



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Work is proceeding on the cabin renewal/rebuilding very nicely. One of the things we have wanted to do for some years has been the replacement of the wallpaper in the entrance front room. Beth says that there is a possibility there might be enough money left over to do that.

Our project to make the Frank James horse racing books our gift to the farm this year is ongoing while we await a mutually convenient time to meet the lady who currently owns them. We will provide more details as soon as we can.



BY BRYAN IVLOW

## THE ANNUAL REUNION

**Friday 27 September 2019**

Plans for our combined reunion with The James-Younger Gang are coming along nicely. On Friday, Sept. 27 the James-Younger Gang plan to visit Frank's grave at the Hill family cemetery off 23rd street in Independence. They will also take the Pioneer Trails Wagon tour of Independence. Friends of the James Farm members are welcome to join them at our cost. They also have some activities planned for Saturday morning including a visit to the Steamboat Arabia Museum. For more information contact Dan Pence at [dmpence@msn.com](mailto:dmpence@msn.com)

**Saturday 28 September 2019**

Our program will start Saturday Sept. 28 at 1pm. It will consist of several speakers, as follows...

Kevin Makel and I will each speak about and demonstrate the Robert James handguns we each have.

Former FOTJF President, Christie Kennard, will give a talk about the lives of Frank and Jesse's wives. Her talk is based on a play by Christie, which appeared onstage recently at the Unicorn theater titled, The Secret Lives of The Wives of Frank and Jesse James.

Scott Cole will give a presentation created by Michelle Pollard on James connected activities in Gallatin, Missouri.

Scott may also talk about the history of both his family and his wife's family in Clay county.

After these talks, we will have a short business meeting while the JYG tour the museum. We will then meet across the road at the Claybrook Shelter for our meal, catered by the Mud Hole Barbeque. Bonnie Pooker will provide Harpsichord dinner music. Frank and Cole may even pay us a visit! The Friends will cover the dinner cost for both us and the JYG.

**We hope to see everyone there...**

## The Friends of the James Farm

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



**Friends of the James Farm**  
c/o The Jesse James Birthplace  
21216 Jesse James Farm Road  
Kearney, Missouri, 64060

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Laura Ganschow

I am a Kansas City native and have my degree in fine arts/art history from the Kansas City Art Institute. Although I have been working outside of my field in airline management, and also as a bartender, I am currently saving money to go back for my graduates in art history.

I am married to Jakob and we have a dachshund. We like to travel for art and history exhibits and read books at home. I also love to sketch and have exhibited in Kansas City for my quilting.



### Caleb Pooker



I do not know when I became interested in history, but I know I was young. I have been blessed to grow up less than ten minutes from two historic sites and in the center of a country filled with history. I began volunteering at the Watkins' Mill State Historic Site about the same time my parents chose to begin home schooling me. Because of the freedom that home schooling allowed, I was further able to develop my interest in history, and in music as well. Learning guitar and banjo, I found that I greatly

enjoyed older music; from bluegrass, to gospel, to Civil War era.

Upon graduating high school, I decided to facilitate my education and appreciation of history by attending Park University to major in criminal justice and minor in history. Though I had intended to pursue a career in law enforcement, I have found my history education to be more applicable since I graduated. Since graduating, I became more involved with my local church through becoming the tech team lead, and am now working for a small landscaping outfit in Liberty, MO. More recently, I was asked to assist with the Frontier Revolver Shoots, which then lead to my being asked to take part in the Friends of the James Farm as a board member.

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# FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM SHOOT

## 15 June 2019

The night of June 14/15 it rained north of the James Farm nearly all night. South of the farm it sprinkled on and off. Registration was from 8:00 to 9:00 and it sprinkled until about 8:30 and then quit in time to have a dry shoot. I think the prospect of a rainy day limited the number of our shooters. We had twenty-two entries but some shooters entered twice in order to compete in both the cartridge and cap & ball categories. Our gross income was \$550.00. It turned out that with dry skies everyone had a good time.

I hope to see everyone 21 September for our next shoot.



BY BRYAN IVLOW

### THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Tim Godwin

Second place: Derrick Graham

Third place: Ron Roberts

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

First place: Tim Godwin

Second place: Derrick Graham

Third place: Joseph Roe

### THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNER OF THE ANNA JAMES CATEGORY:

First Place: Jende Smith

### THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Terry Barr

Second place: Tim Godwin

Third place: Jende Smith

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

First place: Tim Godwin

Second place tie: Terry Barr and  
Chris Andre

Third place: Jende Smith



## THE HOLLINGSWORTH FAMILY CEMETERY



BY LINDA  
BROOKSHIER

One of the things I like to do most is imagine the way houses, roads, farms, people, etc. used to appear in years past. Coming from this part of the country, I sometimes imagine what it would have looked like here at the time of the Civil War. Approximately ten or so years ago, my friend and former historian at the Jesse James Birthplace, Liz Murphy, mentioned to me that behind the restaurant at the Lawson, Missouri, Golf Course is a small family cemetery where the Hollingsworth family once lived. For years, we would drive by there and it was either too hot or too cold or too rainy or too muddy or too SOMETHING and I never had taken the time to actually visit this piece of history. Always, though, in the back of my mind was the thought "Someday" and with it was the vision of this Civil War era Confederate family, their house that would have once stood there, and the small family cemetery plot that now alone remains. I imagined it as being alive and filled with people and with hopes and dreams and laughter.

