



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In December we had a great Christmas party at Vivie Tison's beautiful home near the James farm. Everyone there had a great time and some wonderful food. This has been our only official gathering recently as the uncertainty of winter weather has rendered a physical board meeting difficult. Still we but have been carrying on business by email.

We continue in our attempt to get Marty McGrane's book moving again, we are getting our website updated and we have set dates for the 2019 shoots.

Beth Beckett received a call from Mack Porter, who read Michelle Pollard's article on the .38 cal. bullet found in Jesse's grave and wanted to tell his thoughts on it. I talked to him. He is an influential person in the Kearney area who has had contacts with some very important people countrywide. He owns the local lumber yard and hardware store and has built the local golf courses. He was present in 1978 when the site at the farm, where Jesse had been buried before he was moved to Kearney, was excavated. He said they found the original site by dousing with two L shaped steel rods that were held by the short ends with the long ends pointing to the front in parallel as you walk over the ground. When you cross disturbed ground (or underground water) the long ends cross. The rods crossed and they found the grave on the first try. He said that the first time they dug up Jesse the coffin was in excellent shape except the blacksmith-made nails had rusted out and Jesse's bones fell out when the bottom dropped down as they lifted it out. He said they put Jesse's bones in a child's coffin and reburied him in Kearney, which we have found no evidence to support. Many years later when they dug up his original grave at the farm they found bone pieces, tufts of hair and the .38 cal. bullet. Mr Porter believes that Jesse was killed with that .38 cal. bullet and it came from his pieces of broken skull. He correctly said that the first model .38 S&W single action looked like the .44 S&W Russian and was called the Baby Russian – Bob Ford later said he shot Jesse with a .44 cal. S&W. However, Bob first told a Kansas City newspaper that he shot Jesse with a .45 cal. Colt and although a .38 and .44 S&W may look similar, the bullets do not. Approximately 25,548 S&W .38s were made before the Northfield raid and 89,228 were made before Jesse was assassinated. We can look up the relevant data and can make some very good guesses as to what the evidence shows but absolute certainty is lost to time.



BY BRYAN IVLOW

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FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON

The Jesse James Birthplace, 9 November 2018.



The Friends of the James Farm

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21216 Jesse James Farm Road
Kearney, Missouri
64060

THE SHIELDS IMAGE REVISITED

The large image of Jesse James, on display in the parlor of the Jesse James Birthplace, was the subject of an article that appeared in the Summer 2018 edition of the Journal. During that research, an intriguing possibility emerged – that the impressive image may not have always been at the James Farm but instead had, at some time, adorned the home of Zee, Jesse’s widow.



BY MICHELLE POLLARD

It was while looking at a pair of visitor photographs taken during the late 1890s that it was noticed how they captured two very contrasting backgrounds. Were these two different rooms or two different homes?



Although the image has traditionally always been cited as being at the James Farm, there are reports that challenge that. The Kansas City Star, for example, in a report printed on 27 September 1896, stated that -

A representative of Davis and Keogh visited the James home on Tracy Avenue one evening. Jesse [Jnr] opened the door and invited the stranger into the parlor, a small room barely furnished. A Brussels carpet, somewhat faded, covered the floor, the Lord’s Prayer, embroidered and framed, hung over the door, in one corner, resting on an easel, was a large crayon portrait of Jesse James.

The report failed to describe the image found in the parlor of Zee’s home in Kansas City but further investigation offers another interesting detail - Zee did not have just one large image of her husband. “Lace curtains, neatly starched and ironed and tied back with ribbons, covered the windows,” the Star report continued, “and on the west wall was a large portrait of the bandit Jesse when he was 16 years old, or about the time he joined Quantrell [sic].”

These images were by no means cheap as they required a skilled hand to create them but ads like this one, offering a free crayon enlargement with a full paying order, demonstrate the deals available at the time.





The portrait of Jesse James Sr. in his widow's home, showing ribbons left by visitors as tokens of remembrance.

"The portrait of Jesse James Sr. in his widow's home showing ribbons left by visitors as tokens of remembrance."
St Louis Dispatch,
16 October 1898.

While newspapers such as the St Joseph Gazette (14 November 1900) covering the passing of Zee were remembering how "a crayon portrait of her husband stood in her parlor," others were recording the image as being at the James Farm in Kearney. In 1897, Howard E. Huselton, presented an album of photographs to Mrs. Samuel. One of those photographs showed the Shields image of Jesse, resting on it's easel. That same year, 1897, a report stated that, "In the parlor of the home of Mrs. Samuels [sic] is a large picture of Jesse James at the age of 22. It stands on an easel in the corner. Just beneath it is a cane from which hangs 160 [?] loving ribbons sent Mrs. Samuels by people who had visited her." A year later, in 1898, and within days of each other, two newspapers included sketches of the image with their contrasting backgrounds, and each gave a different location.

