



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

About two weeks ago, Beth Beckett, Vivie Tison and I visited a very advanced collector in our area who has James family, Buffalo Bill, Southwest Indian and other western themed collections. He is thinking about what will happen to these collections when he is gone. This is a difficult decision as his options include both selling and donating the items, while considering the wishes of his family. He is still in the process of consideration and wanted to check with us to see what we may want for our museum.

Vivie likes a large Jesse James movie poster like the ones in the museum movie theater and I liked an antique revolver that he found the name Jesse James under the grips.

This collector has much to think about and we, too, will require time to research the items to determine their authenticity before any decisions can be made. We are going to have to wait until the gentleman has made a decision about how he plans to distribute the James family items in his collection but there is a possibility of us obtaining something new for our museum, which is exciting.

We have been working very hard behind the scenes to have at least one shoot this year as coronavirus has not permitted any shoots at all for several months. Now, planning developments adjacent to the James Farm are making shoots there impossible until some changes can be made, so we need to find an alternative venue. Unfortunately, this is proving to be difficult.

One possibility was to hold the shoot at the police firing range in St. Joseph but the cost to hire the range for the day, along with insurance and other expenses would make the event unviable for us.

Another location was looked at in Clinton county but this has also sadly fallen through. Other alternatives have so far not worked out either because of high costs, location or the suitability in all weathers.

We have decided to wait until a dryer time of year, such as August or September. Our search continues!

We will settle on a firm date for our next shoot as soon as we can and we thank you all for your patience. **Bryan**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

This Issue

- Page 1 – President’s Message
- Page 2 – New Museum Donations
- Page 3 – The First Marriage of Robert F. James
- Page 5 – An Old Story Inspires New Short Film
- Page 7 – Who Was Daniel Askew and Who Killed Him?
- Page 13– The Life and Times of Jesse James – A Play
- Page 14 – Early Advertising at the James Farm
- Page 15 – Could You Pick a Favorite – Part 2

Keep a Lookout

More details of the James Farm Shoot in the next issue!

The Friends of the James Farm

Executive Officers

President
Bryan Ivlow

Vice President
Kevin Makel

Secretary
Vivie Tison

Treasurer
Vivie Tison

Website Management
Kevin Makel

Newsletter Editor
Michelle Pollard

Board Members

Pam Banner
Paul Carrington
Laura Ganschow
Caleb Pooker

Ex-Officio

Beth Beckett

Honorary Board Members

Betty Barr
Michelle Pollard
David Smith

www.jessejames.org

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

Newsletter Proof Reading
Elizabeth Rains Johnson

Additional Research
Linda Gay Mathis

NEW MUSEUM DONATIONS

Museum Director, Beth Beckett, tells us that the museum recently had a donation from Joe Hall, a Samuel descendant. He donated golf items that belonged to Bob James, son of Frank James. The golf items include 13 golf balls, two small leather cases, assorted tees, golf shoe spikes, three golf club covers and the cloth bag that Bob James used to carry the items. He also donated a small photo of Bob James on horseback and a menu from Outlaws BBQ in Kearney, Missouri, that was signed by James Ross, a grandson of Jesse James.

Bob James had a nine-hole golf course on the James Farm property at one time. It was actually three holes played three times each. He even provided membership cards for the members of his golf course.

Business really picked up at the Museum in March, as it does every year when the weather gets warmer and spring breaks take place. There have been two visitors from Russia already!

Images courtesy of the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum.



Membership is Due, Folks!

We take this opportunity to remind you that membership fees are due.

To renew, please contact:

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

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

THE FIRST MARRIAGE OF ROBERT F. JAMES

On 26 December 1901, Robert James, the only son of Frank and Annie James, married Stella Mary Sullivan at St. Louis, Missouri. Until now, very little has been written about their relationship.



RESEARCH BY LINDA GAY MATHIS AND WORDS BY MICHELLE POLLARD

In the early 1890s, Frank James “sent his son, Robert, to a commercial college [in St. Louis] to learn the art of keeping books and doing other things in the mercantile line.” Shortly afterward, Mr. James M. Sullivan, formerly a member of the city council, sent his daughter Stella to the same school.¹

The newspapers appear undecided as to whether Robert and Stella met while at college together or while Robert was working for the Wabash railroad after his graduation, but one thing they do agree upon is that Robert was soon seen carrying Stella’s books home for her. Their relationship blossomed and although Robert “suspended his business career for a time to serve his country”, friends noticed “a new habit” whenever he was around Stella Sullivan – the “calling on her as often as she thought proper to let him.”²

Robert and Stella’s love for each other was hardly a secret, in fact “for a long time it has been suspected that they were engaged but neither would admit it until last evening, when the formal announcement of their betrothal was made.”³ The announcement came at the home of the bride, 2331 Division street, St. Louis, and reminded the “little party of friends gathered to congratulate the couple” of this “very pretty little romance in the lives of two interesting young St. Louisans.”⁴

The age of the couple was cause for some further comment. “Mr. James is only 23 years old,” the newspapers reported, but also noted that “he is one of the trusted employees of the Cella, Tiles & Adler Commission company.” The bride on the other hand was described as “a very pretty and charming girl” who was “barely out of her teens.”⁵ In this the newspapers were incorrect. The 1880 and 1900 census’ both confirm that Stella had been born in 1876 and was therefore approximately one year older than her fiancé.⁶

PRETTY FACES IN BIG STQRES.



Miss Estelle Sullivan.

Miss Marie Estelle Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Sullivan of the North Side, and employed at the notion counter of a Broadway dry goods house, finished her education at the Rock Church school. She is musical, playing the piano and having a good soprano voice. She is a pretty girl, with bluish gray eyes, fair complexion, soft, dark brown hair and a petite figure.

This notice in the St. Louis Dispatch most likely refers to the Stella Sullivan featured in this article demonstrating as it does a slight, and very characteristic, variation of her name. St Louis Post-Dispatch, 6 March 1896.

