

JAMES FARM JOURNAL

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FRANK JAMES BREAKS HIS SILENCE ON CENTRALIA

Former bushwhacker admits he wasn't at train massacre, was Jesse?

I was asked to write a couple of articles for the *Richmond News* prior to the Battle of Albany Reenactment in mid-October describing what happened that day. In researching that day, when the infamous Bloody Bill Anderson was finally taken down, I wanted to search for the whereabouts of Jesse and Frank – to confirm yay or nay whether they'd been at Albany, and what was the

timeline prior to Albany. My quest highlighted the Centralia Massacre and, in my research, I found an original article from the Sunday, Aug. 5, 1900 edition of the *St. Louis Republic Magazine Section* entitled, "For the first time, Frank James

FROM THE EDITOR



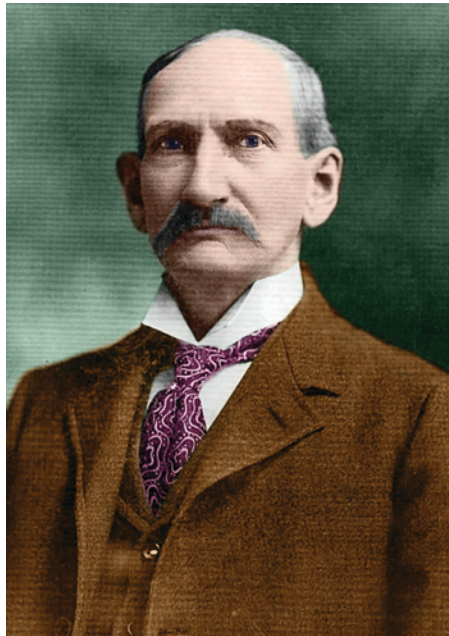
BY LIZ JOHNSON

tells the story of the famous Centralia massacre."

Wow, in his own words. No matter what other accounts I could find, this was in Frank James' own words, which – as I write – I'm prone to call factual over other accounts of that fateful day.

It had been an eventful year for the bushwhackers. It was 1864 and the war had been going for four years. The guerrillas were likely exhausted from living on the run, the turmoil their families were living under and wondering, like the rest of the country, when the darn war was going to end.

Quantrill's group was splitting away and heading in a different direction and



Frank James in a photo from 1898, two years prior to the interview with the *St. Louis Republic Magazine*. (Colorized by Liz Johnson)

Bloody Bill Anderson had his own agenda, as well as followers. For a time, Jesse and Frank James were two of those followers.

Centralia is located in central Missouri slightly northeast of Columbia. The Centralia Massacre is considered one of the most heinous conflicts of the Civil War.

The massacre occurred on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 25, 1864. Not quite 200 Union soldiers, under the command of Major A.V.E. Johnson of the 39th Missouri Infantry, were after the guerrillas – meeting up with Anderson and George

"I was with Captain George Todd, one of the hardest fighters that ever lived, but less desperate than Anderson."

– Frank James, August 1900

Todd – who had about 225 men with them.

Of the almost 200 Federal soldiers, barely a dozen survived the day, while the guerrilla faction only lost two, with one mortally wounded.

"Every man in the Federal line of battle perished, and only half a score of those left to hold the horses got away."

According to the 1900 article, Frank had recently been to Centralia, riding over the

Continued on page 7

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
The Man Who Made the James Boys Famous	3
Sept. Shoot Results & Photos	4
When is an Alibi not an Alibi	5
Researcher From Princeton.	8
Three Old Guns With a Bit of James Folklore Attached	9
Forster & Gertie Barr Wedding. . . .	11
FOJF Membership Renewal	11
Membership Renewal Form	12

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What's new for the Friends in 2015

Here we are at the end of 2014, another year has passed and we look forward to planning new and exciting events for 2015 and beyond.

It has been a busy six months since the last newsletter. One of the first things we did as a board was to change some things regarding our revolver shoots.

We now require all participants to wear goggles, which we can provide, unless a shooter prefers to bring his/her own. The same goes for ear plugs.

We will read the rules and regulations prior to each shoot and each participant must sign off on these prior to shooting. Our cost, not having increased in over 10 years, is going up to \$25 per shoot in 2015. The shoots are a benefit to the Jesse James Farm & Museum after expenses, so it is truly a fundraiser.

All participants of the shoots receive a free year's membership with the Friends of the James Farm, which includes the quarterly newsletter, and a free tour of the farm and museum each year, among other benefits.

We have decided not to hold a reunion in 2015, choosing instead to revamp our past traditions to meet the needs of all interested in history, the James boys, as well as the pioneer history of the farm and family. We hope to come back in 2016 with a bigger and better reunion - filled with interesting events and entertainment.

For 2015, however, we are partnering as



The Friends of the James Farm display at Mid-Continent Public Library Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence. Many thanks to Gregg Higginbotham for the loan of items from his collection and Linda Tarantino for helping to set this up. Additional thanks to Sandy Kluge and Kimberly Howard from MCPL for making this happen! This display will be traveling to other locations!

hosts with the James-Younger gang, who are holding their yearly conference at the farm Oct. 1, 2 and 3 (Thursday-Saturday). Not much else has been planned for this event thus far, but we will be sure to inform our members as soon as they have.

We have determined the dates for our 2015 Old West Revolver Shoots: Saturday, April 11, Saturday, June 20 and Saturday, Sept. 12.

