



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, folks, our patience has paid off and we were finally able to have our first shoot of the year!

It was set for the 7 August at our new (hopefully temporary) location of the police firing range in Sugar Creek, Missouri. We thank all involved in finding and then running this event and hope that this signifies a return to our regular shoot events. A full report will follow in the next Journal.

In news from the farm, Betty Barr, Jesse's great granddaughter, recently donated a picture of her grandmother, Mary James Barr, to the museum. I am sure you will join me in thanking Betty for such a generous donation.

A derecho is a very strong straight line wind associated with strong, fast moving storms. They can reach wind speeds like hurricanes or tornadoes and cover long distances. We had one recently that started in Nebraska and came through our area. It took down several trees on my property, one of which hit my house. It hit the James farm hard with trees and branches breaking several areas of fence. Large broken trees can still be seen there. Three large trees fell alongside the farmhouse and outhouse. Beth said that the ghost of Zerelda must be protecting it. Knowing her force of personality, that seems right to me! By the way, the large coffee tree in the front yard of the farmhouse is still there. **Bryan**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

**LOOK OUT FOR THE REPORT OF THE
Friends of the James Farm Shoot**
in the next edition of the

James Farm Journal

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TALENT SPOTTING!



On 21 June, The Jesse James Birthplace and Museum celebrated Make Music Day! During the day, historical interpreter and musician, Bonnie, played the hammered dulcimer.



Historic interpreter, Audrey Lammers made the Clay County quilt block for the #missouribicentennial quilt. The quilt was on display at the governor's mansion and First Lady, Teresa Parson hosted a reception to thank all the quilters.

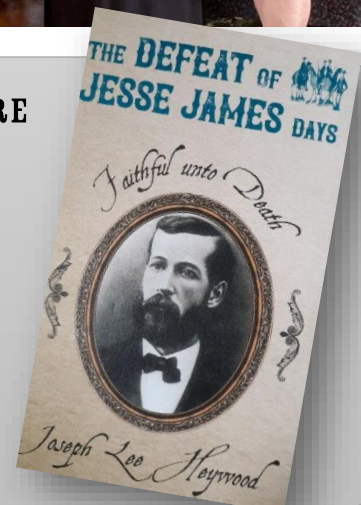


GET YOR GUNS, BOYS, THEY'RE ROBBIN' THE BANK!

Northfield, Minnesota is once again hosting their Defeat of Jesse James Days in September. There is the usual wide range of activities, including the must-see robbery re-enactment.

11 AND 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

See djjd.org for more details



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MISSOURI!



Missouri! For many of us, Missouri is just another word for "Home". This year, on August 10, Missouri will celebrate its 200th Birthday! Let the celebrations begin!

If we are to go WAY back.... back to 1250, the earliest settlers here were the Oneida Native Americans of Ancestral Missouri. The Oneida were Woodland people that originated in the Great Lakes region. They lived in long houses with narrow structures that would house 12-25 people. Their villages and camps were established along tributary streams and rivers along the upper reaches of the Mississippi River.

August 10, 1821, Missouri entered the Union as the 24th state. Missouri was named after the Native American people that originally inhabited the land...the Oneidas. It was acquired by the United States as part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Here are a few fun facts about Missouri:

NICKNAME: The Show Me State because apparently, we have to be "shown" before we believe!

CAPITAL: Missouri's capital is Jefferson City. Jeff City was the second state capital. St. Charles was the first until it was moved to Jefferson City in 1826.

PRESIDENT: James Monroe was the President at the time Missouri became a state.

EUROPEAN ARRIVAL: The first Europeans to arrive in what would later become Missouri were from France in 1673....348 years ago!

MISSOURAH vs. MISSOUREE: For those of us that live here (and for some that DON'T!), the debate continues on how to pronounce our state's name: Does it end with an "AH" or and "EE"? If you moved here like my Mom (from the great state of Kansas), she preferred to call it "Misery".....{

FIRST WHITE SETTLEMENT: St. Genevieve was the first white settlement and it was founded between 1740-1749.

DANIEL BOONE: In 1749, Daniel Boone and his family arrived to settle the Louisiana territory.