Above - 1880 St. Louis census, below - 1900 census, Ward 16, St Louis, Missouri

Robert and Stella married on 26 December 1901 at the home of the bride, which had been “tastefully decorated with a profusion of greens, palms, ferns and cut flowers. The bride wore a handsome gown of white mull, with soft lace trimmings. The tulle veil was held in place by lilies of the valley and she carried a bouquet of the same flowers.”⁷



STELLA SULLIVAN.



ROBERT JAMES.

Sketches: St Louis Globe Democrat, 11 November 1901.

It was believed that after the wedding, “the young people will leave at once for a southern tour.”⁸

They did not get far.

“In the early part of the summer, Mrs. James, in company with her husband, went to Atlantic City, intending to remain there through the warm weather,” the St Louis Republic reported. However, “five weeks ago she was attacked with typhoid, and it was found necessary to bring her home.”⁹

Mrs. James, who had “never been sick a day in her life”, was not able to defeat this one and only illness and she died at home on 14 September 1902, aged just twenty-two.¹⁰

Less than one year after their marriage, Robert James was forced to oversee the funeral of his wife at the Cathedral Church and then laid her to rest in the Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis.¹¹ LGM/MP

FRANK JAMES NOW A FARMER

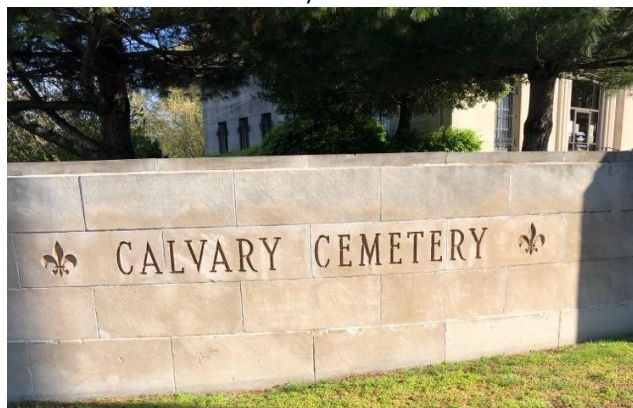
Staying With His Mother in Clay County, but May Go on Stage Again This Winter.

Special to the Post-Dispatch.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 10.—Frank James was at the Union Depot for an hour or more last night while waiting for a train for St. Louis. He is there to visit his son, Robert James, whose young wife died a short time ago.

Above: Robert James remained in the city and was visited by his father. St Louis Dispatch, 10 November 1902.

Below: The entrance to Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis. Photo courtesy of Jeff Thoele.



1. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 11 November 1901. Her name appears as both Stella and Estella and these too are noted as both Christian and middle name.
2. Ibid. “He joined the Second States cavalry G troop, with which he served nine months.”
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid; St Louis Dispatch, 11 November 1901.

5. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 11 November 1901; Gould's City Directory St Louis—James, Robert F. clk, Cella Comm Co, R-4726 Delmar Boul.
6. Mary Estella James, Register of Deaths Vol. 44-- September 1902 -- May 1903 does not note a birth date but records an age of 24 in 1902.
7. St. Louis Dispatch, 5 January 1902.
8. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 11 November 1901.
9. St. Louis Republic, 15 September 1902.
10. Ibid. Died at home, 4726 Delmar boulevard – death notice St. Louis, Mo., Death Records, 1850-1931. The chief cause of her untimely passing was typhoid fever from which illness she had suffered three weeks.
11. Ibid. Although Stella's parents were also buried at the Calvary cemetery, it does not appear that they were buried together; Mary Estella James was buried in Section 14 lot 306; Bridget Sullivan, her mother, was buried in section 18 lot 326. Although a search was very kindly carried out by Jeff Thoele, Stella's grave could not be found. An article in the St. Louis Dispatch for August 5, 1951 may explain why. It reported that, at that time, monuments were being removed from the cemetery. "It is financially impossible for the cemetery to assume the burden of caring for these abandoned lots with all of the monuments and markers on them," Father Hartnett said. "It is all we can do to keep them mowed when they are clear and level. Our position is that, if the markers have toppled over, the plot owners have no apparent interest in the cemetery. We feel we not only have a right to take them out, but that we have a duty to do so because they are unsightly, hazardous, and increase the cost of maintaining the cemetery as a whole." It is possible Mrs. James' grave marker was removed at this time.

AN OLD STORY INSPIRES NEW SHORT FILM

On 26 February 2021, an article by Meagan Damore, featured on the CBR.COM website, detailed how the director of a new animated short film titled, 'Myth: A Frozen Tale', was inspired in part by Jesse James.

During a press conference, director Jeff Gipson explained how a family bedtime story involving the famous bank robber led him to create "Myth."

As part of the process of making the bed-time story themed movie, director Jeff Gipson "started thinking about what were some inspirations that really connected with me growing up?" Gipson loved bedtime stories - "when you go to sleep and your parents tell you a story, your mind just wanders" – but there was one in particular that caught his attention.

"In the 1860s," Gipson explained, "my family lived about a day's ride straight out of Kansas City, Missouri, and it was the Wild West still. At that time, if you saw two riders, or two people in general, riding out in the distance coming toward you, you were hesitant [because] you [weren't] sure if they're good or bad. But still, there were people that would come through, stop for water and continue on."

"As they worked on the farm, my great-great-great-great-grandfather after his chores would go down to the river and play with his friends. They'd take the horses down and ride, and one ordinary day, they did just that. They were playing and hanging out, and sure enough, out in the distance they see two silhouettes of two people on horseback, riding, coming closer and closer and closer. These boys, they're 8 or 10 years old, and they're startled. They go and hide in the willows, and these riders, sure enough, they come right up to where the boys tied their horses," he recalled.

NEW MERCHANDISE!

Available from the gift shop.
Contact the JJ Birthplace for
more details.