It was reported in the Summer Journal that the image was made between 1886 and 1891. Did the James women order two of these images, taking full advantage of an offer in a local newspaper? And if so, do the two photographs show the image, with it's contrasting backgrounds, in two different



"Jesse James, the bandit, at age 22. This picture stands on an easel in the home of the bandit's mother. The ribbons are tokens of remembrance left by visitors. Each ribbon bears the name of the giver."
Chicago Tribune,
28 October 1898.

locations with reports supporting the idea that they were at each of those locations at the same time? Or, is there just one image, noted by representatives of Davis and Keogh in Kansas City in 1896, and then photographed in Kearney by H. E. Huselton in 1897? Did later reports merely assume the image was still in place in Kansas City when it had in fact moved? Or was the image always at the James Farm and the reporters were mistaken, confusing Mrs. James for Mrs. Samuel? This seems unlikely as the houses were very different and the women, more so. Perhaps Zee never had an image at all? Or maybe she did and that image, undescribed by the reporters who saw it, is still out there somewhere?

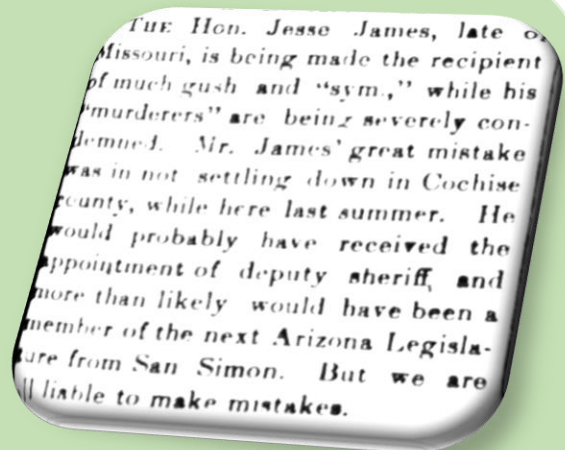
We may never know.

With thanks, as always, to Gay Mathis.



The 2018 James-Younger Gang Conference was held, 4-6 October, in Tombstone, Arizona. Visitors were treated to a full itinerary which included tours of Tombstone and a re-enactment of the famous gunfight. Guest speakers also offered talks on Captain John M. Jarrett, Frank James in Oklahoma and Sam Wells aka Charlie Pitts.

The 2019 Conference looks like it will be based in Independence, Missouri. More details will follow.



Tombstone Epitaph, April 1882.
With thanks to Don Taylor.

MRS. JESSE JAMES: LIFE AFTER JESSE



ROBERT J. WYBROW

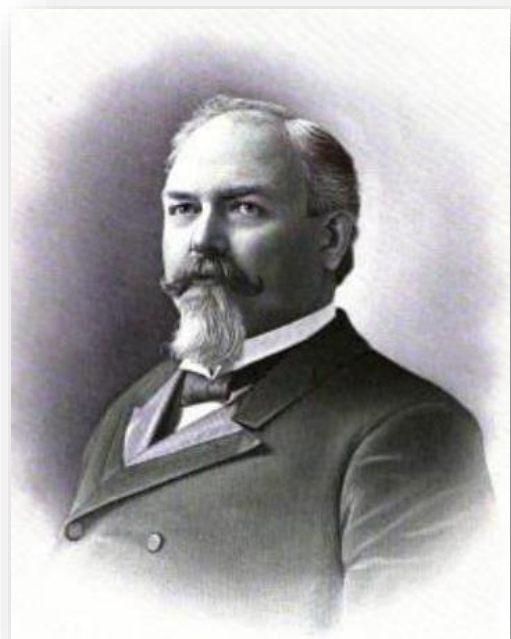
Unlike her outlaw husband and her ebullient, talkative mother-in-law, Zerelda Mimms James tried to avoid any sort of interview, with items on her in the Missouri newspapers in the years after Jesse's assassination until her own death eighteen years later, numbering into the thousands; yet this writer has so far not found anything she actually said. No doubt Zerelda's reluctance to talk to any of the newspapers was very much to do with protecting her young son, Jesse Edwards James, from his father's criminal reputation. *The St. Louis Republic* said of her on her death, "She was a remarkably quiet woman, not given to talk or gossip."¹

She was born Zerelda Amanda Mimms on July 21, 1845, and at 36 years of age was still a relatively young woman when she was widowed on April 3, 1882. She was only 55 when she died. Jesse Junior was just six when his father was killed, being born August 31, 1875 in Nashville, Tennessee, and 25 when his mother passed away. 'Zee' as she was known, married Jesse on April 24, 1874.²

In early April 1882, Zee was described as giving "evidence of having been reared amidst some refinement. She is rather slender, fair of face, light hair, blue eyes, high forehead and all the marks of intelligence."³ In spite of this glowing testimony to Zee's appearance, her physician, Dr. Redding, said she had "been in very delicate health for some time" and she was suffering from nervous prostration.⁴ The following day, a version of the same newspaper, talking about the effect of Jesse's murder on her, said, "Her courage and her physical strength forsook her at the same moment, and she felt there was nothing that she could do but weep."⁵