QUESTION OF SLAVERY: While Missouri remained in the Union during the Civil War with men fighting on both sides, the question of Missouri statehood hung in the balance until the 1820 Missouri Compromise was reached. Missouri was admitted as a slave state while Maine was admitted as a free state.



State number – 24

State abbreviation – MO

State capital – Jefferson City

State nickname – The Show Me State

State motto – "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law."

State bird – Eastern bluebird

State flower – Crataegus Punctata

State song – The Missouri Waltz

State tree – Flowering dogwood

State mascot – Boomer the Bear



The Trail of Tears across Missouri

JOAN GILBERT



JEFFERSON CITY: Daniel Morgan Boone laid out the town of Jefferson City and named it after (then) President Thomas Jefferson. The town was incorporated in 1825. There were 31 families, a general store, a hotel, and a few other buildings. The buildings were destroyed by fire in 1837.

INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830: This Act forced Indigenous nations to leave Missouri and resettle in Indian territories of Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas. Approximately 4000 Cherokee lost their lives in the Trail of Tears going from Tennessee to Oklahoma between 1838-1839.

EDUCATION: In 1835, legislation was passed to provide "at least" 6 months of education to children in Missouri. In 1839, the University of Missouri was founded as the first state university west of the Mississippi. In 1873, Susan Blow started the first kindergarten which is a German word for "Children's Garden".



GO WEST YOUNG MAN, GO WEST: In 1843, the Oregon Trail became the first major wagon train with thousands of settlers leaving Elm Grove, Missouri for the Oregon territory. They travelled about 16 miles a day... That was a 2000 mile trip in a Prairie Schooner. (Can you imagine how many times the children cried, "Are we there yet?".....?)

Sadly, Illness and accidents claimed many lives. It is always interesting to think of how many brave souls were overcome by illness or accidents and had to be buried along the trail. Today as we travel these roads, we have no idea how many people actually are buried there.



GOING TO KANSAS CITY: In 1850, Jackson County formally incorporated the "Town of Kansas". Today, of course, we know it as Kansas City. John McCoy opened a trading post in the hills 3 miles south of the Missouri River and named it "Westport". It was the last place to get supplies before heading west on the Santa Fe, California, or Oregon Trails. Today, Independence has an annual festival in September called Santa-Cali-Gon Days.

MENTAL HEALTH: In 1851, the State Lunatic Asylum for the Mentally Ill was opened in Fulton.

KANSAS/NEBRASKA ACT: In 1854, President Franklin Pierce signed the Kansas/Nebraska Act which made the Missouri Compromise void. Popular sovereignty reigned and states could choose whether to enter the Union as Free or Slave states. This outraged the North and set the stage for violent Kansas/Missouri Border warfare prior to the official start of the Civil War in 1861. It has often been said that the War actually began along the Missouri/Kansas border long before the official start of the war on April 12, 1861 when Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Harbor at 4:30 a.m.

The Trail of Tears Across Missouri by Joan Gilbert, Amazon.com; SantaCaliGon logo, SantaCaliGon facebook page; postcard of the Fulton Asylum; President Franklin Pierce portrait by Mathew Brady, public domain.

JUST DROP THAT IN THE MAIL! (OR, THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL!): April 3, 1860, the Pony Express began between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California. Riders could weigh no more than 125 pounds and were preferred to be unmarried or orphans as it was dangerous work. This way, there would be less people to mourn their loss. There were 500 horses, 190 stations, several hundred station attendants, 80 riders that travelled 75 miles per ride, 25 miles between stops. It took 10 days to arrive after having left either city. The Pony Express only lasted 18 months until the telegraph put an end to the Pony Express.

