

JAMES FARM JOURNAL

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THE REV. JAMES LETTERS SPARK THEORIES AT REUNION

Rev. James' departure to California as much a mystery as ever

If you want to learn a lot of trivia about the James family and early Missouri pioneer history, attending our annual reunion is one way to accomplish a little historical education. This year's reunion did not disappoint, beginning with our Friday night Meet & Greet.

We were lucky enough to have gorgeous weather Friday night, since the event is held outside the Jesse James Bank Museum on Liberty Square. The city also had its art show the same weekend, so we shared the square with lots of vendors and consequently, enjoyed an evening filled with great back-



ground music.

As always, the Meet & Greet is a time for old friends to reminisce, for making new friends and gearing up for the next day's activities. We were also happy to have the weekend's special guests, **Tony Meyers** and **Keith Nelson** – this year's recipients of the John Newman Edwards Award for their outstanding efforts to promote, publish and chronicle the legend of Jesse James and the Civil War era in Clay County. Plus, our Saturday evening guest speaker, **Dan Pence**, was on hand, along with his charming wife, **Mary**.

When you have a party filled with history lovers, you never lack for something to talk about. I managed to snare Tony and



Historians and reunion guests of honor, Tony Meyers, Dan Pence and Keith Nelson at the Friday Meet & Greet for the FOJF 2014 Reunion. (Photo by Liz Johnson)

Keith Friday night and enjoyed discussing local history with them.

Both historians, Tony and Keith worked together to write a book about Clay County families during the Civil War, and their genealogies. Proceeds from the book benefit the Clay County Archives. Titled "Divided Loyalties," the book is an excellent read and clear evidence of the men's dedication to research and accuracy.

"We've got the richest pool of history in Clay County," said Nelson. "It was more fun to search for genealogy than to bait a hook and fish here in Clay County," he added.

Continued on page 7

IN THIS ISSUE	
President's Message	2
The Guerrilla Shirt, A Bushwhacker's Uniform	3
June Shoot Results & Photos	4
FOJF Reunion Photos	5
Concerning the Centennial Expo	6
In Memoriam of Marvin Leslie	10
Mark Gardner's book to film?	11
A Star Is Born	11
Bullet Casing Found	11
Renew Your Membership	12

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Newsletter Design/Layout

Liz Johnson ~ Jolly Hill

New things to come for the FOJF

Most of you have seen my articles on the front page of our newsletter for the last year. This newsletter became my first duty since I joined the FOJF board in January of 2013.

In 2011, I was working for the *Excelsior Springs Standard* as an erstwhile reporter and full time graphic artist. The publisher asked me to start a history column, knowing I loved to write, enjoyed history and seemed to have a knack for storytelling.



My reply to him was that I knew there was tons of history tied up in Excelsior Springs, known for their healing mineral waters, historic buildings, such as the Elms Hotel & Spa and the Hall of Waters, but that I would simply have to write about Jesse James too.

After all, Kearney was just 15 minutes away.

After six months of dallying with local history, I called Liz Murphy, archivist out at the James farm and asked to come out and do a little research. Little did I know what a Pandora's box would open with that research.

Liz and I became fast friends and I quickly made acquaintance with historic site director Beth Beckett, tour guide Linda Brookshier and a few others out at the farm.

Sitting down in the small archive room, my laptop and camera by my side, Liz opened dozens of drawers and showed me where to find this and that. I felt like a kid in a candy shop.

I was in the archive room of the Jesse James farm – the historical records at my fingertips. I couldn't contain myself.

Coupled with this was the knowledge that I had been raised to believe we were related to the James boys. My father's paternal great-grandmother was a James and they came from the same area of

Kentucky as Robert James.

While none of our family researchers has ever found that connection, my father died stubbornly holding onto the family lore that we were related. Maybe some day I'll find it.

Four months after I started the series, I was told to stop and return to Excelsior's history. By now, I had reached the point of Jesse's murder at the hands of Robert Newton Ford, so I ended this first series with that last day of Jesse's life – tears dripping onto my keyboard as I wrote.

Who knew I would have gotten so attached to an outlaw who died in 1882? After all that research, all the photos I had studied, the people I had questioned, the books I had read – I had my own theories about what made Jesse who he was, and why he took his gun belt off on that fateful day in April 1882 ... *and* why he turned his back on the two Ford brothers.

Nine months later – long enough to have birthed another group of stories – I was permitted to start again. This time I focused on the various exhumations of Jesse, along with the impostors, completing my series with the final exhumation, and last burial of Jesse W. James in 1995.

I really was done this time, and shortly after, the boss pulled the column and moved me to another department within the newspaper. I never knew why the popular and successful column was pulled, but the James history seed had fermented in my mind anyway.

Four months after the last series ended, I was invited to join the FOJF board, and, considering I had just quit the newspaper job – I was eager to join the ranks of those devoted to the support and mission of the James Farm.