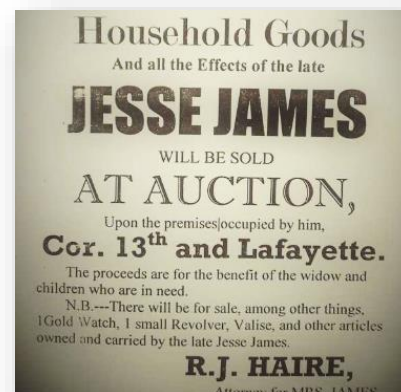
Obviously Zee spoke, indirectly, to the press when giving her testimony at the inquest into Jesse's death.⁶ Around a week later, she was travelling with her attorney, R. J. Haire, who she instructed to recover some of the effects taken from her home following Jesse's death. So writing on her behalf, Haire wrote to Marshal Craig or Deputy Marshal Finley asking either of them to deliver the following articles: "One set three pearl and jet shirt studs; one gold collar button; one heavy plain gold ring, marked 'Jessie' [sic]; one pair jet and gold ear pendants; one jet and gold breastpin; one pair jet and gold sleeve buttons; one book entitled "Noted Guerrillas," by Edwards; three half cases ambrotypes and pictures; two small double case ambrotypes, two in one; one small open case ambrotype; one leather bound ambrotype, containing one picture; one double case ambrotype, containing one picture; one small round case ambrotype, containing one picture; and one photograph album, containing fifteen pictures."⁷ Haire also superintended the auction of Jesse's effects, Zee preferring not to attend. In spite of "an immense crowd" turning up for the auction, it raised only \$117.65.⁸

A short while later, Zee told a *Times* reporter, "She would not submit to an interview, asserting that she was nearly worn out and wished to have time to rest and collect her thoughts. She had undergone a great strain,



Colonel Robert J. Haire

The Democratic Party of the State of New York - A History of the Origin. Martin Willie Littleton, 1905.



The auction of Jesse's effects was held on Monday 10 April 1882.

which has told upon her and shattered her nerves, and she is much in need of rest and quietness.”⁹

On 19 April, it was announced in Kansas City that Zee had “submitted to an interview for the first time since her departure from St. Joe [Joseph].” The ‘interview’ took up close to two columns in *The Macon Republican*, beginning with Jesse’s courtship of Zee; and mentioning the Pinkerton raid; their marriage; the Hot Springs and Gad’s Hill robberies; a honeymoon in Texas, paid for by loot from the Gad’s Hill affair; travels around the country; the Glendale, Winston and Northfield robberies; their move to Nashville; the Blue Cut robbery; living in Kansas City and finally St. Joseph.¹⁰ But Zee was immediately claiming “that the pretended interview with her sent from this city [Kansas City] and published in the *Globe-Democrat* was not founded on any statement made by her.”¹¹ In a brief interview with a reporter from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Zee dispelled any doubts about the so-called ‘interview’. Asked if she had anything further to say before the interview was ended, she answered: “Yes, I want you to publicly deny the alleged interview published in this morning’s *Globe-Democrat* as occurring between Mr. J. W. Buell [sic] and myself. It is untrue in every particular, and I want it denied in toto. No such interview ever took place.” Buell, of course, was the author of *The Border Outlaws* and, like many reporters today, the story was ‘the thing,’ regardless of its accuracy. The sentimental style of the ‘interview’ with Zerelda was typical of many contemporary writers, replete with florid statements; and the relationship between Jesse and Zee gave an easy target for such a style.

The ‘real’ interview she had with the reporter from St. Louis newspaper consisted of five questions:

“Is Mary the only one of your children who accompanies you?” “Yes, I left Jesse at home, and only brought Mary because she was too little to remain away from her mother.”

“Has your visit here any particular significance?” “I am simply attending to my own private affairs. My special business is to make some arrangements concerning *the publication of an authentic history of my husband’s life.*” [Author’s italics.]

“May I ask if your domestic life was always happy?” “It was, and particularly so when Jesse was with me. He was a devoted husband and father, and it can never be truthfully said of him that he ever for a moment neglected his family. While at home he generally assisted me in my household duties and left nothing undone to save me any labor.”

“Could you tell me something of your own history?” “If you will excuse me to-day from any further conversation, I shall be much obliged. I was on the train all night and scarcely closed my eyes, so that I am now suffering from a severe nervous headache and would like to terminate the interview. Besides, I have some matters of business that need my attention.”

