of 1862, Cole's father was murdered returning home from Kansas City. He was shot in the back, his horse and wagon tied not far away, and found with almost \$3000 in his pocket. Since this didn't appear to be a robbery, it has been speculated that Irvin Walley, in his frustration at not being able to find Cole, was the man who did the deed, although it hasn't been proven.

A lot of people focus **only** on the bad things Jesse and Cole did, but **WHY** did they do them? What drove them?

With Cole, it was most likely being hounded by a Union Lieutenant who threatened to hang him before he turned eighteen. His only recourse, to run and eventually join the bushwhackers where he felt safe.

What is the *Ripple Effect*? The definition is: the continuing and spreading results of an event or action. A rock thrown into a pond makes ripples that go on until they disappear in the surf or reach the bank. A bad hair day triggers a snarky comment, then a fight with your husband or boyfriend so you cancel your long-awaited anniversary dinner. You forget to set the alarm. You're late for work—for the third time in a month—and get fired. These are all ripple effects from one event that caused additional events to occur after the initial incident. Whether large or small, they're still ripples in the fabric of our lives.

Let's examine some of the ripple effects that occurred during the Civil War as they related to Jesse James and a woman named Lou McCoy, as well as General Order Number 11, issued after William Clarke Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence on August 21, 1863. And another order issued in Clay County in January of 1864 that directly affected Jesse James's parents and Lou McCoy.

In May of 1863, Jesse James was considering becoming a minister like his father. The Reverend Robert James died of Cholera in California in 1850 while prospecting for gold and ministering to the miners. Jesse's uncle, Robert's brother, was also a preacher, so Jesse knew his scriptures well and intended to follow in his father's and uncle's footsteps. But the war changed those ambitions.

Jesse was 15 years old in May of 1863 when events in Missouri City, less than ten miles from Liberty, spilled over to entangle him and his family.

In order to tell **Jesse's** story, we have to start with Lou McCoy, and the events in **her** life that had a ripple effect on Jesse. History has proven Lou to be a twenty-year-old spitfire in 1863. However, only five years prior, at the tender age of fifteen, she'd married Moses McCoy, a recent widower left with a newborn son. She took over the care of that son, James, then later had a little girl, Carrie, with Moses. Carrie was two in 1863.

On the evening of May 14 of 1863, Lou was at home with her children. Her ten-year-old brother, Matt, was staying with them. Lurene, or Lou, was not your average mother. Although she and her husband had begun the war siding with the Union, she and Moses now worked for the Confederacy...Moses as a recruiter and Lou sewing uniforms for his new recruits. And when men came to her doorstep for food, which was a usual occurrence and no matter which side they were on, she fed them.



By D. L. Rogers

On this night of May 14th, five Federal soldiers came to Lou's home demanding to know where Moses was hiding. He had been to see her earlier in the day, but had long since left. He purposely hadn't told her where he was going. If she didn't know, she couldn't give him away. When she tried to impress upon the soldiers that she did NOT know where he was, they called her a liar. They tried to frighten her by telling her: "Well, we hang men to make them tell what we want to know, and we hanged one woman." Lou was not one to be cowed no matter how scared she was. She stood up to them and, according to Jay Jackson's and John Moloski's book, told them, "You all look brave enough to hang a woman!" then added, that, even if she did know where her husband was, she wouldn't tell them anyway.

Cowed by her bravado or simply by her unwillingness to give them the information they wanted, the soldiers left. But they weren't done with her. Before she could leave the next morning to take the children to her parent's house about two miles away, five more soldiers pounded on her door. These soldiers included Lieutenant Grafenstein, a man of German descent, who didn't much like Lou or her boldness. She was arrested for making uniforms for the enemy, and for feeding them, even though she swore she fed any man who came to her doorstep, no matter what side they were on.

To those women reading this, I'd like to ask - If you were alone in your home of a night with your children, your husband off fighting and it didn't matter for which side, and five big, burly men came to your door and demanded food—what would you do? Mind you, these men usually had a brace of guns on them and were, most likely, not very clean, with long beards and hair. Wouldn't you feed them to protect your children? And without asking their loyalties before you did?

After Lou's arrest, she was paraded from her home—in her nightgown—two miles through Missouri City, then five more miles to the Liberty Arsenal.