May 8, 2019 proved to be the day that I finally got to see this location first hand. It was my friend Liz Murphy's birthday and several of us took her to lunch at Mulligan's Restaurant....the restaurant on the golf course at Lawson! After lunch, we inquired about the tiny family plot on the golf course and the management very graciously offered to let us take golf carts up to the cemetery plot. We were only able to get so far as the cemetery is actually surrounded by farmland so there was still a bit of a hike involved as well.

Upon reaching the tiny cemetery we found a 2012 plaque placed there by the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy as well as two headstones: One for each of the two young Hollingsworth boys buried there:

GIDEON M. HOLLINGSWORTH  
BORN  
JAN. 23, 1840  
DIED  
AUG. 15, 1861

JEPHTHA L. HOLLINGSWORTH  
BORN  
APR. 20, 1846  
DIED  
APR. 15, 1862.

Both young men were named after their grandfathers and the anguish and heartache this pioneer family must have felt losing two sons within eight months of each other must have been almost more than they could bare. The only saving grace was that their biological mother, Susan Harris Mimms Hollingsworth did not live to see both of her sons die. She had passed on January 2, 1855 at the age of 37 and is buried in Mt. Memorial Cemetery, Liberty, Missouri.



Gideon Hollingsworth



Jephtha Hollingsworth



It may not have escaped your notice – it certainly didn't escape mine – that Gideon and Jephtha's mother was listed as Susan Harris *Mimms* Hollingsworth. This got me thinking and after a quick online search I discovered that, yes, Susan Harris Hollingsworth was related to Zee *Mimms* James!

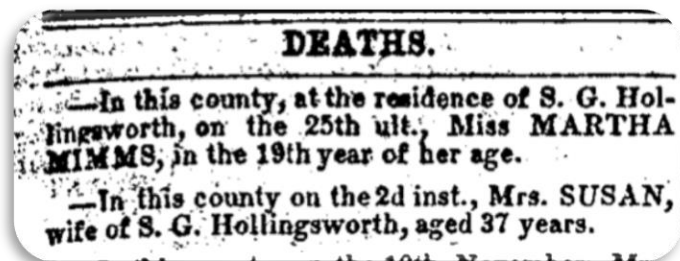
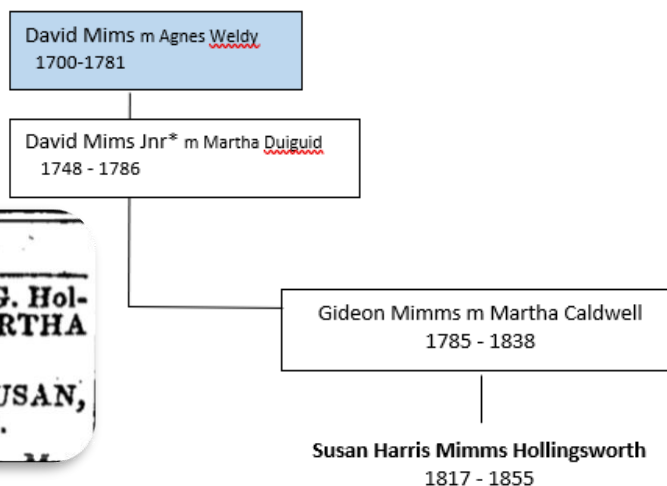
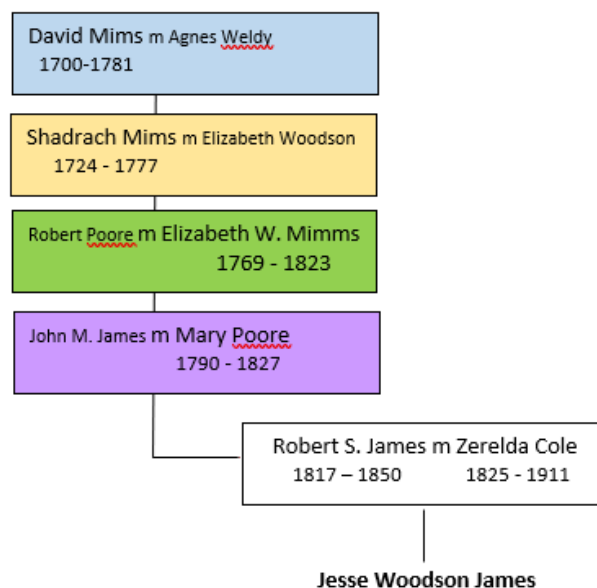
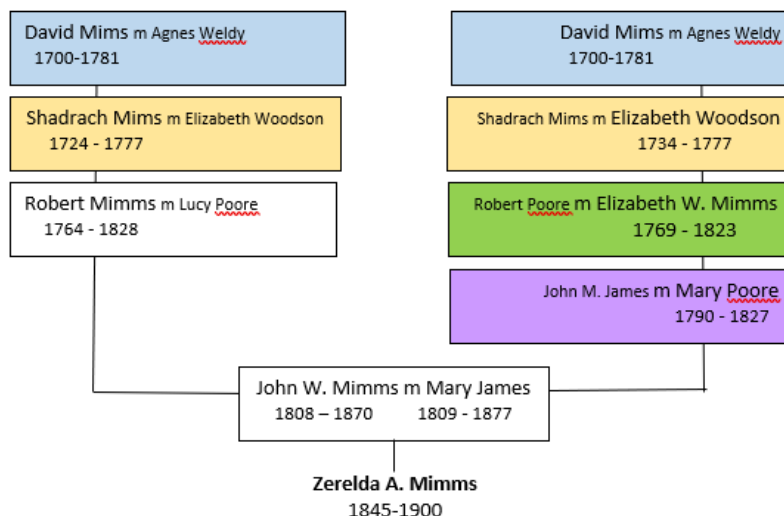
And this is where it all got a bit complicated because, as we know, Jesse and Zee were cousins and so... if Susan Hollingsworth was related to Zee, she must have been related to Jesse too! In fact, they all share a common ancestor – Shadrach Mims.

