



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Things have been going very well!

We were able to purchase Frank James' horse racing starter's book and his trotters starting license. Beth has these items already on display in the museum. They are in very good condition. You'll find more details inside this edition.

Our last shoot was our best fund-raising event yet and our annual reunion went very well indeed. Sadly, long time board member, Martin McGrane, resigned from the board in a heartfelt talk he gave at the board meeting before the presentations. Prior to our board business being done by email, Marty would make the over 200 mile round trip to Kearney from his home in Iowa, often spending the night in a motel before starting home in the morning. He did that monthly; that is real dedication! Marty said he wants to give the ownership rights of his book to the Friends for fundraising. At this time, I am working on obtaining the rights to it. I am also looking for a high quality, competitively priced printer for a new edition.

Our presentations at the reunion were varied and enjoyed by a large audience in the theatre at the Museum. Due to the weather, we held the dinner in the museum lobby for the third year in a row. More details on these presentations are included later in this edition of the Journal.

The restoration work continues at the old homestead and, for several weeks during September and October, visitors had the rare opportunity to view the incredible 19th century timber and framework exposed before being expertly recovered. Till next time. **BI**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

REUNION NEWS

If you are looking for details of the James-Younger Gang Conference (which the Friends were invited to join) and the FOTJF Reunion, then mosey along to pages 5 through 8!



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The Friends of the James Farm

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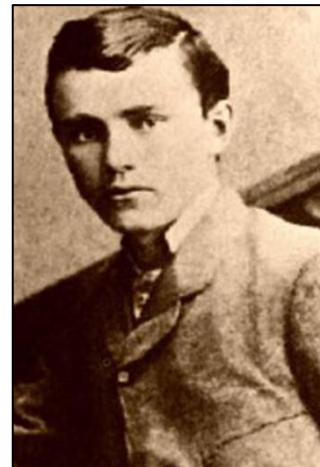


Friends of the James Farm
c/o The Jesse James Birthplace
21216 Jesse James Farm Road
Kearney, Missouri, 64060

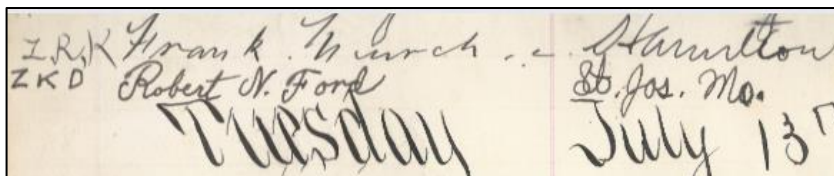
FROM THE PEN OF ROBERT FORD

Two very rare autographs of the notorious assassin, Bob Ford, were recently acquired via separate transactions by a long-time member of the Friends.

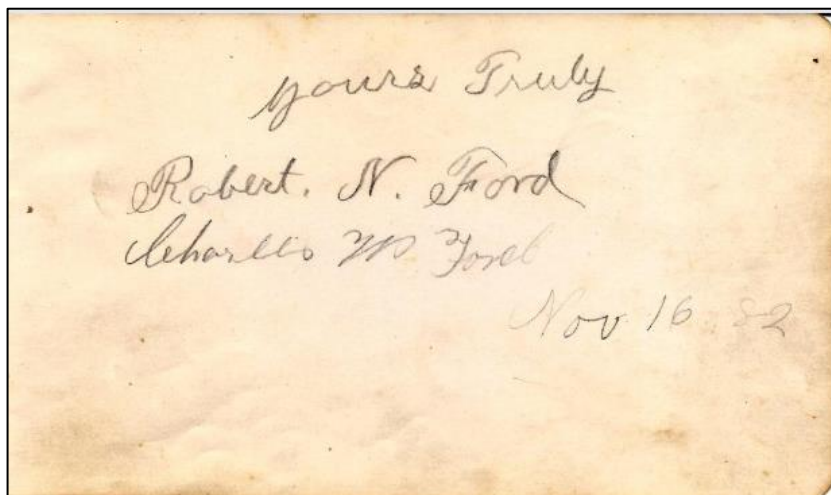
The first item, a page from the guest register of the old Harry House Hotel in Hamilton, MO, was obtained through a national online auction in July. Signing in as a guest on July 12, 1880, was one Robert N. Ford, listing his current address as St. Joseph, MO. The Harry House was an ornate brick structure and regarded as Hamilton's finest hotel in its day. It was demolished many years ago after suffering major damage in a fire.



Robert Newton Ford
1862 - 1892



The second example displaying the signature of Robert N. Ford is also countersigned by his brother, Charles W. Ford, and dated "Nov 16 82". The inscription appears on a page of an autograph album originally owned by a Miss Annie Hancock of Pennsylvania.



The Ford Brothers appeared at Harris' Mammoth Museum on 5th Avenue in Pittsburg on November 16, 1882 - a stop on their national tour of re-enactment performances of the assassination of Jesse James. This item was acquired through direct negotiations with a private collector in Honolulu, HI.

FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM SHOOT

21 September 2019



The September Shoot participants.

Heavy rain had been forecast for the weekend of the shoot with the remnants of a tropical storm coming from Texas bringing lots of moisture combined with a cold front bringing a trigger from the west. Nevertheless, we had a large group of shooters, many of which were new. Everyone had a good time and at the end of the shoot a couple of members set up a rest and let everyone who donated a dollar to the Friends shoot an 1873 model trap door Springfield rifle. This is the rifle that the army used during the Indian wars and thus was the real gun that won the west instead of the Winchester lever action rifle.

Our secretary and treasurer, Vivie Tison, reports that we took in \$900.00 plus \$18.00 in donations before prize and postage costs.

I would like to thank Clay County head ranger John Davis for his work in keeping the shoot safe and for helping the youngsters at the end of the shoot safely fire a cylinder full. We also had a pair of young men accompanied by their aunt from Georgia who were 9 and 10 years old. The 9 year old wanted to shoot for his birthday and both boys were able to shoot .22 and .38 western style revolvers. I would like to thank their aunt for her great help in scoring the shoot. I hope to see everyone back for our April shoot next year. **BI**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

CARTRIDGE & GENERAL SHOOT WINNERS OF THE ANNA JAMES CATEGORY:

First place: Jende Smith
Second place: Julie Triplett
Third place: Sierra Rodrigues

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Caleb Blackwell
Second place: Andrew Anderson
Third place: Terry Barr

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

First place: Andrew Anderson
Second place: Gary Blackwell
Third place: Jason Snow

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Caleb Blackwell
Second place: Gary Blackwell
Third place tie: Steve Dixon, Derrick Graham

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

First place: Gary Blackwell
Second place: Caleb Blackwell
Third place: Derrick Graham

FOTJF GIFT TO THE JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE



On September 4, 2019, the Friends of the James Farm successfully purchased two items, previously owned by Frank James, from Pamela Bagby who, in turn, had purchased them in amongst a box of junk at an auction some forty years ago.

The items proved to be a book containing the Rules and Regulations of The American Trotting Association, complete with Frank James' signature inside; Frank's Starters License, No. 194, July 30, 1906; and a letterhead for The American Trotting Association, dated August 26, 1910 and addressed to Secretaries, Starters and Judges on tracks.