The report ended with, “Mrs. James is undoubtedly much broken in health and spirits, and gives evidence of the great sorrows that have crowned and crowded her life.”¹² The same newspaper the following day, in a relatively short piece, mentioned that Zerelda had gone to “the Chambers Publishing House, where she was engaged during the day in inspecting the proof sheets of her forthcoming book.”¹³

But within a few months she was to make probably the worst decision in her life, apart possibly from accepting Jesse’s proposal of marriage and spending some of her life as an outlaw’s wife: In June she set off on an ill-fated lecture tour with a “Dr. George Riches of Kansas”, appearing at the Merchants’ Exchange Hall in Kansas City and later in St. Louis, Holden and Sedalia. However, it was Riches who actually gave the lectures on Jesse, while Zerelda and her children “sat on the stage and sobbed convulsively while the Kansas educator assaulted the English language and eulogized the deceased thief.”¹⁴ Another account of the lecture was that it was “too stale for criticism” and that “the author ought to be hooted out of every town in which he has the cheek to appear.”¹⁵ By mid-June the *Liberty Tribune* was writing, “*The Globe-Democrat* says Mrs. Jesse James has abandoned her lecture tour after three unsuccessful efforts as regards audiences.”¹⁶ At the same time, another newspaper asked, “The people did not appreciate her, and why should they? What claim has she on the people of this country? She sets herself up as an injured party and asks for sympathy and the money of the public. Instead of being ashamed to show her head in public she wants to be paraded and toasted.”¹⁷ In November 1883 she had to deny “that she recently appeared in a museum as one of the curiosities.”¹⁸

Jesse had only been dead less than a month before Zerelda became embroiled in a case over Frank Triplett’s book, *The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James*, published within just seven weeks of Jesse’s assassination. In this volume was an “authority to publish”, dated April 7, accompanied by facsimile signatures of both Mrs Samuel and Zerelda James, saying that the book was “the only correct and authorized edition of his life”. The publishers stated that the two women were to receive a royalty on each copy of the book sold, having supplied details of Jesse’s life by “dictation”. In addition, Zerelda had written to the

publishers, J. H. Chambers & Co., that she had not given interviews to any newspapers and that she did not intend to do so.¹⁹

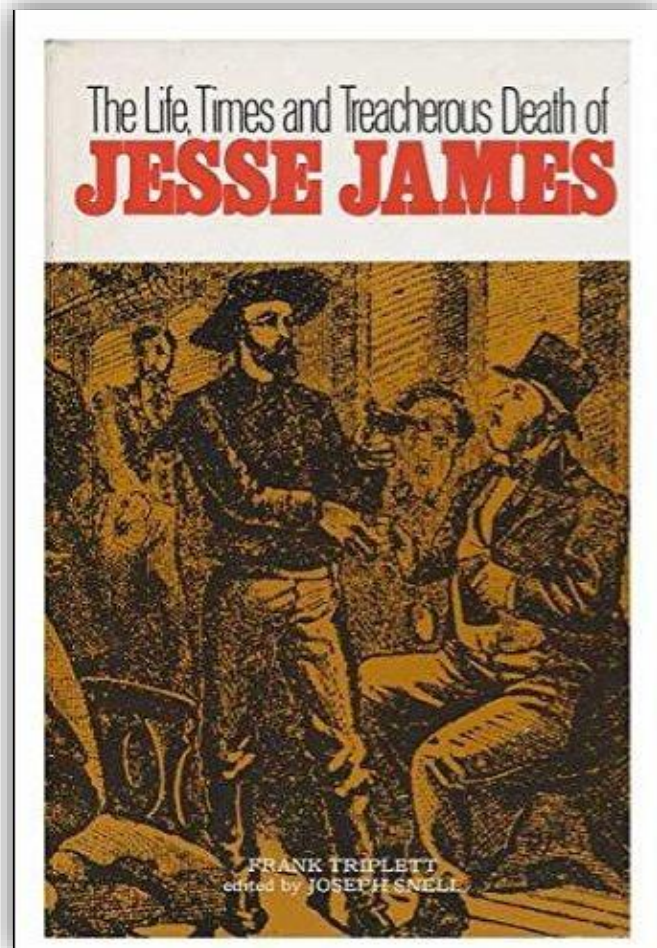
On May 3 the publishers repeated what had been written earlier by the mother and wife of Jesse: “Many interviews with Mrs. James have been denounced by Mrs. James as base forgeries” and gave details of the \$50 advance on the royalty for the book “which they are preparing for publication at our dictation.”²⁰ The following day the newspaper printed a letter, dated May 3, from Zerelda, denying the previous day’s story:

To *The St. Joseph Herald*: I have just read in your issue of this morning, a card purporting to be that of J. H. Chambers & Co., of St. Louis, Mo., relating to the forthcoming publication of a book entitled the “Life and Times of Jesse James,” and without repeating the contents of said card which was first published in the *Post-Dispatch* of St. Louis upon the 1st inst, I wish to say, and over my own signature, that the same is false, as false as can be.

I never dictated one word or line of said book. I never furnished to Frank Triplett or any one else a single fact for said book. I never saw the contents of said book, and as a witness to the truth hereof I refer to R. J. Haire, Esq., of Kansas City, who, as my attorney, is cognizant of the facts. I never signed, caused to be signed, or read, the receipt published in said card. I never accepted or received the fifty dollars or any portion thereof, as therein stated. It is false in toto, and I hereby caution the public against the imposition sought to be practiced by J.H. Chambers & Co., and all others claiming to have received from me any statements whatever regarding the life of my late husband.

