

# JAMES FARM JOURNAL

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## REMEMBERING FRANK JAMES • 1843-1915

A century after his death, the legend of Frank James endures undiminished

### A legend is born

**H**e lived a long and sometimes troubled life. Born on a winter's day in January of 1843 in an unbridled and unsettled Missouri, the first child of scholar and minister Robert James and his teenaged bride, Zerelda Cole James. Alexander Franklin James would spend his earliest years on the family farm, his father preaching at a number of churches – then a God-fearing family.

#### FROM THE EDITOR



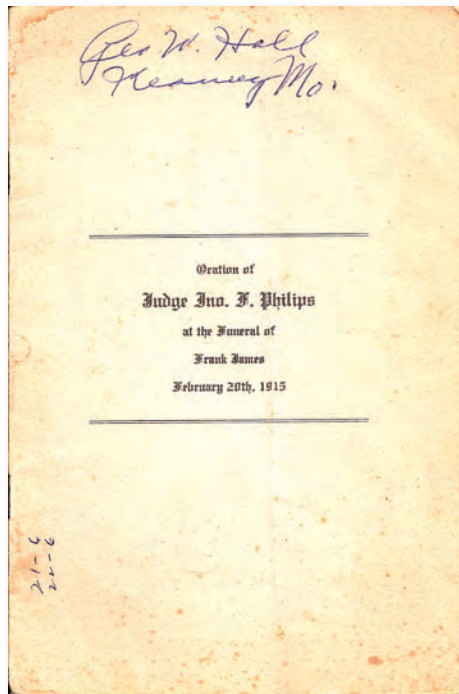
BY LIZ JOHNSON

Unfortunately, the bucolic family life would not last long. When Frank was seven, his father left for the gold fields of California and died

shortly after arriving in Hangtown, Calif. (now called Placerville).

A second marriage for Zerelda separated her from her children, but thankfully did not last long. Her third marriage to Dr. Reuben Samuel in September 1855 would prove satisfactory, but the years prior to the 1861 start of the Civil War would bring unrest to Missouri, laying a path for the fair-haired, blue-eyed Frank that would change his life forever.

Frank would first enter the Civil War with the Missouri State Guard and later join William Clarke Quantrill as a bushwhacker. After the war, he and his brother, Jesse, formed the James Gang – rob-



The cover of Judge John Philips' oration he gave for Frank James at his funeral. This copy was gifted to the farm in 2012 by Monte Griffey, descendant of Fannie Quantrill Samuel Hall.

bing banks, stagecoaches and trains for years until Jesse's death in 1882. Later that year, tired of running, Frank orchestrated his surrender to Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden.

### Death of a legend

One hundred years ago, at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 15, 1915, notorious bushwhacker and outlaw Alexander Franklin James drew his last breath. His death certificate listed the cause as, "apoplexy/

"Take your wife and little boy and make for them a happy home. Acquit yourself like the brave man that you are. Live a clean, honorable life."

– Judge John Philips

cerebral" – in layman's terms – a stroke.

His occupation was simply listed as "farmer." Frank was 72 years, 1 month and 8 days old, and he was one of the last remaining members of the James Gang. Frank's close friend and former gang member Cole Younger would die a little over a year later on March 21, 1916.

Frank had been ailing for a short time, as a Feb. 8, 1915 letter from him to a Dr.

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**Newsletter Design/Layout**

*Liz Johnson ~ Jolly Hill*

# Learn to love history

I love local history. It has a little bit to do with my family history ... one side was in Missouri in 1815 and the other side in 1822. It has some to do with my birth, in the historic Revolutionary and Civil War city of Fredericksburg, Virginia – that cultivated those first history-loving seeds. It has to do with the way history has come alive for me here – living in the historic city of Lexington, having worked in Richmond and Excelsior Springs, and now the ties to the James farm.

I'm like a kid in a candy shop.

There was a carrot dangling in front of me during my first trip to the James Farm in 2011. I had research to do on a series I was going to write on Jesse James for the *Excelsior Springs Standard*. Beth Beckett, director at the site and archivist/historian Liz Murphy welcomed me with open arms – widening the historical door I was walking through. There was no turning back.

It didn't take long before I was hooked on Jesse James. Most of you know I was raised being told we were related to the James' through my paternal side – my father's paternal grandmother was a James. Nevertheless, no family historian has been able to pinpoint that relationship. As a result, I knew zero about the James boys except for what I had read and heard; none of it from authentic sources. My first question was, "Is it true Jesse had

a hidden treasure in Kansas?"

With a chuckle from Murphy, I was told, 'No, it's not true.' I learned that no one has ever found evidence of a hidden treasure or facts to support that Jesse and/or Frank had stashed away any loot.

Yet the mystery question of that hidden treasure remains to entice people from all ages and walks of life to visit the farm, read about the James boys, or to ponder the truth.