"The two riders swap the horses, and the kids are thinking, 'Oh my gosh, these horses are our livelihood -- we need this to run the farm!' And they rush over as soon as the riders take off and they actually see that the two horses they left behind are better horses. And there's a note tied in the horse's mane and it says, 'Thanks for the horses boys - JJ.' And of course, the only 'JJ' roaming around that area of the country at that time was Jesse James."

Gipson remembers how the story made him feel. "The sense of wonder," he recalled, "this legendary Western figure interacting with my family on some level, and it just was really inspiring." It was this kind of story that Gipson wanted to include in his short film about the fictional Arendelle.

Of course, this is not the only story of Jesse and Frank swapping horses with the locals. Chuck Rabas contacted us with the following example. "I ran across a somewhat similar story back in the 1970s," he said. "The elderly woman relating it said that her husband's grandfather's (let's call him G-I-L, for grandfather-in-law) family owned property near present-day Excelsior Springs, and that the James brothers would sometimes swap horses with them. G-I-L asked Jesse if he would leave him a pistol. Sometime later, after a couple of horses had been swapped during the night, G-I-L found a pistol tied to the bridle of one of the horses, along with a note from Jesse telling him that this was the pistol he had asked for. She showed me a .32 J. P. Lower revolver she had been told was the pistol in question, but said the note had been lost."

A similar story is related in the Samuel Anderson Pence book, *I Knew Frank, I Wish I Had Known Jesse*. He tells the story of James Eastin, a neighbor of the James brothers. One day, Jesse asked to swap his pregnant mare for one of Eastin's stallions. Eastin refused but was told if he did not relent, Jesse would simply return and steal the horse. The deal was reluctantly made and soon thereafter, a foal was born.

All seemed well until, one night, the mare went missing, presumed stolen by the Jameses. Eastin was not best pleased as now he was technically missing two good horses to work his farm.

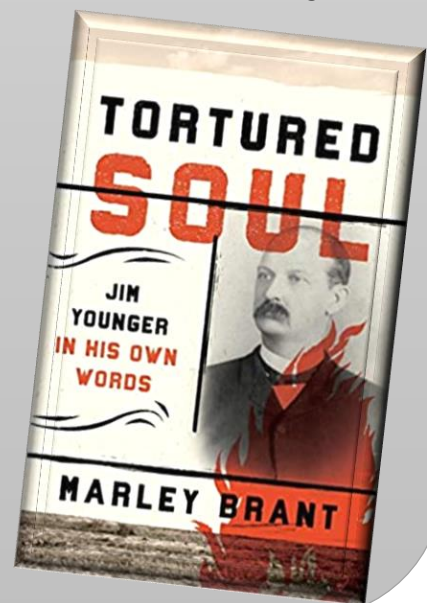
Months passed and the foal grew into a fine stallion. Eastin noticed at once that the horse was not suited to ploughing, named him White Stockings due to the markings on each leg, and put him to the race track. White Stockings earned such a reputation that when Mr. Eastin sold him around 1876, the horse fetched \$10,000! Pence titled the chapter, *He Robbed A Poor Man And Made Him Rich*.

NEW BOOK ABOUT JIM YOUNGER

Author Marley Brant has written to let us know that her latest book, *Tortured Soul: Jim Younger in His Own Words*, will be published in June. A new edition of her original book, *The Outlaw Youngers: A Confederate Brotherhood*, will also be available.

Her new book is featured on Amazon where it is described as follows - Those interested in the history of the infamous Younger Brothers of Missouri know eldest brother Cole's story. Or at least they think they do. Cole told it enough times. Yet his autobiography, his dozens of interviews, and the stories he told to his friends and family members unfortunately tell a story quite different from researched history of the same times and events. John and Bob died young and never had the opportunity to tell their side of it all. And brother Jim remained silent. Until now.

Tortured Soul: Jim Younger in His Own Words finally reveals Jim's memories, thoughts, and opinions. Although Jim's recollections are also mired in selective memories and a certain distortion brought about by the passage of time, a damaged psyche, and a need to protect himself and those he loved, the story Jim tells is based on his history and his desire to set Cole's tall tales in their proper perspective.



WHO WAS DANIEL ASKEW AND WHO KILLED HIM?

I have long found the character and murder of Daniel H. Askew a tantalizing mystery. He was the neighbor of the James/Samuel family, served as a Union soldier and was a man whose politics were vastly different from the James'. The content of his character was a recipe for making himself an enemy of the brothers.

The participation of Askew in the murder of Archie Samuel and maiming of Zerelda James Samuel was more or less proven after his own death through Grand Jury testimonies. Yet, as one examines what we do know, it's likely he participated in the crime in a manner that he believed was justified. After all, he didn't exactly throw the bomb through the farm window himself, did he? Still, he was involved in the chain of events that led up to the tragedy that cost an 8 ½ year old boy his life and his mother her arm. It was that act that fueled the fire that burned inside Frank and Jesse James, and one would imagine, their supporters.

How would we feel were this to happen to us? Throughout my entire adult life, I've had good and bad neighbors. I've seen people at their worst and at their best. Would it have been so different in 1875? Haven't the events of the past several years proven that violence, disputes amongst neighbors and differences in politics, still rile people up to the point of dislike, hatred and on many occasions – acts of extreme violence?

I cannot prove without a doubt that Frank and/or Jesse James shot and killed Daniel Askew. I can only examine the evidence, point out my theories and let readers make up their own minds.

Who was Daniel Askew?

Daniel H. Askew was born in Kentucky on 28 February, 1828. He married Adeline (Addie) Harris on 5 April 1857. Addie was 19 and Daniel was 29. I've wondered if Addie was Daniel's first wife and why, if not, did he marry so late? On the 1870 census the couple are listed as living in Washington Township, which includes the area near the James farm as described in the numerous pieces written about the Askew home: northeast and about 1/4 mile from the James farm. The same census lists Daniel as a farmer. When Askew was killed, newspapers reported him to be an old man of 47.