As a wife mourning the untimely loss of a faithful and loving husband; as a mother praying and seeking for the welfare and happiness of my two infant children; as a woman of enfeebled health, so heartbroken and crushed, beneath the weight of sorrow so recently fallen upon me, as to cause me to expect peace only upon the arrival of the messenger of death, I publicly and most solemnly enter my protest against the systematic and unmanly course taken to enrich an entire stranger, by making it appear that I have no soon forgotten all wifely duty and love, betrayed a mother’s trust, and built upon the ungraced grave of a murdered husband a towering monument of my sins to the lasting shame and disgrace of my beloved children. May God forbid, and all good men, true wives and loving mothers, lend no aid to such foul conspiracy is (in sorrow and sadness) the prayer of

Mrs. Jesse W. James,
ST. JOSEPH, Mo., May 3, 1882.



Right: Mrs Jesse James. After her husband’s death, Zee “always dressed in black and when she went upon the street it was with a widow’s veil.” *St Joseph Gazette*, 14 November 1900.

As an attachment to this document was a certification, signed by C. C. Merritt and H. C. Adams, that they had been acquainted with the widow “for some time past.” Just over a week later, there was another ‘card’ published from Zerelda, going over the argument at greater length:

Card from Mrs. Jesse W. James.

Reports having been extensively circulated and published that Mrs. Jesse W. James was preparing or dictating a life of her husband and his brother, Frank James, she takes this method of emphatically denying such reports, and hopes, in justice to herself and her children, that her denial may be given as wide a circulation as the reports referred to. Editors will confer a great favor upon a deeply grieving woman by copying or referring to her statement.

Affidavit.

ST. LOUIS, April 29, 1882.

Many grievous circumstances have transpired during the past month which have placed me in a humiliating attitude before the public, and added largely to my already deeply distressed condition of mind. While suffering from an overwhelming misfortune, ere the body of my husband became cold, insinuating and persistent writers and publishers intruded themselves upon me and, taking advantage of my perturbed and distracted frame of mind, have outraged every honorable feeling by representing me as an instrument of accusation against my cherished husband.

Time and again I have declared in public print that if Jesse James ever perpetrated any crime or crimes, of whatever nature, that I was wholly unconscious of the facts connected therewith; he never spoke to me about any unlawful act of his, and I have not the least knowledge of any wrong doing with which he has been charged. My very soul revolts at the suggestion of lending my name or sanction to any publication of Jesse James’ career, yet I have been represented as dictating such a book, and coming to St. Louis to revise such matter as had already been prepared for the publication. Though I have frequently and publicly declared that I know absolutely nothing concerning any and all crimes charged to the commission of my husband, and that under no circumstances would I lend my name to any publication descriptive of his career, yet I am again required to reassert all that I have previously said, and to also particularize the cause for this repetition. A publisher of St. Louis, named J. H. Chambers, has had circulated broadcast an assertion that he was having prepared by a writer named Frank Triplett, a book on the lives and career of Frank and Jesse James, and that all the matter it would contain would be furnished by me. This statement is absolutely false, as I am not, never have been, and never will – because I cannot – furnish any facts criminating either Frank or Jesse James,

I visited St. Louis on the 28th of April, accompanied by my attorney, Hon. R. J. Haire, of Kansas City, to attend to some private business; while stopping at the Southern Hostel, J. H. Chambers, previously mentioned, intruded himself into my presence (during the absence of my attorney), accompanied by reporters of the several St. Louis daily papers, then by a conscienceless, systematic course of philandering and prompting, created purported interviews with me to the effect that he, Chambers, was preparing a work on Jesse James after my dictation. During the entire day that I was beset by Chambers and reporters, I was fairly distracted with a sick headache, and was otherwise in such a distressed condition of mind as to be almost irresponsible for my words or acts. And these alleged interviews are base fabrications, and represent me directly contrary to the determinations and purposes I have always had.

I therefore repeat, that any identification or connection of my name with any book or newspaper article whatsoever, purporting to record the career of Jesse James, my dead husband, is wholly and entirely without my permission, and I trust that the public will regard me with more becoming charity than to be deceived by any claims connecting my name with any book.