We welcome all previous participants and new ones as well.

We will continue our scholarship for a Kearney High School graduate this year too.

Additionally, Mid-Continent Public Library has graciously provided us with a free glassed-in display for the James farm.

Continued on page 9



The man who made the James boys famous

If you've ever heard of Jesse and Frank James you can thank a man you might very well not have heard of ... An early Kansas City newspaperman named John Newman Edwards.

Edwards was a pioneer Missouri journalist, one of the most respected of his day. He'd also fought under the Stars and Bars as an adjutant to Confederate General Joseph O. Shelby. He even fled the country at the end of the war with a party of die-hard Rebels but he was soon back in Missouri trading his sword for a pen.



It was after the Kansas City Fairgrounds robbery in 1872 when a gang of masked outlaws stole a cash box containing \$978 before a crowd of 3,000 people (accidentally shooting and wounding a young girl in the process) that an idea seems to have formed in Edwards' still bellicose mind ... Why not identify the perpetrators of such daring daytime stickups as unreconstructed veterans of the Confederacy?

There were plenty of readers eager to read such "news" in Edwards' paper, the *Kansas City Times*. (What Edwards wrote usually wasn't news; in later years it would have been instantly identified as a blend of journalistic commentary, public relations, publicity and propaganda.) But his work found a ready audience. The counties in west-central Missouri, settled mostly by people whose roots were in the South, had always been strong for the Confederate cause. Union authorities referred to the area as "Little Dixie."

In defense of the Fairgrounds robbers, Edwards wrote, "There are men ... who learned to dare when there was no such word as quarter in the dictionary of the Border ... These men are bad citizens, but they are bad because they live out of their time – men who might have sat with Arthur at the Round Table, ridden at Tourney with Sir Lancelot.

"What they did, we condemn. But the

way they did it we cannot help admiring ..."

As is obvious, Edwards was a skilled wordsmith. He was politically astute, as well. His writing seems florid to us today, but it gave voice to the thousands of Missourians who resented Republican legislation introduced after the war that they felt discriminated against them as ex-Rebels.

Perhaps without even intending to, Edwards also gave birth to "America's Robin Hood."

Through Edwards' editorializing in praise of ex-guerrillas and in defense of crimes attributed to the James Gang, Jesse came to be known to thousands of readers as a bandit with a heart of gold who admittedly stole from the rich but also gave to the poor.

An example is the tale of an aging widow from whom Jesse and Frank sought to buy supper one evening. The woman fed them, but they could tell she'd been weeping. Why? It was the flinty-hearted bankers, she said. They'd be out in the morning to evict her from her home because she hadn't the money to pay them what she owed.

"Have no fear," said Jesse. They then handed the old woman an amount equal to what she owed.

"Give it to those so-and-so bankers, but be sure to get a receipt," he said.

The next morning in-rode the bankers, right on schedule. They collected their money, but they didn't keep it for long. From a woodlands path sprang two outlaws demanding the surrender of all the money in the bankers' possession. It was a needed lesson for the moneyed-set and a great "So there!" from the perspective of the poor and the downtrodden. Like so many legends about "America's Robin Hood," it's likely that this story is just that



EDWARDS

– a story. But many people will swear that it's true and that it happened to their own ancestors.

John Newman Edwards may have been the best friend Jesse and Frank James ever had, and the feeling was mutual. He used them to push forward his own political agenda, and they (or at least Jesse) seemed to enjoy the acclaim. The following is from another famous son of Missouri, Mark Twain:

"Some time ago I was making a purchase in a small town store in Missouri. A man walked in and seeing me, came over with outstretched hand and said, 'You're Mark Twain, ain't you?'"

"I nodded.

"'Guess you and me are about the greatest in our lines,' he remarked. To this, I couldn't nod, but I began to wonder as to what throne of greatness he held.

"What is your name," I enquired.

"'Jesse James,' he replied, gathering up his packages."

Jesse bestowed a high honor on Edwards by naming his first and only surviving son Jesse Edwards James. Frank was heavily in his debt, too: Edwards helped engineer his surrender to Missouri Governor Thomas T. Crittenden some months after Jesse was shot and killed by "that dirty little coward" Robert Ford. Two years later he helped craft a deal with a new Missouri governor that would protect Frank should any old charges from the raid on Northfield, Minnesota be filed.

Throughout his lifetime, feelings ran strong about Edwards. His praises were sung in the camps of former Confederates; he was cursed as a drunk and a journalistic hack by others. Very few would have called his work balanced, but none would have denied its effectiveness.

Two good sources for more about John Newman Edwards and his role in the James Brothers' lives, read William A. Settle's "Jesse James Was His Name" and "Jesse James, Last Rebel of the Civil War," by T.J. Stiles.

Jesse James Old West Revolver Shoot September 2014 Results

The Friends of the James Farm, along with the Jesse James Farm & Museum sponsored this year's third Old West Revolver shoot on Sept. 20, 2014. The weather was great and everyone had a good time. These shoots provide a window to the past for our members. Nearly all the participants dress in old west clothing and use period style pistols for the shoot.

We reintroduced the shoots around 1990-91 and it is one of our most popular events. We have always kept the cost at \$15 per shooter. A few years ago we added a special target – usually a villain from the southern point of view – for an extra \$5 and with a full set of prizes.

Due to changes in government requirements, we found it necessary to purchase our own event insurance. To accommodate this expense, we are raising the cost of the shoots to a single fee of \$25 per shooter beginning in 2015.