Most accounts of Askew describe him as, bearing "a good reputation as being a quiet and industrious farmer." Interestingly, that quote, from a Savannah, Mo., newspaper also mentions the January tragedy at the James/Samuel home. "The late tragedy at the home of Dr. Samuels [sic], was a terrible one, and now right on the heels of it, comes the killing of Mr. Askew, almost as bad. The matter should be stopped in some way."

The newspaper account does not definitively point the finger at the James boys, but states that "some" were charging the James boys with the killing of Askew while some were blaming the killing of Askew on the detectives – namely – the Pinkerton detectives who were involved in the January 1875 raid on the James farm that left Archie Samuel dead and Zerelda's arm so maimed it had to be amputated.

Was it the James brothers? Or did one or more of the Pinkerton detectives return to tie up a loose end – get rid of the man who harbored one of their detectives (Jack Ladd) for months while pretending he was a farm laborer?

Another Savannah, Mo. newspaper article that cited the Kansas City News as its source, described Askew. "The murdered man was an old and respected citizen of Clay county, and though a Union man during the war, was universally respected for his upright and straightforward character. During the war he was in the State Militia, and since has been a Radical in politics." The article reminds the reader that the Askew farm was within a quarter mile of the James/Samuel farm and where the horrific attack of January 26, 1875 had taken place. The article indicates that "suspicion was entertained by the Samuel family and their friends that Askew had something to do with the raid on the farm."

That statement leads me to wonder just how long the animosity between the two families had taken place? Had it been building up for years and years, increasing in fervor? Was he cocky in his politics? Did his pre-war politics and northern sympathies place him in the unlikeable category by his Confederate-supporting neighbors?



BY
ELIZABETH
RAINS
JOHNSON

The events before Askew's murder

Through a series of robberies, events and action that occurred prior to the 1875 raid on the James/Samuel farm, the James brothers had become a target of those wanting the violence to end. Not only that, but post wartime atrocities had been increasing all over the country. Everyone around the country was uptight, on edge and frightened. According to T.J. Stiles' book, *Jesse James, Last Rebel of the Civil War*, "In Missouri, the Civil War had been a personal matter from the beginning. Confederate support had been concentrated in certain regions, of course, particularly along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, but even there, communities had divided among themselves, household by household."

It almost seems to parallel what is going on today in our country – political division in households, extending to family and friends. People are angry and violence increases by the day.

Ten years after the end of the Civil War, people were still divided, still not accepting the outcome of the war. Considering the events taking place that may have involved the James gang – or at least were being blamed on them - Detective Allan Pinkerton of Chicago, Illinois became involved. Pinkerton began searching out staunch Union men to enlist their help in eradicating Frank and Jesse James.

One such person was Samuel Hardwicke, a leading attorney in Liberty, who did not fight in the war, but was a vocal supporter of the Union cause. Hardwicke was ripe for the picking as a local person to assist in Pinkerton's cause. As early as April or May 1874, Hardwicke was on board with Pinkerton and soon after, he recruited another staunch Union man ... Daniel H. Askew, a neighbor of the James/Samuel family. What could Askew bring to the table? A 210 acre farm adjacent to the James/Samuel property was perfect. How much closer could one get to spy on the comings and goings of the family?

Pinkerton managed to get one of his men, Jack Ladd, onto Askew's farm to pose as a hired laborer. Meanwhile, various situations were set up to monitor the James/Samuel farm – from reading their mail to spying on their activities. Throughout the last half of 1874, Hardwicke sent Pinkerton coded letters describing what he knew of the James brother's movements. In the meantime, Pinkerton strategically brought his men into Clay County in preparation for a planned raid on the James/Samuel farm.

During this time, Hardwicke, previously known as a quiet, bookish attorney, emerged as a mover and shaker of the movement to capture the James brothers. He was the nobody who suddenly became a somebody in the biggest manhunt of the day.

Finally, the raid on the farm was strategically set for the night of January 25, 1875. The Pinkerton men thought they were well prepared, knowing that Frank



Allan Pinkerton, head of the Pinkerton Detective Agency in Chicago, Illinois, enlisted the help of local men to help him capture the James brothers.



Archie Peyton Samuel, killed by a bomb.

and Jesse James had many friends and supporters. Yet, we all know the outcome of that botched January raid and how Pinkerton's men scattered to the wind – heard galloping away as fast as the horses could carry them as soon as they realized what they had done. They had failed at catching their targets, and instead, they had killed a child and maimed a woman.

Following the heinous attack at the James/Samuel farm, Jack Ladd disappeared. Hardwicke had been the one to tell Pinkerton that the James brothers were at the family farm – were they? It is still questionable. And who gave Hardwicke that information? Jack Ladd? Daniel Askew? One of the first responders to the Samuel's that night was their neighbor, Daniel Askew. What was he thinking? If he had truly harbored Jack Ladd to spy on the James/Samuel family, and participated in the planning of the raid, how could he – in good conscience – run to the aid of the family? Or was his response a continuation of the farce he perpetuated of being the “good, reliable neighbor?” Did Askew realize the raid had gone awry? How much did he really know about the tactics of Jack Ladd, Samuel Hardwicke and the Pinkerton's? Askew and Hardwicke, even though they had different political beliefs, ran in the same Union circles and knew each other well enough for Hardwicke to recommend Askew to be a part of the strategy to take down the James brothers. Either Askew was kept completely out of it – highly unlikely – or he knew everything that had been taking place from the beginning.

It's never fully been proven that Jesse or Frank was at home the night of the January bombing. Nevertheless, the wrath they both had to incur at the slaughter of their innocent little half-brother and maiming of their mother, could have likely set them on fire to seek revenge. They had to have wanted revenge on Hardwicke as well as Askew.