Zerelda’s signature was at the bottom of the statement, witnessed by Mrs. H. W. Smyth, Frederic F. Espenchied, Notary Public, and R. J. Haire. At the bottom of the statement was a warning: “Our readers should bear in mind that the work by Hon. J. A. Dacus is the only authentic one extant.”²¹

Around this time it was rumoured that Frank James had been in Kansas City and had met both Zerelda and her attorney, Haire; presumably to discuss with him the legal situation if he surrendered.²² A week later, the same newspaper claimed that Zerelda and her mother-in-law were spreading a story that Frank had “cut loose from the gang two years ago”, that is he would have had nothing to do with the train robberies in 1881.²³ Like Chambers & Co., *The Sedalia Weekly Bazoo* was not averse to using Zerelda’s name for their own purposes, adding a few lines to a number of their issues: “The Bazoo is one of the papers my husband always desired to see. He is where he can’t read it now. He is not on earth,” and was supposed to have been written by Zerelda.²⁴ Another book publisher joined the queue of slightly disreputable people wanting to make use of the current controversy. Dan Linahan & Co., of St. Louis, put a piece setting out Zerelda’s denial of the

Triplett book and suggested: "In this connection it may not be out of place to suggest that persons desiring to get at the facts of the lives of all the great American highwaymen would do well to examine Col. J. W. Buel's famous "Border Outlaws" which has just been revised and a new edition published from new plates throughout."²⁵

On 2 June, Zerelda, with both her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, and her attorney, visited Governor Crittenden in Jefferson City, it was suggested "to be in regard of the much-talked-of pardon of Frank James."²⁶

Despite her best efforts to create the image of a widow who needed the public's sympathy, one newspaper wrote, "Mrs. Jesse James doesn't seem to be so poorly off in this world's goods as some would give out" and mentioned that she had just signed a contract with a marble firm in Iowa "for a handsome monument to be erected over her husband's grave."²⁷ Missouri, however, produced the monument to adorn the grave of their most infamous son.²⁸

In February of the following year, it was reported: "Frank Triplett, author of the 'Life of Jesse James,' has brought suit against the publisher, Chambers, for his percentage on the sale of 20,000 copies of the works."²⁹

Zee's next 'public appearance' was in May 1883 at Charlie Ford's trial for participation in the Lexington bus robbery, when it was said she was "vigorously pushing the prosecution, and knows enough about the affair perhaps to give the young man some trouble."³⁰ The trial could hardly have gone any better so far as Zerelda was concerned, for poor health and the strain of the court proceedings led to Charlie Ford committing suicide in May 1884.

In December of the same year, it was reported that both Zerelda's – Samuel and James – visited St. Joseph, their visit said to be the first since the events of early April, the year before; and for "private business." It was reported, however, that they met and had lunch with General William R. Penick, owner of a wholesale drug store, and who had issued a parole to Jesse towards the close of the war.³¹

In May 1884, the two ladies were back in St. Joseph to swear depositions regarding their cases with J. H. Chambers, the publisher of Triplett's book. This could possibly have been why they were in the city in the previous December to see their legal representatives, Governor Charles P. Johnson, former Lieutenant-Governor of Missouri, and Frank Merryman. The allegation against Chambers was that some 20,000 copies of the book had been sold but no royalty had been paid to them. His defence was that they had vociferously denounced the book, especially the card published in the *St. Joseph Herald* in May 1882. H. C. Adams of the newspaper could not recall whether Zerelda or Haire had given him the card and that it had been published as a matter of news and not as an advertisement. Although the original manuscript of the card was in the newspaper's files, "he had no authority to mutilate the files."³² It was reported at the same time that Triplett had been awarded £1,100 for his royalty.³³ Further depositions were taken in the following August, again going over the question of Zerelda's card, the publication of which Chambers claimed had been done "to injure the sale of the book, and therefore the plaintiffs are not entitled to any benefits arising therefrom."³⁴ The case was brought to trial in October, the two Zereldas arguing that under the contract with Chambers they should have received 100 copies of the book and five per cent royalty on all books sold up to 15,000 and 10 per cent on all over that number. In contrast they received just \$50 and 20 books.³⁵ Instead of the \$2,000 damages they were claiming, they were awarded less than half that amount, \$900.³⁶

It appears that Zerelda disappeared from Missouri newspapers for almost four years, finally being mentioned as

COWBOY POET OF TEXAS VISITS WITH OL' JESSE!



Red Steagall, cowboy poet, musician and author visited the Jesse James Birthplace recently and filmed for his show, *West of Wallstreet*.

Steagall was named the official cowboy poet of Texas in 1991.

having attended a dining party with her mother-in-law when Frank's wife came up from Texas to visit her parents, the Ralstons.³⁷

Zerelda had her admirers, though one in particular she probably would not have wanted. He was a criminal named Charlie Marston and said to have been "well-known as one of the original Jesse James gang." There is, however, no mention elsewhere of Marston ever being one of the gang; though he did write a letter to Zerelda, the details remaining unknown.³⁸

A decade had passed since Jesse had been killed and when his assassin met his end Zerelda probably took great pleasure in hearing the news, saying "she was glad Bob Ford was dead, as his fate was deserved." The report said of her, "She is a soft-voiced and modest woman whose neighbors think a great deal of her."³⁹