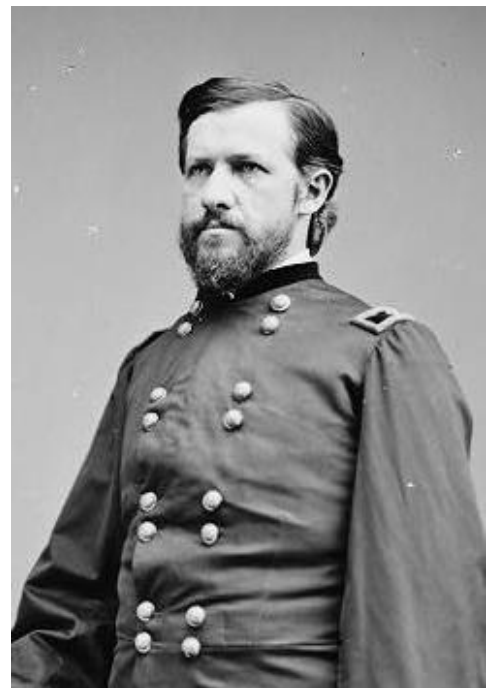
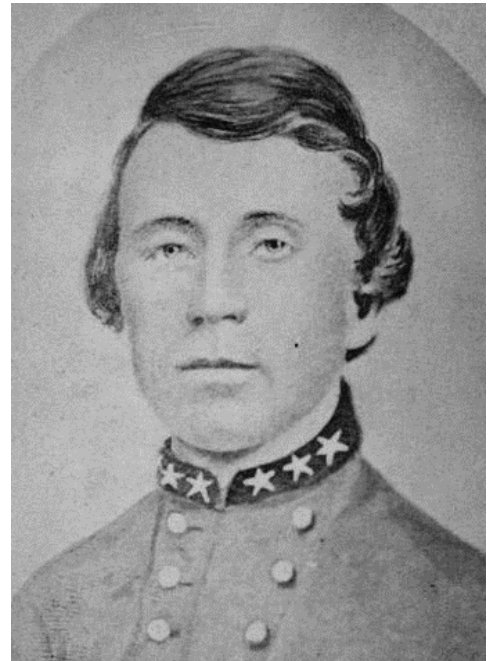
As the townspeople looked on, Lieutenant Grafenstein threatened reprisals on anyone who tried to help Mrs. McCoy. However, a Mrs. Adams shouted out to Lou, "Are you a prisoner?"

Lou yelled back "Yes!"

Mrs. Adams raised her hands and shouted, "Never mind. There will be a hereafter to this!"

Initially, Lou wasn't sure what Mrs. Adams meant, until she recalled who Mrs. Adams's brother was. He was Louis Vandiver, who rode with William Clarke Quantrill. Was Mrs. Adams, in her own way, telling Lou she intended to get word of her arrest and humiliation to Lou's husband, through her brother?

Lou was taken from the Liberty Arsenal to the Provost Marshal in St. Joseph. An interesting thing about Lou's story is that, although she had been arrested and humiliated when paraded through town in her nightgown, she was not sent to an actual prison in St. Joseph. Instead, she was put under house arrest in the home of Captain Thomas Dunn, his wife Carol, and their daughter Margie. How Lou got such a soft sentence for her "crimes" is unknown. Possibly a hidden relationship we're not aware of? Of course, we may never know.



Top: William Clark Quantrill  
Bottom: Brigadier General Thomas Ewing.

## JAMES COUNTRY MERCANTILE



Our friends at James Country Mercantile have a great store in Liberty, Missouri on the square, just around the corner from the Jesse James Bank Museum. Be sure to stop by and check out all of their great merchandise.



111 N. Main Street, Liberty, Mo.

While at the Dunn home, Lou petitioned Colonel Hardy, the commander in St. Joseph, and asked if she could be allowed to leave the Dunn home to go into St. Joseph during the day. He gave his approval and she went into town every day from then on. What she did during her days there is also unknown, but it IS known that she met a former Confederate soldier named Reuben Kay. It's also said that once she started going into town, she never ate another dinner at the Dunn home, where she had taken her meals prior. Was she involved in some covert activities with Mr. Kay while in town every day? Knowing Lou and the type of woman she was, it's very likely, especially knowing what happened when she remained in St. Joe after signing the loyalty oath.

While under house arrest, Colonel Hardy had asked Lou to sign the loyalty oath many times. Once she did, she could go home. However, she refused to do so until a "lighter oath" was written especially for her that allowed her to see her husband and family after her release without recriminations. If she signed the current version of the Oath, if Moses came to see her after her release and the federals found out, she could be arrested again. After days of her refusing to sign, the federals gave in. She was allowed to sign a "lighter" version that would not prosecute her for seeing her husband or any family member that might be affiliated with the Confederate cause after her release.

Here's where things begin to get even more interesting. During the time that Lou was in St. Joe, other events were occurring in Missouri City. On the morning of May 14, Moses and the men with him stopped for breakfast at the home of Jerre Peebly before going into Missouri City with the intent of luring out the Federals. An order had been issued that forced the local citizenry to report the locations of any bushwhackers spotted in the area. If it was found out the citizen didn't make such a report, or hid the locations of said bushwhackers, they were punished. Using this order, the bushwhackers instigated a responsive action by the Federals. Jerre reminded them of the order and that he must report the

whereabouts of any bushwhackers. That he had no choice but to tell the authorities in Missouri City that they'd been at his place. The bushwhackers were well aware of the order and what Jerre would have to do. They counted on it. When Peebly reported their whereabouts, he also reported that they were drunk.

