

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an unusual year, hasn't it?

As you know, we only had two shoots instead of the usual three and although our shoot insurance has been more reasonable these last two years, we were not able to get a partial refund for not having the normal three shoots. Furthermore, the pandemic cut the shoot attendance and forced us to cancel our reunion and Christmas party.

On the plus side we have two new excellent board member candidates that I am going to write up for our board members to vote on shortly, and you will be pleased to know that we have a new trophy supplier.

With everyone staying at home, and with our funds depleted, there has been little opportunity for us to purchase items for the museum or the farm but we would like to extend out thanks to John Paul Strain, whose painting, "Jesse James", was recently put on permanent display in one of the galleries. Be sure to come and see it!

I believe our next year will be a great one and we will be able to continue our support of the farm and museum. Best of all, our wonderful newsletters will continue. **Bryan Ivlow**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF FALL



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REMEMBERING JAY JACKSON: EDUCATOR, HISTORIAN, FRIEND

The funny thing about life is how one moment can lead to something new and different and before you know it, you have new friends, new passions, a new direction. That's what happened when I met historian Jay Jackson nine years ago. I'd heard about the Frank James Bank Museum in Missouri City and finagled an interview and meeting with Jay. The interview was for a piece I was doing for the Excelsior Springs newspaper on Frank James. Little did I know then that the chance meeting would grow into a professional friendship wrapped around a love for history.

I would enjoy yet another encounter with Jay when the Friends of the James Farm reunion tour took us to the museum in June 2012. Several James family members, including Jesse's great-granddaughter, Betty Barr, would pose for photos with Jay, his wife Barbara (in period clothing) and Jay's friend Tony Meyers – dressed as Frank James.

Jay was not only a kind and gentle man, he loved history with all his heart. He was a wonderful storyteller and that captured my attention all too well.

Sadly, Jay passed away Sunday, October 25, at the far too young age of 70. He left behind a wife, children, grandchildren, extended family and so very many friends.

Many people remember Jay for being a wonderful educator. He was the long-time superintendent of the Missouri City School District, noted for being the smallest district in Missouri. In an October 27, 2020, article in the *Kansas City Star*, he was remembered for his pioneering work in desegregation. Jay was the only school superintendent outside of Kansas City to accept black students during the Federal desegregation program



BY ELIZABETH
RAINS JOHNSON



Jay gazes at a blown up photo of a young Frank James that is on display in his museum in Missouri City. (2011 Photo by Liz Johnson)

from 1990 to 2002. In 1987, Jay's school district was recognized by *The New York Times* as "the Missouri City Miracle."

I had no idea about Jay's vast educator background until now. It simply adds to the humble enigma that was Jay.

One of Jay's closest friends, Tony Meyers, a member of the Clay County Historical Society, an author, historian and re-enactor, shared some of his memories of Jay, which speak not just of Jay's love of history and talent for storytelling, but of how he loved to educate children and how skilled he was at doing so.

"One of my fondest memories of Jay occurred about a year ago at the Clay County Museum," Tony said. "Students were visiting the museum to view the Civil War exhibit which Jay had helped to create. As they arrived, Jay gathered them together, had them sit on the floor, and in no time had them spellbound as he shared stories about history. It was amazing how he immediately connected with them. He communicated in a way that kept their interest and at a level that enabled them to learn. Jay was truly a passionate and masterful educator."

"Jay had an affinity for working with young people. For more than 40 years, as a teacher (initially) and then as superintendent of the Missouri City School, he influenced literally hundreds of students in a positive way," Tony added.

Jay was fascinated by Frank James and ignited that interest in me. We all seem to love the gregarious Jesse – handsome, enigmatic, outgoing – but then there was Frank – the quiet brother – the one who managed surrender, imprisonment and lived out his life.

Frank James was quiet and retrospective, but what simmered beneath the surface of the older brother of the vivacious, outgoing Jesse James? Jay believed he had some answers to that question. "I think Frank was a quiet killer," Jay said in a 2012 interview with me, as we gazed at a blown up photo of post-war Frank as a 20-something man.

Frank, along with a few of his fellow guerrillas, were the ones who robbed the store that now houses the Frank James Bank Museum in Missouri City. The date of that robbery was May 19, 1863, and took place the evening following the raid on the Union troops occupying Missouri City, in which mayor and Union Captain Darius Sessions was killed, along with several other Union soldiers.

The current building, built in 1858, now preserves the story of the first known "military" action of Frank James – thanks to the preservation and historic research conducted by Jay.