In 1898 Zerelda was dealt a devastating blow when her son Jesse Edwards James, Junior, was arrested for something out of his father's career - train robbing. She said about his arrest, "It is an outrage to arrest that boy. He has always been a good boy, and no mother ever had a better. He is our mainstay, and if they keep him in custody long it will go hard with us." Her daughter interrupted by saying he was at home on the night of the robbery, to which Zerelda replied, "That is true, Mary. I have no fears for the result. They can't prove anything on him and we all know it. But it will be hard on the poor boy. This is something I have dreaded for years." Again Mary interrupted her mother by reminding her that her brother had seen "auntie" to the car. "Yes, I remember," came the response from her mother, "for we were awakened by a man who called himself Charles Johnson and who said he was looking for a party named Dave Saunders... The next day we learned that 'Johnson' was a detective and that the house at the time of his visit was surrounded by detectives."⁴⁰ Giving her testimony at Jesse's trial, Zerelda repeated part of her earlier conversation with her daughter: that she had seen Mrs. Parmer and her children off to Texas at the depot and had returned home, sitting on the porch with Jesse and Zerelda Samuel until about 11 o'clock. Being somewhat deaf, she didn't hear the explosion at the robbery but was positive Jesse had not left the house after she returned, and that both he and his grandmother had heard it.⁴¹ Obviously much to his mother's relief, Jesse was found not guilty.

In January 1900, Jesse got married but his mother could not attend due to illness.⁴² The seriousness of her illness was confirmed in October, when she was to be "suffering from a complication of diseases, and has been confined to her bed for over ten months." Jesse was said to have "been constantly at his mother's bedside since her condition has grown so serious."⁴³ She passed away in Kansas City on 13 November, having been attacked by

News From The Farm



2019 will be another exciting year for the Jesse James Birthplace as the cabin will be undergoing preservation work. The firm began architectural drawings the week before Christmas. Also, the museum store will be updated with new paint and exterior doors.

Thus far, the museum has hosted visitors from all 50 states plus the following countries – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Manila, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.



These new t-shirts arrived just in time for Christmas. Check out the Museum Store for more designs and to order.

the gripe in January. Her body was placed in a receiving vault in Elmwood Cemetery prior to be taken for burial at Mt Olivet; Jesse was exhumed in 1902 and buried next to her there. It was said of her she “would never talk to any one of the days when her husband was an outlaw with a price on his head.”⁴⁴ The cause of death was said to have been “sciatic rheumatism and nervous prostration” and she had lapsed into unconsciousness four days before and never recovered.⁴⁵

Now came the valedictions. She “was a good woman, a woman of modesty and refinement; one who was greatly admired for her amiable qualities ... She was averse to notoriety and could never be induced to talk for publication. Mrs. James will long be remembered as a slave of a boundless love who sacrificed her happiness for her husband.”⁴⁶

Notes and Sources

1. *The St. Louis Republic*, November 14, 1900.
2. Joan M. Beamis & William E. Pullen, *Background of a Bandit*, 1971, p.12.
3. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 6, 1882.
4. *St. Joseph Herald*, April 12, 1882.
5. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, April 13, 1882.
6. *Kansas City Daily Journal*, April 4, 1882.
7. *St. Joseph Herald*, April 12, 1882.
8. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, April 13, 1882.
9. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazaar*, April 18, 1882.
10. *The Macon Republican*, April 27, 1882.
11. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, April 27, 1882.
12. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 28, 1882. Buel’s publisher put out an advertisement in August 1881 stating they had just issued his book and that he “had been engaged during the past three years in collecting and preparing his materials and recently visited the Youngers in the Minnesota penitentiary for the purpose of verifying certain portions of his work.” *La Plata Home Press*, Missouri, August 6, 1881. Buel tried to get Frank James as an informant but failed. Robert J. Wybrow, *Frank James and Two Interested Journalists*, *The English Westerners’ Society’s Tally Sheet*, Vol. 54, No. 2, Spring 2008.
13. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 29, 1882.
14. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 6, 1882.
15. *The Atchison Daily Globe*, Kansas, June 7, 1882 from the *Kansas City Daily Journal*.
16. *Op. Cit*, June 16, 1882.
17. *Mexico Weekly Ledger*, Missouri, June 15, 1882.
18. *Rolla Herald*, Missouri, November 22, 1883.
19. Frank Triplett, *The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James*, The Swallow Press, 1970, with Editorial by Joseph W. Snell of the Kansas State Historical Society.
20. *St. Joseph Herald*, May 3, 1882.
21. *The Windsor Review*, Missouri, May 12, 1882. N. D. Thompson, *Illustrated Lives and Adventures of Frank and Jesse James and the Younger Brothers*, St. Louis, 1881.
22. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazaar*, May 23, 1882.
23. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazaar*, May 30, 1882.
24. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazaar*, June 6, 1882.
25. *The Butler Weekly Times*, Missouri, June 7, 1882.
26. *Weekly Graphic*, Kirksville, Missouri, June 9, 1882.
27. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazaar*, October 10, 1882.
28. *Richmond Democrat*, Missouri, July 10, 1884.