Then there's that question of just who is buried in the grave in Mt. Olivet Cemetery? While Jesse was exhumed and his DNA tested in 1995; the results of the testing "supported the identification of the



BY LIZ JOHNSON



The James farmhouse in Kearney. The long back side is the restored original cabin. You can see the monument from Jesse's first grave in the left foreground. (Photo by Liz Johnson, FOJF)

exhumed remains from Mt. Olivet Cemetery as those of Jesse James." ([http://class.csueastbay.edu/faculty/gmiller/3710/DNA\\_PDFS/mtDNA/mtDNA\\_JesseJames.pdf](http://class.csueastbay.edu/faculty/gmiller/3710/DNA_PDFS/mtDNA/mtDNA_JesseJames.pdf))

Not everyone was happy with those results and they continue to be disputed by skeptics to this day.

There are still mysteries shrouding the historical lives of Frank and Jesse James more than 100 years after their respective deaths.

But a couple of outlaws and Civil War guerrillas aren't all there is to the Jesse

*Continued on page 9*

## Jesse, Frank and the revolvers they loved

**F**rank James was a Remington man. Jesse preferred Colts, or was it Smith & Wessons? No matter, really, except for fans of all three, who will argue the issue for hours.

The James brothers learned their revolver skills in a tough school, the Civil War in Missouri. Their teachers included the notorious “Bloody Bill” Anderson and the wily, enigmatic William Clarke Quantrill. As Confederate guerrillas, they had to fend for themselves when it came to arms (and most everything else). And because



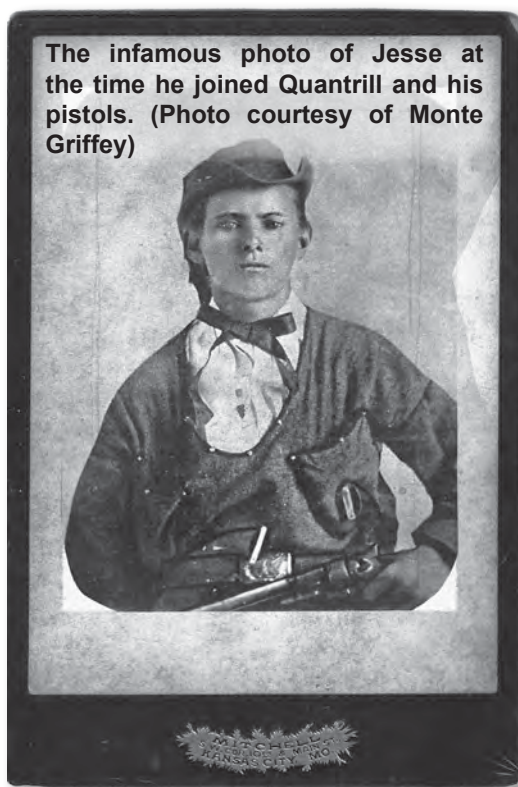
the Federal government

was buying handguns by the hundreds of thousands for the use of Union cavalymen and officers, most of the revolvers Frank and Jesse carried during the conflict had once been in the holsters of men in blue.

It’s simply impossible to exaggerate the advantage a six-shot revolver gave a man fighting from horseback in a guerrilla war – or from foot or from behind a tree, for that matter. In the kind of savage, smoky, timber-locked little battles they preferred, a guerrilla could get off six shots in the time it took a Union man with a musket to fire twice. After every fight in which they prevailed, the bushwhackers scoured the field for lost weapons and of these the most prized was a Colt or Remington handgun.

Colonel Samuel Colt’s huge arsenal in Hartford, Connecticut was where most of the Union’s revolvers originated. Colt made a host of handguns in many different calibers, but of those purchased by the government for use in the Civil War it was the .36 caliber “Navy” and the .44 caliber “Army” that led the parade.

The Navy Colt was so designated not because it was issued solely to members of the naval forces but because of a scene etched on its cylinder showing a naval engagement. Likewise, the Army showed a fight on land.



A Missouri bushwhacker would have been happy and proud to carry either, but each had its salient features. The Colt Navy, for example, weighed less than the Army, which counted for something when its bearer had four or five of them strapped to his body or in a holster carried over the neck of his horse. (Bloody Bill Anderson was reportedly carrying six Navys when he was finally run to ground near Orrick, Mo.) But the Army, with more black-powder capacity and a larger projectile, packed more punch. The famous photo of a hard-looking 16-year-old Jesse (taken on July 10, 1864 in Platte City and on a mount by Mitchell of Kansas City - see photo) shows him holding an Army in one hand with two more tucked under his belt.