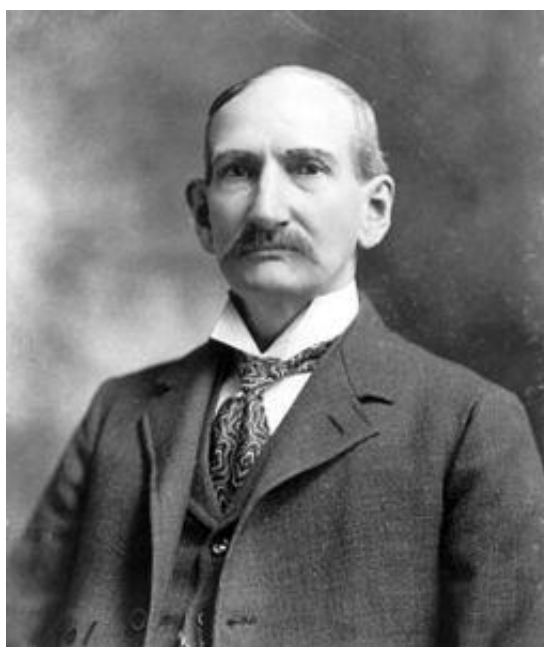
After Frank James was released from prison and acquitted of all charges in 1885, he took part in a number of ventures which would, when regarding Frank's character, appear to be better suited to his more outgoing younger brother.

In 1903, Frank famously appeared as part of a Wild West Show, although his appearances were understated and often regarded as disappointing.

As these items show, Frank also accepted invitations to start races. Frank had a keen interest in horses and prize hogs and was no stranger to the occasions.

"Col. James is 55 years of age," wrote a reporter of the Springfield (Missouri) Republican on September 27, 1898. "but does not show the hardships of twenty years of hard life. He is an interesting talker [and] has the appearance of a gentleman. It is hard to realize that the quiet appearing man officiating as starter at the fairgrounds is the Frank James who years ago caused chills to traverse the spinal column."

It was clear that Frank drew the crowds. "The horse races at Burlingame had always held a little bit of controversy because of the nature of the competition," wrote Wendi Bevitt in her 2017 article for the Osage County News, "and having a former outlaw as the star of the show was too much for some to bear." However, it seemed as though "having Frank James as the main attraction turned out better than the fair association could have imagined." In fact, Frank drew a larger crowd than Burlingame's previous, highly influential orator, Rev. Frank Gunsaulus, by a good two thousand attendees, "and the new grandstand that held seating for 500 was not nearly enough."



OSAGE • COUNTY • FAIR!
September 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Liberal Premiums Paid For Exhibits of
Horses, Fruit, Textile Fabrics,
Cattle, Grain, Fine Arts,
Swine, Produce, Merchant's
Sheep, Pantry Stores, Display.

See **FRANK JAMES** Start the Races.

Race Program.
FRANK JAMES, Starter.

Wednesday, September 6.

1. Running—14 mile and repeat.....	\$ 50 00
2. Trotting on Pace—Osage county horses that have never started.....	40 00
3. Running—14 mile and repeat.....	35 00

Thursday, September 7.

4. Trotting—100 class.....	\$ 75 00
5. Running—14 mile, 2 in 1.....	50 00
6. Trotting—100 class.....	100 00
7. Running—14 mile and repeat.....	40 00
8. Running—14 mile, 2 in 1.....	100 00

Friday, September 8.

9. Running—Novelty, one mile.....	\$ 50 00
10. Trot on Pace—Free for all.....	100 00
11. Running—14 mile dash.....	50 00
12. Running—14 mile and repeat.....	50 00

CHAS. LYONS, President.
H. D. SHEPARD, Treasurer.
C. H. CURTIS, Secretary.
T. W. MITCHELL, Vice President.
H. C. FINCH, Starter.

An advertisement showing Frank as a starter at the Burlingame Fair. Osage County Chronicle, August 23, 1899.

It must have seemed strange to Frank, noted the Springfield Republican reporter, that “while he is drawing many miles of people to see him, he cannot but remember the time when people went many miles to keep from seeing him.”

In a letter to the Friends of the James Farm, Historic Sites Director, Beth Beckett, wrote, “On behalf of the Clay County Commission and the Clay County Historic Sites Department, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent contribution of the Frank James starter license and rule book. It is through the interest and assistance of the Friends of the James Farm that we are able to provide the public an enjoyable and educational museum. Let me assure you that the items will be cared for and preserved to the best of our ability. You can be sure that this and future generations will benefit from your contribution.”

Sources - Springfield (Missouri) Republican, September 27, 1898, Osage County News, *Hidden History Outlaw Frank James Increased education and attendance at Osage County Fair*, Wendi Bevitt, April 14, 2017



Friends of the James Farm President, Bryan Ivlow, and Pam Bagby with the Frank James items.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE JAMES-YOUNGER GANG



BY DAN PENCE

Twenty members of the James Younger Gang, including three first timers who are descendants of Darwin Jackson Pence, gathered in Clay County, Missouri over the last weekend of September for our 2019 annual conference. Lorna Mitchell put together an itinerary rich in mid-19th century Missouri history. On Thursday evening, Jay Jackson and Tony Meyers performed a short play depicting Frank James' “First Outlaw Action”, purported to have occurred in Missouri City on May 19, 1863. On Friday morning we traveled to Independence to visit the Bingham-Waggoner Estate and National Frontier Trails Museum and take a covered wagon tour of Independence.

The Bingham-Waggoner Estate, sitting on over 19 acres near the Independence Square, is truly a one-of-a-kind gem in Independence. This well preserved estate, with more than 90% original furnishings, carpets, and paintings, provides insights into the lifestyle of the 19th century wealthy residents. Before established roads were laid out, the estate grounds were considered a short cut on the road that was later to become part of the Santa Fe Trail. Thousands of wagons rolled down the hill from the Courthouse Square and passed over the property where the Trails Museum now sits. Evidence of the migration can still



The Bingham – Waggoner Estate and Home

be seen in the form of wagon ruts nearby. George Caleb Bingham, famous 19th century artist and Missouri politician, was one of the estate's most distinguished residents. Bingham used the building as his studio, and it was in this studio that his famous painting "Martial Law," better known as "Order Number 11," was painted. Several years later, after Bingham sold the estate and relocated to Kansas City, he served as Adjutant General of Missouri and investigated the bombing of the James home at Kearney by Pinkerton agents. The Waggoner family purchased the estate in 1867 and took over operation of its flour mill. They developed a reputation for producing the very best in baking and cake flours, using the brand name "Queen of the Pantry" flours. The flour mill is now home to the National Trails Museum, where we saw an informative movie about the Oregon and Santa Fe trails and toured the wonderfully displayed exhibits depicting life on the trail. The one hour allotted to this activity was not nearly enough time to do the museum justice.



At 10:30 AM we climbed aboard a covered wagon drawn by a brace of mules driven by mule skinner Ralph Goldsmith, owner-operator of Pioneer Trails Adventures, for a one-hour tour of Independence. Starting from the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, we saw the birthplace of Bess Truman, the Jackson County courthouse, the old jail where Frank James awaited trial for the killing of Frank McMillan during the Winston, MO. train robbery, and various sights related to the 2nd battle of Independence. Ralph is a natural storyteller and provided an interesting, multi-faceted perspective on the tumultuous Civil War era as we rode along. This tour ended back at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, where we enjoyed a "chuck wagon" lunch. Friday afternoon was open for members to tour the Truman home, the old jail, and the courthouse at their leisure, or take in other sights. Everyone was on their own for supper Friday evening.