BY BRYAN IVLOW

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

This cost includes the special target, now to be a regular part of the shoots.

This increase is necessary so we can continue to raise funds for the benefit of the Jesse James Farm & Museum. Please note April 11, 2015 is our next scheduled shoot. We hope to see you there!

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.

Cap & Ball Revolver, Frontier Cartridge Revolver, Replicas OK
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

Visit the website: 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

BELOW: Participants of all ages from the September 20th Old West Revolver Shoot pose on the side porch of the James farmhouse after scores were calculated. Authentic western wear is always encouraged. (Submitted photo)

September Shoot Winners

CARTRIDGE SHOOTERS STANDARD TARGETS

- **First:** Bruce Houston
- **Second:** Terry Barr
- **Third:** Jason Snow

CAP & BALL STANDARD TARGETS

- **First:** Gregg Higginbotham
- **Second:** Cory Bush
- **Third:** Dustin Davidson

SPECIAL TARGET CARTRIDGE SHOOTER

- **First:** Terry Barr
- **Second:** Bruce Houston and Mark Goodle - Tie
- **Third:** Gregg Hildreth

SPECIAL TARGET CAP & BALL SHOOTER

- **First:** Greg Higginbotham and Dustin Davidson – Tie
- **Second:** Cody Bush
- **Third:** Kelly Bush



When is an alibi not an alibi?

Jesse James and the Russellville bank robbery

On March 10, 1868, a man going by the name of Thomas Colburn entered the Nimrod Long & Co bank in Russellville, Kentucky, offering for sale a 7:30 note for \$500. The fact that Colburn was prepared to sell the note for par, ignoring the premiums available, meant that Long’s suspicions were immediately roused. Long declined the offer.¹



OUTLAW TALES

BY MICHELLE POLLARD

A week later, on the 18th, Colburn returned to the bank, this time with a companion “of forbidding aspect,” and asked for a \$100 note to be changed. Long, convinced that the men were counterfeiters and noticing how Colburn’s companion seemed to be more than casually interested in the layout of the bank, once again refused.



The Southern Deposit Bank, Russellville, now a private residence. (Wikipedia image)

At about 2 p.m. Friday, March 20, bank clerk Hugh Barclay and T. H. Simmons were in the bank when Colburn returned for a third time with two companions, all carrying saddled bags. Colburn threw down a \$50 note and sarcastically asked, “Is that good, sir?” but Long once again voiced his opinion that the note was



The graves of Thomas K. Marshall, Sr., left, and his wife, Mary R. Combs Marshall.

counterfeit and refused to change it. Colburn drew a pistol and leveled it at Long’s head. Long made a dash for the back entrance of the bank, but was intercepted by one of Colburn’s companions who fired what must have been a warning shot for at that close range the bullet merely grazed the banker’s head. Undeterred, Long again tried to escape provoking his assailant to administer several blows to the banker’s already bleeding head with the butt of his pistol. Still, Long refused to surrender. Indeed he finally managed to escape the grip of his attacker, made a second dash for the back door and exited the bank into the street. Making his way to the front of the building in an effort to inform the population of the situation inside their bank, Long was at once confronted by two more robbers on horseback armed with Spencer rifles and pistols. On seeing him, they commenced firing on him and up and down the street to keep the people back.²

Inside the bank, Colburn and his companions helped themselves to \$9,000 from the cash drawer and some gold and silver from the vault before re-entering the street and making their escape. A posse, sent 10 minutes later, noted they were heading for eastern Tennessee but were unable to catch them.³

Descriptions of the robbers were detailed and, within one week, George Shepherd had been arrested in his hometown of

Chaplin, Nelson County, Kentucky, and identified as ‘John Wood’, one of the robbers. His cousin, Ol Shepherd, was found at home and killed while resisting arrest.⁴ Other men suspected by Detective Bligh were Cole Younger, John Jarrette and Arthur McCoy.⁵

It may have seemed that Jesse James did not need to provide an alibi for this crime; his description certainly did not fit any of the robbers and his name was not initially linked to the affair. However, in 1873, an article appeared in the *St. Louis Dispatch* in which Jesse commented upon “the first robbery with which our names have been connected ... which took place on March 20th, 1868.”⁶ It appears as though, since the Gallatin affair in December 1869, Jesse had been retrospectively blamed for robberies which had occurred earlier.⁷ It was a mistake he was eager to rectify and he began by explaining his whereabouts during the months running up to the robbery.

Having visited the distinguished Dr. Paul Eve in Nashville in June 1867, Jesse had then travelled “to Logan county, Kentucky, and remained with relatives until the first of November, 1867 – when I again returned to Missouri. In December, I went back to Kentucky, and remained in Logan county until the latter part of January 1868, and then went to Chaplin, Nelson County.” It is possible Jesse travelled to Nelson county in search of his older brother, Frank. “Russellville is in Logan county,” Jesse explained, “and when the bank was robbed on the 20th of March, Frank and myself were at the Marshall Hotel in Chaplin, Nelson county. Should occasion ever require proof on this point we could bring two hundred respectable people to swear that on the day of the robbery we were fifty miles from the town of Russellville.”⁸

Continued on page 6

RUSSELLVILLE

Continued from page 5

The brothers had family and friends in both Logan and Nelson counties and Frank often stayed with Alexander Sayer when in the area. Indeed, in a contradiction to his earlier statement, Jesse would later state that “Frank was in Kentucky the winter previous to the robbery, but he left Alexander Sayer’s, in Nelson County, January 25th, 1868, and sailed from New York City, January the 26th, which the books of the United States mail lines of steamers will show.” He further stated that, when the bank was being robbed, his brother was not

more the mastermind behind the Russellville robbery than a participant in it. But three years was a long time to be suffering from war wounds – surely these wounds could have been received while robbing the Russellville bank? Without proof though, Bligh was content to link the Jameses to the robbery, while falling short of placing them at the actual scene of the crime.