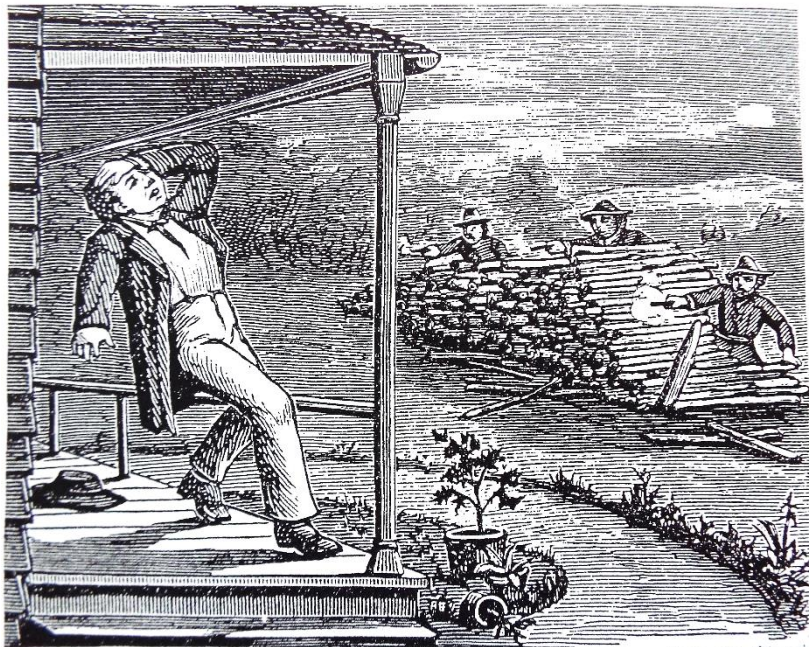
The death of Daniel Askew

Neither Daniel Askew nor Samuel Hardwicke were implicated in the indictment regarding the bombing at the James/Samuel farm. Indicted were Robert J. King, Allan Pinkerton, Jack Ladd, and five other persons whose names were unknown.” The grand jury not only interrogated Hardwicke and Askew, but also Daniel's wife, Adeline, Reuben and Zerelda Samuel, former governor Woodson and officials of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. At this time, the involvement of Hardwicke and Askew would have come to light.

Now, if you were Frank and Jesse, and you'd fought in the war and were having difficulty accepting the outcome of the end of the war, the post-war atrocities as well as the things your family had to endure, from Reuben Samuel's hanging that left him impaired for the rest of his life, to the death of a little boy and maiming of one's mother – just to name a few incidents – how would you feel if a neighbor had participated in the spying on and arrangement of a raid on your family? Would you retaliate?

According to the late James author Ted Yeatman, “A letter reportedly exists from Jesse James to his stepfather arguing that Hardwicke should be indicted as well.” [Note: this is a direct quote from Yeatman's book – since being published, a letter has come to light and sold at auction a few years ago].

In it, Jesse encourages the recipient, possibly Dr. Samuel but more likely to be another local physician, to pursue Hardwicke as the “instigator of the brutal murder and he knows every mane [sic] that was there & I am convinced Hardwicke was with the murders [sic] when poor little Archie was so cruelly [sic]



From an old print
The James gang get even with Farmer Askew for fancied wrongs

murdered ...” Jesse suggests numerous people, including Missouri governor Woodson as being responsible for the January raid. Interestingly, the letter does not mention Daniel Askew.

It is believed that Hardwicke, who represented Pinkerton in a legal capacity was able to cite attorney/client privilege, thus escaping the indictment. Why did the James brothers not go after Hardwicke for revenge?

The night of Monday, April 12, 1875, Askew went to fetch a pail of water at a spring on his property. The following is a report of that night as passed down to John Will Nicholson, the grandson of Sarah (Sallie) Samuel Nicholson, the James brother’s half sister.

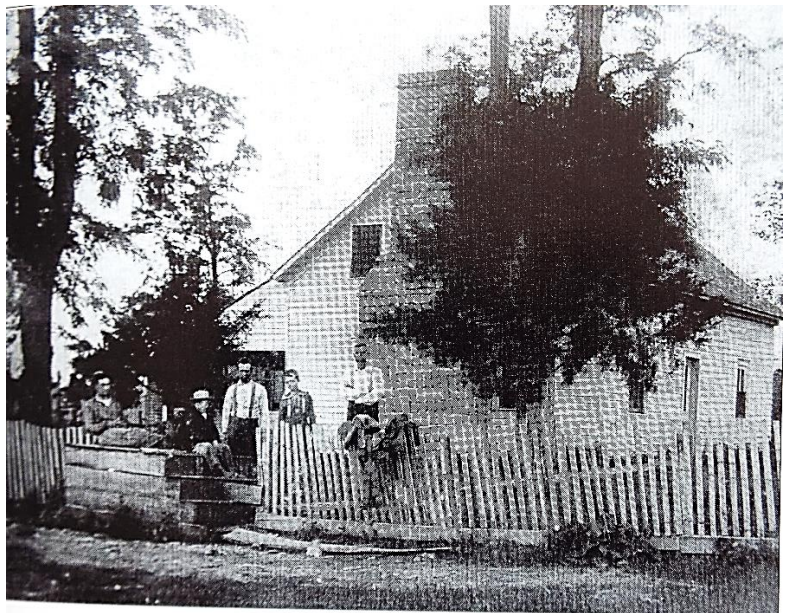
“They, [the James brothers visiting their family] heard old Dan Askew over there whistling. He always whistled, so he said, while getting a bucket of water. So they walked over there and told him this deal about notifying the Pinkertons and everything and he tried to deny it. And he said he could prove it if they’d go into the house where these women were. Frank knew that if he got into the house ... he would talk him out of shooting, but he didn’t go into the house and told him to set his bucket down and they killed him right there. I heard my grandad [William Nicholson, husband of Sarah Samuel] say that Frank was the cold-bloodiest one of the two. If he said he was going to kill ya, he would kill you, but you could talk Jesse out of it.” This family account of the night of April 12, 1875, effectively points the finger at Frank and Jesse James. Was it true? Or was it just the stuff of family lore?