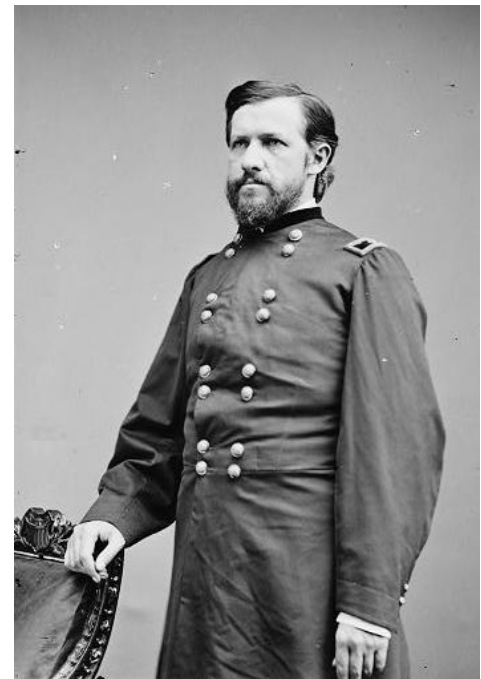


The Sacramento Bee, 26 April 1860

CIVIL WAR: In Missouri, the majority of voters rejected secession thus keeping Missouri a Union State while still holding slaves. 1863 saw the Burning of Lawrence, Kansas, by the Missouri Bushwhackers lead by the infamous William Clarke Quantrill. Among the most recognized names in history to participate in this raid was Frank James (Jesse was too young and was still at home helping with the family farm. This raid, according to history, was in retaliation of the collapse of a Union prison in Kansas City which housed several Southern women with ties to the Bushwhackers, including 3 sisters of the infamous William "Bloody Bill" Anderson. One sister was mortally wounded and another maimed for life. Anderson also participated in this raid. As a result of this, Order #11 was issued by General Thomas Ewing causing all Southern Sympathizers in Cass, Bates, Jackson, and northern Vernon counties to be removed. This would become known as "The Burnt District".

These tensions lasted long beyond the ending of the Civil War.

1865: Robert E. Lee signed the surrender to Missourian General Ulysses S. Grant. The Missouri Constitution banned the practice of slavery within the state.



General Thomas Ewing

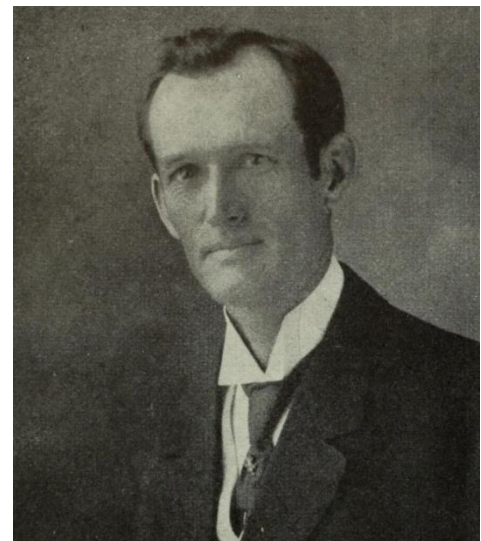
STICK 'EM UP: THIS IS A HOLD UP: February 13, 1866 saw the first daylight bank robbery in Liberty, Missouri, at the Clay County Savings and Loan. The robbery was later attributed to the James-Younger Gang.

GOOD-BYE JESSE JAMES: April 3, 1882, Robert "Bob" Ford murdered Jesse James at the James house in St. Joseph, Missouri.

HUCKLEBERRY FINN: 1884 saw the publication of Hannibal, Missouri native son Mark Twain's book, Huckleberry Finn.

THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS: 1907, Harold Bell Wright's book, SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS, was published bringing in thousands of tourists to the Ozarks. What began in 1907 continues to this day.

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE: Mansfield, Missouri author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, published her first book at the age of 65 in 1932. This book was titled, LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS, and was the first of a series that became known as the Little House on the Prairie books



Harold Bell Wright

and was even a television series in the 1970s/1980s. Wilder's home in Mansfield, Missouri, is a major tourist attraction today.

MR. PRESIDENT: In 1945, Independence, Missouri native, Harry S. Truman, was sworn in as the Nation's 33rd President of the United States.

M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E! Hey, there, Hi There, Ho There! You're as Welcome as can be! In 1955, Marceline, Missouri native, Walt Disney, opened Disneyland in Anaheim, California. The Main Street is based on the Main Street of Marceline, Missouri!