Of course, Detective Bligh could not have known, because Jesse did not divulge details about, his near fatal morphine overdose in January 1868 whilst staying with relatives in Logan County. This would have perhaps provided some evidence that Jesse’s war wounds were indeed causing him considerable discomfort before, during and after March 20, 1868.¹¹

Later, a romantic version of these events suggested that the robbery at Russellville had been to raise

funds to send Jesse to California to help heal this war wound, proving that the romantics accepted that the wound had occurred before the robbery. In Jesse’s own account, he wasn’t recommended for a sea journey until May 1868, two months after the robbery.¹²

In 1875 Jesse was still proclaiming his innocence for the Russellville robbery, proving his attempts to distance himself from the actual robbery, futile. “The radical papers here in Missouri have repeatedly charged the Russellville, Kentucky, bank robbery to the James and Younger Boys,” he wrote, and further stated that “it is well known that on the day of the robbery, March 20th, 1868, I was at the Chaplin Hotel in Chaplin, Nelson County, Kentucky, which I can prove by Mr. Tom Marshall, the proprietor, and fifty others.” This letter, appearing in the *Nashville Banner* on 10 July, 1875, did nothing more than prove Bligh right. Sticking to his story, Jesse wrote again on 8 August, 1875, “If Tom Marshal [sic], Propri-

14 75	Marshall, David	54	W	Hotel Keeper	500	750
	Marj	42	W	Keps. House		
	Anna	11	W	at School		
	George Joseph	26	W	Merchant & Eng.	1600	
	Marj James	14	W	School Teacher		
	Robert James	9	W			150
	Will. Williams	22	W	Doctor		
	Carroll Lewis	4	W	Hotel Keeper		

The 1870 census showing Thomas K. Marshall as ‘hotel keeper.’

etor of the Hotel at Chaplin, Nelson Co., Ky., will say I was not at home March the 20th 1868 the day of the Russellville, Ky., bank robbery I will acknowledge [sic] I was in the Russellville robbery ...”¹³

Thomas Kirkland Marshall was born on March 20 1816, the eldest son of Timothy and Mary.¹⁴ He married Mary Francis Combs on April 16, 1843, and together they had two children, Francis and Thomas.¹⁵

The 1850 census shows Thomas living in Chaplin as a ‘constable’ with his wife and maternal grandparents, Richard and Elizabeth Calvert. A child, Sarah Calvert, was also living at the house although the relationship between her and Thomas is unclear. A decade later and Thomas’ grandparents were no longer listed at his residence and Sarah’s surname had been changed to ‘Marshall’. In 1860, she was 15 years old, Thomas was 44, Mary, his wife, was 34, and their son, Thomas, was just one. By 1868, Thomas was named as the proprietor of the Chaplin Hotel.

An article titled, ‘More Jesse James Stories’ by Tom Watson, relays the story of Ida Wright who lived at some time at the Chaplin Hotel with the hotel managers, Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Thomas. Mrs Wright remembered that the hotel had ‘once been operated by Thomas K. Marshall, the father of Dr. Frank Marshall’ who had at some time ‘operated on one of the James Boys and received a gold ring for payment.’ The late Mrs. Ruben Moores, Dr. Marshall’s niece, used to wear the ring.¹⁶

Reports of the James brothers turning up at a house wounded and in need of care is not uncommon. A cursory look through the census returns and birth records for Nelson County would seem to prove this to be



Mural depicting the Russellville bank robbery. Photo courtesy of Kentuckyexplorer.com.

at the Marshall Hotel at all but “at work on the Labousu Ranch in San Luis Obispo county, California, for J. D. P. Thompson.”⁹ If correct, this may explain why Jesse didn’t remain in Chaplin long but it doesn’t explain why Jesse changed his story and Frank’s alibi, but not his own. Some believe Jesse misremembered, or blatantly lied, about when Frank left for California, believing he travelled a few months later.

So in 1873, Detective Bligh, still on the trail of the robbers, knew two things – George Shepherd had been arrested in Chaplin and Jesse James had been at a hotel in Chaplin. This brought about his belief that the ruffians had used Chaplin, Nelson County, as their base. Bligh also knew that the brothers were at the hotel recovering from wounds; Jesse had openly stated in 1873 that, “about the first of April, after suffering dreadfully from my wound, I came back to Missouri.”¹⁰ Jesse claimed these wounds had been received during the war, which would suggest he was

Continued on page 10

CENTRALIA

Continued from page 1

battlefield and remembering that day 36 years past. It was the first time he had returned to Centralia since 1864.

“‘There is the spot,’ said James, two miles and more from Centralia, shortly before the main road was left for a broad lane which led to S.L. Guard’s home.

“Yonder on the rise near the hayrick was the line of the Federal troops. Just this side, toward Centralia, stood the detachment which held their horses. On the edge of the wood beyond our men formed.”