Shadrach, the son of David Mims and Agnes Weldy, was a great grandfather to Zee, a great-great grandfather to Jesse, and a great uncle to Susan Harris Hollingsworth. This makes Susan Hollingsworth a second cousin once removed to Zee and a second cousin twice removed to Jesse!

Susan had married Samuel Gordon Hollingsworth in 1836 and they had five children: Mary, Gideon, Jephtha, Leander and Susan.

Were they close – the Hollingsworth and the James families? Did they go to family picnics and reunions together and play together on lazy Sunday afternoons? Possibly, as the James' home was only approximately five or so miles from the Hollingsworth home. I guess that is one of those things that is lost to history as all of those that would have been involved are now long passed.... We can always imagine and pretend though!

I was keen to find out what had happened to these two Hollingsworth brothers and so my quest continued...



Liberty Tribune January 5, 1855.  
Martha was Susan's sister.  
With thanks to Gay Mathis.

\*David Mims Jnr is Shadrach Mims' brother

I discovered that sadly not much is known about Jephtha who died just five days short of his sixteenth birthday.

There is a little more information on Gideon. He had been a private in Company A of the Extra Battalion, Missouri State Guard, and was wounded while fighting on 'Bloody Hill' at the Battle of Wilson's Creek on 10 August 1861. I wondered if Gideon realised his relative – Frank James – was also fighting there!

The Liberty Tribune of August 23, 1861 contained a report of the battle in the form of a report by J. T. Hughes, a Confederate Colonel. "Our encampment was taken somewhat by surprise," Hughes reported, "but in hot haste soon formed for battle." He stated that the forces were equally matched in number although the Federal force were better equipped with heavy guns. "The cannonading was most terrible," he recalled, "and the slaughter on both sides immense... For six long hours the palm of victory remained undecided."

In time, he said, the battery was captured and the enemy routed in all places "except the heights west, where [General] Lyon commanded in person, and made his most desperate struggle." His report graphically illustrated the Wilson's Creek battlefield. "On both sides the men were mowed down like the ripe harvest before the sickle. My own regiment was then decimated, and Churchill's and McIntosh's Arkansas regiments suffered most severely."

Eventually, and with great effort, "Lyon was killed, Totten's battery driven from the heights, and the whole force scattered in flight. This ended the bloody strife of that most bloody day."

Following the report, the Tribune also included a list of casualties – the list contained the name 'G. Hollingsworth'. After the battle, Gideon had been taken to the State Guard Hospital at Springfield with a bullet in his lung and he died there a few days later. Although his gravestone says he died on 15 August, the Hospital recorded his death as 18 August.

Gideon was among over five hundred men who lost their lives at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Of course, Frank James was among the lucky ones who fought there and survived.

Who would have thought that two gravestones on the outskirts of a golf course, visited during a friend's birthday lunch could lead me to such an interesting story! **LB**



The Battle of Wilson's Creek,  
by Kurz and Allison c. 1893.

Benj. Sharp, do Buchanan co.  
G Hollingsworth, mortally, Clay co.  
John Leonard, slightly, do

Gideon's injury was recorded in the Liberty Tribune,  
23 August 1861.

**Death of Geo. Hollingsworth.**  
We are pained to learn that Mr. Geo. Hollingsworth, son of our esteemed fellow citizen, S. G. Hollingsworth, who was wounded in the late Springfield battle, died a few days ago of his wounds. He was a young man of fine promise, and his death is deeply lamented by his many friends.

His death was recorded in the same newspaper,  
30 August 1861.

With thanks to Gay Mathis for her support with genealogical research.

Other sources – Find a Grave; miscellaneousmar.blogspot.com/2011/08/gideon-m-hollingsworth

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## DORA FOX AKA DORY FOX

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BY ROBERT J.  
WYBROW

Dora or Dory Fox? The forename depends on the source used: be it newspapers or 'legal' documents. In *Branded as Rebels*, 'Dora' Fox is one of eleven characters with that surname but other than saying he was a "Southern sympathizer," Eakin and Hale add nothing to our knowledge of the man.<sup>1</sup> It would be possible to go back to the census records but, given the above confusion, this writer strongly believes that the enumeration depends on the possibly doubtful literacy of both the enumerator and the household member giving the information.

Fox is first mentioned in connection with the robbery of the Richmond banking house of Hughes and Wasson on May 23, 1867. The number of robbers said to have been involved varied between 11 and 20, but probably at least five made their way to the bank and four entered. On the Sunday following the robbery a warrant listing eight perpetrators was handed to Captain P. J. Miserez, charging them with the Richmond robbery,<sup>2</sup> and later ten men were named, with descriptions given of four of them.<sup>3</sup>

In July, an affidavit appeared, dated June 21 and signed by John T. Shepherd, Nathan D. Butler, John Jarrett and R. S. Hall stating that Dora Fox, charged with involvement in the Richmond robbery, was working at Lee's Summit at the time.<sup>4</sup> In mid-June there had been a story that "a man by the name of Fox was killed in the north eastern part of this county [Clay?], by a band of eight or ten men, and another, by the name of Devors [Devers?], shot at but missed."<sup>5</sup> This was John Fox, Dora's brother, and in early July six men were brought to trial for his murder.<sup>6</sup> Towards the end of the month, however, they were released, "the grand jury of Clay failing to find a true bill."<sup>7</sup> In a newspaper account in 1879, it said, "We believe that he was indicted for the offense soon after the robbery, and that a desperate attempt was made to effect his arrest, which resulted in the killing of a younger brother of the Fox's by the sheriff's posse." The latter part of this story doesn't quite make sense, for there seems to have been no reason to bring the six men to trial for the younger Fox's killing.<sup>8</sup>