Following the bombing of the James/Samuel home and indictments thereafter, Frank and Jesse, as well as their sympathizers, made it well known throughout the county that “those who have denounced the acts of these bandits will live in constant fear of assassination.” They were understandably angry and desired retribution. Perhaps these statements terrified Hardwicke but they didn’t scare Askew off.

Askew, with his political beliefs [Radical Republicans were hardened Republicans – without compromise to any other Republican beliefs. In contrast, President Abraham Lincoln was considered a Moderate Republican], felt he didn’t need to fear for his life, wouldn’t leave his farm and apparently never even purchased a firearm. Askew’s radical beliefs and Union ties would have been a thorn in the side of the remaining southern sympathizers in the area.

T.J. Stiles described the murder of Askew beginning similarly to the account given by Jesse and Frank’s half sister. “He [Askew] picked his way through deep darkness, the moon shrouded in clouds. As he returned, lugging a full bucket in one hand, a figure stepped out from behind a woodpile. The two apparently spoke quietly for five to ten minutes.” Now, with Askew dead and the killer or killers unknown, how anyone knew they spoke quietly for five to ten minutes is questionable. They could have, but there are no witnesses to the actual shooting. Askew’s wife, Addie, testified to the coroner’s jury, that she heard “the dull bark of a revolver echo three times and I came to the front door, which being difficult to open I went around and called to my husband; I received no answer.”

Stiles’ book indicates more activity from Addie. He states that she ordered her children to hide and then gathered the letters from Allan Pinkerton and threw them into the fire. At that point, it is true that she would not have known if the killer(s) were



Clay County Historic Sites photo

The home of Daniel Askew.

Located about a quarter of a mile from the James Farm, it was believed to be from here that Jack Ladd spied on the James family. It was also the site of Daniel’s murder on 12 April 1875.

The people in the photograph are unidentified.

still outside. And this being her testimony, points out that she and her husband knew exactly who Jack Ladd really was and what was going to happen at the James Farm the night of January 25-26, 1875.

As Addie continued to look for Daniel, it being very dark outside, she apparently stumbled over his body and, using her hands, felt around his face – finding his face mashed in. Indeed, Askew had been shot three times, one through his skull, one just below an eye and a third into his brain.

A few minutes after the shooting, neighbor Henry Sears reported that he heard someone shouting “Hallo!” repeatedly in his front yard. He allegedly saw one person on a horse in his yard, but said he “had the vague impression there might be more.” The person on the horse said, “We have killed Dan Askew tonight, and if any one wishes to know who did it say that detectives did it.” The next morning, Sears and a neighbor searched the property and only found the impression of one horse.

Again, local statements were made and reported in various newspapers about Askew’s Radical politics and that, “To kill a Radical is no crime in the eyes of certain Democrats.”

Later, Zerelda James Samuel declared that her boys had nothing to do with Askew’s murder but that she shed no tears for him either. “He had made enemies during the war,” she said.

I have personally wondered if Daniel Askew was present as a Union soldier at the time of Jesse’s beating and Dr. Samuel’s hanging in May of 1863 as the soldier’s were looking for Frank and the bushwhackers. If he had been present, that would have been an unforgivable offense between neighbors and facilitated dislike toward Askew.

So who shot Daniel Askew? And why?

We may never truly know for sure.

According to a 17 April 1875 article in the Bates County Record titled, “Only a Radical,” again Askew’s politics are mentioned. “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. What is it that a man is a Republican? Why in a case of cold-blooded murder, should a man’s politics be mentioned, but for the fact that it is a mitigating circumstance in his killing?”

“The truth is, that a certain class of men in Missouri don’t consider the life of a Radical as sacred as that of another. The amnesty bill, introduced in the Missouri legislature, and which came near passing, wiping out

THE AMNESTY BILL

After the attack on the James Farm in January 1875, newspaper editor, John Newman Edwards, took advantage of the change in public opinion to pen the Amnesty Bill. The Bill was brought to the Missouri Legislature in March of that year and offered amnesty to the Jameses and Youngers for crimes charged to have been committed by them during the war and fair trial for crimes charged to have been committed by them since the war.

**A Measure Under Which the
Jameses and Youngers May
Return to Their Homes.**

**Old Scores Wiped Out and Clean Records
Furnished Them for a Fresh
Start in Life.**

St. Louis Dispatch, 6 March 1875.

The document sought to present the Jameses and Youngers as men outlawed due to their allegiance to the south. It pointed out that “by the 4th section of the 11th article of the Constitution of Missouri, all persons in the military service of the United States, or who acted under the authority thereof in this State, are relieved from all acts done by them since the first day of January, A. D. 1861” but all those in the Confederate service were not. It also highlighted the fact that Confederates, unlike their Union counterparts, could be “seized, transported to, indicted, tried and punished in distant countries.”

The Amnesty Bill was politically well timed, as delegates were simultaneously meeting to rewrite the quoted 1865 Missouri Constitution.

With this in mind, it might be suggested that the Bill was a propaganda stunt, designed to merely make a point, but when the Bill was voted on, it almost passed and was put forward again, with voting set for that winter.

Although Jesse James seemed hopeful of the Bill passing in his letters of August 1875, the April killing of Daniel Askew quashed any chances the Bill had of passing as many held the Jameses responsible. **MP**

the crimes of these same outlaws, is proof as clear as the sun, that their former murders of union men are approved.

“If these murders continue, the consequences must lie at the door of those who abet and excuse them.”

In researching this article and studying various accounts, Askew’s beliefs and history, I think his murder was a perfect storm of events that led to the act itself. His politics, his stand during the war as a Union man, and his pact with Allan Pinkerton to harbor a detective to spy on his neighbors in order to catch the James brothers, only ended up as a tragedy of massive proportions. It cost Archie Samuel his life; Zerelda Samuel part of her left arm and months later, Daniel Askew his life – leaving behind his wife a young widow with children.