One can imagine how sharp Frank’s memory was, even decades after the war. Today, PTSD is a fact of life for soldiers seeing action. We can only imagine how difficult it was to sort through the memories after a war fought on our own soil and so bitter, as was the Civil War.

Frank described being able to go to any battlefield on which he fought and able to accurately remember where this or that happened. “I can go to any battlefield where I was engaged and pick out almost instantly the locations.

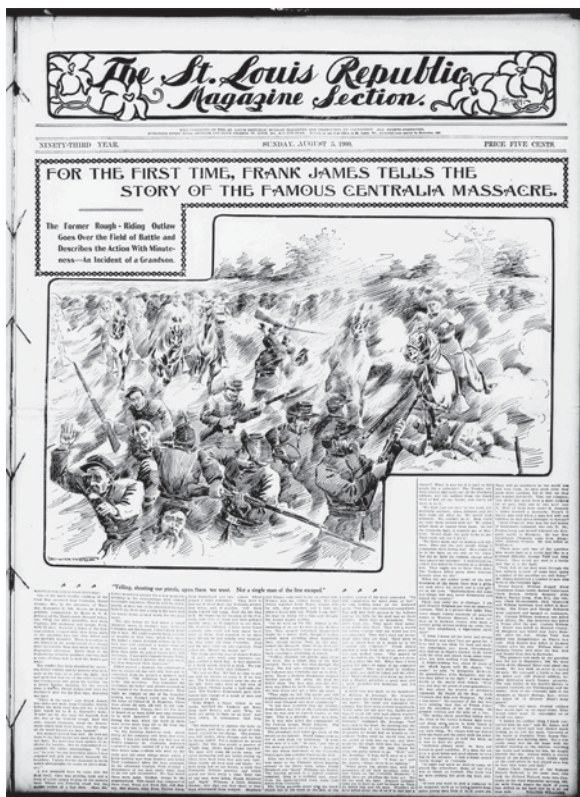
“I guess it’s the closeness to death which photographs the scene on one’s memory,” he said.

Frank described a skirmish that occurred the previous day, on Goslin’s Lane, between Columbia and Rocheport. He said they had killed a dozen Federal soldiers and commandeered a wagon of provisions.

He also said he’d been riding with George Todd, who joined forces that day with Anderson. “I was with Captain George Todd, one of the hardest fighters that ever lived, but less desperate than Anderson,” said James.

Frank thought for a moment and added, “Anderson had much to make him merciless,” as if to quell the idea that Anderson was merciless without reason. He reminded the reporter that Anderson’s father and sisters had received poor treatment at the hand of Kansas Jayhawkers.

Frank said there was only about 225 men between the two leaders. “Funny, isn’t it?” he said. “I’ve met or heard of at



The source for this article came from *The St. Louis Republic Magazine Section* – an interview with Frank James, published Aug. 5, 1900.

least 10,000 men who claimed to be with Quantrill or his lieutenants during the war, when the truth is there were never more than 350 or 400 [men] from one end of the war to the other.”

Frank went on to describe what occurred in Centralia. “In the morning Anderson took about 30 of his company and went into Centralia.”

Frank admitted he was not in Anderson’s group, nor were there any of Todd’s included in that count. He said Anderson captured a train in Centralia, took a lot of items from the train and shot some soldiers who had been on the train, among other things.

Frank said Todd condemned the acts committed by Anderson that day. Frank was quick to point out that he did not witness what happened in Centralia, he did, however, remember the stories told and pointed out it was hearsay.

That afternoon, Todd “detailed a detachment of 10 men under Dave Pool to go out and reconnoiter,” having heard that there were Yankee troops out and about.

Pool’s squad included Wood and Tuck Hill, Jeff Emery, Bill Stuart, John Pool, Payton Long, Zach Sutherland and two others. Pool was to attempt to lure any Federal troops he found down to the guerrilla camp.

“Pool did his duty well,” said Frank. “He found out the location of the Federals, rode close to them and then galloped rapidly away, as if surprised to see them.”

Of course ... they followed. Frank said he never heard of anyone who could have accurately stated how many Federals there were, but that Pool estimated about 350 and Frank always trusted his judgment.

Frank’s eyes narrowed as he recounted this story. “I don’t care what your histories say ... they carried a black flag. It was apparently a black apron tied to a stick ... we captured it in the battle that followed.”

Frank said the guerrillas did not have a flag. “We had no time to get one and no chance to carry it if we had one,” he added.

He said the Yankees stopped near the rise of a hill and faced the guerrillas – both sides in full view of each other. The Federals dismounted and gave their horses over to a detail of men and began the fight. Meanwhile, the guerrillas dismounted and tightened the belts on their horses, then began their charge, having to do so uphill.

“Our line was nearly a quarter of a mile long, theirs much closer together,” he said. “We were still some 600 yards away, our speed increasing, ranks closing up, when their fired their first and only time ... they nearly all fired over our heads,” he added.

The guerrillas were laying low on their horses, a trick Frank said, they had learned from the Comanche Indians. Two of the

Continued on page 8

CENTRALIA

Continued from page 7

guerrillas were killed, Frank Shepherd and Hank Williams. A third, Richard Kinney, was shot, but didn't die until 3-4 days later.

Frank said Kinney was his closest friend and rode next to him.