E. Remington & Sons arms works in Ilion, N.Y., and although never quite as revered as Col. Colt’s handiwork, Remington too made revolvers in both .36 and .44 flavors. The most widely used during the war was the .44 caliber “New Model Army.” Although the Colts were probably preferred, the Remingtons had plenty of devotees. Some thought their



An 1875 Remington .44-.40 such as Frank James carried.

balance was more shooter-friendly; others admired the strength of its one-piece frame. Another huge plus for the Remington was that the shooter could replace an empty cylinder with a loaded one in less time than it took to write this sentence. The Colt shared no such advantage. Loading an empty Colt was a bit of a chore, especially during the heat of battle. That’s why guerrillas carried so many of them; switching entire revolvers was much quicker than re-loading an empty one. Features aside, though, most men on both sides of the line in the Civil War took whatever they could get in the way of a revolver and liked it.

Returning to the question of which James brother liked what brand of revolver best, Frank James made his choice clear. When he surrendered to Missouri Governor Frank Crittenden in 1882, it was a model 1875 Remington caliber .44-40 that he forked-over. In his eloquent remarks (most assuredly crafted by his loyal sidekick John Newman Edwards) he implied that the revolver he was surrendering was the same one he’d carried since the earliest days of the Civil War. Well, not exactly. The 1875 Remington was a cartridge-shooting revolver but it looked a lot like its cap-and-ball ancestor and its handling characteristics would have been similar.

Jesse? He seemed to be of the “If you can’t be with the one you love, love the one you’re with,” school of thought. A Colt Peacemaker was recently put up for auction as having once been used by Jesse. Well, maybe. But he was also rumored to have had a strong preference for the Smith & Wesson “Schofield.” It’s likely that he used whatever was handy, knowing that in close-quarter combat there wasn’t really much difference.

## Upcoming Events at the Jesse James Farm & Museum

Civil War Exhibit opens Saturday, April 18

**Diane Eickhoff: "Female Soldiers in the Civil War"**

**Sunday, April 19 • 2 to 3 p.m.**



To pass as a man, Union soldier Frances Louisa Clayton, who enlisted with her husband in



1861 as 'Jack Williams,' took up gambling, cigar-smoking, and swearing.

During the American Civil War, hundreds of women cut their hair, bound their breasts, donned men's clothing, and reported to Union or Confederate army recruiters. Others served as scouts and spies. **Diane Eickhoff** will speak about how the war allowed women to defy traditional gender expectations for proper female conduct during Missouri's Civil War.

Eickhoff is a former textbook editor turned historian and humanities scholar. She is the author of *Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights*

and co-author of *The Big Divide: A Travel Guide to Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region*. She will be signing copies of her book after the presentation.

The presentation is from **2 to 3 p.m., at the Jesse James Farm & Museum in Kearney**. The presentation is free, and open to the public, no reservations required. Admission will apply to the Jesse James Farm & Museum, including the traveling exhibit **A State Divided: The Civil War in Missouri**, and guided tours of the historic James Family home.

## Family Fun Day, Sat. April 25 • 10-1

The first 100 children will receive a free book provided by the Missouri Humanities Council's literacy program. There will be four titles to choose from: *Just In Time, Abraham Lincoln*, by Patricia Polacco, *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson, *Dadblammed Union Army Cow*, by Susan Fletcher, or *Just A Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address* by Jean Fritz.

At 10:30 a.m., storyteller **Steve Otto** will read and interpret *Just In Time, Abraham Lincoln*, by Patricia Polacco, and will enhance the story with photographs from Gettysburg. This multimedia performance will leave kids feeling as though they made a trip back in time to the Civil War.

Kids can make and take craft projects.

**Bonnie Pooker and Linda Brookshier** will perform songs from the era about Abra-

ham Lincoln, political tunes, marches, and songs homesick soldiers sang.

**Geocaching** is a world-wide treasure hunt. Local Geocaching enthusiast **Rita Miller** will be on hand to share the benefits and fun of family Geocaching, and answer your questions about how to get started. There are 3 Geocaches at the Jesse James Farm. See if you can find them.

*More James Farm Events on page 10*

## JESSE JAMES OLD WEST REVOLVER SHOOT SAT., April 11, 2015

Registration 8 a.m. • Shoot 9 a.m.

James Farm, 21216 Jesse James Farm Rd.

Kearney, MO 64060 • 816-736-8500

Test your skills on the favorite targets of Buck & Dingus, aka Frank & Jesse, and win a prize! This ain't no tea dance so shooters are encouraged to dress accordingly.

Cartridge Revolver • Cap & Ball

*Fixed sights and dueling stance only*

Cost is \$25 per shooter and includes the special target, AND, a year's membership with the Friends of the James Farm

**PLUS A NEW CATEGORY ...**

**ANNA JAMES**

(FOR WOMEN)

Cartridge Revolver & Cap & Ball

Visit the website: [www.jessejames.org](http://www.jessejames.org) and click on the link for the shoot for rules and regulations

*Sponsored by Clay County Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites and the Friends of the James Farm*

2015 SHOOT SCHEDULE

**Sat. April 11**

**Sat. June 20**

**Sat. Sept. 12**

Registration 8 a.m. • Shoot 9 a.m.