Later that morning, May 19, 1864, after Peebly's report, Captain Darius Sessions, the former Mayor of Missouri City and most likely the man who had turned Lou in for arrest; Lieutenant Grafenstein, who had **made** the arrest; and three volunteers came out to find and arrest the supposedly drunken bushwhackers.

The Federals were met by as many as sixteen men. A private Rapp, one of three privates who had volunteered to go after the bushwhackers, and Lieutenant Grafenstein were both shot in the first volley. Grafenstein, was

held in the arms of a woman who had happened by, while she begged for his life. Neither hers, nor his, pleas were heard. He was shot twice more in the head.

Sessions was killed in the second volley, also shot in the head. Grafenstein, Sessions, and private Rapp were all stripped and robbed. But, somehow, Rapp was still alive.

After the bushwhackers left in pursuit of the last two privates who were fleeing for their lives, and with the aid of another passerby or possibly the same woman who had pleaded unsuccessfully for Grafenstein's life, Rapp was taken to the hotel in Missouri City where his wounds were tended. The other two privates escaped without injury.

Later that day, having left Rapp, Grafenstein and Sessions where they fell, presumed dead, the bushwhackers learned that private Rapp was still alive. They went to the hotel and shot him three more times. Through some miracle, Rapp survived yet again, and later testified against Louis Vandever in St. Louis. Vandever was the only one of Quantrill's men charged in the May 19th attack. Vandiver was sentenced to hang, but it was commuted to hard labor in Alton prison in Illinois. He was released in 1865.

Once Lou signed the Oath of Loyalty, she was free to go home to see the children she hadn't seen in over a week. But she didn't. She remained in St. Joseph for several more days to work at the hospital. While there, she came upon a young Confederate soldier named Jacob Burkholder, slated to be hanged as a spy. He'd been caught in civilian clothing after sneaking into Missouri City to see his sweetheart. Lou refused to accept that he would be hanged for such an offense. Before she said farewell to St. Joseph, with the aid of a Union uniform and another woman, Burkholder was removed from the hospital, put in a carriage, and whisked away to safety.

What does what happened with Lou McCoy have to do with Jesse James? Four days after the May 19th raid, on May 23 (or according to some accounts, the 25th) of 1863, the 25th Missouri (Union) militia went to the James farm looking for Frank who had participated in the May 19th raid with Quantrill's men. When the militia arrived at the James farm, Jesse was out plowing the field. His mother, Zerelda, his stepfather "Pappy" Reuben Samuel, his two-year-old brother J.T., and his sisters five-year-old Sarah and fourteen-year-old Susan, were up at the house. Two of the men who rode with the militia, Dagley and Bond, were former neighbors of the James's. Brantley Bond had even served with Frank in the Confederacy's Missouri State Guard at the start of the war. Now he and Dagley rode with the Federals.

Remember at this juncture in Jesse's life, he aspired to become a minister like his father and uncle. What happened to him this day must have certainly changed his mind—or at least made him reconsider the direction of his life.

Asked by the Federals where his brother was, Jesse told them he didn't know. He was then beaten. Jesse James was only four months shy of his sixteenth birthday in September. He was whipped, with a rope or the flat of a saber, (some accounts say he was pricked by sabers), then dragged to the house where he watched in horror as his stepfather, whom they called Pappy, had "his neck stretched" by their former neighbors, Dagley and Bond. (Stretching the neck is done when a noose is put around someone's neck and the other end of the rope is thrown over a branch. They're then pulled off the ground, their feet dangling free in the air and gasping for breath, in

**THE BUTCHERY AT MISSOURI CITY.**—By the kindness of an officer of the 25th Missouri Volunteers, we have the following full particulars of an affair, which proves to have been a most dastardly assassination, on the part of the bushwhackers, at Missouri City, last Tuesday night :