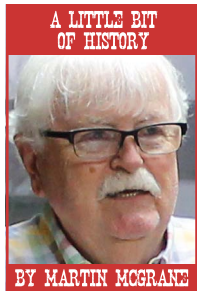
I've spent the last 18 months getting to know my fellow board members – a delightful group of dedicated historians with various skills who lend their focus to our group and its mission. I've had the joy of meeting others who specialize in

Continued on page 9

The guerrilla shirt – a bushwhacker’s uniform

Remember that baggy over-shirt a teenaged Jesse James is wearing in a photo taken in Platte City, Missouri during the height of the Civil War?

It’s a “guerrilla shirt” and it’s as close to an item of uniform as Missouri’s Confederate guerrillas had – what with them being so far beyond the reach of regular Rebel supply lines.



We’re told that these shirts were usually sewn-up by the bushwhackers’ female kin-folk – wives, daughters, girlfriends. But there’s always the chance it was a wrinkled old guerrilla grandma who was

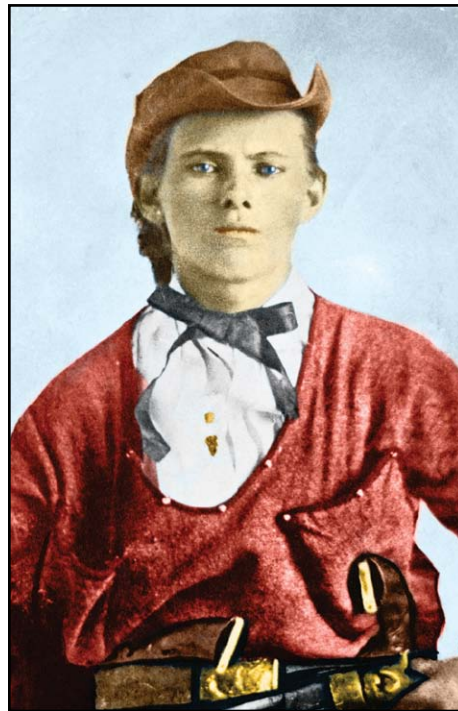
the first to make one, and she may have done it from memory.

The guerrilla shirt is an adaptation of the old Appalachian long-hunter’s shirt, a garment meant to be part overcoat, part tool vest, part lunch-bag and general all-around emblem of the hunter’s trade as a man of the wilderness, like Daniel Boone.

Missouri proved to be such a hotbed of guerrilla activity during the Civil War for a lot of reasons. Some men and boys “took to the bush” because they had scores to settle and wrongs to avenge.

Put the James brothers’ old friend Cole Younger in that camp. His father was robbed and murdered by Union militia. Jesse himself belongs there, too, for what the militia did to his stepfather Reuben Samuel. Other men joined the guerrilla ranks because there was nowhere else to go; regular Confederate armies were too far away to reach. Some boys were entrusted to the guerrillas by their widowed mothers; 13-year-old Riley Crawford is an example. And of course, some were there just to get in on the action. Bloody Bill Anderson and his brother Jim belong in that category as well.

But let’s get back to that shirt ... What does it tell us about why Missouri was



Jesse wearing his guerrilla shirt. Note the over-sized pockets for carrying bullets and the number of guns he is carrying. Who made this for him? His mother? (Photo colorized by Liz Johnson)

such a guerrilla hotbed? And why Quantrell and other guerrilla commanders always found it so easy to attract men for what was, admittedly, a pretty dangerous job?

Next, let’s look at a roster of men who fought under Quantrill, paying particular attention of their surnames: James, Taylor, Pence, Campbell, Walker, Gregg, Hall, Todd, Miller, Barnett, Cummins.

Those names are of English, Irish or Scottish derivation, and they’re names like those of almost 200,000 people who came to America in the 1700s as part of the great Scots-Irish migration. These were tough, self-reliant people – Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun sprang from their roots. But they were restless, too, never settling long in any one particular spot. From the Appalachian highlands of western Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia, some of them migrated west to Missouri in the 1820s. They worked their way across Missouri’s “Little Dixie” or “Slave Belt”

as small farmers and tradesmen. Not a few of them were living in the west-central river counties of Missouri when Civil War tensions began to reach full boil in the 1850s.

When abolitionist groups in New England started planting anti-slavery colonists in the territory of Kansas, it alarmed many of them, although most did not own slaves themselves. A mistrust of heavy-handed centralized government was deeply set into their character. To a good many of these strong-willed, independent Missourians, America’s federal government was beginning to look like the British government they’d left behind a few generations earlier. The national Congress was acting like Parliament and the president was beginning to act like a king.

Given this atmosphere of distrust, it’s little wonder that Missouri was a politically divided state at the start of the war. And because it was a border state, sharing characteristics with both the north and the south, you had one set of neighbors marching toward the Rebel flag and another to the stars and stripes. And then, you had a few who took to the timber to follow the figurative black flag of the guerrillas.