Cost: \$25 • [www.jessejames.org](http://www.jessejames.org)

# Gould & Montgomery

## The twin sons of Jesse and Zee James

The Jameses had arrived in Tennessee in August 1877.<sup>1</sup> Jesse, using the alias John D. Howard, initially lodged his wife and son at the Nolan House while he set about finding a more permanent place for them to live. The Nolan House was then being run by William McCutcheon, the first person



OUTLAW TALES

BY MICHELLE POLLARD

to greet the strangers to Waverly. The artistic two story building, which “sat back some 25 or 30 feet from the tracks,” had been built by James N. Nolan a few years after the Civil War. William McCutcheon

had been the proprietor since 1873. Famous for its “hospitality and excellent meals,” the House had “served as a place of rest and refreshment for local people and those travelling by rail for many years.”<sup>2</sup>

Having sampled the Nolan House’s hospitality, Jesse and Zee moved into a farm rented from Mr. N. B. Link in an area known as Big Bottom, near Waverly, Tennessee. The family were welcome and popular. Two weeks after their arrival “several carloads of household items and three carloads of saddle horses” arrived, followed by “a small herd of cattle.” Jesse built a large barn on the land as well as a small race track, encouraging locals to train their horses there. The family attended church regularly and their generous weekly contributions confirmed local opinion that the Howard family had money.<sup>3</sup>

But things did not run smoothly for Jesse in Waverly. Just six months after their arrival, in January 1878, Jesse found himself being sued by Steve Johnson over a consignment of corn, and it is within the letters that Jesse sent his lawyer, John P. Helms, during the Johnson lawsuit, that provides a glimpse into the personal life of America’s most wanted. “I am afraid I cannot attend court next week,” Jesse had writ-



Link Farm, the original home in which Zee and Jesse James stayed. Lightning struck the building and it burned to the ground in 1950. (Author’s collection)

ten on 24 January 1878. “My wife is sick and in a condition that requires my attention at home, but I will be on hand if possible, when you give me notice the day of trial.” Of course, the idea that Zee was sick may have been a lie so Jesse could avoid a personal appearance in court, something he undoubtedly wanted to avoid, but further investigation into this correspondence suggests something different. “As the time is drawing near for May court,” Jesse continued in a letter dated 20 April 1878, “I will drop you a few lines. I have had very bad luck since I was in Nashville. I have had two children to die, twins, and my wife is in very bad health.”<sup>4</sup>

Further to this, in an article titled, *Forgotten Sons of Jesse James*, the author, Judy Summers, repeated a story that Jesse had carved individual stones for his sons. “On one he chiselled the name Gould,” Summers explained, “and the other Monty. Howard also added the year 1878 with an inscription, twin sons of J.D.H.”<sup>5</sup>

I had never seen these markers but a search for more information about them led me to an article in the *Kearney Courier*

of 23 August 2001. “The original marker,” this article stated, “mysteriously disappeared from the grave some time after 1999.” The report continued, “It included the name ‘Howard’ on it, the alias that James was using while living in Tennessee.” I was unsure if this was the original marker or another made later. Then, in a letter dated 11 August, 2003, Judge James R. Ross, great-grandson of Jesse James, confirmed that the twin’s headstones “were on the grave site when rediscovered by Judy Summers,” but that they “have since disappeared.” He added, “By the way, these were done by Jesse,” and that a petition had been written to ask for the stones to be safely returned.

Strange names, I thought – Gould and Montgomery.

In a family of Thomas’ and Roberts, Johns and Williams, it always intrigued me as to why Jesse and Zee might call their twin sons Gould and Montgomery.

I decided I must rely upon family lore if I was to understand why the twins were

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JESSE'S TWINS

Continued from page 5

given such unique names. And family lore stated they were named after the doctors who had helped Zee during the difficult process of delivering them. Drs Gould and Montgomery.<sup>6</sup>

During a visit to Missouri in 2005, my good friends Liz Murphy and Linda Brookshier accompanied me on a trip to Tennessee to find the homes of the James brothers and their families. A large part of that journey was about researching the twins.

We found that there are 18 men listed as 'physician' in the 1880 census; three in Waverly and the remaining 15 in the surrounding area. Of those 18, two bore the name Gould – Dr. Putman F. Gould and his 24-year-old son, Ford. Further research showed that the father, Putman Ford Gould, was listed as a farmer and doctor in the 1860 census, as a doctor in the 1870 census, and as a physician in the 1880 census, the two latter entries proving he was a physician at the time of the twin's birth in February of 1878. His post office was shown as Waverly, home of Jesse James.