"I remember fondly how Jay enjoyed hosting tour groups at his Museum in Missouri City," Tony said. "It made him happy to realize that people were interested in the history that he was willing to share with them. He somehow talked me into dressing out as an outlaw in order to help him re-enact the story of the time that Frank James came to town and robbed the store."

Indeed, Tony was dressed as Frank James the day the Friends of the James Farm group toured the museum. Jay's wife, Barbara, was dressed as Lurena "Lou" McCoy, who had shopped in the store and was arrested by the Union troops for aiding and abetting the enemy – namely the Confederates. Frankly, it was for feeding her own husband, a Confederate soldier. She'd been arrested and taken to St.



One could often find Barbara and Jay Jackson at assorted re-enactments. This one was at the 2014 anniversary of the Battle of Albany in which William "Bloody Bill" Anderson was killed in 1864. The Jacksons are pictured in the Mormon Cemetery (as it is now known) in Richmond at the final portion of the anniversary re-enactment, where the burial of Anderson took place. (Photo by Liz Johnson)

Joseph, leaving behind an infant child and young brother. The raid on Missouri City was in retaliation for Lou's arrest. (see the Spring 2020 Journal article for more on this raid).

The museum is located in the old "Nowlin" building at Main and Doniphan streets in Missouri City. Jay outfitted the building to look like the general store it had been at the time of the 1863 looting.

When Jay conducted tours of the museum, he not only talked about the events of May 19, 1863, but also talked about the Civil War in this area. He would focus on guerrilla warfare and the war that women endured at the hands of U.S. military men due to the military policy of the time. He talked about the, "creation of insurgent resistance to Federal occupation, and the role that Frank James played in creating the Jesse and Frank James legend of Clay County."

The old Nowlin building was placed on the National Register of Historic sites on August 6, 2010.

"Jay always had a deep love for history and was especially knowledgeable about the Civil War," Tony said. "He had ancestors on both sides during the War and he loved to tell stories about them."

Jay loved re-enacting! He had been a re-enactor for decades and was a member of the Missouri-Kansas Border War Network.

Once I began writing history columns for the Excelsior Springs and Richmond newspapers and going to re-enactments, it was a natural thing to run into Jay, and often his wife, dressed in costumes appropriate for whatever re-enactment was taking place. In 2014, I ran into them both at the re-enactment of the death and burial of William "Bloody Bill" Anderson in Richmond.

Jay often worked with Tony in researching and writing historic pieces, as well as in preparing for various documentaries, as recounted by his friend, "And of course [there was] the time we spent in researching the Civil War Battle of Liberty in preparation for a documentary that was being filmed about the battle. I'll always remember how we laughed and laughed as we came up with possible movie scenes that would be even better than Steven Spielberg could create."

Jay was often asked to speak to groups about Civil War history. "He was always willing to share his knowledge with others and did so through countless presentations and talks which he gave to various civic groups and historical organizations," Tony said.

Not only was Jay a mover and shaker in education, but he had a knack for organizing and achieving specific goals. "Jay was always an idea person and had an ability to bring others together to work with him to make things happen. Two of his biggest dreams came true in recent months; filming the Battle

Must See Movies

With the dark nights drawing in, we thought we would tempt you to watch some of these old James Boys movies! Are any of these your favorite?



of Liberty documentary for the Clay County Museum and the placement of an historical marker about the battle. He was incredibly happy as those dreams were fulfilled."

In 2013, Jay contacted me and asked me to corroborate on a book about the Missouri City raid. I spent a great deal of time with him talking about Frank James, and all the various characters involved in that fateful day. We worked together on the book for several months, then I handed over my research and went on my way.