BRANSON, MISSOURI: In 1960, Branson, Missouri's Silver Dollar City opened to the public.

GATEWAY TO THE WEST: In 1965, the St. Louis Arch or "The Gateway to the West" opened in St. Louis.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS: 1951 and 1993 both saw major flooding to the Kansas City area resulting in many deaths and much damage. 1993 saw the Hardin, Missouri flood from the Missouri River resulting in one of the worst cemetery disasters in history when hundreds of graves/headstones were washed away. Many were found in farmer's fields months later.

RIOTS: 1968 saw Civil Rights Rioting in Kansas City.

2020 PANDEMIC: THE Corona Virus Worldwide pandemic saw the deaths of more than 5,000 Missourians.

2021: AND HERE WE ARE!

So much has changed since 1821 when Missouri became a state. It hasn't always been easy, but it shows the "stuff we are made of"! Missourians are a resilient people today just as we were all those 200 years ago when we were named in honor of those proud Native Americans of "Owners of Big Canoes"!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MISSOURI (However YOU pronounce it!) LB



Bob Boze Bell recently gave a talk about the Northfield robbery. Don't worry if you missed it – it is available to watch on Facebook and YouTube!

WHAT DRUNKEN MISTAKE LED TO THE DOWNFALL OF THE JAMES-YOUNGER GANG?

BOB BOZE BELL TELLS IT. STRAIGHT.

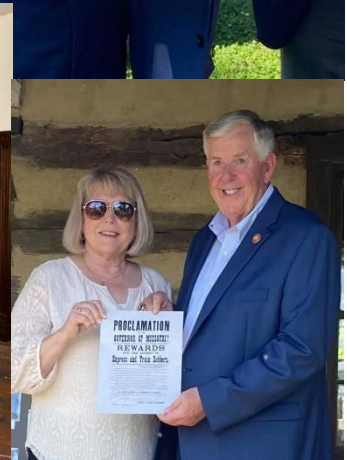
GOVERNOR STILL IN SEARCH OF THE JAMES BOYS!

On 8 July, Governor Parson and First Lady, Teresa Parson, visited the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum as part of their Bicentennial Tour.

The tour began at 3pm with a visit to the Historic Downtown area of Liberty before the party arrived at the Birthplace for a tour of the old homestead, ably led by Haley.

The Governor then attended the Lawson Picnic, celebrating the town's one hundred and fiftieth birthday.

On Monday 12 July, the Governor continued his tour with a visit to the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum, the Shelby County Historical Society, the Macon Historical Society, the Walt Disney Hometown Museum and the General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site. The tour concluded with a visit to Sumner to see the World's Largest Goose and then to Meadville, home of the Locust Creek Bridge State Historic Site.



Photos from the Jesse James Birthplace and Governor Mike Parson facebook pages.

JONAS TAYLOR - NASHVILLE HORSE-SHOER

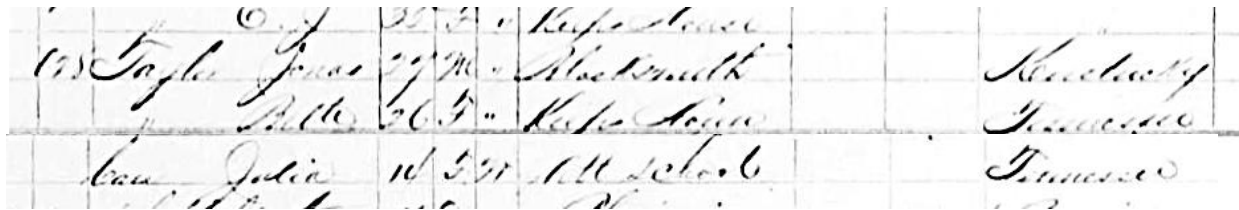
In 1878, Jonas Taylor may not have known that he was a friend to the infamous James brothers. At that time, both brothers were living in Tennessee and using the aliases John D. Howard and Ben J. Woodson. Both were holding down steady jobs and, in their spare time, took part in the lively Nashville racing scene. It was no doubt Taylor's skills at shoeing horses that drew the brothers to his Nashville establishment, late in the 1870s.