With all that as background, look again at young Jesse’s guerrilla shirt. It’s the essence of practicality for a man fighting from horseback. It serves the role of a light jacket; it sheds rain (to a degree) and serves as another layer of insulation when it’s cold outside. It fits loosely so his arms aren’t restricted. It has pockets big enough to carry all the pistol lead, black powder and percussion caps he might need to shoot his way out of a scrape. It’s belted at the waist, often with a belt “liberated” from a Yankee who no longer needed it, and snuggled next to the man’s belly by that belt are the tools of the trade, a brace of Colt or Remington revolvers.

Continued on page 10

Jesse James Old West Revolver Shoot June 2014 Results

The shoot on June 14 had nearly perfect weather. It started in the 60s, but heated up quite a bit before it was over. As usual, everyone seemed to have a good time. Our next shoot will be Sept. 20, 2014.

The winners of the June 14, shoot at the James Farm are as follows:

STANDARD COURSE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER

- **First:** Terry Barr
- **Second:** Jason Snow
- **Third:** Chris Harper

STANDARD COURSE CAP & BALL

- **First:** Randy Webber
- **Second:** Bill Allison
- **Third:** Greg Higginbotham

RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES

At last, Jim Lane got what he deserved – a shot between the eyes. Director of the Jesse James Birthplace historic site, Beth Beckett proudly shows her target. Lane, was one of the major targets in the Raid on Lawrence in 1863, but escaped, barefoot & in his nightshirt.

Our special target on the June shoot was Jim Lane, a Kansas Redleg leader, who was one of the main targets of the Lawrence raid in 1863.

CARTRIDGE SPECIAL TARGET

- **First:** Terry Barr
- **Second:** Chris Harper
- **Third:** Jason Snow

CAP & BALL SPECIAL TARGET

- **First:** Greg Higginbotham
- **Second:** Jeremy Allison
- **Third:** Paul Weller



JESSE JAMES OLD WEST REVOLVER SHOOT NOW - SAT., Sept. 20, 2014

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

Jesse James Medallion prizes awarded for first, second and third place.
Additional prizes awarded for Special Target

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

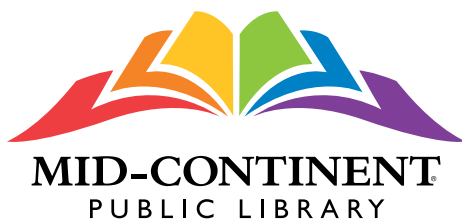


Participants in the June 14, 2014 Old West Revolver Shoot pose on the side porch of the James farmhouse after scores were calculated. Authentic western wear is always encouraged – what a variety! (Photo by Liz Johnson)

2014 FOJF ANNUAL REUNION

A LOT OF CLAY COUNTY HISTORY

Friday's reunion Meet & Greet is usually held at the Jesse James Bank Museum on Liberty Square. This year two of our special guests were Dan and Mary Pence, (back row, left) of Washington, D.C. They are long time supporters of Clay County Archives. Dan, who presented a wonderfully informative talk on "The Argonauts of Clay and Clinton Counties" Saturday evening, is the grand-nephew of Bud and Donnie Pence, neighbors of the James boys, who also rode with the James Gang. Pictured to the right of Mary is Ann Wymore Cole and her husband, Scott – FOJF board member and Cole family descendant. Seated are Ann's parents, Jack and Carlida Wymore – owners of the Jesse James Bank Museum. (Photos by Liz Johnson)



Many thanks from the Friends of the James Farm to Mid-Continent Public Library for sponsoring our Saturday evening reunion events at their Woodneath Farm facility.



Judson and Carol Hall came to the FOJF reunion and took a tour of the farmhouse. Judson is a direct descendant of Fannie Quantrill Samuel and Joe C. Hall. Zerelda was pregnant with Fannie when the Union soldiers came to the farm, beat Jesse and tortured Dr. Samuel in an attempt to find out where the guerrillas were hiding. Judson also shared that he grew up in California and met Stella James, wife of Jesse James Jr., in the 1960s. (Photo courtesy of Judson Hall)



FOJF board member Kevin Makel presented a fascinating slideshow depicting gangsters of the 1920s-30s, who were greatly influenced by the crimes of Frank and Jesse James. Makel is holding a Tommy gun.

Concerning the Centennial Exposition

The Centennial Exposition in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, opened its gates on 10 May 1876. Designed almost entirely by 27-year-old German immigrant, Hermann J. Schwarzmann, this first World's Fair had, at its core, a desire to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence but it also demonstrated to the 37 nations present, that the United States was ready to be taken seriously in an ever changing cultural and technological age. Visitors were treated to 284 acres of music, technology, machinery, arts and science spread out among vast Halls, grand fountains, and more than 250 individual pavilions.¹



There was undoubtedly much to see at the Exposition, including latest inventions such as the telephone and the 70 foot tall Corliss steam engine, but none was perhaps as grand as the head and right arm of the Statue of Liberty.² The people of France had given the statue to the people of the United States "in recognition of the friendship established during the American Revolution." Sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi had been commissioned to design a sculpture, which was originally intended to have been completed in 1876. It had been agreed that "the American people were to build the pedestal, and the French people were responsible for the statue and its assembly in the United States," however, funding was a problem on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and so events were organized in France and America to raise the amount necessary to complete the ambitious project.³ Approximately \$150,000 had been raised by the people of New York but help was needed from the other states, too.