He said the Federal soldiers appeared terrorized, almost hypnotized by the guerrillas assault on them.

"Yelling, shooting our pistols, upon them we went. Not a single man of the line escaped. Every one was shot through the head."

A few of the Federal soldiers tried to escape, but were chased by the guerrillas into Centralia and then to Sturgeon. "All along the road we killed them," said Frank, "The last man and the first man was killed by Arch Clements. He had the best horse and got a little start."

Frank said they left that night, scattering themselves to reduce the likelihood of capture of the entire lot of them. He himself recrossed the river near Glasgow and headed south.

Where was Jesse?

"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," said Frank. "This is a mistake. Jesse was here. It was he who killed the commander of the Federal troops, Major Johnson."

Frank added that the Younger boys were not involved in Centralia.

"Our boys are scattered everywhere. You will find their graves in the hollows and on the hills, by the gulf and on these prairies ... Many have no monument. They don't need any. They made their monument while they lived."

– Frank James, August 1900

Frank remained at the battlefield for two more hours, remembering. He then went to the Pleasant Grove burial ground on the Silver farm where his comrades Frank Shepherd and Hank Williams were buried.

Frank saw where his comrades were buried and stood for a few moments, lost in thought, likely remembering, as soldiers have done for millennium.

"To this complexion we must come at last," he said, looking down at the withered grass, "Our boys are scattered everywhere. You will find their graves in the hollows and on the hills, by the gulf and on these prairies.

"Many have no monument. They don't need any. They made their monument while they lived."

In an eerie statement that would be surpassed in just a few years with the advent of World War I and 41 years later with WWII, Frank said, "They left a record for daring courage that the world has not yet surpassed.

"They don't need any monuments after they are dead. Their sleep is just as sweet here as it would be in the beautiful city cemetery."

Frank turned and walked away quietly, saying loud enough for the reporter to hear, but almost as if to himself, "The marvel to me ... is that I am not sleeping in a place like this. What have I been spared for when so many of my comrades were taken?"

For 150 years Centralia has been referred to as the Centralia Massacre, yet Frank begged to differ. "When great, big, grown men, with full possession of all their faculties, refer to that battle as 'the Centralia Massacre,' he said, 'I think they are pleading the baby act.

'We did not seek the fight. Johnson foolishly came out to hunt us, and he found us.'"

Frank added that yes, the guerrillas killed the Federals, but ... "Wouldn't he have killed every one of us if he had had a chance?" he asked. "What is war for if it isn't to kill people for a principle?"

He summed it up by saying the Yankee soldiers tried to kill the southern soldiers and the southern soldiers tried to kill the northern. "That's all there is to it," he stated simply.

Source: St. Louis Republic Magazine, Sunday, Aug 5, 1900.

Researcher from Princeton reviews James archives

Princeton student Hunter Gabb of Arkansas conducting research about Jesse James and Kit Carson in the archives. The archive library is open by appointment, during normal business hours.

Call the Jesse James Farm & Museum to schedule an appointment 816.736.8500



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cont. from page 2

Board Secretary Linda Tarantino and Gregg Higginbotham (AKA Frank James) assembled the display with a generous array of items on loan from Gregg with which to fill the four shelf display, including pistols, books, posters, postcards, photos and more.

The display is currently at the MCPL Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 South Lee's Summit Road, Independence. After a few months, it will move to another location and keep traveling. Hopefully, it will continue to educate many and entice them to visit the farm – let's "Keep the Legend Alive."

We have also streamlined our renewal notifications for membership and sent those out digitally and via snail mail. Please help us to help the James farm by returning your membership renewal by Feb. 1, 2015. We thank you for your continued support! (Form on page 12)

We have three board positions open at this time and are looking for individuals who are interested in rolling up their sleeves and digging in to the tasks at hand ... brainstorming events and ideas for driving traffic to the farm. Let us know what talents and skills you may have that will prove a

wonderful asset to the board. Our nominating committee is Kevin Makel, Linda Tarantino and Bryan Ivlow.

Our Facebook page continues to grow exponentially. Since August, we've picked up nearly 300 new friends on that page (bringing the count at press time to 480) and it continues to reach others throughout the world. The Jesse James Farm & Museum page, operated by the museum itself, has also grown to over 3,000.

Clearly, involving ourselves in social media also helps keep the legend alive.

I think Jesse would have found it amazing that his life, along with that of his brother's, would have such an audience today, in many different forms unimaginable to them 130+ years after his death.

Please feel free to contact me with news, ideas for events, photo submissions, or of any problems you may have with your membership, receiving newsletters or contact info.

We encourage anyone who has Internet access to provide their e-mail address for ease of contact, mailings and to receive the newsletter in full glorious color.

Liz Johnson,
President FOJF Board
jollyhill@gmail.com
816-309-7179

Three old guns with a bit of James folklore attached

My name is Bryan Ivlow and I've been with the Friends of the James Farm since the early days – around 1981. I reinstated the revolver shoots in the early 1990s and I collect guns, mostly old ones and I like gun history.

Last year I was one of the people representing the Jesse James Farm and Museum on the Kansas City edition of America's Hidden Treasures to air on the National Geographic channel. I was asked to authenticate an 1851 Civil War revolver that was given to a doctor by Zerelda Samuel, which she claimed was Jesse's favorite gun. Zerelda was well known for making those claims and giving away articles she said belonged to Jesse.