Born in Tennessee in 1823, Dr. Gould graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1848. He served as a surgeon with the 50th Tennessee Infantry during the Civil War, spending some time as a prisoner on Johnson's Island. Putman married Hester Young in 1855 and fathered five children; Henry, Hugh, Jennie, George and Putman Jr., Dr. Gould died in 1897 and is buried in the Wylly Cemetery, Waverly, Tennessee.<sup>7</sup>

I had much less luck finding Dr. Montgomery.

None of the 18 physicians listed in the 1880 census were called Montgomery and none had a Montgomery in their household. In fact a search of the entire length and breadth of 1880s Tennessee relinquished just one physician called Montgomery; Jas. M. Montgomery of District 17, Roane County, Tennessee, a good 200 miles distant from Waverly. Of course, it could be that a perfectly feasible Dr. Montgomery has managed to escape the priceless but entirely fallible online



Photo of the area from a 2005 visit. The grey building (above) was constructed from wood Jesse used to build his farm. Left: an historic marker indicating the site on which Jesse's farm was situated. (Author's photos)

search engine; it could be that the ever illusive Dr. Montgomery became a Waverly physician in 1871 and left in 1879, avoiding any mention on either of their censuses but being in the area to assist Zee in 1878.

But then I started to wonder.

Jesse may very well have given his sons the surnames of the attending doctors out of respect, or because he didn't know their Christian names, but what if he gave his twin sons such unusual names because one of the doctors was female.

Another search of the 1880 census resulted in the discovery of just one Montgomery in the whole of Waverly, regardless of occupation - Miss E. J. Montgomery.

Miss Montgomery was 61 in 1880, and one of several residents then living at the Nolan House. A relative of the owner, William McCutcheon, E. J. Montgomery may have first met Jesse James when he lodged with his family at the House in 1877 or at other times between then and the family's departure in 1879. William McCutcheon got to know Jesse rather well during his many visits to the House and is credited with being the first to voice Jesse's local nickname. "He's timid alright," McCutcheon has been recorded as saying, "He's a rabbit-man if you ask me."<sup>8</sup>

Could E.J. Montgomery possibly have been a caregiver for Zee James in her hour of need? Did the advanced years of Miss Montgomery somehow render her an expert in the matter of childbirth? Had Miss Montgomery been charged with caring for Zee during her illness before the twins were born? Could the kindness shown to Jesse by William McCutcheon have sewn such seeds of trust that Jesse permitted the hotelier's

Continued on page 10



**Legendary bushwhacker and outlaw Frank James: January 10, 1843 - February 18, 1915**

FRANK JAMES

*Continued from page 1*

Ernest Lowrey in Excelsior Springs attests:

*“My Dear Dr. Lowrey:*

*Have been confined at my home since Nov. 20th and in a bad way generally. Am confined to my bed all the time, for the past ten days, have had a discharge of blood from my bladder. Having confidence in your ability to prescribe intelligently (sp) in all cases that the human body is heir to, will ask you to send me a prescription for the symptoms above described? Have trouble urinating. Tell me what causes this blood flow! Hope this finds you enjoying life and making money. Yours sincerely, Frank James”*

A copy of this letter came from the son of the physician who practiced in Excelsior Springs for many years. He later claimed Frank had cancer of the prostate, though the ultimate cause of death as per the death certificate was a stroke.

Two days after Frank’s death, a moving eulogy would be spoken at his funeral by Judge John F. Philips, once Frank’s attorney, who got him acquitted of his outlaw crimes many years before.

*“The last time I saw Frank James alive was at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City about a year ago,” stated Philips. “After some casual conversation, he took me aside and said. ‘You and I are growing old and the end may soon come to either of us. There is no man I would prefer [more] to say at my funeral such things about me as your heart may prompt; and if I should go first I want you now to promise to do this for me.’”*

Philips promised Frank and so there he

stood, delivering the eulogy after denying a copy of the address to newspaper reporters prior to the event, telling them, *“I never bury my friends until they are dead.”*

Philips didn’t deny that Frank James had done some bad things in his life. He knew that during the 1870s and ‘80s he was a hunted man, but they had not met during this time, *“our paths in life had run upon divergent lines,”* he said.

In 1882, their mutual friend, Major John N. Edwards (a close James friend and founder of *The Kansas City Times* and *The Kansas City Star*), called Philips and told him that James was ready to surrender himself and would he, Philips, consent to defend James against any charge to be preferred against him.

It would be pro bono as James hadn’t a dime to his name. *“It was not in my nature to turn a deaf ear to such an appeal to the spirit of chivalry and charity,”* said Philips.