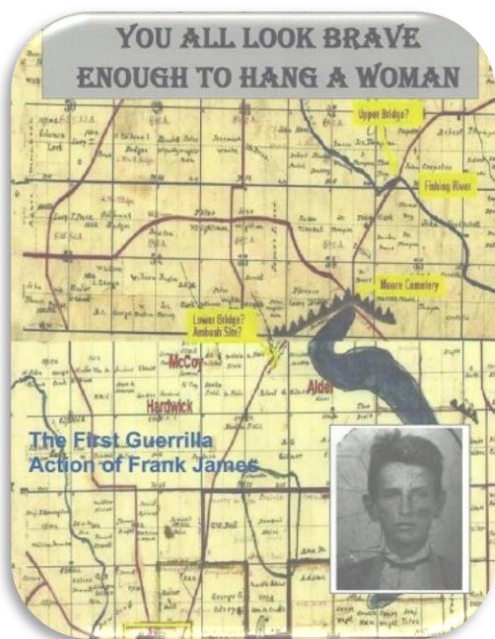
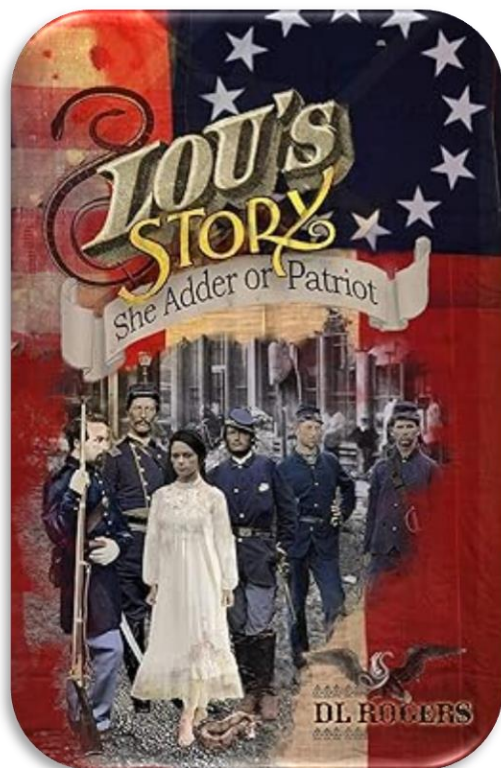
It appears that the fiends who perpetrated this outrage were named Ferdinand Scott, Frank Turner, Louis Vandever, Laugh. Easton, Frank James, —Gregg, M. McCoy, and seven others whose names are not known. The killed were Captain Sessions, of the E. M. M. and Lieut. Grafenstein, Company B., 25th Missouri Volunteers. A private of Company B., named Benjamin Rapp, was severely wounded in four places. These three, with two others were decoyed into the brush, a mile and a half from Richfield, by a report that two drunken rowdies were in the neighborhood, committing some depredation upon a farmer. Lieut. Grafenstein was deliberately shot, after having been wounded and taken prisoner: so also was Capt. Sessions, after having fallen from his horse wounded. Rapp, after being wounded and left for dead, revived, was taken to Richfield and having his wounds dressed, when the wretches entered the town, and shot him three times more, leaving him for dead the second time. They were all robbed, and stripped of their clothing. They also robbed a Mr. Reed, of that place, and committed other depredations. Comment is needless [Kansas City Journal.]

Confirmation appeared in the newspapers of Frank's involvement in the raid on Missouri City.

The Sacramento [Ca.] Bee, June 18, 1863.



## FURTHER READING



Lou's Story – She Adder or Patriot by D. L. Rogers  
 You All Look Brave Enough to Hang a Woman –  
 The First Guerrilla Action of Frank James by Jay  
 Jackson.

order to gain information. Before they strangle to death, they're dropped to their feet and, if necessary, they're pulled up again and again to get the information wanted.)

History is divided on how many times Pappy's neck was stretched before he gave up the information that Frank and the boys were in the woods not far away. Some say it was after one stretch. Other instances say it took three times for him to give up his stepson's whereabouts. However many times Pappy's neck was stretched, he was never the same afterward.

Frank and the boys were found in a camp nearby playing poker, supposedly with the ill-gotten gains they'd taken from Sessions, Grafenstein, and Rapp during the raid. Caught by surprise, two men were killed. Chased by the 25th Militia, three more were killed and several others injured. Frank and the rest got away.

Reuben and Zerelda, who was pregnant at the time, were sent to prison in St. Joseph. After signing the Oath of Loyalty, they were released to go home where Jesse and Susan had been caring for the younger children in their mother's absence.

Had Lou been warned the raid was going to happen while in St. Joseph? It's been debated both ways. Some argue Joe Hart, one of the men she'd made a uniform for and one of Quantrill's raiders, was in St. Joseph at the same time she was. Had he met her during her days in town and told her what was planned? Some say she was a little sweet on the handsome Joe. Truth? We'll probably never know for sure.

From that 23rd day in May of 1863, until almost a year later in 1864, Jesse remained at the farm. He helped with his brothers and sisters and brought in a good crop of tobacco.

But everything changed for Jesse again when Frank, still riding with Quantrill, sent Fletch Taylor to retrieve Jesse. From there, Jesse got a crash course in bushwhacking, starting with the murders of Bond and Dagley. It's not a proven fact that Jesse did the actual killing of his former neighbors and the men who had stretched his step father's neck, but he **was** there on the nights they were ambushed at their homes and murdered.