BY MICHELLE POLLARD

Jonas Taylor was born on 24 July 1844 in Kentucky to John and Cynthia Taylor. On 30 September 1861, he enlisted with the 8th Kentucky Infantry before transferring to the 21st Kentucky Infantry, where he remained until being mustered out on 23 January 1865. Both were Union regiments.¹

Taylor moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1864 and opened his first blacksmith shop there in 1868.² On 23 March that same year, Taylor married Elizabeth Massey.³ The couple appeared on the 1870 census living in Nashville. In the same household was fourteen year old Julie Cau.



1870 census for Nashville, Tennessee

During those early days in Nashville, Taylor fashioned himself as a 'horse-shoer' and it was in that capacity that, in 1878, he met Ben Woodson. Mr. Woodson had come to Taylor's shop "with a horse Bony Cheatham was training" and, a few months later, Taylor also met John Davis Howard. Soon, Taylor and Howard were in partnership together, co-owning at least two racehorses, including *Jim Scott* and *Col. Hull*.⁴ The partnership did not always run smoothly, as shown by a letter Jesse penned from Box's Station, Tennessee, to a Mr. J. R. Barry of Gallatin, Tennessee in December 1878.

Dr Sir,

Your letter to hand and contents noted. I will accept your proposition on the note. I will pay you \$210.⁰⁰ and take the note up between this and Jan the 1th 1879 – deposit the note at Fourth Watson St Bank, Nashville and a bill of sale of the colt to Mr. B. J. Woodson and I as Mr. Woodson will pay the note. I am anxious to get everything settled satisfactorily – for if Mr. Taylor and I don't desolve partnership the probabilities are that we will becom envolved in a law suit and he [or 'be'?] bothered about it and if you have your money you are safe and I have the Colt so I will be protected. I will leave home in 2 or 4 days to be gone two weeks but Mr. W. will attend to the note if I don't. If my proposition is agreeable to you please let me know by return mail.

Your Friend

J. D. Howard

It does not suit me as well to express the money as to pay it off at 4th Bank.⁵

Taylor's wife, Elizabeth, died on 16 February 1880 and the following year, the James brothers left Tennessee. On 21 December 1882, Taylor married Malinda Couzens and by that time, news of Jesse James' assassination had appeared in numerous newspapers across the country.⁶ Many included images of the dead outlaw. If Jonas Taylor did not know before that his friends in Tennessee were none other than the infamous James brothers, he did at that moment. Two years later and that friendship placed Taylor in court, testifying at Frank James' trial.

"Jonas Taylor", The Nashville Daily American noted on 8 March 1884, "would fit the bill in every respect as a border hero. He is large enough, broad shouldered, and perhaps as much, or more muscled than any other man in Nashville."⁷ His testimony at Frank's trial was not so wildly audacious as General Joseph O. Shelby's but still, "the audience was very much entertained by the testimony of [Detective Sam] Fields and Taylor, especially by the quaint answers of the latter."⁸

Detective Field testified that he had seen Frank in Taylor's store on 11 March 1881. In fact, "I saw him three times that day at Taylor's shop, Fisher's saloon and Brown's office." Frank was at Taylor's shop, Field said, having a horse shod and the next day, Field saw him again at Taylor's desk. Field also stated he had known Jesse at that time, between 1879 and 1881, the first time he had seen him was when Jesse was "in a lawsuit about a race horse". Woodson and Howard resembled each other, he said, but he had made no connection between them and did not recall ever seeing them together.⁹

Taylor testified that Frank James had been in his shop on 11 March 1881 and had returned the following day to pay \$100.25, a large portion of which was repayment for a loan, a fact supported by his account book. On that same day, A. G. Smith, a government paymaster was "robbed of \$5,200 while proceeding from the bank of Campbell & Coat, at Florence, Ala., where he drew the money, to the headquarters on the [Muscle Shoals] canal." The country through which Smith had travelled was a "wild deserted forest... unbroken save by camps at intervals of four miles. He was mounted and alone, and was proceeding quietly along the towpath alongside the canal, and, when within two miles of Blue Lick Camp, about sixteen miles from Florence, he was overtaken by three men on horseback, who came up behind him as he was opening a gate on the bridle path." The robbers, presenting pistols, took all the funds, leaving Smith with his personal cash, amounting to \$21, and his watch. They then forced him to accompany then into the woods where, after about twenty miles, they left him. It took a full twenty-four hours for Smith to reach the nearest camp as he had become lost and was forced to travel during a storm.