"We call on you, fellow citizens," urged the *Liberty Tribune* of 14 March, 1884, "in the name of patriotism, to respond promptly to this appeal."

Thomas Crittenden, Governor at the time Jesse was killed, was named as the chairman of the committee for Missouri, supported by John W. Henry, John F. Phillips, W. Q. Dallmeyer, J. M. Clarke, C. A. Thompson and John B. Waddill. They, in turn, appointed local men in each county to organize and oversee events. In 1884, Samuel Hardwicke, among others, was named as a member of "a committee on behalf of Clay County," for the purpose of raising money for the Statue of Liberty.⁴

Samuel Hardwicke was a lawyer who had, in the mid 1870s, supported Allan Pinkerton and his well known troupe of detectives locally in their efforts to catch the James brothers. On December 28, 1874, Pinkerton had sent a message to Hardwicke relating all the details of the planned attack on the James family home, detailing the picking up, safe storage and transportation of the ammunition needed for the raid. In this letter, Pinkerton made it clear that he would be relying on Hardwicke to co-ordinate local efforts when the time came. Hardwicke also found himself responsible for arranging guides to escort the law officers out to the Farm as the area was wooded in parts, heavily covered in brush and scarred with rivers.

"You must remember," Pinkerton warned, "the men are not woodsmen."

It was even suggested that Hardwicke would be present as the evening's events unfolded; Pinkerton was relying on both Jack Ladd and Samuel Hardwicke to make sure his orders to "destroy the house, [and] blot it from the face of the earth" were carried out. Pinkerton's only fear was that more of his men would be killed, as Detective Whicher had been, as they bravely faced the James brothers.

"I have been thinking of sending a surgeon along with the party for fear of accident," he wrote to Hardwicke, "... do you know someone who you could implicitly trust and pay him to accompany you?" Furthermore, Pinkerton appealed

directly to Hardwicke, instructing him to wait for all his men to board the freight train before moving off.⁵

It is unknown if Samuel Hardwicke visited the Exposition to see the parts of the Statue of Liberty already in America, but he was certainly responsible for helping to raise the money for the rest of it.

According to Zee, Jesse spent a week in Philadelphia while they were living in Baltimore, and during that time, he visited the Centennial Exposition.⁶ Zee reported later that Jesse "saw a great many people from Missouri whom he knew very well, but who did not know him," suggesting he was disguised in some way.⁷

Or perhaps there was just too much to see. Many spoke of the excitement and hysteria of the crowds and how impossible it was to see all the exhibits due to the large number of people jostling for position.

"All rush, push, tear, shout, make plenty noise, say damn great many times, get very tired and go home," recalled Frank Makoto, the Japanese Commissioner.

Mark Twain also commented, "I became satisfied that it would take me two, or possibly three days to examine such an array of articles with anything like just care and deliberation."⁸

In June, Adelbert Ames, one of the men targeted by the James-Younger Gang when they attempted to rob the Northfield Bank, visited the Exposition⁹ and at some time during the festivities he no doubt celebrated the success of the flour produced by the Ames Mill, which "pioneered new milling procedures" and was awarded the Exposition's highest rating.¹⁰

On 7 September, the day of the Northfield Bank robbery, George M. Phillips, cashier of the First National Bank at Northfield, was among the crowds who openly opined that Benjamin Butler, another target during the ill-fated Northfield Raid, was perhaps the only man

Continued on page 10

JAMES REUNION continued from page 1

“It was a joy to work on this project,” said Meyers.

I met Tony several years ago during a reunion bus tour that took us to the Frank James Bank Museum in Missouri City, where he was portraying Frank James for the day. It’s amazing how easy it is to talk history with, well ... history buffs!

The two men are a plethora of information about local history, and their love for Clay County history is second to none.

Incidentally, the book has thus far brought in \$3,000 in revenue for the Clay County Archives.

Saturday brought pouring rain the first half of the day, but that didn’t stop our series of presentations, designated for inside the museum’s theater. A large group filled the theater and appeared to enjoy each subject presented.

Former board president **Christie Kennard** and current board member **Scott Cole** opened a discussion about the Rev. James letters. Christie had written a paper several years ago, describing the conversion of Waltus Watkins (of Watkins Woolen Mill) by Rev. Robert James, some of which she read to the group.