Unlike today, cap and ball revolvers in the early cartridge era had about the same value as a 10-year-old cell phone does now. She could buy cheap junkers and greatly increase their value by tying them to Jesse.

Years later, Dr. David E. Musgrave (1908-1980) and his family were good friends with

Robert "Bob" James, son of Frank James and to Bob's wife, Mae A. James. Musgrave was also their physician. Robert gave Dr. Musgrave two guns that he, following in his grandmother's footsteps, claimed belonged to Jesse. The Musgrave family realized about 8 years after Robert's death that they had no written proof of this.

They went to visit Mae in the hospital and she wrote a note saying that they got the guns from her. However, there is no mention of Jesse in her note.

The Musgrave family decided to donate these guns to the Jesse James Farm and Museum after they sat in a safety deposit box for 40-50 years. The James farm is very careful in making sure that the items on display in the museum are the real thing.

Because of this, I decided to check the guns.



Continued on page 10

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

RUSSELLVILLE

Continued from page 6

another hoax for although Thomas and Mary were blessed with a son on Dec. 30, 1852, whom they named Franklin C. Marshall, he passed away on Oct. 28, 1855. However, further investigation shows that Thomas had a brother, Franklin Calvert Marshall, born Feb. 4, 1826, whose occupation, in the 1860 census, was listed as ‘physician’.¹⁷ Did Dr Marshall operate on Jesse while he was at the Hotel in 1868, at some other time, or not at all? We may never know.



The grave of Thomas and Mary's son, Franklin. (Find-a-Grave)

What we do know is that Thomas Kirkland Marshall left this world on Aug. 24, 1874 and was buried at the Old Methodist cemetery in Chaplin.¹⁸ We also know that his wife had died the year before “with the exception of one day” and that they left “an only son and an adopted daughter.”¹⁹

IVLOW'S GUNS

Continued from page 9

One gun was an 1873 Colt Single Action Army in 38 WCF (Winchester Center Fire) caliber, also known as a .38-40. It shoots an obsolete .40 caliber cartridge, which is near impossible to find and costs about \$75 a box.

Hurting its value is the fact that the trigger guard and back strap were from an 1860s cap and ball gun made in 1869, whereas the gun itself was made in 1920. An interesting feature is that the one-piece grip is made of nearly 150-year-old ivory.

The second gun is a Colt model 1903, .32 caliber semi-automatic. It is a pocket pistol and it's one you've seen in old movies. In those old movies actor Peter Lorre would use a gun like that to threaten the good guys. Humphrey Bogart used one to shoot the German officer in Casablanca.

By definition, the gun had to be made

Some sites say the hotel in which Jesse James once stayed burnt down in 1912, but others prove that wasn't the case; the

Kentucky Standard Newspaper for Bardstown of Feb. 14, 1918, reported that “Mr and Mrs. Edgar Armstrong have gone to housekeeping in the old Chaplin Hotel building,” while the same newspaper of March 15, 1923, announced that “Mr Ed Foster, who recently opened a general store here, has purchased, of E. J. Satterly, the lot on which the old Chaplin hotel, once stood,” so the hotel burned some time between 1918 and 1923.

It is not known if Thomas Marshall was ever approached by law officers to prove whether or not Jesse was at his hotel at the time of the Russellville bank robbery, but surely there was no need of it; after all, an alibi is not an alibi when it looks to the world like a confession.

in 1903 or later.

A third gun was a Colt 1908 from Dr. Musgrave's own collection. The Colt 1908 is nearly identical to the 1903 except the 1908 was made in .380 caliber and the 1903 was .32 caliber.

Because the guns obviously didn't belong to Jesse, having been made 20 or more years after his death, the James Farm declined the donation.

I then made an offer to Dr. Musgrave's daughter to purchase the guns. It was accepted and with the purchase, I received the letter Mae James had written. It was covered in dried mud, having been through Hurricane Katrina. I also received the three guns, a pocket holster that was most likely used by Robert James for the 1903 and a handful of .25 auto cartridges.

Rich people collect real Jesse guns. I have to be satisfied with the fake Jesse guns.