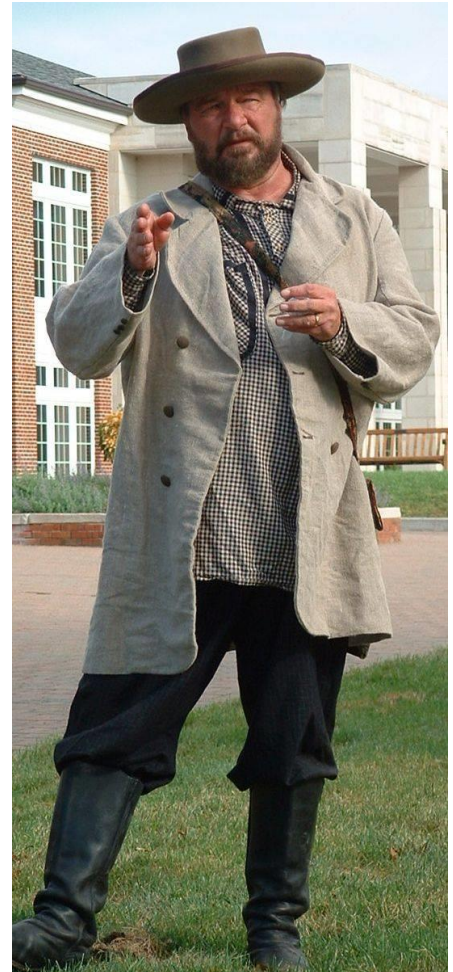
In 2018, to my great delight, I learned that Jay had finished his book, "You All Look Brave Enough to Hang a Woman: The First Guerrilla Action of Frank James," and published it. Even more delightful was to find my name mentioned in the acknowledgements. I wasn't surprised, it's just what Jay's generous character would do. "Jay was always conscientious about giving credit to others for their contributions," Tony said. "While giving talks on history, he would go out of his way to acknowledge others who had helped."

In addition to all these skills and interests, Jay had worked with Lt. Col. (U.S. Army Ret.) Dave Chuber in teaching bushwhacker/guerrilla warfare at Fort Leonard Wood to senior non-commissioned officers. "Their experiences in seeing some of these things ... you can't lose your composure when you see an atrocity ... you can't lose it, or you would fall into a trap set by the enemy," Jay told me. He explained that the way the guerrillas fought here in Missouri, can teach our own soldiers how to cope, understand and defend themselves from the ambushes and underhanded way the enemy is attacking us during current wars.

Jay was also a member of the William C. Corum Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Clay County Archives and Historical Library, Clay County Historical Society, a founding organizer of the Crowley's Company Civil War re-enactor's group, in addition to all of the educational organizations he belonged to.

I hadn't seen Jay in several years when I learned of his passing on October 25th and it made my heart heavy.

His dear friend Tony summed up Jay pretty well, "Jay was such a kind and outgoing person; so positive and so full of energy. He was a person who you just wanted to be around. When Jay came into a room, the level of energy was immediately higher, more positive and more joyful." ERJ



In Memoriam

Jay Jackson

1950 - 2020



Tony Meyer's photo

FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM SHOOT

19 September 2020



The September Gang on the porch!

Our September 19 shoot had nearly ideal weather. Our attendance was a little less than the last one and our fundraising was therefore also less, at \$450.00. As always, we thank those who were able to come out and support this event.

One of our regular shooters, Dennis Brown, unfortunately didn't have the time to stay for the shoot but he did have time for the sale of a nice selection of cartridge belts, holsters, .45 cal. bullets, and a set of spurs.

Our shoot safety was ably handled by Clay County rangers, Melissa Mahoney and Kyle Rasche and we thank them both.

We will put our next year's shoot schedule in our end of the year newsletter.

Exciting news! A lot of shooters are dressing very well for our events and so, in recognition of this, the kind folks over at the James Country Mercantile store in Liberty, Missouri, will be offering a gift certificate for their store to the best dressed shooter! More details will follow. **BI**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Caleb Blackwell
Second place: Gary Blackwell
Third place: Mark Wright

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

First place: Caleb Blackwell
Second place: Gary Blackwell
Third place: Paul Weller

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Del Warren
Second place: Gary Blackwell
Third place: Eric Granson

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

First place: Jason Napier
Second place: Del Warren
Third place: Gary Blackwell

CUSTOM CLOTHING! AUTHENTIC DESIGNS!



NEW PAINTING BY HISTORICAL ARTIST, JOHN PAUL STRAIN



This is the new painting, “Jesse James”, by historical artist, John Paul Strain, a copy of which is now on permanent display at the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum. The painting depicts Bloody Bill Anderson, Sgt. John Baker, John Jarrette, Jesse James and Frank James as they take part in the infamous raid outside Centralia in September, 1864.

John has been painting historical scenes for over 44 years. The National Park Service uses his images in their publications and at battlefield sites and his paintings are featured on historical plaque markers located at General Robert E. Lee’s home Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, Harper’s Ferry National Battlefield Park in Jefferson County, West Virginia and General J.E.B Stuart’s Home Laurel Hill in Patrick County, Virginia, to name but a few.

Several of John’s paintings are on show in museums and private institutions while others have been featured in books and movies. Many have helped to raise funds for historical restoration projects and battlefield preservation organizations.