And defend James he did. James was under indictment in Jackson County, charged with the crime of bank robbery, but that indictment was abandoned. Another was procured in Daviess County (Gallatin), charging James with murder. Philips managed to get James an acquittal there as well.

Philips described James’ demeanor as he approached him after being cleared of the charge.

*“Frank forced his way through the crowd, grasping me by the hand, his wondrous eyes blazing through tears and said, ‘I have no words to express to you what my heart feels. I can only say*

*that I can never compensate you for what you have spoken and done in my behalf.”*

Philips told James that his repayment would be for him to take the straight and narrow road, to stay out of trouble and live a good clean life. *“But my reward will come when you prove by your future conduct that you are worthy. Take your wife and little boy and make for them a happy home. Acquit yourself like the brave man that you are. Live a clean, honorable life. That will be my compensation.”*

Philips followed the subsequent life of Frank James and found satisfaction in the way the former outlaw lived out his life. He said he warned James whenever he saw him to watch out for *“the selfish fakirs who would doubtless seek to coin money out of his necessities by tempting him to go up on the stage in garish shows, exhibiting him before the hungry eyed rabble as a hero. ... I conjured him to treat all such tempters as the savior did the devil on the mountain.”*

James had a rough time earning a living. His life was notorious, even while acquitted of murder and his deeds followed him everywhere.

He managed to pinch his pennies and bought a homestead in Oklahoma. He built a cabin there and began life as a farmer, pleading with his mother to come and visit, which she did. However, as Zerelda James headed back to Kearney from Oklahoma, she collapsed on the train – dead from a heart attack. Frank rented out the Oklahoma farm and returned to the homestead in Kearney –

*Continued on page 8*

FRANK JAMES

Continued from page 7

determined to make a living there as a farmer.

*“Here he passed the remnant of his life amid the scenes of his happy boyhood, unvexed in spirit and respected by just men,”* said Philips.

The man went on to exemplify the qualities of the former outlaw.

*“In important respects Frank James was a man of admirable qualities. Without the adventitious aid of academic education, or very inspiring associations, his wonderful mentality, keen acumen, and thirst for knowledge, enabled him to absorb such information about men, books and nature as demonstrated that had opportunity and dame fortune seconded his gifts, he would have achieved a brilliant career and an honorable fame.”*

Indeed, Frank had inherited his father’s gift for learning.

In the eulogy Philips captured the essence of James’ life by speaking about man as being a creature of his circumstance and environment.

As a child, Frank was a wiry, nervous and intelligent boy. There was nothing vicious in his temperament, yet his teenage years were difficult ones for those inhabiting Missouri. Border wars instilled contempt and as he reached adulthood he would be sucked into the war, changing his life forever.

Nevertheless, Frank chose a beautiful, intelligent and gentle woman to share his life with – Anna Ralston. Philips heralded her as the angel who kept Frank at peace, bravely sitting in the various courtrooms in support of her dearest love.

Philips concluded his oration by quoting Frank’s favorite author, William Shakespeare, “He that dies pays all debts.”

Frank James’ body was cremated, his remains placed in a safe until such time as his beloved wife Anna would pass away. Anna James died July 6, 1944, at the age of 91. She too was cremated and the two were buried together in the Ralston family cemetery in William Hill Park, Independence.

The older of the notorious brothers is gone, but even after a hundred years ... his legend lives on.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Pete Kingery

On Thursday, March 5, 2015, Pete Kingery, 81, of Kearney, passed away. Well-known to the James Farm community and historians, his long-time dedication to the farm, local history and kindness to others will keep him in our memories for years to come.



Pete Kingery, center, at the re-dedication of Mt. Gilead School.

*“This past Thursday (March 5) we lost one of our greatest historians and kindest souls I have ever met. Working at the Farm off and on since 2001, I had the honor of knowing Pete Kingery ... Not only was he an author and knew ‘all things Kearney,’ but also a man that we all respected. Rest in Peace, Pete ... You will be missed.”* - Linda Brookshier, Interpreter at the James Farm.

*“Pete Kingery worked as an historic interpreter at the Jesse James Farm and Museum and gave tours to groups at Mt. Gilead Church and School. Pete was very interested in local history and wrote several books about Kearney and the surrounding areas. Pete was instrumental in organizing the Mt. Gilead School reunion of former students and teachers in 2000.”* - Beth Beckett, Jesse James Farm & Museum Historic Site Director



Pete Kingery, far left, visiting the James Farm when he was a youngster.

*“He was a long time volunteer at the Farm and also wrote several books on Kearney history.”* - Scott Cole, FOJF Board Member

*“He was a very good guy.”* - Monte Griffey, FOJF Board Vice President

Pete’s Obituary: [www.brossspidlemonuments.com/notices/p\\_kingery.htm](http://www.brossspidlemonuments.com/notices/p_kingery.htm)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Cont. from page 2*

James farm.