Interestingly, the paper also disclosed the antics and misbehavior of young Jesse and Frank during church services, while their mother sat in a pew blissfully ignoring them, much to the disapproval of fellow parishioners.

It seems Jesse and Frank were typical young boys – energetic and curious – and unable to sit still. Zerelda’s habit of ignoring her children’s lack of manners was more indicative of the way she would raise them without the influence of Rev. James.

Scott introduced a few lines from some of Rev. James’ letters – beginning with the earliest love letter to Zerelda, written a few months before they married in late 1841 – to the letters he wrote while headed to California in 1850, just before he died.

The big question of the day was, “Why did Rev. James leave Missouri? Why did



LEFT: Christie Kennard reads a paper describing the conversion of Waltus Watkins by Rev. Robert James. BELOW: Antique gun expert Bryan Ivlow and some of the 1800s era rifles he brought to the FOJF reunion. (Photos by Liz Johnson)

he leave his young wife with three young children?

Needless to say, the discussion was lively with no shortage of opinions and theories.

Our second presentation was board member and treasurer **Bryan Ivlow**. Bryan, an antique gun expert, spent the better part of an hour showing us an assortment of guns,

as well as the paraphernalia required back in the 1800s in which to carry gunpowder, bullets, etc.

Our last presenter was **Kevin Makel**, also a board member and certified gun expert. His presentation covered the early 1900s gangster era, and how gangsters such as Bonnie and Clyde, Bugsy Siegel, Pretty Boy Floyd, Al Capone and John Dillinger were influenced by the James Gang’s outlaw days.

Makel also had a number of vintage firearms to show the crowd.

Next on the agenda was an afternoon off, in which the weather cooperated by bringing soft breezes and sunlight for all to enjoy before reassembling at **Mid-Continent Public Library’s Woodneath (MCPL)** location in Liberty/



North Kansas City at 4:30.

MCPL sponsored the evening with an air-conditioned room for us to dine in, suitable for Dan Pence’s Power Point presentation on the migration of locals to the gold rush in California – during Rev. James’ trip west.

Guests were treated to an informative tour of the historic Woodneath house, as well as the availability of a knowledgeable staff member from the **Midwest Genealogy Center**.

After a delicious catered meal, and a short board meeting, Scott Cole presented Tony Meyers and Keith Nelson with their awards.

At last it was time for **Dan Pence’s**

Continued on page 8

JAMES REUNION continued from page 7

eagerly awaited presentation, “The Argonauts of Clay and Clinton counties.”

The migration of the 1850s is considered the greatest in American history, in which over 250,000 migrated to California.

The migration was difficult and Pence took his captive audience through each and every step, describing the 1850s terrain, the weather, the lack of food for humans and animal, and the accompanying sickness.

A missive arrived after Rev. James and the local group departed, missing them by just a few days, describing the devastating illness and death occurring, the lack of grass for mules and oxen and poor weather conditions.

Had the missive reached Kansas City prior to Rev. James’ departure, one can only imagine him staying behind – thus the great question arises, “would Rev. James’ remaining behind have changed the outcome of Jesse and Frank’s lives?”

Rev. James, in his first letter after the April 1850 departure stated, “We passed 50 or 60 teams.” One team equals one wagon, about four to six men and about eight mules. That meant they passed from 300 to 360 men; about 60 wagons being pulled by a total of approximately 480 mules.

Considering the scope of the trip, it sure wasn’t quiet on that trail.

Many died during this trip as Rev. James mentions in his last letter to Zerelda. Rev. James said that many died from mountain fever, as the disease was known at the time.

Not knowing what mountain fever was, I did some research, and, according to an article, “Doctors and Diseases on the Oregon Trail,” the fever could have been several things – most popularly – cholera. Typhoid fever could have been the culprit as well.

“June 3 Passed through St. Joseph on the Missouri River. Laid in our flour, cheese, crackers and medicine, for no one should travel this road without medicine, for they are almost sure to have

“I pray God that you may read your bible, live as christian & train up your children in the faith of duty. So if we never meet in this world that we may meet in heaven.” (Rev. James’ Fort Carney letter, April 14, 1850 – an eerie reference to the possibility he might not make it home.)

the summer complaint. Each family should have a box of physicing [sic] pills, a quart of castor oil, a quart of the best rum and a large vial of peppermint essence.” – Elizabeth Dixon Smith.

The following, found in the same article, may accurately describe just what happened to the emigrants on the westward trip to California, including our own Rev. Robert James:

“The most dangerous period of the emigration was the early 1850s, when cholera broke out in the jumping-off towns along the Missouri River. The emigrants and Gold Rushers headed for Oregon and California picked up the disease while outfitting for the journey and carried it west along the Platte and North Platte Rivers. The cholera epidemic on the Trail certainly killed hundreds and may have killed as many as a few thousand overlanders, but it was rarely mentioned in the emigrants’ diaries and journals once they passed Fort Laramie. No one knows if the epidemic simply ran its course and burned out at about the same time every year or if some environmental factor stopped it once the wagon trains were past a certain point on the Trail.”