The robbery in Gallatin and the murder of John W. Sheets was a 'robbery too far' and a reward notice was issued for the James brothers. Jesse wrote two letters to Missouri's Governor McClurg, dated June and July 1870 respectively, and in the second of these he promised to put forward some alibis. One of these was issued by Alfred R. McGinnis who testified that "I saw Jesse W. James at Mrs Fox's, on Wednesday, December 8, 1869, the day after the Bank robbery at Gallatin. I have been personally acquainted with Jesse James for several years and have never known him to act dishonest in any way." Franklin Graves, Justice of the Clay County Court, who had overseen the testimonies added: "I have known Jesse W. James from early childhood, and that during the late war he participated in the rebellion; but since that time I have known nothing of his violating the laws of the State."

Other alibis were presented, as might be expected, by Jesse's kin. According to Dr. Samuel, Jesse's stepfather, "I came home from my fathers' late Sunday evening, December 5, 1869, and my step-son, (Jesse James) told me that he had sold Kate to a man from Kansas, and got five hundred dollars for her. Jesse was at home Monday, December 6th, until late in the evening, he went to Kearney, but he returned about dark that evening. I left home between seven and eight o'clock Tuesday morning, December 7, 1869. I went to my brother-in-laws', Jesse Cole, to help him kill hogs. Jesse James was at home when I went to Jesse Coles', he was also at home when I came back, the same day, at two o'clock. He stayed at home Tuesday night, and he then went to Mrs Fox's." Jesse's sister, Susie, also confirmed that Jesse was at home on the 6th, 7th and 8th: "I swear that my brother and I attended preaching in Greenville, December 5th, 1869. After we returned from church, we ate dinner, and Jesse caught my mare, Kate, and started to Kearney. In about an hour he came back, and three men were with him; two of them stopped at the yard gate, and the other man came in with Jesse. The man who purchased her said he was from Topeka, Kansas. I will further state that Jesse was at home Monday, Dec. 6th, until late in the evening; he then went to Kearney and returned the same evening

about dusk. He was at home Tuesday, Dec. 7th, and Wednesday, Dec. 8th until noon, he then went to Mrs Fox's." Jesse's mother gave a similar statement: "I do solemnly swear that my son sold my daughter's bay mare the Sunday previous to the bank robbery at Gallatin, and the man who bought the mare said he was from Topeka, Kansas. He paid my son five one hundred dollar bills. My son was at home Monday, December 6th until late in the evening. He then went to Kearney, but returned late that evening, and was at home Tuesday, December 7th and Wednesday, December 8th, 1869, until 12 o'clock; he then went to Mrs Fox's."<sup>9</sup>

Just over five years later the James brothers were basking in the public relations' disaster for the Pinkerton Agency, when a group of their operatives were accused of "bombing" the James' farm; killing young Archie Samuel and seriously wounding mother Zerelda. One of the 'points for discussion' about the raid was who, other than the family members affected, were in the house? Carl Breihan says that not only were the brothers at home - in a small upper room - but that they had Clell Miller and Bill and "Dora" Fox with them, or so contemporary records are said to confirm.<sup>10</sup> This author, though, has been unable to trace these unnamed records. There is also a 1925 letter of Jesse Junior where he mentions Fox as being one of a group "camped in the vicinity of the farm of General Jo. O. Shelby near Aullville, in Lafayette County" and who were "concerned in the Jones amnesty bill."<sup>11</sup> The statement about the Aullville group cannot be commented upon but the Jones amnesty bill can. Only Jesse and Frank James, Cole, Bob and James Younger are mentioned by name. If the Fox brothers were so well known, earlier writers such as Buel and Donald would certainly have picked them up, but they do not. One cannot always rely on the names given by these writers but this omission does seem significant. Frank, in an interview published in 1914, almost forty years after the 'bombing' of the James Farm, was, for some reason, non-committal and when asked whether he was there, said, "Some think we were and some think not."<sup>12</sup>

Within a few days of the Pinkerton attack, four young men, thought to be confederates of the James brothers, were taken in by Clay County's Sheriff Groom. The captives were Edward M. Samuel, Edward T. Miller and George James "on suspicion of being aiders and abettors of the James boys;" and William Fox, against whom a warrant was sworn out for the theft of Dr. Scruggs' horse.<sup>13</sup> Each of them made brief statements to a newspaper reporter: Edward Samuel said that he was a half-brother to Reuben Samuel and was "past 22 years old." He couldn't work out what relationship he was to Jesse and Frank James given that he was a half-brother to their step-father. He claimed that he had not seen either of the brothers for about a year. Ed Miller, who was next to be interviewed, volunteered that he was 19 years old and a brother of Clell Miller. He said that he lived four miles from Kearney, about six or seven miles from the Samuel's farm. There his information dried up: "I don't know anything about Jesse and Frank; don't know anything about the fight; don't know about it .... don't know where Clell is." George James was 23 years old and said that he had been told that he was a first cousin to Frank and Jesse. William Fox too said that he lived four miles from Kearney, about six or seven miles from the Samuel's farm. He claimed not to have seen Frank since the war and Jesse not for four years. His brother "Dorn" [sic] was said to be conveniently away from home whenever there had been a robbery in his section of the country. In an attempt to sort the wheat from the chaff, one account spoke of Miller as being "regarded with suspicion, and the authorities announce their determination to keep a sharp eye on his movements in the future," while "Fox is another one, who has a brother whose reputation is not above reproach." In contrast, "Samuel is said to play 'low' for the party. He is not a villainous looking man, on the contrary is quite the opposite and rather stylish" and "the boy, Geo. James, is regarded as perfectly innocent." Soon the boys were released because of a lack of any real evidence, except Fox who was held on a charge of stealing Dr. Scruggs' horse. But he too was released when he presented bonds for \$1,000 as surety for his appearance on 4 February.<sup>14</sup>