There is the incredibly old farmhouse, built long before Robert James ever bought the property. You have the history of the family ... Robert James' scholarly legacy, such as being one of the founding fathers of William Jewell College in Liberty. The establishment of Pisgah Baptist Church just outside of Excelsior Springs, which is still operational today and houses a true record of James' legacy as the first preacher at the church.

The family endured hardship and death, and not just during the war years. The death of a young 32-year-old Rev. Robert Sallee James in Hangtown (now Placerville) California in 1850 would have devastated most, but not Zerelda James who endured, displaying true pioneer grit and determination.

Zerelda lost everything when Robert died including custody of her children since Robert – despite his vast education – left no will behind when he departed Kearney for the gold fields of California.

Zerelda survived it all. The next marriage to Benjamin Simms (Sept. 30, 1852) was disastrous for her and unhappy. He was reportedly cruel to young Jesse and Frank and, thankfully for Zerelda, Simms died Jan. 2, 1854.

It didn't take too long for Zerelda to find another husband, Dr. Reuben Samuel, who was 26 when she married him Sept. 25, 1855. He was described as "quiet, passive" and very likely happy to let his strong-willed wife rule the roost.



Zerelda Cole James Samuel. An example of pure pioneer spirit, Zerelda persevered through numerous trials and tribulations, always emerging with grit and a stoic determination. (Photo colorized by Liz Johnson, FOJF)

Zerelda was the backbone of the James family throughout the years – the war, the outlaw days, the infamous Pinkerton raid and death of little Archie, herself losing an arm in the process, Jesse's murder and the loss of daughter Susan in 1889.

It is not often we are able to study a pioneer family's trials, tribulations and joys in such a well-documented way as we can with the James family.

They were real, living breathing people. They loved, they hurt, they lived, they laughed, they cried.

At the Jesse James Farm & Museum, one has the ability to see first hand just how a pioneer family lived in those days before electricity, grocery stores, telephones, indoor plumbing, running water and more.

**WHERE TO DONATE**

A donation can be sent directly to the FOJF, P.O. Box 404, Liberty, MO 64069 (*We are a 501(c)3*)

**WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS?**

Fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter.

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

You can walk the property the James boys walked – the land that was cultivated first by Robert James and then by the Samuel family. You can stand in the old kitchen area and imagine Dr. Samuel tossing the bomb into the fireplace not realizing it was, in fact, a bomb. You can imagine Zerelda trying to fall asleep in her bed, situated catty corner to the side window where she could see her beloved Jesse's grave – protecting him as long as she would draw breath.

It is through the cumulative effort of volunteers, interpreters, Clay County's Parks and Recreation, personnel, historians and lovers of history that the James Farm continues to this day.

It can't be done without the generous donations of patrons, the visitors to the farm, the volunteers who put in time with the Friends of the James Farm to continue in spreading the word through our Old West Revolver Shoots, assorted events, reunions, talks, advertising and more. It's through our writers who continue, without fail, to research every minute detail still out there regarding the James boys – to write and tell the story.

We still need those who love history, every day to keep the history alive.

LINKS

**Midwest Genealogy:** <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>

**Mid-Continent Public Library Woodneath Branch:**  
<http://www.mymcpl.org/about-us/woodneath-library-center>

**Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City:** <http://cwrtkc.org/>

**Follow the Friends of the James Farm on Facebook**  
**and The Jesse James Farm and Museum too!**



LINKS



The graves of Jesse and Zee's twins, Gould and Montgomery, born and died during the winter of 1878 in Tennessee. Left: is the headstone located at the Link Farm in Tennessee. Below is the headstone in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kearney. (Photos from author's collection)



JESSE'S TWINS

Continued from page 6

sister-in-law to attend his wife while awaiting the arrival of Dr. Gould?

Who knows?

What I do know is that the twins have not been forgotten.

In early 1879, Jesse was forced to pack up his family, abandon the farm, and leave the area in the dead of night. "I understand that most people in the Bottom are giving me the Devil," Jesse wrote to his friend, Henry Warren, from Nashville on 12 January 1879. "I did not leave the Bottom to defraud anyone. I am broke and left to avoid lawsuits," he said.<sup>9</sup> It could not have been an easy decision to make. Of course, he had left farms before, but this time was always going to be different. This time, two of his family were being left behind.