On Saturday we drove into Kansas City to see the Arabia Steamboat Museum. The Steamboat Arabia was plying the Missouri River in 1856 and sank after ramming a tree limb lodged in the river. Over the decades it became buried in silt as the Missouri shifted its course, and most people forgot about it.



Frank James' cell and the Harry Truman Home.

However, in 1988 a local a/c and furnace repair company owner, Bob Hawley, along with his sons, learned of the Arabia's story and discovered the boat's location. The Hawleys and two other friends set out to recover the Arabia's long lost cargo. This museum is the culmination of that amazing reclamation project. We spent two hours touring the museum and could only scratch the surface of what there is to see. We had lunch in the open-air food court adjacent to the museum and then headed back to our Sleep Inn conference hotel in Liberty for our annual business meeting. During the business meeting we elected officers and members of the board of directors and selected Nashville, TN as the site for our 2020 annual conference, to be held September 24-26.

After adjourning our business meeting Saturday afternoon, we travelled to the James Farm for a reunion with the Friends of the James Farm. The Friends of the James Farm graciously hosted the members of the James Younger Gang, offering a selection of presentations and providing a delicious dinner catered by Mud Hole Barbecue. We wish to extend our heart-felt thanks to the Friends for hosting the event and paying for dinner.

For those who are interested in becoming a member of the James-Younger Gang, a membership form can be found on our website at www.jamesyoungergang.club. Annual dues for a resident of the U.S. are \$30 for an individual and \$40 for a family - **Dan Pence, President**.

ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM REUNION

The annual Friends of the James Farm Reunion was held on September 28 and, with the weather once again proving a challenge, the entire event was hosted at the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum.

Our numbers were swelled by members of the James-Younger Gang joining us so that the Theatre was filled to almost bursting during the presentations.

First, former president, Christie Kennard, gave a very interesting talk on the lives of the James brother's wives during their time in Tennessee. She brought up many interesting facts. Next our very knowledgeable newsletter editor, Michelle Pollard, gave a presentation through Scott Cole on the Gallatin robbery and murder of 1869 and how the James' became suspects. The third presentation was on two guns that Frank's son, Robert, gave to a Doctor Musgrave claiming they were Jesse's. That was obviously false because they were both made many years after Jesse's death. However, there are tantalizing hints that one gun is connected to Frank during his Wild West Show days and the other is connected to the Civil War through a replacement grip frame and a one-piece elephant ivory grip that was then, as now, very valuable. **BI**



Above: Kevin and Bryan talk about some interesting guns. Above right: Christie Kennard speaks about the James women. Right: Scott Cole introduces a presentation by Michelle Pollard on the Gallatin robbery.



Dinner was provided by the Mudhole BBQ and we were entertained for the evening by Bonnie Pooker. No reunion would be complete without an impromptu visit from Cole Younger and Frank James and both entertained visitors with their hair-raising tales and lively banter. They were certainly a hit with the younger members of the audience as they relived the Legend and passed it on the next generation.

A fun time was had by all and we look forward to seeing more of you next year!

See next page for more photos from the Reunion...



Clockwise: The packed theatre; Board Members, Laura Ganschow and Caleb Pooker; socialising in the gift shop, Dan Pence with Frank and Cole; Bonnie Pooker; Frank, passing on the Legend.

ARRESTING THE BROTHERS JAMES



BY MICHELLE
POLLARD

On Tuesday, 14 December 1869, one hundred and fifty years ago this year, Deputy Sheriff Thomason, his son, Oscar, and two citizens of Gallatin, “went out to the North East part of Clay county, to arrest two men named Frank and Jesse James, charged with being the parties who robbed the Gallatin Bank and killed the Cashier.”¹ That bank had been robbed exactly a week earlier, on 7 December 1869, by two men who had entered the Daviess County Savings Association at Gallatin, Missouri, with more than a simple transaction on their minds.

The first stranger inside had asked the cashier, Capt. John W. Sheets, if he could change a one-hundred-dollar bill and in such a way that the only other man in the bank, William McDowell, assumed the two men were in the middle of a business transaction. With this in mind, McDowell offered the second man a chair at his desk, so that he might more comfortably write a receipt. The second man refused however and remained standing as the first followed the cashier into the back room where the safe was located. Shortly thereafter, two shots were heard from the back room and, turning, McDowell saw Capt. Sheets fall to the ground. Fearing for his own life, McDowell saw that his escape route had been blocked by the second man, who now held a drawn pistol. Swiping the pistol aside, McDowell rushed for the door and made his escape. Two shots fired from the doorway went wide while a third caught McDowell in the fleshy part of his arm. His attacker, having alerted the town, ran to his horse and prepared to leave.

As the murderer of the cashier exited the bank, he had in his hands a file containing paperwork and a small tin, the only things later found to be missing. A tray containing approximately \$1600 had been left by the man, whether deliberately or by mistake was not clear.² As this man tried to climb up onto his horse, the beast bolted, dragging the rider before depositing him, still holding the items he had stolen, in the middle of the street. The townspeople rallied bravely but the man brandished a pistol and held them off until his companion returned, and the two men left together on the same horse.

Just west of town, the pair happened upon a local farmer, Daniel Smoote, and they relieved him of his horse. A few miles further along the road the robbers commandeered the Rev. Helm, ordered him to guide them around small towns, then requested directions to the nearest railroad. Shortly thereafter the trail was lost and the people of Gallatin were forced to return to the only evidence they had.

The abandoned horse.

A bay mare of fine Kentucky racehorse breed, the horse left behind by the robbers was quickly identified as belonging to ‘a man named James’ who lived with his mother and stepfather on a farm in Clay County. How this identification was made is a mystery. Two Gallatin residents had, according to reports, been returning from a trip when they happened to pass through Kearney and recognised Daniel Smoote’s horse being ridden around town there. Other newspapers were claiming that “the reason which led to attach suspicion to the James boys was the fact that the mare left behind by the robbers at Gallatin (a very fine animal for which \$300 had been paid) was identified as belonging to them,” suggesting perhaps that a bill of sale had

CRIME.

Another Bloody Chapter.

**An Alleged Murderer Murdered Near
Kingsville, Mo.**

**Blood Money—Five Dollars for Shoot-
ing Two Men.**

Suicide Epidemic, &c., &c.

[Special Dispatch to the Republican.]

MURDER.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 9.—The murderers of Capt. John W. Sheets, of Gallatin, have not been captured. This morning they had been tracked six miles south of Kidder. All the money they obtained from the bank was \$5 in fractional currency. There was only \$700 in the bank at the time. Capt. Sheets was shot twice, once through the head and once through the heart. He was the principal proprietor of the bank. One of the murderers was thrown from his horse just as he mounted it, but he managed to get up behind his comrade. Numerous parties are scouring the country, and it is scarcely possible they can escape.

[Special Dispatch to the Republican.]

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 9.—Mr. Samuel Dryden, one of the suspected murderers of the Cox family in that vicinity some six weeks since, has been murdered near Kingsville, Mo. Last evening, about dark, while Mr. Dryden was feeding his

Missouri Republican [St Louis],
10 December 1869.

been found.³ Whatever the case, the Gallatin residents were quick to involve the Clay County officials in their quest to bring the murderers of their cashier to justice and with Sheriff Moss away on business, they turned to Deputy Sheriff Thomason.