As 1879 closed, Fox was back in Kansas and there was a small item in a Sedalia newspaper that "about one hundred citizens of Kansas have signed a paper refuting the recent charges of burglary and murder against Dory Fox." The article also said "It will be remembered that Fox was accused of robbing the Independence bank."<sup>15</sup> He had been arrested in Sumner County, Kansas, and taken to Kansas City, charged with participation in the 1867 Independence bank robbery, as well as being involved in the killing of Whicher, the Pinkerton operative killed whilst on the trail of the James gang in 1874. It was felt that it would be difficult to secure a conviction on the latter charge, given the lack of reliable evidence; but on the earlier charge he



had been identified.<sup>16</sup> Fox's supporters not only said that he was innocent of the charge but that Marshal A. Hays of Kansas City "was in indecent haste in arresting Fox and rushing him off to Kansas City," though Hayes claimed "he only did his duty and had the proper arrest papers for the arrest of Fox." Another report in the same newspaper, alleged Fox had told an old comrade of the two crimes and who would appear as the chief witness against him; possibly George Shepherd.<sup>17</sup>

Although indictments for murder and bank robbery had been found against Fox, these came as some surprise to him, "as he had been led to suppose that the charge for which he was to answer was for participation in the Glendale robbery, he felt no concern, but as the clerk of the court read the indictments, he turned pale, and was visibly affected. He answered 'not guilty' with the air of a man who felt that those present knew he was telling a falsehood. Fox is also strongly suspected of having been concerned in the robbery of a bank at Richmond." Fox said that he had "resided in Clay county for a number of years, and was a warm friend and associate of Jesse and Frank James, Jim Cummings, Ed. Miller, the Kaufman boys and others. He admits to the officers that he conveyed the James boys in a covered wagon and assisted them to keep out of the clutches of persons who were after them, but denies that he had anything to do with their robbing schemes." He claimed to have lived in Sumner County for about five years. In an interview with a reporter, Fox said that just prior to the Glendale train robbery, he had received a letter from Jesse James asking him to meet him in Kansas City but that while he had answered it, he had told Jesse he couldn't see him.<sup>18</sup>

On Christmas Eve Dora and his attorney attended the court and the trial was set for January 12. On the 12th, Dora's attorney asked the prosecuting attorney to submit his list of witnesses, on both the charge of murder and that of robbery. On February 7, Fox's bail was set at \$7,500, for which he said "wealthy relatives in Clay county" would be his sureties.<sup>19</sup> After six months in jail, on June 26, he was finally discharged, there being no evidence against him.<sup>20</sup> It seems the prosecuting attorney never supplied his list of witnesses as requested, or if he did it does not appear in the court records. Could this be because George Shepherd was on the list and the prosecution did not want his involvement to be made public?

In the late 1880s and through to the mid-1890s, possibly due to the notoriety gained from his 1880 trial, Dora Fox often appeared in the Kansas newspapers, sometimes when he was part of a group being sued or



Many visitors have their photos taken with 'Jesse' as part of their visit to the Birthplace, but this one holds a particular significance - the two ladies on the left and the gentleman on the right are the great-great grandchildren of Drs Gould and Montgomery. And by chance, they visited on the same day as Jesse's great granddaughter, Betty Barr!

Drs Putman Gould and William Montgomery were both country physicians, living at Box's Station and Hustburg, Tennessee, respectively in the 1870s. These locations were about eight miles apart and roughly in the centre was the home of Mr and Mrs Howard, aka Jesse and Zee James.

In 1878, Zee gave birth to twin sons and was attended by both Drs Gould and Montgomery. Unfortunately, both twins died just a few days after being born and were given the names of the attending doctors. They were buried in Tennessee but have a marker at the Mt Olivet Cemetery in Kearney.