Rev. James used the term “mountain fever,” however the above-mentioned article really didn’t have an answer for it, so we may never truly know what it was. He did describe many of his fellow travelers as suffering from diarrhea and fever – also symptoms of cholera and typhoid.

“Mountain fever was not described well enough to pin down exactly what it was. Some speculate that it was typhoid fever, while others believe that it was an insect-borne disease such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever.” (“Doctors and Disease on the Oregon Trail.”)

Rev. James’s last letter ended abruptly as the last page is missing, lost somewhere over the past 164 years. No doubt he end-

ed it with his usual closing.

“Zerelda I must close by saying to you train up your children in the nurture & admonition of the Lord & live a Christian [life] your self. Give my love to all inquiring friends & take a portion of it to your self & kiss Jesse for me & tell Franklin to be a good boy & learn fast. I must close by saying live prayerful & ask God to help you to train your children in the path of duty.” (Fort Carney letter, April 14, 1850)

Whether Rev. James knew deep down he would not survive the trip, or never planned on returning – a prospect that doesn’t sound like the responsible, Christian minister that was Rev. James – we’ll never know.

He apparently knew Zerelda was lackadaisical in teaching her boys manners and supplying them with a Christian education – previously that fell to Rev. James himself.

In his letter of May 1, 1850, Rev. James states he expects to be gone 12 to 18 months.

Nevertheless, another eerie prediction sets the true tone in this next to last letter the reverend would ever write, “I pray God that you may read your bible, live as christian & train up your children in the faith of duty. So if we never meet in this world that we may meet in heaven.”

Dan’s presentation was insightful and thought-provoking. To imagine life at that time, the risks of traveling and the spunk required to leave all whom you love and cherish to explore a land far away speaks volumes about those who made the trips west.

Thank you Dan!

I leave our readers with their own thoughts, theories and ideas on what may have been the motivation for Rev. James to make the trip to California. To have left a young wife behind to manage a large farm and three young children.

Please feel free to contribute your thoughts and theories to me at: jollyhill@gmail.com, that they might be published in a future edition of The Journal.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 2

local history, taken numerous tours of the farmhouse over and over – you always learn something new – and continued to write.

I took over the design and editing of the newsletter in the spring of 2013 because that's what I do for a living. One thing has led to another and now we have a very successful Facebook page (Friends of the James Farm) that collects new participants on a daily basis.

We've joined the world of 21st century technology and I expect we will continue to grow. I hope to help lead my fellow board members into new and exciting reunions the next two years, additional fundraisers and events.

Earlier this year, at the urging of board member Monte Griffey (descendant of Fannie Samuel Hall), we established a scholarship fund and awarded our first \$1,000 gift to Kearney High School graduate Cody Evans – who plans on studying history this fall.

The James Farm is not just a local historic site commemorating bushwhackers and outlaws, it also offers a deep, historical representation of Clay County pioneer history. The house is one of, if not the oldest structures in Clay County.

Zerelda came here with Robert James as a very young newlywed and suffered greatly in the ensuing years. She and Reuben Samuel endured many hardships during and after the Civil War just as thousands of others did here in the divided state of Missouri. Zerelda, a great example of a



Cody Evans, left, is pictured with Friends of the James Farm Board Member Liz Johnson, at Kearney High School, Tuesday, May 13. Cody won the first FOJF scholarship award for his essay on local history. The award was a \$1,000 scholarship and will help Cody with expenses as he enters Maple Woods Metropolitan Community College in the fall. Of course, he is studying history!

hard-working, tenacious pioneer woman, buried more than one of her children, and still persevered.

Visitors to the farm each year travel through Kearney, stay at the motels, buy gas and food and enjoy the amenities in the town. People come from all over the world to visit the farm, providing along the way – a source of income for the small town of Kearney, Missouri.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. What would you like to see at the next reunion? What speakers would grab your interest? Do you know a piece of local history you'd like to share in our next newsletter? What events would you like to see throughout the year?

*Please feel free to contact me at:
jollyhill@gmail.com or call me at
816-309-7179.*

LINKS

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

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

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Albany:

<http://battleofalbany-raycountymmo.angelfire.com/>

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

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LINKS

EXPOSITION continued from page 6

who was making any money from the Centennial Exposition being as he was responsible for supplying the lengths of bunting that adorned every structure.¹¹ The governor of Minnesota was at the Exposition when he heard that the Youngers had been captured at Hanska's Slough.¹²

Still suffering from the gunshot wound he had received in May 1865, Jesse had been "recommended to consult the celebrated confederate surgeon, Dr. Paul Eve," in 1867. He went to Nashville, Tennessee, in June, "and remained under [Eve's] care for three weeks. He told me that my lung was so badly decayed that I was bound to die, and that the best thing I could do was to go home and die among my own people."¹³