Kentucky native John S. Thomason had served as a Captain of Company I, Eighty Second Enrolled Missouri Militia during the Civil War and was the nephew of Robert Thomason, stepfather of the James boys' mother, and the son of Wild Bill Thomason, who had taught Frank to ride and shoot before the war.⁴

According to Capt. John E. Woods of Liberty, the Deputy Sheriff had "endeavoured to organize a posse to go out and capture the men" believed to be the Gallatin robbers and murderers but his attempts had been unsuccessful. "He could not get a man to assist him," Woods claimed, "all those appealed to being well aware of the desperate character of the men sought and, knowing their lives to be in danger, refused to accompany the officer on his dangerous mission."⁵ Thomason may have therefore wanted more than the four-man posse he took to the James Farm but what his group lacked in numbers they made up for in experience. Alexander Irving had been one of the party who had pursued and captured the outlaw, John Reno, after he had robbed the Gallatin treasury two years earlier.⁶ And on 9 December 1869, the St Joseph Herald reported that one of these latest robbers had "received a ball in the shoulder, the shot being fired by a citizen." The following day, the same newspaper identified that citizen as "Mr. Barnum, a silversmith of Gallatin." Captain Ely Barnum then, the fourth man in Thomason's posse, was a key eye-witness and could no doubt identify the men.

As the Deputy Sheriff and his party approached the house on 14 December 1869, they "discovered the two James boys engaged in some occupation at the stables." The two Gallatin men staying close to the treeline while the Deputy and his son approached the house. Their intention was to come between the stable and the house, where the Deputy believed the boys may have left their guns. "In this the Deputy Sheriff was mistaken for while passing through the yard, and when near the house, the party were fired on from the stable."⁷

The door opened suddenly and out dashed the two brothers on splendid horses, with pistols drawn, and took the lot fence at a swinging gallop. The Gallatin party from the fence opened fire on sight, the sheriff and his son followed suit, the brothers joined in at intervals, and the chase began.⁸

As the fight moved away from the Farm, the horses ridden by the James brothers easily made it over the perimeter fence, but Thomason's horse was the only one of the pursuing party capable of doing the same. "I killed Thomason's horse," Jesse later confessed, thus ending the pursuit and driving all four men back to the house empty handed.⁹

"Our information is not clear as to the subsequent action of the sheriff," wrote a reporter for the St Joseph Herald, 16 December 1869, although they did go on to say that "it is fair to presume that he retreated in good order," it being "very positive that the rascals escaped and the sheriff returned to Kearney on foot." This last appears untrue - Thomason commandeered one of the James' horses in order to ride back to Kearney. Finding no reinforcements there, the Deputy Sheriff continued to Liberty, ten miles away.

Meanwhile, the James' had doubled back and returned home, "as cool as grenadiers". Unknown conversations were had therein before the James boys re-emerged and headed for Kearney themselves - well-armed, angry and in search of Deputy Sheriff Thomason, kin or no. "They missed each other however," so the James brothers contented themselves with ranting in the street. Armed with several revolvers and a rifle, the



Deputy Sheriff Thomason



The James Farm c. 1870

brothers ordered John S. Groom, not yet Sheriff of Clay County, to come out onto the street and speak with them. He refused, agreeing to speak to them through the door. This they accepted and the brothers, in this manner, denied having anything to do with the robbery and murder at Gallatin but claimed they had just killed Deputy Sheriff Thomason and his son, a confession Groom must have known was false. "They stopped for half an hour", local newspapers reported, before heading east in the direction of the family farm. On the way they met two men - Captain Woods and a man named Clark. Regarding both suspiciously, Jesse demanded to know if they were carrying firearms, to which both men replied in the negative. Unconvinced, Jesse circled Mr. Clark with a drawn pistol until he was sure. Then "Jesse James showed Mr. Woods the scar of a bullet across his left hand and said that it was made by a shot he received in the fight with Tomlinson [sic]." The brothers ended the drama by announcing they would never be taken alive then released the two men and continued on their way east. With regard to the gunshot wound inflicted by Barnum it was noted that "neither of the James boys showed any signs of being wounded, with the exception of the scratch on Jesse's left hand."¹⁰

Jesse James AND THE COUNTY FAIR

The mare left at Gallatin was identified as being a fine Kentucky racehorse, which Jesse had shown at fairs. This made the horse very recognisable as belonging to him. The articles below prove Jesse was attending fairs in the months before the Gallatin robbery.

port, Clay prem. and cert.
Saddle mare, 3 to 4 yrs, S Devers, prem.
J W James, Clay, cert.
Saddle mare, 2 to 3 yrs, J W James,
Clay, prem. and cert.
Saddle mare, 1 to 2 yrs, D M Bivens,
Clay prem. J. D. ()

Selected winners at the Clinton County Fair
Liberty Tribune, 1 October 1869.

B. L. Dorsey, Dorsey's Station, Ill.	8:12
J. F. Jarvis, Troy, Ill.	8:03
J. W. James, Kearney, Mo.	2:40
Frank Redfield, St. Louis.	2:55
John Kennedy, St. Louis.	3:03

Jesse took part in an exhibition event at the St Louis Fair in 1869. He had to ride around the ring, with choreography of his choice, and judge when to stop – the target time being three minutes.

Ninth Report of the St Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association, 1869-70. Published in 1871.

What they do not prove is that Jesse took racehorses to the fairs. This may be because the newspapers only recorded the winners of races and perhaps Jesse never won.

If Kate had appeared at fairs she would have been familiar with Jesse and loud noises and it therefore seems unlikely she would have bolted. Questions have also been raised as to why Jesse did not simply steal the mare back. The mare remained in a stable at Gallatin until she was awarded to Daniel Smoote as payment for his lost mare in October 1871.

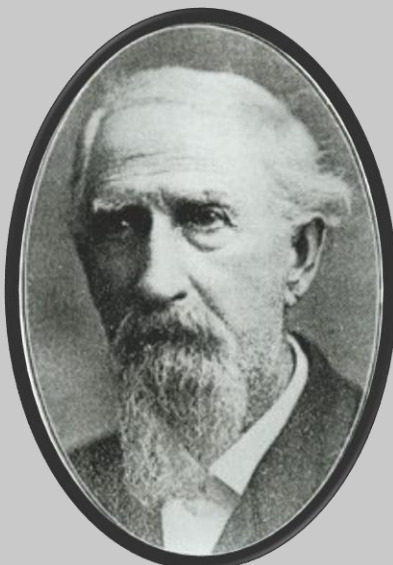
The following day, Thomason returned to the James Farm with reinforcements from Liberty, but the quarry had vanished and an opportunity had been missed. Still, the actions of the James brothers had sealed their fate. "If innocent of the crime charged against them," wrote a reporter for the Liberty Tribune, "they acted very foolishly in resisting the sheriff."¹¹ Many were not surprised the Boys had fled. In fact, they may have been more surprised that after committing a cold-blooded murder and having abandoned a horse so easily identified as belonging to them, the Boys hadn't left already. It would be recalled that in May 1863, Federal neighbours had flogged Jesse with the straps of his own plough before torturing Dr. Samuel and throwing a pregnant Mrs. Samuel in a St Joseph prison in an effort to gain information about local guerrillas, including Frank. Then, on 18 February 1867, Jesse claimed he'd been attacked at home in the middle of the night. That first attack had resulted in the integration of Jesse into the guerrilla bands of William 'Bloody Bill' Anderson, the second, had led to a flurry of bullets through a door and a painful flight into the night. This time it would lead to a lifetime on the run.