“The medium I paint with is gouache,” Mr. Strain told us, “which is an opaque watercolor. It allows me to put much more detail in a painting, than say oil paints. As a historical artist,” he continued, “I have been painting



Artist, John Paul Strain

famous American figures for many years. Typically, collectors of my artwork have wanted paintings featuring great leaders and generals, but recently I have begun to broaden my work to include western subjects that have become legendary as part of our American history. My painting entitled "Jesse James" is my first foray into this new theme. I would hope that some day I might be able to feature Jesse in more of my future works. I would like to thank the Jesse James Museum and Birthplace for displaying a canvas reproduction of "Jesse James".

If you would like a copy of John Paul Strain's 'Jesse James', please go to his website – www.johnpaulstrain.com



THE FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON



The first snow fell here on 26 October.
It wasn't much but the Farm
and Museum sure did look pretty!

MISSOURI LIFE AWARD

In 2019, Missouri Life Magazine held their first ever Missouri Life Awards offering their readers the chance to submit nominations and then vote for the best bakeries, attractions, festivals and famous individuals from the state. The resulted was a list, created by Missourians, of the very best the state could offer.

The success of that event has encouraged them to do it again and this year, Jesse James is on the list!

He has won the category for Most Notorious Missouri Outlaw, beating Calamity Jane, in second place.



THE PROS AND CONS OF JESSE JAMES AS A NEIGHBOR

This postcard made a recent appearance on the Jesse James Birthplace Facebook page and it caught a few people's attention. So much so that we thought it might be of interest to include here.

Some of you might recognize the building as St. Teresa's Academy, 5600 Main, Kansas City, and you might also question the caption that accompanies the photograph – "To protect girls from the 'busy, brawling city' an iron gate was erected, the gate was locked at 8.00pm to shield girls from Jesse James' gang and other gunmen." The costume worn by the girls certainly looks to be later.



To protect girls from the 'busy, brawling city,' an iron gate was erected, the gate was locked at 8.00 p.m. to shield girls from Jesse James' gang and other gunmen.

Early History

The first thing we discovered was that St. Teresa's Academy did not start its life at 5600 Main. Back in 1865, Father Bernard Donnelly, then pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church at 11th and Broadway, wrote to the motherhood of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, near St. Louis, to ask the Superior if she could send a small group of sisters to open a convent school for girls. The Sisters were promised the use of a school building built using bricks made at Father Donnelly's brickyard but when they arrived, they found the building empty. A fundraising event was immediately organized so the Sisters could furnish the hospital with much needed beds, desks and chairs.

The school opened on 1 September 1866 and their first student was Laura Coates, daughter of Kersey Coates. A prominent businessman, Coates would go on to develop the area around the school and was one of the men responsible for attracting the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad to the city resulting in Kansas City, Missouri, not Leavenworth, Kansas, becoming the principle city in the region. According to Marty Denzer's article, *St. Teresa's Academy Celebrates Sesquicentennial*, "Laura was followed by the daughters of traders and civic leaders of the burgeoning city. Young Mexican women travelled by covered wagons to the school. Freighters began dropping off their daughters at St. Teresa's to be educated and kept safe; sometimes years would pass before they were reunited. One hundred and forty French, Irish, Italian, German, Spanish and American students were registered that year."



BY MICHELLE POLLARD
AND LINDA GAY MATHIS



The original St Teresa's Academy
on Quality Hill.

The young women learned a range of skills and their lessons included Analytical Grammar, Sacred History, Mental and Moral Philosophy. They dressed in black alpaca dresses and red trimmed black hats in the winter and buff chambray dresses with blue trimmed white hats in the summer.

Rough Neighbors

As Kansas City grew, so too did the Academy. The affluent area in which it stood, developed by Kersey Coates, attracted elite families who built their homes on what was then called Quality Hill. But it was not to last. As America emerged from Civil War and Kansas City continued to grow, Quality Hill witnessed the arrival of unsavory businesses and saloons to the area. These brought with them a different level of clientele and violent disruption became commonplace.

In 1870, the Sisters had no choice but to instal iron gates, which were locked at 8pm each night to keep out ruffians like Jesse James!

On The Move

As the years went by, the situation deteriorated to such an extent that newly appointed Sister Evelyn O'Neill set plans in motion to relocate the Academy further south, away from the hustle and bustle of Quality Hill. After much discussion, the property at 5600 Main Street was chosen.