Four months later, on September 27, 1864 the Massacre at Centralia, Missouri occurred. Was this the event that began to mold Jesse into the hardened man he became? There he participated in the morning raid that took 24 furloughed Union soldiers off the train, and left all but one man naked—and dead. Leaving town, he then rode with his brother and Bloody Bill Anderson against Major A.V.E. Johnston who, with his 150 men, were slaughtered by the four hundred bushwhackers waiting in a field when the soldiers rode straight into them.

But what if the tables had been turned? What if it had been the *bushwhackers* that were killed by the *Federal soldiers*? Would this have been called a massacre—or a great strategic victory?

The men in Johnston's command were infantry. Green recruits with no previous military experience—against some of the best horsemen and marksmen on the field. The horses Johnston's men rode had been requisitioned from farmers on his trek from Paris, Missouri, to Centralia in his hunt for the bushwhackers. The horses were raw, explosive, and useless in battle. The Federals had single-shot, Enfield rifles that couldn't be reloaded easily on horseback—even if the animals did cooperate.

Johnston was aware of all this before the fight, **yet he pursued the bushwhackers anyway**. It was a disaster waiting to happen. According to the book *THE HISTORY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI* by Edgar T. Rodemyre, Johnston was informed by a local doctor at how greatly the bushwhackers outnumbered his troops. His response: "They may have the advantage in numbers, but I will have the advantage of them in arms. My guns are of long range and I can fight them from a distance." When the doctor told him it was folly to attack, Johnston answered: **"I will fight them anyhow."** His men never got a chance to reload those long-range rifles, on horseback or on the ground, before they were swarmed. **The "battle" was reportedly over in three minutes.**

Frank credited Jesse with killing Major Johnston. Was that to gain respect for his brother by the other bushwhackers because Jesse was so young? He was barely seventeen by now. Or was Jesse such a fine horseman and good shot that he had killed the major with one bullet to the temple? I don't think anyone will ever know FOR SURE.

In 1900, Frank James gave an interview in an article for the *St. Louis Republican* about the Centralia Massacre that read:

## OLD CLIPPING SHOWS ORIGINAL GRAVE MARKER



**J**ESSE JAMES GRAVE AT KEARNEY—J. Arch Nicholson, nephew and foremost authority on the life of the notorious outlaw, points out the gravestone at Mount Olivet cemetery. The stone, once head high, has been chipped away by souvenir hunters.

This interesting article from an unknown newspaper was posted recently on social media by John Fulmer. The photo shows J. Arch Nicholson, "nephew and foremost authority on the life of the notorious outlaw", standing between the graves of Zerelda James Samuel and her son, Jesse James.

"I don't care what your histories say, they (the Federals) carried a black flag." (For clarification, a black flag means no quarter. No prisoners are to be taken. All are to be killed.) He went on to say, "It was apparently a black apron tied to a stick. We captured it in the battle that followed. It has been reported that my brother, Jesse James, was not at the Centralia fight; that he was sick in Carroll County at the time." (This was shortly after Jesse had been shot **the first time** in the chest.) "This is a mistake," Frank continued. "Jesse was here. **He it was who killed the commander of the Federal troops, Major Johnston.**" But later Frank said it was "likely" Jesse had killed Johnston.

In a report by a Union militia captain after the massacre, he stated he was certain **both** the James boys had taken part in the morning massacre AND the battle that followed, although Frank claims he was NOT present in town that morning when the furloughed soldiers were stripped and murdered.

While visiting the Centralia battlefield for the article in 1900, Frank James was also quoted as saying: "When great, big, grown men, with full possession of all their faculties, refer to that battle as 'the Centralia Massacre,' I think they are pleading the baby act. We did not seek the fight. Johnston foolishly came out to hunt us, and he found us." (Remember, Johnston came from Paris, Missouri, to hunt them down. After arriving in Centralia AFTER the morning massacre of the soldiers, Johnston left 35 of his men in town after spotting a decoy of riders...riders that included Frank and Jesse who had been

sent out by the guerillas to lure Johnston out, who chased them with the rest of his troops.) Continuing, Frank said, “Then we killed him and his men. Wouldn’t he have killed every one of us if he had had a chance? What is war for if it isn’t to kill people for a principle? The Yankee soldiers tried to kill every one of the Southern soldiers, and the soldiers from the South tried to kill all the Yanks, and that’s all there is of it.”

There is another well-known ripple effect of the Civil War. It followed Quantrill’s August 21, 1863 raid on Lawrence, Kansas, and affected thousands of men and women who wanted only to survive the devastation of the war.