Today the twins have two graves. The first, as it has been since their parents buried them, is located on the Link farm in Humphreys County, Tennessee. The

new stone there reads:

**Gould and Monty  
Sons of Jessie James  
B 1878 D 1878**

The other, a ground level marker, reads simply 'Gould and Montgomery' and is located close to Jesse and Zee's graves at Mt Olivet cemetery, Kearney, Missouri.<sup>10</sup>

The house on the Link farm in which the 'Howard' family lived and where the twins were born and died, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground in 1950. A two story summer house was built in its place and stands there to this day – "constructed using the gray, weather beaten boards from Jesse's old horse barn."<sup>11</sup>

Gould & Montgomery  
Notes & Sources

1. Ted Yeatman, Frank and Jesse James: *The Story Behind the Legend*, Cumberland House Publishing Inc, 2000, p197.
2. Details written by John H. Whitfield, former President of the Humphreys County Historical Society, with thanks to Mr. Patrick O'Lee. The Nolan House burnt done around

- 1912.
3. Judy Summers, *Forgotten Sons of Jesse James*, [article], *The Ozark Mountaineer*, Oct/Nov 1999.
4. Court records – Steve Johnson vs JD Howard; *Nashville Banner*, 10 October 1882; *Daily American*, 10 October 1882.
5. Summers, op. cit.
6. Correspondence between the author and Judge James R. Ross, 11 August, 2003. "The names of Gould and Montgomery were for the Doctors that tried their best to have a normal birth of the twins."
7. History of Humphreys county, p295.
8. Raymond W. Thorp, *Rabbit Man of Humphreys County*, [article], *Frontier Times*, April-May 1965. [note – Interesting that McCutcheon also noticed how Jesse would never share a room when staying at the Nolan House, preferring to sleep in the barn.]
9. Yeatman, op. cit., p205.
10. The twins graves in Tennessee were exhumed on 30 October 2004 and the remains were re-interred in the family plot at Mt Olivet, Kearney, on 22 November 2004. James Preservation Trust Press Release, 30 November 2004.
11. Col. Donald H Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville: Rebel Cavalry and Yankee Gunboats*, Elk River Press, 1994, p 109.

Upcoming Events at the Jesse James Farm & Museum

CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT CONTINUES ...

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

2 p.m. – Speaker: Abby Anderson, "Confederate Currency"

SUNDAY, MAY 3

2 p.m. - Speaker: Diane Mutti Burke, "Slavery in Missouri."

SUNDAY, MAY 31

2 p.m. - Speakers: Tony Meyers and Keith Nelson, "Civil War Soldiers in Clay County."

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

2 p.m. - Speaker: Aaron Barnhart "Jo Shelby & Jesse James."



Scan the QR code to visit the Jesse James Farm and Museum website.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Civil War Exhibit ends

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Registration at 8 a.m. – Summer Old West Revolver Shoot. Followed by a Luncheon and Friends of the James Farm Annual Meeting – on the grounds of the James Farm. FOJF members are invited.



Buried Treasure?

JAMES FARM BY THE NUMBERS

In 2014, we welcomed visitors from **48 STATES** and the following **42 COUNTRIES**:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chili, Costa Rica, Cuba, Columbia, Czech Republic, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. The only states we didn't see visitors from were Vermont and Rhode Island.



Last July the Travel Channel came out to the Jesse James Farm & Museum to film a sequence for it's "Expedition Unknown" piece on the legend that Jesse James stashed gold in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma. Of course, we all know the treasure story is a myth. Nevertheless, a group of our regular "shooters" including our own Bryan Ivlow (celebrating 25 years as director of the shoots this year - not pictured) were asked to participate in the filming at the farm. The piece aired Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. Host of the show is Josh Gates, pictured fourth from left in plaid shirt. (Photo courtesy of Travel Channel)

Save the dates!!  
We're heading back to Missouri

The annual conference of the  
**James-Younger Gang**  
will be in Kearney, MO.  
October 1, 2 & 3 2015



The conference will include an indepth look at the James Family's haunts and home. We will also be treated to a special look at the Hallmark collection of early American photographs at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. A big thanks goes to the James Farm Museum staff for their guidance. More details and hotel info coming soon. We try to get the most "bang for our buck" and keep conference fees low. Questions and suggestions can be directed to Kathy Ness [kjl.ness@gmail.com](mailto:kjl.ness@gmail.com)

**Friends of the James Farm**

P.O. Box 404  
Liberty, MO 64069  
www.jessejames.org  
816.736.8500



James homestead cabin —  
Original art by Jim Hamil

**Return Service Requested**

**YES**, I want to renew my membership with the Friends of the James Farm or begin a new membership. I have checked my level of membership in the box and enclosed a check or money order for the amount indicated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail membership form and payment to:*

**Friends of the James Farm  
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You can also scan  
QR Code to visit our  
website.  
www.jessejames.org

**Membership Levels**  
*(Mark One)*

- Border Ruffian . . . . . \$20
- Bushwhacker . . . . . \$30
- Clay County Irregular . . . . \$50
- Road Agent . . . . . \$100
- Long Rider . . . . . \$250
- Home Guard . . . . . \$500

Is this a renewal?  Yes  No

Outside the continental U.S.,  
please add \$5 to your membership  
contribution.