In 1941, a second building was added, Donnelly Hall, the first college for women in the city. It moved in 1963 and became Avila University where it now offers enhanced sports programs and high tech classrooms.

The Sisters Are Called Upon To Help Again

In 1873, Denzer's article tells us, Jefferson Davis Griffith, a young physician, arrived in Kansas City. He had next to nothing in way of possessions and was finding it hard to encourage patients through his doors. Aware of the reputation of the sisters at St. Teresa's, Dr. Griffith approached Father Donnelly and asked for his help. He wanted some of the sisters to join him in opening a hospital. The following year, six sisters, led by Mother Celeste O'Reilly, purchased a 10 room residence in the Quality Hill neighborhood. Six of those rooms became wards with a capacity for twelve patients. The smaller rooms became living quarters for the sisters and one room was reserved for the chapel.

When St Joseph's Hospital opened on 15 October 1874, it was the first private hospital in Kansas City.

During that first year, and with hospitals still being seen as the last resort, the St. Joseph sisters treated just sixty-nine patients. These were humble beginnings, for sure, but Dr. Griffith and the Sisters soon flourished and that, to some degree, has been accredited to none other than, Jesse James.



The gates secured the Quality Hill Campus from 1880 to 1910 and are now on display at the Windmoor Center.
St. Teresa's Annual Report 2015.



President, Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson D. Griffith of Kansas City.

An Encounter With The James Brothers

According to a report in the Kansas City Star, 4 October 1931, Dr. Griffith had been looking forward to “the approaching hour when Kansas City physicians would assemble to form the Jackson County Medical Society,” when there came a sharp knock at his door. On opening the door, the doctor was confronted by two bearded men, both brandishing pistols.

“You’re a doctor?” one man asked, and Dr. Griffith agreed he was. “Then come with me.”

The party travelled some distance in a buggy, Dr. Griffith and his assistant sitting in the back and being discouraged from peering out or asking questions. Finally, the buggy “clattered over a bridge and the doctors knew they were crossing into the Clay County hills.” Having continued further, the buggy stopped in front of a two-story log house. And there, “while the Jackson County Medical Society was being formed in the city, Dr. Griffith treated a wounded bandit he recognized as Jesse James.”

The incredible story appears to have impressed all who heard it. “Word got out,” wrote Marty Denzer in another of his articles, *The Education and Care of the ‘Dear Neighbor’ for 145 Years in Kansas City*, “and Dr. Griffith no longer lacked for patients.” In fact, at many later meetings of the Society, Dr. Griffith “would relate this experience in gentlemanly fashion,” and was no doubt revered as “the only citizen of Kansas City who ever took a bullet out of Jesse James instead of trying to put one in him.”

Dr. Jefferson Davis Griffith, A Brief Biography

Jefferson Davis Griffith was born in Jackson, Mississippi, on 12 February 1850. His father was Brig. Gen. Richard Griffith, a long-time friend of Jefferson Davis, who was killed during a battle at Savage Station. Dr. Griffith’s older brother, also in the Confederate Army, was killed at Shiloh.

At the end of the war, Griffith took a job in a drug store in Jackson before following a career in medicine by studying at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College and the Medical Department of the University of New York.

In 1873 he came to Missouri and settled in Kansas City, entering into a partnership with Dr. John W. Elston. That same year, Griffith became a lecturer at the Kansas City Medical College on Physiology.

A great believer in societies and their ability to promote and make advancements in his profession, Griffith was a member of a multitude of them, often preferring them to spending time among the actual Kansas City society.

Described as being “by nature most genial, hearty and fond of the society of his fellow-kind,” Griffith left his partnership with Elston in 1877 but continued to offer high quality care. His first connection with the National Guard came in 1886 when he served as assistant and first lieutenant of the First Battalion. He went on to become surgeon and major of the Third Battalion, and volunteer aide on the staff, lieutenant-colonel and medical director of the First Brigade.

In 1887, Griffith gave up general practice and instead focussed on office practice and surgery. Two years later, he was commissioned Surgeon-General of Missouri by Gov. D. R. Francis, a position he held for one term.

During the Spanish-American War, Dr. Griffith was appointed chief surgeon of the first army corps U. S. V. “having previously conducted government experiments regarding the effects of bullets in the human body.”¹ His fascination continued and in 1904, he embarked on a year long trip around the world with his wife, Sallie Griffith, nee Comingo, that included time spent observing wounded soldiers in Japan.²



From the Kansas City Star,
29 August 1924.