A Piece of History Goes Up For Sale

Back in the day, the Farm adjacent to the James Farm was owned by Daniel Askew. On 12 April 1875, Askew was murdered outside his home following the January bombing of the James Farm. He had allowed undercover agents to stay at his Farm while they spied on the James’.



Possibly the old Askew Farm.
Clay County Historic Sites photo.

On 8 November 2018, what was once the Askew home was sold by Cates Auction and Realty Co. Described as a “pristine 103-acre farm with two homes and multiple outbuildings”, the lot also offered six tracts of land from ten to forty-eight acres. “The new owners will enjoy country living close to town on beautiful acreage with paved roads, rolling meadows, gorgeous views, four ponds, fenced pastures that back to woods, or a winding creek and the James Farm.” Cates Auction President and Broker, Jeff Cates, said, “Rare opportunities to own a piece of history like this don’t come along every day.”

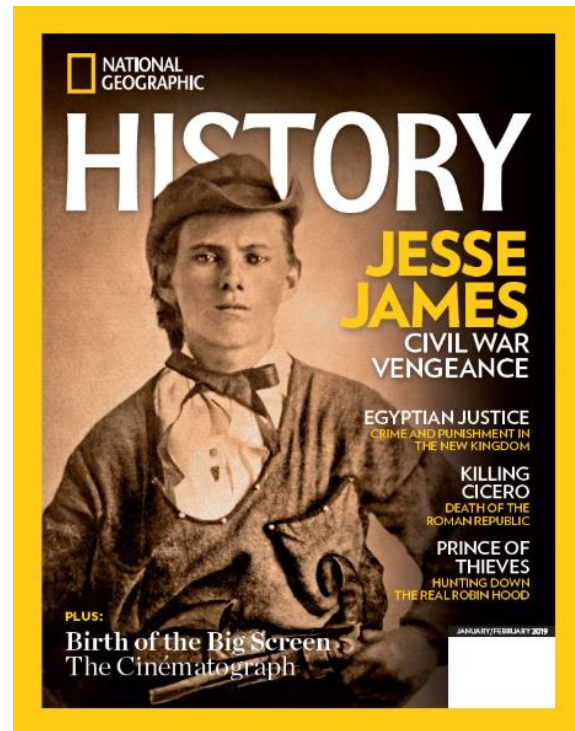
Source: Excelsior Springs Standard,
7 November 2018.

29. *Marion County Herald*, Missouri, February 23, 1883.
30. *Shelbina Democrat*, Missouri, May 16, 1883 from the *Jefferson City Tribune*.
31. *The St. Joseph Weekly Gazette*, December 13, 1883.
32. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, May 25, 1884: *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, May 29, 1884.
33. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, May 29, 1884.
34. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, August 28, 1884.
35. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 14, 1884.
36. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, October 18, 1884.
37. *The Butler Weekly Times*, Missouri, June 6, 1888.
38. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 12, 1889.
39. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazoo*, June 21, 1892.
40. *Kansas City Journal*, October 12, 1898.
41. *Kansas City Journal*, February 28, 1899.
42. *Springfield Leader and Press*, Missouri, January 26, 1900.
43. *The Sedalia Democrat*, October 16, 1900.
44. *St. Louis Republic*, November 14, 1900; *The Daily Morning Journal and Courier*, Conn., November 26, 1900.
45. *The Butler Weekly Times*, Missouri, November 15, 1900.
46. *The Macon Citizen*, Missouri, November 16, 1900.

This article is dedicated to Liz in Scotland for everything.



STILL MAKING THE FRONT PAGE!



There's still time to grab your copy of this month's National Geographic History Magazine, which contains a great article by Mark Lee Gardner.

The 14 page article, titled *Jesse James: Rise of an American Outlaw*, is beautifully illustrated and focuses on what made a Missouri farm boy from a good family become a world famous outlaw.

You will remember Mark Lee Gardner is the author of the highly acclaimed *Shot All To Hell*, available at the Jesse James Birthplace store.

With many thanks to Marie McWhirter

Membership is Due, Folks!

We take this opportunity to remind you that membership fees are due. To continue supporting the Jesse James Birthplace please complete the form on the back of this issue and return to the Friends of the James Farm.

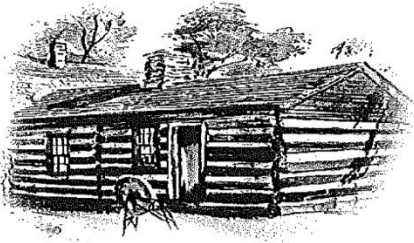
All correspondence to the Friends should be addressed as follows:

**FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM
C/O JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE
21216 JESSE JAMES FARM ROAD
KEARNEY, MISSOURI, 64060**

Thank you to those who have already renewed membership.
We look forward to sharing more news, articles and
Reunion details with you during the coming year.

Friends of the James Farm

c/o Jesse James Birthplace
21216 Jesse James Farm Road
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www.jessejames.org
816.736.8500



James homestead cabin —
Original art by Jim Hamil

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