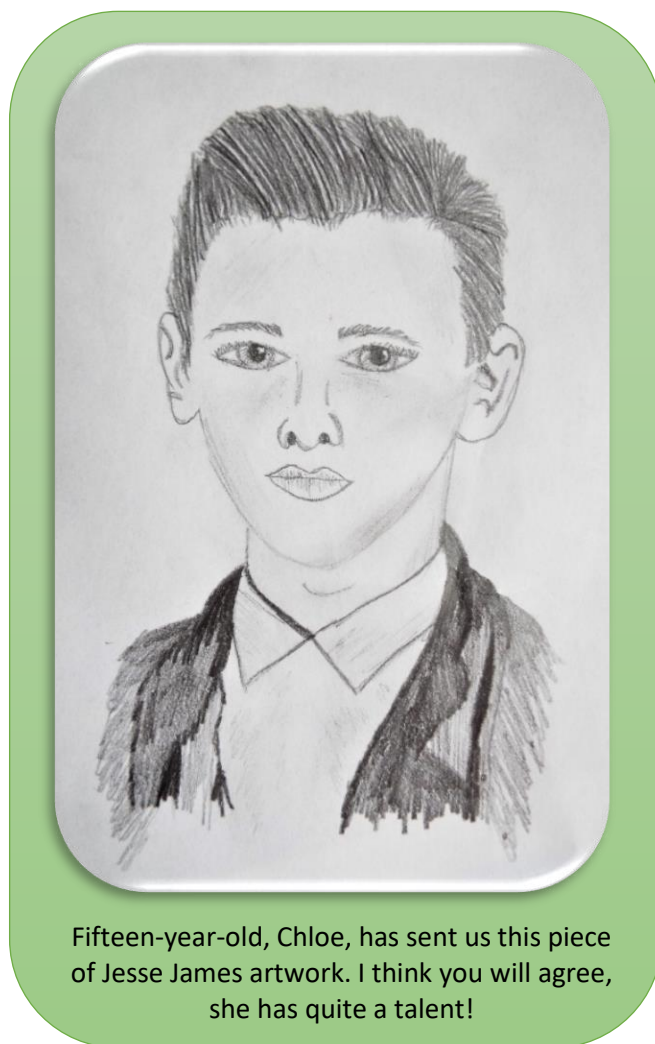


sometimes when it was just to report his social activities.<sup>21</sup> However, there doesn't appear to be a notice of his death.

Coincidentally, a "Dora Fox" was captured in December 1903 but this "Dora" was female, aged just 23, and had led her criminal life in Oklahoma.<sup>22</sup> **RJW**

1. Joanne C. Eakin & Donald R. Hale, *Branded as Rebels*, Privately printed, Second Edition, 1995, p.150.
2. *Kansas City Daily Journal of Commerce*, Missouri, 28 May 1867.
3. *The Weekly Caucasian*, Lexington, Missouri, 22 June 1867.
4. *Liberty Tribune*, Missouri, 5 July 1867, mentioned in Samuel Anderson Pence's, *I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse*, Two Trails Publishing, Independence, Missouri, 2007. p.148.
5. *Liberty Tribune*, 21 June 1867.
6. *Liberty Tribune*, 5 July 1867.
7. *The Weekly Caucasian*, 27 July 1867.
8. *The Sumner County Press*, Kansas, 25 December 1879.
9. *St. Joseph Daily Gazette*, 17 December 1869.
10. Carl W. Breihan, *The Bombing of Castle James*, *Real West Magazine*, No. 73, August 1969.
11. *Kansas City Star*, Missouri, 6 September 1925.
12. Julian Street, *The Borderland*, *Collier's Magazine*, 26 September 1914.
13. *St. Louis Republican*, Missouri, 2 February 1875.
14. *Kansas City Times*, 30 and 31 January 1875; *St. Louis Republican*, 2 February 1875.
15. *The Sedalia Daily Bazoo*, Missouri, 29 December 1879.
16. *The Sedalia Daily Bazoo*, 26 December 1879; *The Sumner County Press*, Kansas, 25 December 1879. Joseph W. Whicher, arrived in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri in early March 1874 following the Gad's Hill train robbery of the previous January. After talking to various people, he said he would walk to the Samuel's farm, looking for work. On March 12 his dead body was found at the junction of the Lexington, Liberty and Independence roads. No official statement was made on who his killers might have been.
17. *Richmond Democrat*, Missouri, 1 January 1880; *The Sumner County Press*, 25 December 1879 mentioned that Shepherd "worked up the case, assisted by detectives."
18. *The Sumner County Press*, 8 January 1880.
19. *The Sedalia Weekly Bazoo*, 10 February 1880; 16th Judicial Circuit Court Records.
20. *Arkansas Valley Democrat*, Arkansas City, Kansas, 15 June 1880; 16th Judicial Circuit Court Records.
21. *Independence Daily Reporter*, Kansas, 2 December 1887; *The Monitor-Press*, Wellington, Kansas, 23 March 1888 and 13 September 1889; *South Kansas Tribune*, Kansas, 8 July 1889; *The South Haven New Era*, Kansas, 24 August 1895.
22. *The Severance News*, Kansas, 11 December 1903.

This article is dedicated to Liz in Scotland for everything.



Fifteen-year-old, Chloe, has sent us this piece of Jesse James artwork. I think you will agree, she has quite a talent!



## NEWS FROM THE FARM

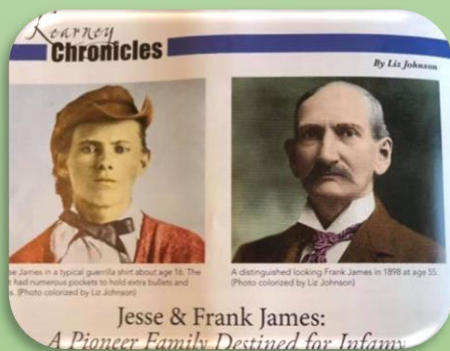
It seems as though everyone has been very busy at the Farm since our last Journal!

- \* There are updates being made to the museum and gift shop.
- \* The front entry, gift shop and the pews on the porch have all been painted.
- \* New exhibit panels on Frank and Jesse are being designed. The cabin renovation and restoration has begun with work currently being completed on the foundation.
- \* And if that wasn't enough, on 23rd April, staff took part in fire extinguisher training (right).



On 28 May, tornadoes crashed through Clay County and one brought the Box Elder tree down narrowly missing the house. The tree is thought to have been growing on the property since the late 1800s.

### In The Media



Former FOTJF President and Journal editor, Liz Johnson, has recently started a series of articles about the James family that are being featured in the I-35 magazine.



On 23 July, Kansas City's Fox4 News posted a short video on Facebook, encouraging folk to visit the Jesse James Birthplace.



Then, on 2 August, the Jesse James Birthplace was featured in Fox4 News' Kearney Zip Trip! Our very own Bryan Ivlow talked on the live show about some firearms he had brought along.

They also talked about the many visitors to the Farm, the artefacts on show and the popularity of our shoots.