In May 1924, Jefferson Davis Griffith “became ill and underwent an operation in St. Joseph hospital”. Following the operation, his condition did not improve and he “underwent another major operation at the hospital July 12.”³ He died on 29 August 1924.⁴

An Even Briefer History of the Jackson County Medical Society

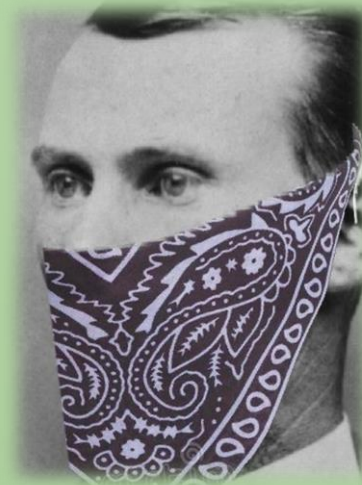
The Jackson County Medical Society was established in 1874 and reorganized in 1881. It “strove to promote professional advancement for physicians and surgeons through regular discussions and interchange of opinions through its semi-monthly meetings.” During the Society’s many meetings, “members presented papers on anything from new medical procedures to theories on the religious causation of contagious disease. The members also worked to enforce a code of ethics. The society continues to exist to the present day”.⁵

Did Dr. Griffith Treat Jesse James?

An article in the Kansas City Star, 4 October 1931, states very clearly that, on the day Dr. Griffith was kidnapped to go to the aid of a wounded Jesse James, he was waiting to leave for the first meeting of the Jackson County Medical Society. The two men who came to his door that day arrived, “just before he was to start over to the Junction building at Ninth and Main streets, where the Society was going to be formed in Dr. Calvin D. McDonald’s office.” It has apparently been assumed that this was the meeting at which the Jackson County Medical Society was launched in 1874, when Dr. Griffith had been in the city little more than a year and was, perhaps, wanting for patients. However, the same 1931 newspaper helpfully states that the meeting had been held “fifty years ago” and recalled that, on that occasion, the “Jackson County Medical Society met in the office of Drs Hereford & Snell at 8 o’clock last evening, Dr. C. D. McDonald in the chair.” It therefore seems most likely that the meeting Dr. Griffith was so rudely pulled away from was the 30 December 1881 revival meeting. Although several prominent physicians were mentioned in attendance, Dr. Griffith was not one of them.⁶

It also seems certain that, far from occurring at a time when Griffith’s reputation was in need of enhancement, the encounter occurred well into his illustrious career. This would perhaps explain why he was so boldly sought out in the first place, but it falls short of explaining why the James brothers would have travelled so far into the city. Griffith’s story states that he was taken several miles into the “Clay county hills” and close to the home of the James brothers. Why did they not seek a more local, trusted doctor?

THE JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE AND MUSEUM IS OPEN



Due to Covid-19 the museum will offer 8 tours daily on a first come first serve basis. A sign-up sheet is located on the front porch of the museum. Visitors may sign up for a specific tour time with ten slots available per tour. Should you have to wait, we encourage you to visit the town of Kearney or Watkins Mill State Park and Historic Site.

The tour consists of a 20 minute film, 3 galleries of artifacts and a self-guided tour of the grounds.

We are grateful for your understanding and patience as we work through this together.

Please help everyone stay healthy by following these guidelines during your visit:

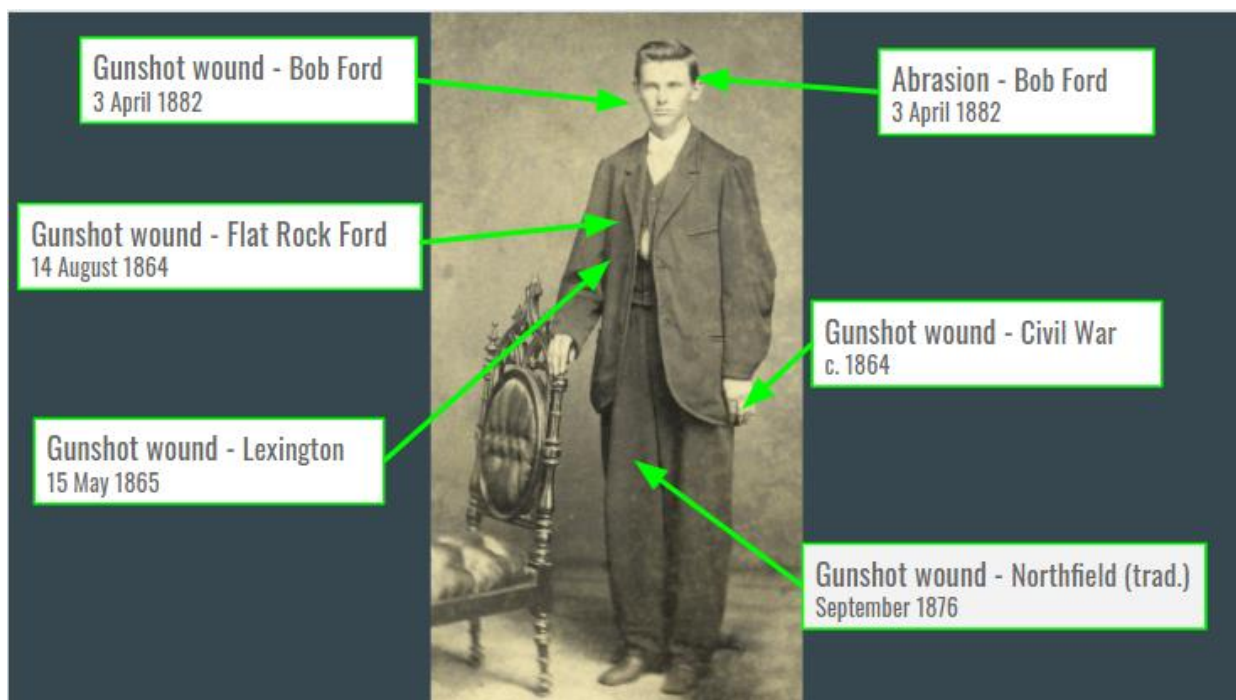
- Maintain at least a six-foot distance from anyone not in your household group.
- Face coverings are required when entering buildings to protect staff and other visitors per the Clay County Health Department.

Thank you!

Where Was Jesse James In 1881?

After Jesse was killed in 1882, his widow, Zee, testified as to their movements during the months previous. "I came here [to St. Joseph] the 9th of last November," she said. When asked, When did you live in Kansas City, Zee replied, "Well, we left there on the 27th of last March."⁷ This would mean that in December 1881, Jesse was living in St. Joseph. He did not leave home much during his time in St. Joseph and would, no doubt, have been watching the newspapers as they contained news of the latest accusations against him - the robbing of a train at Blue Cut that past September. During the robbery, several men claimed to be Jesse James but none were noted as having been wounded and even if the reports were incorrect, the wound would have been several months old by the time Griffith was called in December.

Perhaps Jesse had been wounded at another time? When he was killed in 1882, city coroner, Dr. James Weir Heddens, presented to the newspapers details of the wounds found upon the body of Jesse James. "Upon the body was the wound through the head, which caused death, two in the right breast near the nipple, received during the war, one in the right leg, received at Northfield, and the first joint of the third finger of the left hand had been shot off. These were the only wounds upon the body."⁸ All of these wounds can be accounted for.



Could The Wounded Man Have Been Frank James?

Possibly, but still unlikely for the same reason it is unlikely the wounded man was Jesse. It is entirely plausible that Dr. Griffith was accosted by a pair of ruffians who forced him to tend to their wounded comrade, surely nothing less would have stopped him from going to his much loved Society meetings. But it seems perhaps that Dr. Griffith was mistaken in the identity of the man, deliberately or otherwise, proving that, as always, a good story is always made better by the inclusion of at least one of the brothers James! **MP LGM**

1. Kansas City Star, 13 May 1898; Kansas City Star, 29 August 1924.
2. Kansas City Star, 21 December 1904.
3. Kansas City Star, 29 August 1924.
4. The Cameron Sun, Cameron, Mo., 4 September 1924; a biography of Dr. Griffith can be found in One Hundred Years Of Medicine And Surgery In Missouri; Historical And Biographical Review Of The Careers Of The Physicians And Surgeons Of The State Of Missouri, And Sketches Of Some Of Its Notable Medical Institutions, Goldstein, Max A. (Max Aaron), 1870-1941, ed, 1900, pp358-360.

5. Jackson County Medical Society Records Preliminary Inventory K0088 (KA0165); Jackson County Medical Society of Missouri 1881-1931, and Historical Sketch, by Dr. Minford Armour Hanna (1878-1953), Kansas City 1931, held by Jackson County Historical Society.
6. Kansas City Times, 31 December 1881.
7. Sedalia Bazoo, 11 April 1882.
8. Kansas City Times, 4 April 1882.