"From what I can learn," Jesse wrote in June 1870, "I have been indicted at Liberty for resisting the civil authorities."¹² He admitted to owning the horse found at Gallatin but said he could prove he had sold it previous to the robbery. "I do not think that I violated the law when I fought Thomason," Jesse continued, "as his posse refused to tell me who they were." Jesse recalled how the party had been wearing hoods to keep them from the cold and that although "I am personally acquainted with Oscar Thomason, the deputy's son, when the

shooting began his face was so muffled up with furs that I did not recognize him." In this, Jesse appeared indignant - Frank, noticeably absent. According to family versions, Frank had not been present during the fight Jesse had with Thomason. "Three different statements have been published in reference to the fight I had with Thomason," Jesse wrote, all a "pack of falsehoods." That being said, his comment - "Was not my brother with me when I had the fight" - appeared periodically as a question leaving many to wonder whether Frank was there, or not.¹³ Mrs Samuel clarified the situation somewhat when she told a reporter, "Jesse was here one day when Thomason and his posse came after him." She, like Jesse, made no mention of Frank. Mrs Samuel recalled that after Jesse had killed Thomason's mount, the Deputy Sheriff had taken Jesse's favourite horse, Stonewall Jackson, and rode back to Kearney on him. "Jesse came back in a few minutes, and when he found they had stolen his horse it made him so mad that he swore to kill the whole gang."¹⁴



Above – Capt. John W. Sheets
Below – Maj. Samuel P. Cox



Courtesy of the Daviess County
Historical Society

Major Samuel P. Cox, who had been responsible for Bloody Bill Anderson's death during the Civil War and who was the possible target at Gallatin, did not think Frank James was involved in the Gallatin robbery. He believed the other man, and the murderer of Capt. Sheets, was Bloody Bill's brother, Jim Anderson. One of the robbers had boasted of avenging a brother when holding the Rev. Helm hostage. Furthermore, weeks earlier, Cox had received a letter from 'Jim Anderson' accompanied by a \$50 cheque and instructions for him to return two of Bloody Bill's pistols, which had been presented to Cox in recognition of the killing. Cox had been angry with the request and sent his reply - if Anderson wanted his brother's guns, he should come and get them.¹⁵ With nothing apparently taken from the bank but paperwork and a box containing "fractional currency", and with the dead cashier being the only man who knew exactly what was in the bank at the time of the robbery, perhaps Anderson had tried to do just that. It is perhaps no coincidence that Captain Sheets left his family in "easy circumstances but with sad hearts," having, "just a few weeks before his death taken out life insurance for \$5,000."¹⁶

On Christmas Eve, the first reward posters were printed with the James Boys' names on them and, on the same day, Governor McClurg sent a telegram to all the local sheriffs –

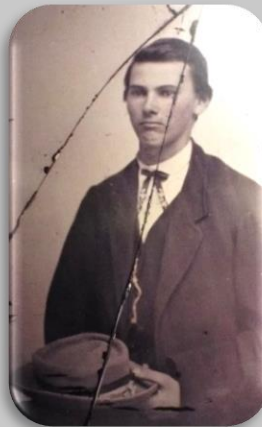
You will organize, arm and equip as militia thirty (30) or more men and aid Thomilson [sic], Deputy Sheriff of Clay County if called on in capturing or killing Frank James and Jesse James or hold such force in readiness to aid you in such capture or killing if they be found in your county. The State will pay expenses of force for actual service and five hundred (500) dollars for the capture or killing of each.

While his orders stated clearly that arresting the brothers was an option, local newspapers were expecting a more decisive approach. "It is not out of place to suggest to any parties going after these scoundrels that they should proceed with the utmost caution," warned a St Joseph Herald reporter, "because the men who committed that dreadful deed in Gallatin, it is presumed, will not be captured alive as they will stand no chance if taken."¹⁷ Similar reports were echoing through the pages of the Liberty Tribune. "Should the miscreants be overtaken, it is not probable that a jury will be required to try them," the newspaper assured its readers. "They will be shot down in their tracks."¹⁸

Within days of Thomason's visit to the James Farm to arrest the brothers then, Jesse knew that surrender was out of the question. "I well know if I was to submit to an arrest that I would be mobbed and hanged without trial," he concluded and he cited the case of Tom Little as an example; mobbed and killed after proving an alibi for the Richmond robbery in 1867. "The past is sufficient to show that bushwhackers do not have any show in law in Missouri," he said.¹⁹

The situation escalated as the new year dawned. On 10 January 1870, Daniel Smoote's lawyer, Henry McDougal, filed a lawsuit against Jesse and Frank James for stealing Smoote's horse in the aftermath of the robbery. That same week, the Liberty Tribune printed details of the reward being offered for the brothers, "supposed to be the murderers of Capt. Jno. W. Sheets." The widow offered \$500, the Daviess County Savings Association and the Governor of Missouri both offered \$500 for each of the brothers and the County Court offered a further \$250, making a total of \$3,000. Newspapers believed the reward should be higher to encourage the best success. "Experienced detectives," they argued, "will not work up a case unless they are well paid."²⁰

With the identification of the James brothers as the murderers came a shift in the way the newspapers described the suspects. Days after the robbery, on 10 December 1869, the St Joseph Herald had presented "a description of the murderers – one a stout, full faced man, about five feet ten inches high, whiskers light colored, about 25 or 30 years of age, had on a heavy blue army overcoat. The other is about five feet ten or eleven inches high, thin visage, about thirty years of age, light whiskers, had on a heavy black overcoat with a large cape." After the failed attempt to arrest the James brothers, the Liberty Tribune of the 14 January 1870 adapted those descriptions to read - "The following is a description of the men. Jesse – About 6 feet in height, rather slender built, thin visage, hair and complexion rather light and sandy. Frank – About 5 feet 8 or 10 inches in height, heavy built, full in the face, hair and complexion same as Jesse." These descriptions appear reversed as Frank was the taller of the two brothers. It should also be noted that eyewitnesses started to doubt earlier reports that one of the robbers had been wounded. Recalling the event in 1942, Edward Clingan remembered that "the silversmith fired one ineffectual shot from the alley doorway."²¹



Capt. Sheets' murderer was described as 'stout' and 'full faced'.
These images, all taken between 1867 and 1871, show Jesse did not fit that description at that time.
Courtesy of Armand De Gregoris and the Jesse James Birthplace & Museum.

On 11 April 1870, the James' lawyer, Samuel Richardson, presented an answer to Smoote's accusation, arguing that the James brothers could not possibly have stolen his horse, or threatened him in any way, because his clients had not been at Gallatin on 7 December 1869. However, during the May Term 1870 both James brothers were indicted for Murder and Grand Larceny – the larceny charge being for the loss of Smoote's horse rather than anything stolen from the bank.²² The following month, and for several months thereafter, regular reports sent in by Sheriff Moss of Clay County stated simply, "Jesse James and Frank James cannot be found in my county."²³ Significantly, and unlike their successful pursuit of John Reno, the Gallatin

contingent seemed to retreat after their first encounter with the brothers and made no further attempts to arrest them.