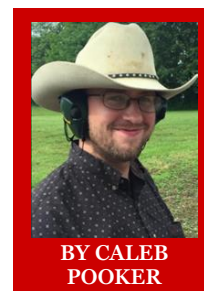


## WORKSHOP

JESSE JAMES  
★HOLSTER★

15-16 JUNE

Following the Frontier Revolver Shoot at the Jesse James Farm and Museum, people enrolled in the gun holster class were invited to take part in a tour of the farm and museum. After this, everyone met at the C.K. Scribbs Studio in Kearney, MO for lunch and the beginning of the class. Following lunch, Chris Andre of Slickbald Custom Leather in Longmont, Colorado began teaching with an overview and discussion of what separates a good gun holster from a bad one, why he makes holsters the way he does, and also what would be different from “normal” since the class was centered around replicating a holster in the Jesse James Museum collection. Having been involved in making leather holsters for some time, I knew much of what he talked about already, but his perspective was different, and he shared a great many tips, tricks, techniques, and general knowledge that I found quite helpful. After talking and answering questions for approximately thirty minutes, the class of 11 people (ages ranging from a teenager, to retirees) began making their own holsters step by step under the instruction of Chris. While Chris’ holster making is high quality, his greatest emphasis is on the carving and tooling of leather. As the class holster was intended to replicate an historic example, we did touch on the carving and tooling of leather; which was, for me, the greatest area of knowledge gained. By Saturday evening, we had gotten the holsters carved, and partially assembled.



Beginning again Sunday morning, we began working on the fit and finish of the holsters. As one of the attendees graciously brought a leather sewing machine for the class’ use, we were able to proceed with assembly of our holsters much faster than if we would have had to hand sew everything. Most of the attendees were hobby leather crafters, and had not done much machine sewing, so for most of the folks, they found it a little challenging, but quite nice, to use a machine for sewing. Once everyone had sewn their holsters, Chris explained a few more details about holster construction and fitment, and proceeded to instruct the class on molding and wet forming their holsters to a gun mold. Once that was done, the class was essentially over as the holsters had to completely dry from the wet forming before they could be finished (which everyone was able to accomplish on their own at a later time).



Above: The group photo.  
Right: Caleb’s holster.

## THE SUMMER HOUSE – A PLAY ABOUT ZEE AND ANNA

I was on the board of the Friends of the James Farm for about ten years and learned so much from many great scholars, interpreters and re-enactors during that time: Harold Dellinger, David Smith, Gregg Higginbotham, Dave Bears, Robert J. Wybrow and, of course, Michelle Pollard – it gave me a sense of the importance of history and getting the details right. History is much more interesting than anything we could ever make up, but telling the story in a dramatic way is an art all of its own.

I have been writing plays for about the last three years. They have all been developed in workshops at The Living Room Theatre, 1818 McGee, Kansas City, Mo. My first play, “Chasing Nureyev,” was produced in the 2016 KC Fringe Festival. It was about two young girls with a crush on Rudolf Nureyev who chased his car through the streets of St. Louis in 1972. Of course, it was based on a real-life event. I wanted to show the effect of art on life – what happens when an audience encounters a truly electrifying personality – and how art can change us.

I have always wanted to write about Anna Ralston James. She intrigues me. There were so many seeming contradictions in her character. She was born into a fairly wealthy family in Independence, she became a schoolteacher, and then eloped with Frank James in a secretive manner, leaving a note for her mother and signed with a false name. It made me wonder how badly she wanted to get out of the house.

Frank said that he and Anna had a common interest in sports, which I thought was such a funny thing to say – such a guy thing – an unromantic explanation of their attraction to one another. They were both excellent riders, to be sure. Anna rode Jesse’s horse, Stonewall, in the sidesaddle competition at the Kansas City Exposition – and won. My overall impression is that she and Frank were very much alike in temperament.

I know less about Zerelda Mimms James other than the often repeated facts that she was Jesse James’ cousin, she nursed him when he was wounded while surrendering at Lexington, and she waited nine years to marry him. Zee suffered greatly after Jesse was killed. I don’t think she had the skills to be able to cope with her life without Jesse, even though the last few years with him had been harrowing.

So, I had two very interesting – and diverse – personalities to write about. I wanted to focus on their lives in Nashville when they lived as Mrs. Woodson and Mrs. Howard because I think they flourished while living there. My play takes place in March 1881 just before the Muscle Shoals robbery.

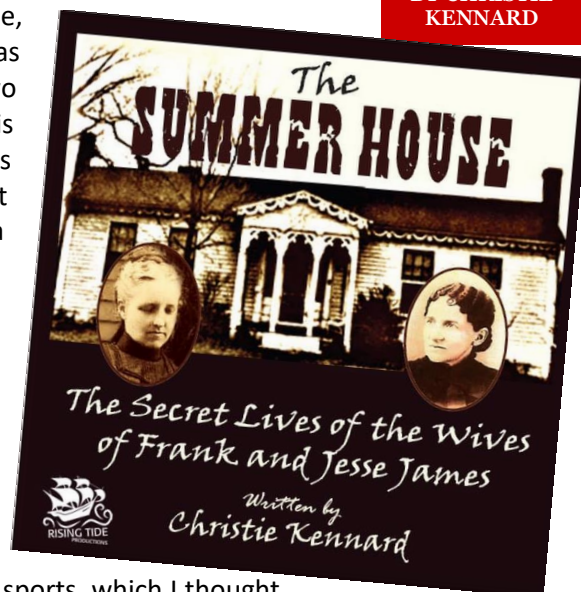
Jesse and Zee were in Nashville much earlier, when Jesse Edwards James was born in 1875. Jesse and Zee didn’t always live in proximity to Frank and Anna. They first lived as the Howards at the Link farm in Humphreys County, TN. Ted Yeatman quoted a local merchant, Dan Goodrich, as saying, “There was no nicer family anywhere. Mrs. Howard was an excellent lady, friendly to everyone and especially attentive to the sick.”