In Lawrence, Quantrill’s men murdered almost 200 men and boys and burned much of the town. Why did he choose Lawrence? Some say it was in retaliation for relations of Bloody Bill Anderson and the Younger brothers, sisters and cousins, who died in the collapse of a building in Kansas City where they were being held as prisoners. Others say it was for the prior burning of Osceola. Regardless of which one it was, or the fact that it was a well-known abolitionist town, that attack was another ripple effect that affected many.

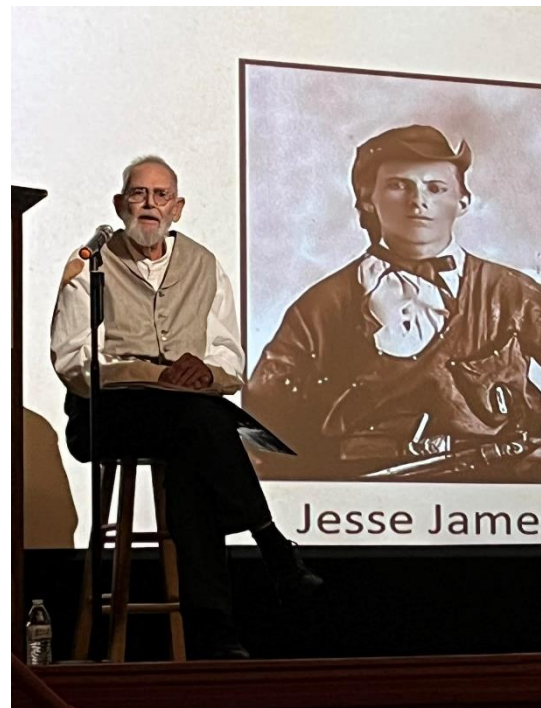
That attack had long-reaching effects for thousands of civilians in four counties after General Thomas Ewing issued General Order Number 11 on August 25, 1863, four days after the raid on Lawrence. In Ewing’s effort to stop the bushwhackers from obtaining food and shelter from civilians around the countryside, most of whom were Confederate leaning, the Order was issued in southern Jackson, Cass, Bates, and northern Vernon Counties. All citizens were ordered to go into the forts in those counties and swear their loyalty to the Union. They were given 15 days (if they got the order right away) to set up housekeeping within a mile of those forts. Some got only 15 minutes—when the soldiers rode up to their home and informed the owner they intended to burn it to the ground.

So what, exactly, does setting up housekeeping within a mile of the fort mean? Some people went into the towns and stayed in hotels or with relatives, but most citizens didn’t have the ability to pay for lodging for any length of time. Many didn’t have relatives to stay with having come from other parts of the country. So did they set up tents within that mile parameter to house their family, which usually included many children?

If the citizens refused to do as the order stated, they were told to leave the area, and the Federals didn’t care where they went. This included the families of both FEDERALS and CONFEDERATES. When the time limit was up, there was a mass exodus from those four counties—north to Liberty to hop a steamboat to St. Louis, or west into Kansas for those who believed in the Union cause. Or south into Henry County, then to Arkansas and Texas for those who sided with the Confederacy.

In January of 1864 there was another ripple effect when General Orders Number 9 was issued. This order effected Lou McCoy and Reuben and Zerelda Samuel, Jesse’s parents. Like General Orders Number 11 in the four southern counties, this effected the citizens of Clay County, where the McCoy’s and Samuel’s lived. According to that Order, the “named persons having forfeited their rights as citizens by flagrant acts of disloyalty” were given twenty days to leave the county. The Order was that all women and children whose husbands, fathers, or brothers were in the Confederate Army were to be banished and sent south to some point within Confederate

## BOB FORD PRESENTATION



On 9 September, historical interpreter, Richard, gave a presentation at the Farris Theatre on Bob Ford. The evening was well attended and much was learned by all.

lines. When the people named in the order tried to sell their homes, stock, or goods to raise cash for their journey, no one would purchase anything for fear their name would go on the list for banishment or as aiding the enemy.

So, in the February cold, the families of known Confederate soldiers were escorted to Memphis, Tennessee, or Little Rock, Arkansas, by wagon and train, through the rebel lines and farther south.

Although Lou McCoy and most everyone else on the Order's list went south, Jesse's parents went north to Nebraska. They'd been told they could go wherever they wanted, as long as it was out of Missouri.

Outside of Lexington, Missouri in 1865—after Lee's surrender—in a skirmish with Union troops, Jesse carried a white flag. He was trying to surrender and was shot in the chest. The second time in his young life. He was eventually taken to the home of his aunt and uncle outside of Kansas City to recover. While there, he became close with his cousin, Zee, named after his mother, Zerelda. However, it was nine years before Jesse married Zee.