By June 1870, urged on by friends and given space in the local newspapers by new friend, John Newman Edwards, Jesse was preparing to prove his innocence by collecting alibis, which appeared in the *Liberty Tribune*, 22 July 1870. John S. Groom testified that Jesse had been in his store room and purchased goods on Monday evening, 6 December 1869. "I further state that I have been personally acquainted with Jesse James since 1866," he said, "and I have never known him to act other than respectful, and I have never known a more honest person in all his business transactions."

James M. Gow swore Jesse was in his store in Kearney on the same night, Monday 6 December. "I have been acquainted with Jesse W. James since childhood and he has always acted honorably with me," he said.

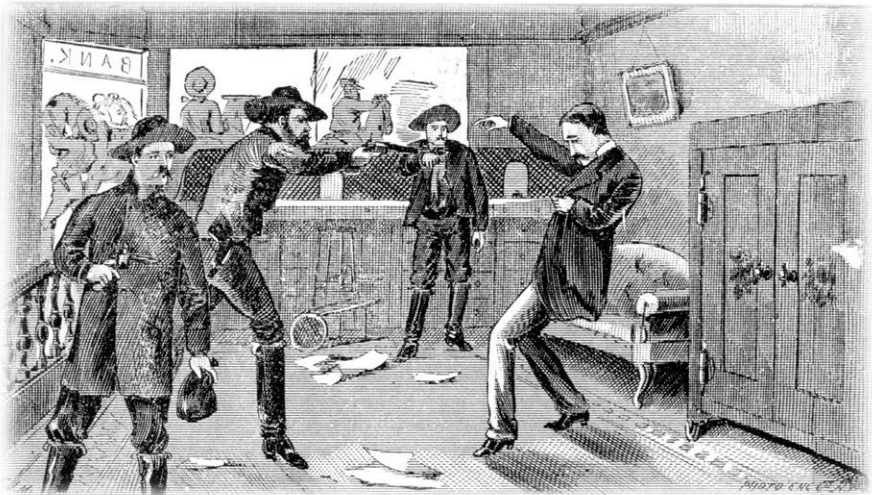
Alfred R. McGinnis swore that he had seen Jesse on 8 December at Mrs. Fox's home.

Rueben Samuel, Jesse's step-father, said, "I do solemnly swear that I came home from my father's 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 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-law, Jesse Cole's, to help him kill hogs. Jesse James was at home when I went to Jesse Cole's, he was also at home when I came back, the same day, at two o'clock. He stayed at home Tuesday night, and then he went to Mrs. Fox's."²⁴

Susan James, swore "that my brother Jesse and I attended preaching in Greenville, December 5, 1869. After we returned from church, we ate dinner, and Jesse caught my bay 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 one came in with Jesse. The man who purchased her said he came 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 on Tuesday, Dec. 7th, and Wednesday, Dec. 8th, until noon; he then went to Mrs. Fox's."²⁵

Mrs Samuel similarly swore "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 after 12 o'clock. He then went to Mrs Fox's."

On the surface of it, the alibis worked; a report in the *Liberty Tribune* of 22 July 1870 stated quite clearly that, "those who have read Jesse James' defense generally believe him innocent – all I have heard speak of it." However, foul play was suspected. "The degraded Radical party criticized my alibis," Jesse said, "and insinuated that I had bribed my witnesses." Only Jesse's family gave alibis that proved he was not capable of the robbery but if such underhanded tactics had been utilized, it may be expected that more would have testified seeing Jesse on the day of the robbery, rather than days either side of it. Still, Jesse was undeterred.



A rendering of the Gallatin robbery and the murder of John W. Sheets. The image suggests more men waiting outside and seems to present a Jesse James of the 1880s rather than the 1870s.

Courtesy of the Daviess County Historical Society.

"I don't care what the Radical party think of me," he said. "I would just as soon as they would think that I was a robber, as not; but they don't think so, they know it is false when they say so."

Defiance may have been evident in his letters but, in reality, Jesse James was already planning to leave. A report from Moss dated 12 July 1870 stated his belief that "Jesse James and Frank James have absconded or absented themselves from [their] usual place of abode in this state so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon them." Less than a month later, however, the brothers were back.

The St Joseph Gazette reported that they came in a fit of rage. They taunted Deputy Sheriff Thomason, stating that they had "returned to their home and intended to stay there, and if he wanted anything of them he would have to come and see them; that they were each armed with two revolvers and a repeating rifle, and were ready to give him a warm reception." This came as somewhat of a shock. Previously, the same newspaper had "been disposed to think that the young James might really be an innocent and injured man" but argued now that these latest actions in Kearney "would indicate that the James boys desire to place themselves entirely beyond the pale of civilised society." The Weekly Caucasian of 27 August hoped that the "Gazette surely must be misinformed as to the language of these boys. It is not the language used by them in their late letters."

Mistaken appears to be exactly what they were. The Liberty Tribune of 5 August 1870 were brief in their reporting of the event. "The James brothers were in our town this week," the Kearney section explained. "They were heavily armed and well mounted. They soon left." The brothers had, in fact, entered the town and remained in the saddle outside Judge James Gow's office as they passed over the deeds of their share in the family farm, inherited from their father twenty years earlier, to their mother.

Susan James, in a rare appearance in the press, confirmed that her brothers had been in Kearney and that, despite holding warrants from Gallatin on charges of grand larceny and murder, Deputy Sheriff Thomason who had been informed by letter of their arrival and of their intention, allowed them to enter and made no attempt to arrest them.

Aug. 1 " Summels Geroldia Alex. F. James
 Nov. 13 1869 Saunders J. W. & H. S. Michael Arthur
 Dec. 11 1870 Berk Washington H. McCauley Moore -
 Executors, Garret A. Hill

July 11 " Slaughter William Robert C. Thompson dep.
 Jan. 15 " Smith Elizabeth J. Mo. H. Clay rock
 Sept. 2 " Silver James J. L. B. Wyseong rock
 Aug. 1 " Summels Geroldia Jesse W. James "

Above – Abstract and Index of Deeds showing entries for Jesse W. James and Alex. F. James. Book 35, pp 26-7.

Right – Susie's letter as it appeared in the Liberty, Clay County Democrat, 1 October 1870.

With thanks to Liz Murphy

From the St. Jo Gazette.
 KEARNEY, Mo., Aug. 16, '70.
 MR. WM. RIDENBAUGH: DEAR
 SIR—On noticing an article in your
 paper, I see you are wrongly in-
 formed concerning my brothers.
 Your informant was much mistaken.
 My brothers came home and stayed
 several days; they came on busi-
 ness, to deed their interest in the
 farm to ma. And as to their breath-
 ing defiance to the citizens and the
 law is just as base a falsehood as was
 ever uttered from human lips. It is
 true they were in Kearney, but not
 as outlaws, but as peaceable and quiet
 citizens. They wrote a note Sher-
 iff Thomason, that they came, not for
 disturbance, but on business. I will
 be much obliged to you if you will
 correct that statement in the Gazette,
 of the 11th. Respectfully,
 SUSIE L. JAMES.