As Centennial Representative to the Medical Congress of Nations, Dr. Paul Fitzsimmons Eve "was given the honor of delivering an address at the Centennial on the subject of Surgery."¹⁴

A fascinating individual, Dr. Eve had spent time in Europe and had taken part in both the 1828 July Revolution in France and a subsequent uprising in

Poland as a surgeon. He volunteered for service during the Mexican War and was appointed Surgeon General for the Provisional Army of Tennessee during the American Civil War. He became world renowned for his ground breaking procedures, his breadth of knowledge, his teaching capabilities, and his remarkably low mortality rates. Believed to have performed the first recorded hysterectomy in the United States, he was perhaps best known for performing lithotomies, leading 238 such operations during his lifetime, with a mortality rate of just 8 percent. Dr. Eve edited the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal* and the *Nashville Medical and Surgical Journal*. He published in total nearly 600 articles in book form, pamphlets or in medical journals and is commemorated in both his home town of Augusta, Georgia, and in Poland.¹⁵

By the time the Centennial Exposition had closed on 10 November 1876, nearly 10 million visitors had passed through, approximately 20 percent of the population at the time, each paying an entry fee of 50 cents.¹⁶ Makes you wonder why no one thought to rob them gates!

Notes and sources

1. expomuseum.com/1876; libwww.library.phila.gov/cencol.
2. Seeing, or rather hearing, the Corliss steam engine started up every morning was a favourite of visitors and those wishing to experience the event would rush there after getting through the gates, libwww.library.phila.gov/cencol.
3. statueofliberty.org.
4. *Liberty Tribune* March 14, 1884.
5. Ted P. Yeatman, *Frank and Jesse James – The Story Behind the Legend*, Cumberland House, 2001, pp129-131.
6. Yeatman, op. cit., p162.
7. Yeatman, op. cit., p163.
8. *Harper's Weekly*, 15 July, 1876; libwww.library.phila.gov/cencol.
9. T. J. Stiles, *Jesse James; The Last Rebel of the Civil War*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2002, p321.
10. John J. Koblas, *Faithful Unto Death; The James-Younger Gang Raid on the First National Bank*, Northfield Historical Society Press, 2001, p57.
11. Koblas, op. cit. p183; Yeatman, op. cit. p164, 172.
12. Mark Gardener, *Shot all To Hell: Jesse James, The Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape*, William Morrow Publishers, 2013, p173.
13. *A Terrible Quintette* (article), Special for the *St. Louis Dispatch*, 22 November 1873.
14. Memoir of Mrs Emma Eve Smith c. 1878, copied by Mary E. Miller Eve, 1907, transcribed by Patricia E. Kruger, 1994. The International Medical Congress was held on 4 September, libwww.library.phila.gov/cencol.
15. Michelle Pollard, *Dr. Paul Fitzsimmons Eve, Physician and Adventurer* (article), English Westerners' Society Tally Sheet, Volume 60, Number 3, Summer 2014; Paul F. Eve, M.D., *A Collection of Remarkable Cases In Surgery*, J.B. Lippincott and Co, Philadelphia, 1857, pp v-vi.
16. libwww.library.phila.gov/cencol.

GUERRILLA SHIRTS continued from page 3

Missouri's Confederate guerrillas were such a terror to Union troops because they could hit fast, hard and unexpectedly. They knew the territory; the Federals didn't. They (usually) had the support of the southern-siding local citizenry, who would willingly act as their eyes and ears. They weren't bound by a strict system of military command, and their mounts and arms were as close as the local Federal garrison. But as much as anything else, they had that Scots-Irish genetic memory; they were the not-so-distant descendants of a people who'd come to this country from homelands that had known 700 years of continuous warfare. Those people didn't necessarily look for a fight, but they wouldn't run from one, either. Sounds a lot like their descendants in Civil War Missouri, doesn't it?

IN MEMORIAM

Marvin "Butch" Leslie, passed away on June 14. Butch started, and ran the Friends of the James Farm's website for years. He received the John Newman Edwards Award in 2002 for his dedication to history, and the James farm.

"Butch was one heck of a nice guy and he ran the old website for years as a volunteer," said board member Kevin Makel.

Leslie also hosted and moderated the Jesse James Discussion Board, which is linked to the FOJF's website.

Michelle Pollard praised Leslie's kindness, "We got talking through the forum

and he gave me a guided tour of New Hope cemetery during one of my visits. He never stood for any misbehaving on the forum," she added.

"Butch was always very protective of our image," said Scott Cole, "he handled the moderator duties with a lot of tact and class."