MEET OUR FOTJF SECRETARY - TREASURER

Hello. My name is Vivie and I moved to Kearney in 1983 from Illinois and began working at the Jesse James Birthplace three years later. I got hooked on all things Jesse and the history of Clay County. It was a fun job and I met wonderfully interesting people from all over the world. I also enjoyed working at the other Clay County historic sites.

I am a long time member of the Friends of the James Farm.

In 1992, I took on the job of secretary - treasurer and served in that capacity for eleven years. I have remained on the board since and am once again serving as the secretary - treasurer. It's been quite a ride on the trail with the James Gang.

My husband and I have two daughters and six grandkids. The grands are so much fun! My husband and I have been actively involved with their lives. We attend many sporting and school events and host our yearly Nana/Papa camp.

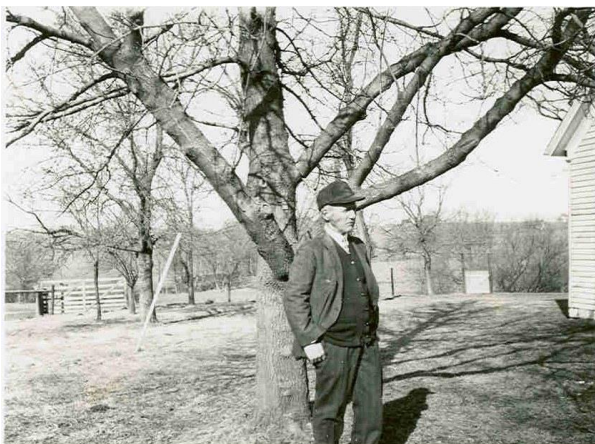
I have been making dollhouses since 1978 after my parents built one for my daughters and I fell in love with the world of miniatures. My husband and I built a replica of Claybrook.

Sewing is another passion of mine. I have been making 1870s doll costumes. The corsets, bustles, hooped petticoats, chemises and drawers make me very happy to not have to endure getting dressed with those each day.

Having these projects to work on is a great pastime. VT



Here's a couple of old photos of the Farm we thought you might like. The first is of Bob James, Frank and Annie's son, and the second shows the road that passes the Farm. Enjoy!



DEVASTATING FIRE IN NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

This year has thrown several challenges our way and the people of Northfield, Minnesota, had to face one more on 12 November when a devastating fire ripped through the historic Archer House River Inn.

The hotel first opened its doors on 13 August 1877, less than a year after the failed attempt to rob the First National Bank of Northfield on 7 September 1876.

Some say the hotel was built to accommodate the influx of tourists who flocked to Northfield to see the site of the robbery and to talk to the brave townspeople who had defeated the James-Younger Gang so dramatically. Others believe hotelier James D. Archer dreamed of a hotel that would rival the recently acquired 'cowboy image' and elevate the town to one that instead stood for splendor and grace.

Located on Division Street and close to the Canon river the hotel originally boasted fifty rooms spread over its central four floors and an additional three-story south wing. When the north wing was added, the hotel gained extra rooms across its three floors as well as space for retail outlets and restaurants, all no doubt taking full advantage of the introduction of electricity in 1900.

Having changed hands several times and becoming somewhat derelict, the hotel eventually came to Dallas Haas, a Northfield building contractor, who worked tirelessly to restore the building to its former glory. His determination and the continued work of those who followed him drew travellers to Northfield and, once again, became a focal point of Division Street.

Renovated by its current owners in 2012, the hotel has regularly been visited by James historians and was once the meeting place of the present day James-Younger Gang, gathering for their annual conference.

Sadly, early reports suggest that fire and water damage is so extensive in the main building that repair is unlikely.

Our thoughts go out to all those associated with the hotel and we extend thanks to the fire crews who battled to save it.

Sources – Archer House River Inn website
Online news networks via facebook
Northfield Historical Society



The Archer House River Inn, Division Street, Northfield.
(Photo taken in 2018)



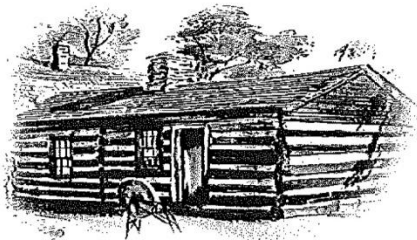
Fire crews battle the flames.



The cold light of day shows the extend of the damage.
Photo with thanks to the Northfield Historical Society.

Friends of the James Farm

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James homestead cabin —
 Original art by Jim Hamill

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