A week later, on Saturday the 6 August 1870, efforts to arrest the brothers resumed. Six months on from Gallatin and with the murder of the cashier firmly placed at their door, the group now consisted of "Sheriff Moss and Dep. Sheriff Thomason, with a squad of some ten men." It was no doubt for show as they surely weren't expecting the brothers to be at home. Indeed, "the group found the game had disappeared and it is believed they have left the country, as they have deeded their mother their interest in the home farm."²⁶

Census takers, arriving at the James Farm on 20 August 1870, noted the inhabitants as Reuben, Serelda [sic], Sarah, John, Finnie [sic], Archie and Mary Samuel and Susan James. It seemed as though the newspapers were right – the James boys had left Missouri – but then, on 3 June 1871, the Ocobock Brothers Bank at Corydon, Iowa, was robbed and those same newspapers carried news that, “From the description of the parties, it is believed that two of the robbers were the James boys, who robbed the Gallatin Bank about a year ago.”²⁷

When Daniel Smoote’s case came to court in October 1871, Jesse and Frank did not appear and Smoote was awarded the abandoned mare in their absence. If they had appeared, they would undoubtedly have been arrested for the more serious charge of murder.

1. Liberty Tribune, 17 December 1869.
2. Col. James McFerran, owner of the bank, made a statement that “the robbers got a very small sum” but noted that, as Capt. Sheets was the only person who would have known exactly what was inside the bank at the time of the robbery, “it is possible they got more than is supposed.” McFerran further stated that “the great loss is the death of the cashier, aside from that I would not mind it.” Missouri [St Louis] Republican, 13 December 1869.
3. St Joseph Gazette, 17 December 1869.
4. John Samuel Thomason was born in Scott County, Kentucky, on 30 January 1818 and died on 27 January 1905. He is buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Liberty, Missouri. The 1870 census for Liberty, Missouri, lists John as a 52 year old Deputy Sheriff living with his wife, Sarah, and their seven children. The eldest, twenty-two-year-old Oscar, is listed as ‘Constable’.
5. St Joseph Herald, 16 December 1869.
6. The county treasurer’s office at Gallatin was robbed of \$23,000 on 17 November 1867. John Reno was captured in Seymour, Indiana; Reno Gang Steals \$23,000 from Daviess County, David Stark, Gallatin North Missourian, 24 March 1993.
7. St Joseph Gazette, 17 December 1869; St Louis Republican, 20 December 1869.
8. The St Joseph Morning Herald, 17 December 1869.
9. A Terrible Quintette, St Louis Dispatch, 22 November 1873.
10. St Joseph Gazette, 17 December 1869.
11. Liberty Tribune, 17 December 1869.
12. Richmond Conservator from the Kansas City Times, 8 July 1871.
13. Liberty Tribune, 24 June 1870.
14. St Louis Republican, 17 October 1897; correspondence with Gay Mathis. Zerelda further stated that Jesse sent a message to Thomason saying that if the horse was not returned within three days, there would be trouble. “Two days later the horse was returned and Thomason never tried to catch Jesse again. Once was enough for him.”
15. St Louis Republican, 23 August, 1883; Denver Post, 26 June 1901.
16. Gallatin Democrat, 9 December 1869.
17. St Joseph Herald, 16 December 1869.
18. Liberty Tribune, 17 December 1869.
19. Liberty Tribune, 24 June 1870.
20. Liberty Tribune, 17 December 1869.

NEWS FROM THE FARM

Restoration work continues on the old cabin. Tours are unable to go inside but are continuing, providing some rare opportunities for visitors to see the original timbers and framework of the 1822 cabin.



Recently, a Mustang club visited the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum, causing quite the spectacle in the parking lot!



Matt Coonce and his family visited recently too! Here they are, standing in front of the diorama Matt created.

21. The indictments and documents can be found online, cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm/search/collection/jessejames. These were discovered by James P. Muehlberger. Many believed Anderson could not have been at Gallatin because he had been killed by George Shepherd in Texas in 1867. This is as incorrect as Shepherd's alleged murder of Jesse in 1879. Jim was married on 21 October 1868; he appears on the 1870 census for Refugio, Texas; a daughter, Jimmie Maude Anderson, was born on 21 August 1871; and according to the family Bible, Jim died in May 1871.
22. St Louis Globe Democrat, 17 October 1942. Jesse did not have a bullet wound to the shoulder according to the autopsy report after his death.
23. The court documents can be found online at cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm/search/collection/jessejames
24. \$500 was a huge sum for a horse at that time. Smoote's horse, saddle and bridle were valued at \$223.50. Perhaps other items were purchased at the same time.
25. It seems unlikely that Jesse planned to sell the horse as he surely would have taken another animal with him. One hour would not have been enough time for him to have got to Kearney and returned so he must have met someone on the road. Anderson may be implicated as he had connections to Topeka, Kansas.
26. Liberty Tribune, 12 August 1870.
27. Bethany [Missouri] Watchman, 8 June 1871.

With thanks to Gay Mathis, Jeff Thoele and Paul Saeli

IF ONLY JESSE DRANK BEER...

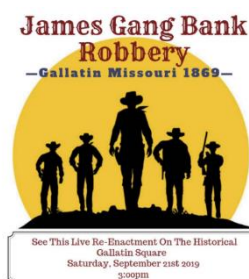
When Jesse James

Began his career as an outlaw Frank H. Kemp's lager beer was not the favorite beverage of the people. Had this famous lager beer been in general use as it now is, the great outlaw would not have become the desperate man that report makes him. Kemp's beer would not have excited him to deeds of desperation. He would, under its genial influences, have been toned down to a quiet citizen. Call at Gus. Bombeck's saloon, 420 Main street, and purchase a "schooter" of this excellent beer for 5 cents.

This article, from the Kansas City Mail, 5 November 1879, has been sent to us by Chuck Rabas who advised us not to drink beer while reading it, and we advise the same!

The report states that if Jesse had been aware of Frank H. Kemp's lager beer, he "would not have become the desperate man that report makes him." The advertisement assures the readers that had Jesse partaken in Kemp's beer it "would not have excited him to deeds of desperation," but instead, "under its genial influences," he would have "been toned down to a quiet citizen."

GALLATIN ROBBERY RE-ENACTMENT



On 21 September 2019, and as part of their annual Chautauqua fall festival, the residents of Gallatin staged a re-enactment to mark the 150th anniversary of the Gallatin bank robbery. "This was the fourth time the James Gang legend was re-enacted here," reported the Gallatin North Missourian on 25 September. Previous re-enactments had occurred in 1971, 1990 and 1991.

The 2019 re-enactment was sponsored by the Friends of Gallatin

Organization and featured Matt Swofford and John Bohannon as Frank and Jesse James, Ira Sloan as Capt. John W. Sheets, Wood Marshall as William McDowell and Lance Rains as Daniel Smoote.

The Friends of Gallatin website states that, "A crowd in the hundreds stood on the courthouse lawn to witness the re-enactment despite threatening rain." Special edition newspapers were printed for the event by the Gallatin Publishing Co. and members of the GHS Drama Class re-enacted the 1883 Trial of Frank James.



L-R: The Gallatin's sheriff, Samuel Cox and two posse members. Photo courtesy of Trudi Burton.