Frank and Anna lived at the Walton farm, where Rob was born in 1877. Eventually, they moved to a place on Hyde’s Ferry Road where Jesse and Zee joined them with their family. They lived across the road from a prominent family headed by District Court Judge George C. Cantrell. Judge Cantrell’s daughter, Kate Cantrell Eastman, gave an interview to the *Nashville Banner* in 1930 about how close her family had become to the Woodsons and the Howards, even having them to Christmas dinner in 1881.

It was this interview that was the springboard for my play. I wanted to depict how Anna and Zee must have felt, being welcomed into a respectable community, being encouraged to share confidences, but also



BY CHRISTIE KENNARD



knowing that complete honesty was out of the question. So, there are several push/pulls at work in the play: friendship and deception; loss and transformation; the question of identity, especially for women in 1880. Vanderbilt University had been established in 1873. Reverend George W. F. Price founded the Nashville College for Young Ladies in 1880. So here they were, living on the outskirts of Nashville, across the road from a judge's family, in a border state very similar to Missouri, but with all this growth and development going on around them. I wanted to show how both women were challenged by Kate Cantrell Eastman, who is a very adventurous character, to examine their roles as wives and to ask themselves if women could live on their own.

Writing about Anna and Zee during this period was both a challenge and very liberating. I wanted to stick close to what I knew their characters were like and the disappointments they had suffered – especially Zee in dealing with the pressure of Jesse's growing celebrity.

I am continuing to research Kate Cantrell Eastman's life. She and her family show up in the 1880 census for Davidson County, Tennessee, living next door to Ben Woodson and Thomas Howard (both farmers) and their families. In 1903 she appears as the corresponding secretary for the Florence Crittendon Mission Home in Nashville. Her husband had quite a successful career, and I like to think of her as being a progressive woman.

I think Anna and Zee married Frank and Jesse for different reasons but stemming from the after-effects of the Civil War. None of us in the 21st century can imagine what Missouri was like during or after the War and the lasting effects it had on the people who went through it. Anna's family, like many, lost their wealth and prestige. I think she wanted someone who challenged her, was strong, and could make her feel safe. I think Zee was of a slightly weaker temperament. I think she married Jesse because he was her cousin and she had always been fond of him, and he offered an alternative to the grinding poverty her family faced after her father's death in 1870.

The Summer House is where Kate Cantrell Eastman finds her own life again – through the lives of Anna and Zee who are living there when the play opens. It was the cottage where she and her husband spent their honeymoon and it's her refuge where she gathers her strength at the end of the play.

I hope the audience comes away wanting to know more about all these women and not just seeing Anna and Zee in terms of black and white. They made dangerous choices but for very good reasons. It's important to dig past the legends of history and look at the day-to-day lives of people who were impacted by these myths. To find the truth I always say, "follow the money" and "follow the doctors." In Frank and Jesse's case, they had the best medical care for their families when they were living in Nashville.

I will be nervous to see if the play can come in under one hour. Fringe rules are very strict. They bring down the curtain after 60 minutes. If you're still going, too bad!

I am completely thrilled to be working with such a talented director, Bob Linebarger, and wonderfully talented actors: Casey Jane as Kate Cantrell Eastman, Margaret Shelby



Zee James and Anna James



as Ellen Cantrell, Emmy Panzika Piontek as Zee James, Stefanie Stevens as Anna James, Sam Wright as Bill Ryan and Marek Burns as Jesse Edwards James. Our costumes are gorgeous because of our great costume designer, Mary Traylor. The actresses learned how to do their hair in 1880s styles. We're trying to stay as authentic as we can.

I think the audience will be largely a Fringe audience, which is to say, people will be there to see a show. They might or might not be especially interested in the wives of Frank and Jesse James. I hope we get some history buffs but the play has to work dramatically. This was my hardest lesson to learn – how to write for the theatre and not make the play sound like Wikipedia. I hope I've succeeded!



Zee talks to her son, Jesse Edwards James, about his behavior.



The cast of *The Summer House* with Jesse James' great granddaughter, Betty Barr. From left to right: Stefanie Stevens as Anna James, Emmy Panzika Piontek as Zee James, Betty Barr, Sam Wright as Bill Ryan, Marek Burns as Jesse Edwards James, Margaret Shelby as Ellen Cantrell, Casey Jane as Kate Cantrell Eastman.



The wives of Jesse and Frank James



"Strong dialogue, fascinating characters, superb acting, and intriguing historical content."

"This untold story of the wives of the James brothers is captivating in itself but *The Summer House* is even larger than that."

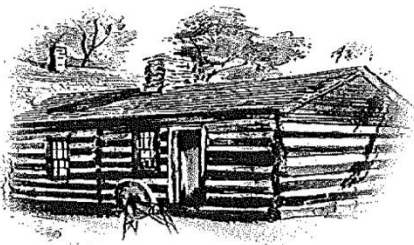


*The Summer House* played on the Jerome Stage at the Unicorn Theatre in Kansas City on July 20, 21, 23, 26 and 27 as part of the Kansas City Fringe.

Photos by Rising Tide Productions KC and used by permission of Christie Kennard.

**Friends of the James Farm**

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[www.jessejames.org](http://www.jessejames.org)  
 816.736.8500



James homestead cabin —  
 Original art by Jim Hamil

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