Did Frank and Jesse kill Askew? Was it Jesse and someone else? Was it someone who sympathized with them? The question can be asked: Why, if the James brothers killed Askew, did they wait several months to do the deed?

My own personal conclusions are as follows: The reason the James brothers were not caught committing their robberies was because they were smart about it. They were calculating and always strategized every move. Angry and heartbreaking as the crime committed against their family in the bombing of January 1875 was, they couldn’t take vengeance immediately or the crime would’ve pointed right back to them.

Maybe on that fateful night of April 12, 1875, they were at home, possibly drinking a little, maybe talking about Archie, the bombing, the terror it caused. Maybe Zerelda, just a few months past the amputation of her arm, was ailing –her arm throbbing, pining for her little Archie and the brother’s anger escalated, forcing them to take action.

Did Frank and Jesse plot revenge all along - to take Askew by surprise several months later since residents of the area were terrified due to the January bombing and the post-war culture in which they were all living?

Did supporters of the brothers/family kill Askew in retribution for the January attack on the James farm?

Or, did Pinkerton and his men decide to take the heat off of themselves in the blame for the January bombing by taking out Askew – a loose end in their assignment to capture and kill the James brothers.

We will never know the answer.

Meanwhile, Hardwicke, terrified for his life, fled to St. Paul, Minnesota.

The aftermath of Askew’s death

Daniel Askew was buried in the northeast corner, row 31 of New Hope Cemetery. Addie Askew was appointed the administratrix of Askew’s estate on 18 May, 1875, with her father James Harris and brother William Harris as security. Her father was a county judge and one of the most prominent men in northeastern Clay County – another interesting tidbit in this saga. Were her connections through her father instrumental in the connection Daniel Askew would have with Hardwicke? Addie married Richard Swearingen on 18 September, 1878 in Clay County, Mo. She would pass away 2 June 1900 at the age of 64 in Clay County, Missouri.

It’s another meaty James brother’s mystery that we will never really be able to solve. **ERJ**

Sources:

The Andrew County Republican (Savannah, Mo.), April 23, 1875 (the paper citing the Kansas City Times as its source)

Jesse James, Last Rebel of the Civil War, by T.J. Stiles, pgs. 276-294.

Frank and Jesse James, The Story Behind the Legend, by Ted P. Yeatman, pg. 143.

Kansas City Times, 14 April and 18 April, 1875.

Kansas City Journal of Commerce, 15 April, 1875.

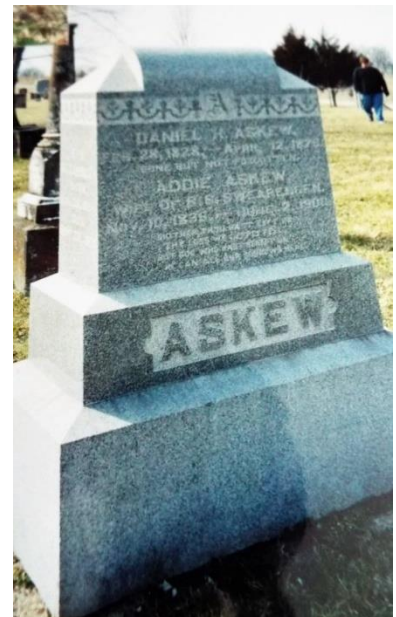
Liberty Tribune, 28 May, 1875.

Richmond Conservator, 14 April, 1875

I Knew Frank ... I Wish I Had Known Jesse, by Samuel Anderson Pence, pg. 189 & 193.

ancestry.com

Newspapers.com



The grave of Daniel Askew at New Hope Cemetery.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESSE JAMES - A PLAY



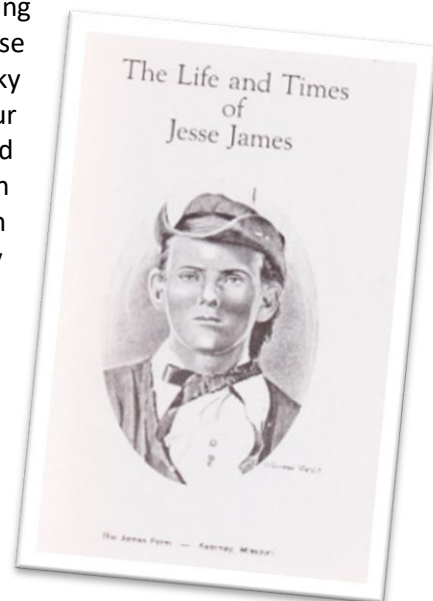
"The play's the thing" is something Shakespeare-loving Frank James might have said. The Life and Times of Jesse James is a play, written by Frank Higgins, that I was lucky enough to see a few times, with my husband and our young sons in the 1980s when it was being performed at the Jesse James Birthplace. It consists of 3 acts, with intermissions between, and chronicles Jesse's life from birth to death. There is a large cast of characters. Many family and gang members are included and even Wild

Bill Thomason makes an appearance.

The play opens in the summer of 1901 and we see the life of Jesse James unfold through remembrances of his mother and brother, Frank. Although there are scenes of robberies, Jesse is presented in a sympathetic manner.

What made the play really special for me was the fact that many of the events were being played out, complete with horses, in the actual location where they took place many years ago. The cabin, itself, appears almost as another character at the center of so many pivotal events.

When Jesse is born, his father, Reverend James, walks his newborn son out into the yard and holds him up to the heavens. This scene was beautifully staged. Another very emotional scene involving the cabin is the bombing by the Pinkertons. The special effects were well done and watching this horrific attack in its actual location was terrifying and then the audience watches as they carry a dying Archie out of the house to lay him down on the ground in the yard as he passes away. It was very heartbreaking and I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.



Left to right: Rev. James holds his new son toward Heaven, a train robbery and the 1875 attack on the James Farm. At right: Zee and Jesse courting.