Russellville notes and sources

1. Robert J. Wybrow, *Ravenous Monsters of Society - The Early Exploits of the James Gang*, English Westerners' Society's Brand Book, Vol. 27, No 2, Summer 1990.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. J. W. Buel, *The Border Outlaw*, Historical Publishing Company, 1881, p139.
5. Letter from D. T. Bligh to Governor of the State of Missouri, March 3, 1875, State Historical Society of Missouri.
6. John Newman Edwards, 'A Terrible Quintette'; Supplement to the *St. Louis Dispatch*, Nov. 22, 1873.
7. On Dec. 7, 1869, two men walked into the Daviess county Savings Association in Gallatin, Missouri, with what appears to be the sole intention of killing the cashier. A horse, left behind by one of the murderers, was identified as belonging to Jesse. This was first time the James brothers were named as suspects for a crime.
8. 'A Terrible Quintette', op. cit. Russellville is 145 miles from Chaplin, not 50.
9. *Nashville Banner*, July 10, 1875.
10. 'A Terrible Quintette', op. cit.
11. Jesse's war wounds, and his recovery from them, have long been reason for debate. Author T.J. Stiles believed the second chest wound, taken on May 15, 1865, was less severe than reported, requiring short term convalescence and no trip to California. This version makes Jesse's involvement in Russellville more likely, although the descriptions still do not match him. However, there is evidence that the May 15 wound was harder to recover from than Mr Stiles would like to suggest. In 1866, Cole Younger said Jesse had lost the use of his right lung; in 1867 Jesse travelled to Nashville to see Dr. Eve – there is a photograph taken of him there. Dr. Eve reportedly said that Jesse's lung was badly decayed, *A Terrible Quintette*, op. cit.; in early 1868 Jesse was suffering so badly that Dr Woods, a Kansas City physician, suggested a sea journey, *A Terrible Quintette*, op. cit.; Jesse said he left New York City on the Santiago de Cuba, June 8, 1868 bound for California. It would make sense that the brothers followed each other there. Jesse was slightly mistaken by the day in which he set sail - the Santiago de Cuba left New York City on June 6, 1868, *New York Times*, June 4, 1868; supposedly fully healed on his return, this was no doubt an effort by John Newman Edwards, author of *A Terrible Quintette* to make Jesse appear less vulnerable; in 1875 Jesse wrote that he was 'in St. Louis with friends, well, and feeling much better than I have for years', *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Sept. 25, 1875; then, in 1896, Zee James, Jesse's wife, wrote a letter to a former friend in Tennessee saying, 'when you knew him [in 1879] he weighed about 35 lb or 40lb less than his natural weight. When you knew him he was suffering from a terrible bullet wound through his right lung,' letter from Zee James to Mrs Robinson, Oct. 7, 1896. The accidental overdose story was told in the *Kansas City Daily Journal*, May 6, 1882.
12. 'A Terrible Quintette', op. cit.
13. *Nashville Banner*, July 10, 1875; *Nashville Banner*, Aug. 8, 1875.
14. Thomas' mother and father married in Nelson county on June 18, 1815. Correspondence with Gay Mathis.
15. Correspondence with Gay Mathis; marriage certificate for Thomas and Mary; grave of Franklin C. Marshall; 1860 and 1870 census for Chaplin, Nelson County.
16. *kykinfolk.com*. This article mentions an old photo of the Chaplin Hotel but doesn't show it.
17. 1870 census for Chaplin, Nelson County.
18. Thomas K. Marshall Senior grave.
19. *Christian Advocate*, Nashville, Tennessee, Sept. 12, 1874.

From the photo archives ...

Forster Barr 1934 wedding photo



A Barr family photo from wedding day of Gertie and Forester Barr. Back row, left to right: Chester "Chet" and Thelma Barr, unknown, Willard Simpson and Lawrence Barr; center: Elizabeth "Minnie" Barr; front row, left to right: Mary James Barr (Jesse and Zee's daughter), Forster and Gertie (Essary) Barr, and Henry Barr. (Photos courtesy of the James Farm)



Forster and Gertie (Essary) Barr on their wedding day, Nov. 3, 1934. Willard P. Simpson and Mary James Barr signed the certificate as witnesses.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR FOJF MEMBERSHIP

Dear FOJF Member:

AREN'T the statements above the reason why you joined the Friends of the James Farm? You have a passion for history, perhaps you are a family member! Maybe generations of your family come from Missouri and you savor being a part of the James family's incredible history.

No matter the reason you joined "The Friends" – we hope you will continue your membership – to support and promote the James Farm, often known simply as "the birthplace of Jesse James." The history is deep, from the old farmhouse, to Rev James' ministry and travel to the California gold fields, to the Civil War, to life after Jesse's death.

Your membership to the FOJF supports the preservation of this history and helps to educate others. Visitors come to the farm from all over the world. It's important to keep this draw to Kearney, Missouri and the notorious guerrillas and outlaws, Frank and Jesse James, to continue for years to come.

The following are just a few of the events and things we did to support the Jesse James Farm & Museum: We held three Wild West Revolver Shoots ; our annual reunion was held in early June of this year, and included a number of historians speaking on a variety of subjects, along with our dinner and annual meeting. We presented our first scholarship award to promising Kearney High School student, Cody Evans, who plans on studying history. Antique gun enthusiast and Board Treasurer Bryan Ivlow maintained a table at several gun shows earlier in the year, as well as participating with Board President Liz Johnson in Richmond's Outlaw Days in September. Ivlow proved to be a popular fellow with a constant stream of visitors of all ages, eager to learn more about his antique guns. We designed and paid for a number of advertisements to promote the James Farm in such publications as the Excelsior Springs Visitor's Guide, Ray County Visitor Guide, Wild West Magazine, and Kearney's fall sports calendar.

We look forward to a fun and informative 2015, full of activities –still in the planning stage. Additionally, we will have a beautiful

display representing the James Farm that will travel to various Mid-Continent Public Libraries around the metro. We continue to produce a quarterly newsletter that includes historical articles, photos, upcoming events and announcements –and as members – you will continue to receive this newsletter.

We welcome your input. What would you like to see, experience, learn? We would love to hear from you. Have you been to the farm? Share your photos with us. We now have a very popular Facebook page (Friends of the James Farm) and invite you to "like" our page and please contribute!

Please fill out the renewal form found on the back page (12) of this newsletter and return it by Feb. 1 to continue your membership with the Friends of the James Farm. Feel free to invite your friends to join as well. Visit our website at www.jessejames.org and click on the membership application at the bottom of the main page.

We look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Liz Johnson,

Friends of the James Farm Board President

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
P.O. Box 404 Liberty, MO 64069

I prefer to receive updates/info via:

USPS Email

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.