THE DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS - NORTHFIELD



BY PAT WAHLER

When the Northfield Historical Society invited me to be a featured author at Defeat of Jesse James Days, how could I resist? The experience turned out to be a most memorable one.

Forty miles south of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Northfield is a scenic city with a distinctly small-town flavor. But the town's main historical claim to fame is the infamous attempt by the James-Younger gang to rob the First National Bank. On September 7, 1876, the gang met their downfall.

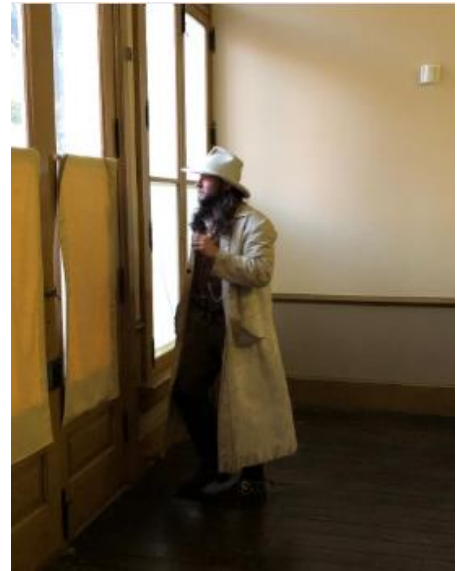
Northfield takes great pride in how its citizens responded to the robbery. Men grabbed their guns and fought back. People like J. S. Allen, a merchant who sounded the alarm. A.R. Manning, who reportedly wounded Cole Younger and killed Bill Stiles. Henry Wheeler, who is reported to have killed Clell Miller and wounded Bob Younger. But most of all, the town honors Joseph Lee Heywood, a young husband and father, who felt it his duty to protect his fellow citizens' savings. He repeatedly refused the robbers' demands for him to open the bank vault. As the bandits fled, Heywood was shot and killed.

In 1948, Northfield created Defeat of Jesse James Days to honor the bravery of their citizens, especially Joseph Heywood. The event, held each year on the weekend after Labor Day, has become one of the largest outdoor celebrations in Minnesota, drawing visitors from all over the United States and abroad.

Event activities are multiple and varied. They include such things as a rodeo, a carnival, horse races, vintage baseball, a beard-growing contest, and a car show. A gravesite memorial service is held for Joseph Heywood, and a distinguished service award banquet held in his memory. Without any doubt, though, the event's highlight is a re-enactment of the Northfield robbery, which takes place in front of the carefully restored First National Bank.

Re-enactments are held on the weekend, usually three times over the course of a day, with many hundreds of spectators lining the streets. A narrator gives the crowd an overview, but when the first three strangers ride into town, the Northfield story truly begins. The re-enactment sticks to an under seven-minute time frame, which includes plenty of action, extremely patient horses, and a great deal of noise when countless blanks are fired into the air. After the foiled attempt, six men spur their animals out of town. Before the smoke has time to clear, applause erupts, and the robbers return to take a bow.

Although the re-enactments are but a sliver in the agenda, Defeat of Jesse James Days is a worthwhile visit for anyone interested in the James-Younger gang and the Northfield robbery. After all, short of a time machine, how else can we witness history brought to life? **PW**



Photos taken from inside the bank.
Courtesy of Pat Wahler.

For more information, check out the bank raid page - www.northfieldhistory.org/the-bank-raid/

GETTING LOST WHILE SEARCHING FOR JESSE? WE CAN ALL RELATE TO THAT!

In its sixteenth year, the Liberty Corn Maze 2019 season featured a design titled, "Wild West in the Mid-West".

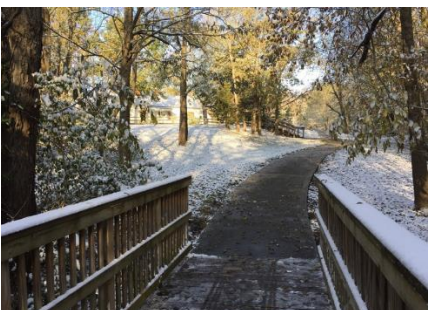
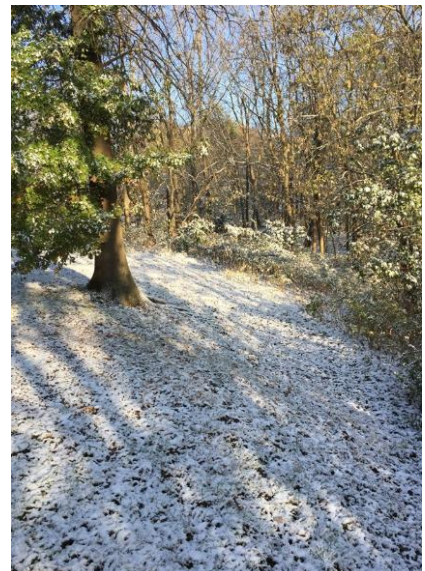
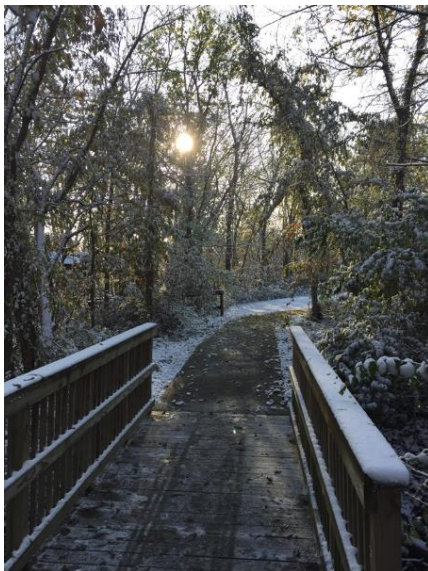
Covering 25 acres, the intricate design was created with the use of a fully equipped GPS tractor and paid homage to Jesse James. Visitors attempting to find their way out of the maze needed to negotiate a bank vault, a period locomotive, a dollar sign and a stagecoach before reaching the great man himself.

Bridges within the maze helped visitors get their bearings while at the same time offering a bird's eye view of the maze as a whole.



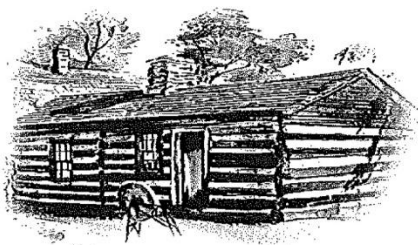
Photo courtesy of the Liberty Corn Maze

SNOW AT HALLOWE'EN? (BUT IT SURE LOOKS PRETTY!)



Friends of the James Farm

c/o Jesse James Birthplace
 21216 Jesse James Farm Road
 Kearney, MO 64060
 www.jessejames.org
 816.736.8500



James homestead cabin —
 Original art by Jim Hamil

Return Service Requested

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail membership form and payment to:

Friends of the James Farm
 c/o Jesse James Birthplace
 21216 Jesse James Farm Road
 Kearney, MO 64060



You can also scan
 QR Code to visit our
 website.
 www.jessejames.org

Membership Levels
 (Mark One)

- ☐ Bushwhacker \$25
☐ Clay County Irregular . . . \$50
☐ Road Agent \$100
☐ Long Rider \$250
☐ Home Guard \$500

Is this a renewal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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