For several years after the war was over, Frank and Jesse tried to stay out of trouble. Jesse sang in the choir and was baptized. Again, a quiet life wasn't to be. With the re-drafting of the Missouri Constitution in 1865, called the DRAKE Constitution for the man who had penned it, the rights of citizens who had done anything with or for the Confederacy were trampled upon.

The new Constitution banned the practice of slavery without exception.

In addition, it restricted the rights of former rebels and rebel sympathizers.

Part of the constitution was embodied in what became known as the "Ironclad" or "Kucklebur" Oath, which was contained in Article 2. It required teachers, lawyers, clergy, and all voters to promise that they had not committed a long list of disloyal acts. These groups were targets for their influence over the general population.

In addition, with support of the rural delegates, Drake forced evacuation of the offices of all judges, lawyers, and sheriffs and restricted the right to vote to only those who had been loyal to Missouri and the Union. This ensured the election of Radicals to all the newly vacated positions.

There were over 100 items that, if only one had been done in the name of the Confederacy, a man couldn't preach, teach, hold office, run a business, or vote.

Abner Deane, who had been a Union cavalry officer, was a minister who refused to take the Oath of Allegiance, which had to be done by all citizens according to the new constitution. He said he swore his allegiance only to the Lord. For his refusal to sign the Oath of Allegiance, he was sent to prison. This was a Union cavalry officer! What hope did former Confederates or their families have for any kind of normal life if a man like Deane was sent to prison for refusing to sign the Oath?

What did that leave for men like Jesse and Frank James and the Younger brothers to do to survive? Farm? Most men had no land, taken by the Federals for four years of back taxes. They were constantly harassed for their former beliefs. And the railroads offered mere pennies on the dollar for former Confederate properties. When the owners refused—they were compelled to sell one way or another. Eventually, these hardened men chose to take matters into their own hands.

Some folks tend to form the opinion based on movies that Jesse was a bad man, but without knowing the whole story. Now there are a few more pieces to add to the puzzle. Was Jesse just a bad person? He certainly did bad things at Centralia and should NOT be excused for them. But was he driven in that direction after being beaten by Federal militia and watching his stepfather hanged?

Once again, you the reader must decide. **DLR**

## WILDLIFE AT THE JAMES FARM



## TOM RAFINER AND ORDER NO. 11

Recently, I had the opportunity to hear author Tom Rafiner speak on Order Number 11, the infamous order given by Union General Thomas Ewing on August 25, 1863 ordering all residents along the Missouri/ Kansas border counties of Cass, Jackson, Bates and Vernon to vacate within 15 days. This was in retaliation for the Bushwhackers raid on Lawrence, Kansas, in August 1863, which killed approximately 200 men and boys.

The author, Tom Rafiner, did a fabulous job today describing what it was like for those residents having to leave their homes.

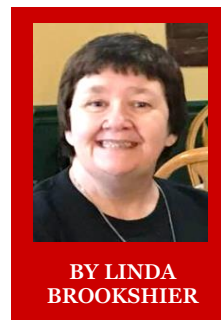
He had us imagine we were the different people in the picture that he handed out to us... before he did that though, he explained what it would have been like weatherwise that day. There had been no rain for six weeks and there was dust everywhere. The average temperature was 95°. Most of the people, primarily women and children, because the able-bodied men were off fighting, were walking because the horses had been stolen by the Union army, as had the wagons. Tom handed out to us two sticks with sharp points on them. These sticks were used to blind the eyes of the horses. Can you imagine being given that assignment to go out and blind your horse? The reason being for that was because a blind horse was no good in battle but could still pull a plow and a wagon. On the final day, when all residents were to be gone when the Union army arrived, they would give you 15 minutes to get your belongings together and then they would set fire to your house and barn. As you were walking in Cass County, you could be seeing twenty-five homes burning all at the same time - your home and your neighbor's homes. You were walking and there was no water. It was the Kansas 9th Cavalry that was in charge of this assignment, and if you were even remotely linked to the raid on Lawrence, you were a dead man. In Lone Jack alone, twenty-five men which ranged in age from 16 to 64 were lined up and shot on the outside chance they might have been involved in that raid. A woman by the name of Elizabeth McFerrin had a husband and he was shot in his field, leaving her a widow with four children. Elizabeth made the trek 90 miles to Osceola and was able to secure a wagon and came back to get her four children.

A man by the name of John Bradford, was one that had put the eyes out of his horses. He also had the foresight to take his wagon and hide it in the lake. When they left, they had another wagon and his wife made him take the furniture, but the wheels kept falling off, and he kept having to stop and replace the wheel! (I can imagine lots of husbands shaking their head and sympathizing with this scenario!)