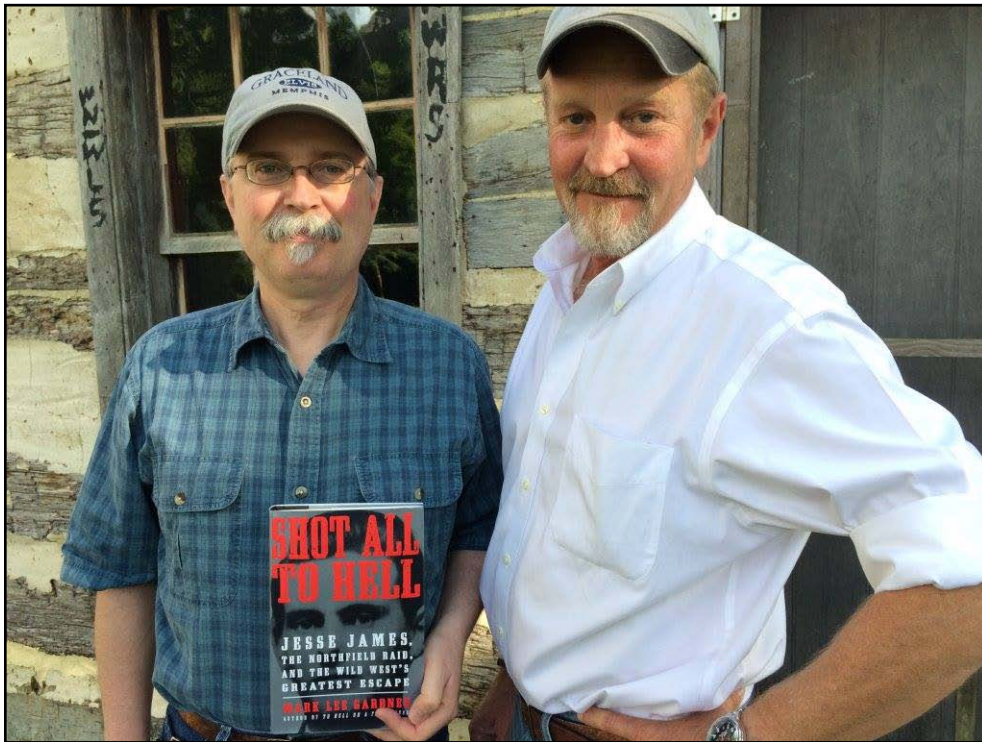
For anyone who would like to send condolences to his family, here is their address:

Charlene Leslie
6630 SE Horseshoe Drive
Holt, Mo. 64048

Memorials may be made to NHBC Benevolence Fund and the Fellowship of the Performing Arts, and sent to Mrs. Leslie at the above address.



Marvin Leslie and his wife Charlene.



Once again, Jesse & Frank may hit the big screen

Tuesday, July 15, Mark Gardner, author of “Shot All to Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West’s Greatest Escape,” met with screenwriter/producer Erik Jendresen (of Band of Brothers fame) at the James Farm. Jendresen has adapted Gardner’s book to a screenplay and hopes to turn it into a movie. Jendresen stopped by the farm as he was headed to the east coast to begin filming “Ithaca” with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. (Photo courtesy of the James Farm)

IT PAYS TO LOOK FOR ARTIFACTS

Out for a walk around the property one weekend day with her Mom, Jesse James Farm’s Director Beth Beckett’s daughter spotted this Win-

chester bullet casing out at Frank James’s old property.

Frank and Annie had a small cabin near the front driveway in the grove of trees.

Makes you wonder just how old this bullet is and who shot it.



On Thursday, May 14, Bryan Ivlow and Kevin Makel participated in the filming of “Millionaire Made Here,” at the Jesse James Bank Museum, as well as at the James farm for Nutopia Productions, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Channel.

After filming in Liberty, they went to the farm and test-fired an 1847 Colt Walker, the Colt 1851 Navy, the Colt 1873 Peacemaker, the Colt Model 1911 and the Thompson Carbine (for another project). Makel fired the guns, while Ivlow provided the infamous Bob Ford targets.

“I used my Colt Walker, which was a present from Cindy a few years ago, and my grandfather’s Colt M1911, which he carried in the trenches in WWI. He had this pistol on his person when grazed by an enemy bullet during combat in 1918,” said Makel. “I’m pleased to report I was able to place seven shots, rapid fire, into Bob Ford’s face at 10 yards with the M1911,” he added.

It was a bad day for the dirty little coward who shot Mr. Howard.

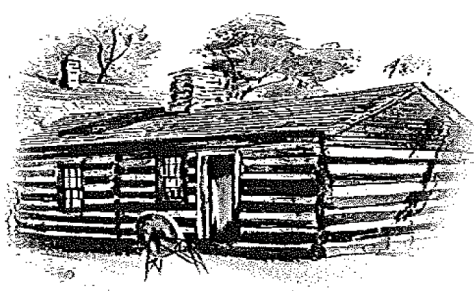
A STAR IS BORN



Board member Kevin Makel, in gangster period garb, shoots at the target with Bob Ford’s face on it, while being filmed for “Millionaire Made Here” for the Smithsonian Channel. (Submitted photo)

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

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Mailing Address: _____

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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:

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- 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.