There were lighter moments as well and romance was in the air as we see Jesse and Frank courting their future brides. In one scene, they are all playing croquet in the yard beside the cabin. Annie hits Frank's ball and tells him she is going to "send him". He replies, "You send me all right!" This remark always got a laugh from the audience. We also see some smooching between Jesse and Zee in a rare private moment on a bench outside. However, propriety is maintained and, in a cute scene where Zee is bandaging Jesse's bare chest, she tries to avert her eyes as she winds the bandage around him.

These sweet scenes contrast with the violence and tragedy making them all the more emotionally affecting.



This was probably the most historically accurate portrayal of Jesse’s life that I have ever seen, much more so than any of the movies. I wish I had a video to remember everything about the play but we did take some photos, a few of which I have included. There was musical accompaniment in the form of a guitarist who sat on the porch. Bleachers were set up just outside the yard fence and spotlights lit the yard. Once, we were invited to a dinner before the show where we met the actors. We also had the privilege of meeting members of the James family and sat with them in the bleachers. Everyone had a wonderful time and I am so glad my family and I had the opportunity to be part of it. As visitors from Canada, our whole family found it the perfect way to spend a beautiful Missouri summer night under the stars. **MM**



All photos by Marie McWhirter

EARLY ADVERTISING AT THE JAMES FARM



THE LATE COL. W. W. MORGAN.

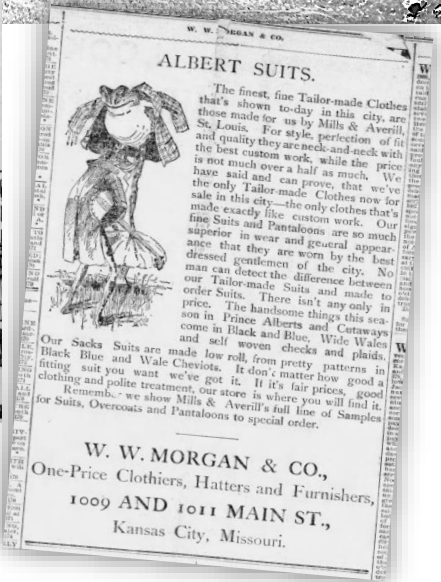
This extraordinary photograph of the old barn at the James Farm demonstrates just one of the ways the family made money – advertising.

What is even more interesting is the fact that W. W. Morgan & Co. was an accomplished city retailer dealing in fine clothing, hats and furnishings.

The advertisement could only have been seen by actual visitors to the old homestead as it was not visible from the road. This not only demonstrates the status of the James Farm as a popular tourist attraction of the time but also tells us something of the high end clientele!



Clockwise: The Rising Son, KC, 15 July 1904; photo of the James Farm barn, used by permission; Kansas City Star, 3 April 1889; Kansas City Times, 17 May 1899.



COULD YOU PICK A FAVORITE? - PART 2

We recently asked a fine bunch of James family enthusiasts which is their favorite artifact at the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum and why, and the diversity of their answers is testament to the wide variety of items on show at this award-winning historic site!

Marley Brant

I remember all the excitement around Ethelrose sharing Jesse's guns with the Farm. We were thrilled - to her it wasn't that big a deal, just her grandfather's guns that she stored under her bed at her house in California. We all got a kick out of that. She was a remarkable lady.



Bryan Ivlow

It comes as no surprise that our President's favorite artifacts are also the guns!

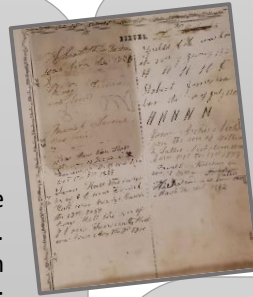
Bryan, of course, is a great ambassador of our Shoots and is very knowledgeable about period firearms.

Jeff Thoele

When I visit the Farm's Museum, I am always drawn to a picture of Jesse called the "Broken Ambrotype".



It is a picture of Jesse sitting with a black suit. The same suit Jesse wore in two other pictures of him; the Nashville photo and the San Francisco photo. The "Broken Ambrotype" photo forever establishes Jesse's facial features.

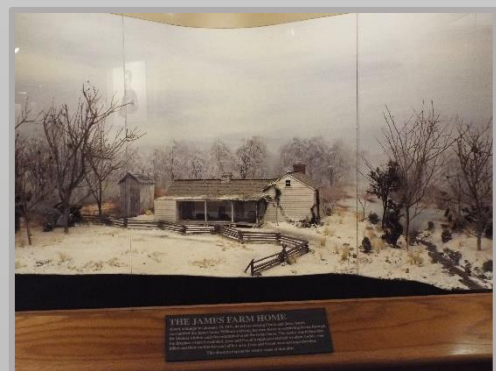


Michele Welch-Poynter

My favorite is the family Bible. So many indisputable generations are noted there.

Vivie Tison

There are many! Anna's black skirt and blouse is a show stopper. She was so tiny. The small table and chair set in the newer section of the house that came to Missouri by covered wagon. The stories that set could tell. The diorama of the first peace time bank robbery in Liberty is another special artifact I enjoy. I build dollhouses so am drawn to the craftsmanship.



Gerri Spencer

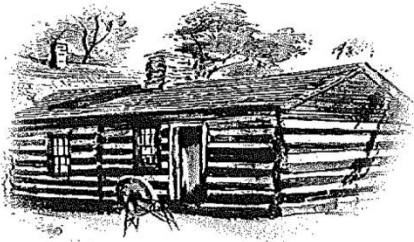


Annie James' black shirtwaist is one of my favorite pieces in the James family collection for several reasons. First, it's size is amazingly small for a full grown women yet so typical for that time frame when people were simply smaller in stature. Second, it's intricate details that draw you in and reminds you of the hours of sewing that went into the creation of it. And third, the timeless color of black that women of all centuries can appreciate for its many qualities; slimming, doesn't show dirt, and goes with most everything!

To see these artifacts and more, visit the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum!

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.