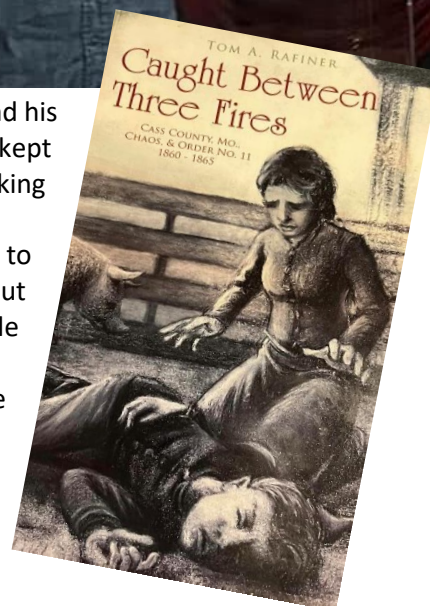
Henry Cordell was a banker from Pleasant Hill and he made his way to Lexington, which was sixty miles away. He actually made his own wagon but apparently it was not a very good one and it kept losing wheels and people were laughing at him all along the route...

Mrs. White took her ducks and chickens with her so, while the people were leaving, they also got to hear the sounds of ducks and chickens. She walked all the way to Saint Joseph, then took a train to West Virginia and died in 1866.

Margaret Rowland was pregnant and her husband was off fighting for the South. You can probably imagine what the effects of Order No. 11



BY LINDA  
BROOKSHIER



would have on a pregnant woman. When she gave birth to her son, she called him Leavin because that's what she was doing!

These are just a few examples of some of the people that were residents of primarily Cass county, Missouri, and lived in the area that was to become the Burnt District. If you get a chance to go to Harrisonville, Missouri and see the monument, it is a fireplace and a chimney because that's what was mainly left of the homes in that area. It will touch your heart.

The population of Cass county in 1860 was 40,000. By 1863 it was 6,000 and by 1870 it was 90,000.

66% of those that left never came back and they took their local history with them. When they left, they went to all 50 states. Basically, they were all blown to the four winds. Those that moved into Cass county after the war were primarily from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and New York.

This in no way claims that either side was horrible or either side was lovely. War is war and there's enough blame and enough praise to go along for both sides... But it was certainly heartbreaking and sad. **LB**

## A COMFORTING FALL RECIPE!

At this time of year, Zerelda James Samuel would have been busy making Old Fashioned Fried Apples! Here is a simple recipe so you can follow in her footsteps!

½ cup butter  
10 apples -- peeled, cored & sliced  
½ cup sugar  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 pinch nutmeg  
1 pinch salt  
Vanilla Ice cream

### Method:

Melt the butter in a large cast iron skillet over medium heat.  
Add the apples and cook and stir over low heat until the apples are soft.  
Mix white sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt in a bowl.  
Add to the apples and stir. Cook for another 5-10 minutes until the sugar is dissolved and syrupy.  
Serve piping hot with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

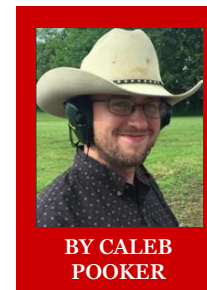
**Enjoy!!!**



# THE FOTJF FRONTIER REVOLVER SHOOT SEPTEMBER 24, 2023



Our new shooters, Austin, Benjamin and Liam.



BY CALEB  
POOKER

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

**First place:** Wayne Leatherberry  
**Joint Second place:** Del Warren  
and Timothy Washburn  
**Joint Third Place:** Chriss Harper  
and Liam Williams

### OVERALL CARTRIDGE WINNERS:

**First place:** Del Warren  
**Second place:** Gary Blackwell  
**Third place:** Wayne Leatherberry



### OVERALL CAP & BALL WINNERS

**First place:** Caleb Blackwell  
**Second Place:** Roy Groves

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

**First place:** Caleb Blackwell  
**Second Place:** Roy Groves

### RIFLE SHOOT WINNERS OF THE IRON DIVISION:

**First place:** Tim Washburn  
**Joint Second Place:** Paul Carrington  
and John Williams  
**Third Place:** Allan Faris

### RIFLE SHOOT WINNERS OF THE OPEN DIVISION:

**Joint First place:** Del Warren  
and Carl Warren

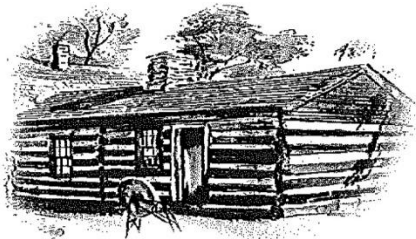


**CONGRATULATIONS to James Gierer,  
winner of the James Shoot Raffle.**

**With many thanks to James Country Mercantile.**

**Friends of the James Farm**

c/o Jesse James Birthplace and Museum  
21216 Jesse James Farm Road  
Kearney, MO 64060  
www.jessejames.org  
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James homestead cabin —  
Original art by Jim Hamil

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