A worker with six years experience, Smith's integrity was never questioned and "there was no suspicion against him." This seemed in stark contrast to the robbers, who Smith

from him to copy:
 "B. J. Woodson, 1879, Feb. 6, removing eight shoes \$2; 5th, putting on four shoes \$2; 17th, removing four shoes \$1; March 12, shoes 50c.; April 9, four shoes \$2; 14th, four shoes removed \$2; Jan. 2, 1880, money loaned \$2; Feb. 3, money loaned \$1.25; April 9, four shoes \$2; April 26, four plate shoes \$4; April 29, cash loaned \$50; May 9, cash loaned \$25; Mayes livery bill \$1.50; 1881, January, Patterson & Carnahael's bill, livery, \$1.50; 1881, to registering deed \$2; March 11, four shoes \$1.50; total, \$100.25."
 "March 12. By cash received \$100.25."
 All these entries appeared properly



PHOTO BY OTTO GIERS.

JONAS TAYLOR,
THE HORSESHOER.

JONAS TAYLOR,
THE HORSESHOER

Wants all his patrons and the public to know that he has removed temporarily to 167 NORTH COLLEGE STREET. Will be back in new quarters at the old stand in about thirty days.

au17 lw

Top to bottom: The contents of Taylor's account book were printed by The Nashville Daily American, 8 March 1884; "Jonas Taylor the Horseshoer" Centennial album of Nashville, Tennessee containing exposition buildings officers of the exposition, representative citizens, public buildings, business houses, and private residences 1896, with many thanks to Linda Gay Mathis; Nashville Daily American, 22 August, 1889, showing a temporary address.

claimed, "appeared unaccustomed to such business." They had, by their own reckoning, been waiting since Christmas for the opportunity to rob the paymaster and when the opportunity finally came, they "showed great nervousness."¹⁰

A drunk and disorderly Bill Ryan had afterward been arrested and found to have some of the stolen loot on his person. He was tried, found guilty and sentenced to twenty-five years in the state penitentiary.¹¹ The remaining two robbers were thought to have been Jesse James and one of the Hites, either Wood or Clarence, but in 1884, with all three dead and buried, Frank James faced accusations of being one of those involved.

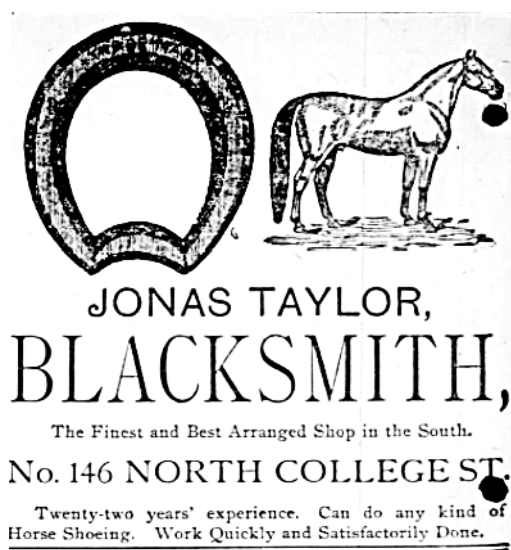
The prosecution at his trial, believing it not entirely impossible that Jonas Taylor meant to cover for his old friend, scrutinised his account book "with a magnifying glass" and, after much deliberation, "they claimed to be perfectly satisfied it had been tampered with." Ink blots marked every page and the writing was in several different hands. Taylor explained that several workers were responsible for keeping the records and, as to the poor condition of the book, Taylor told the court that the accounts had been rescued during a fire in 1881. At that time, ink had been spilt or thrown on the book, marking most of the pages.¹²

The origins of the 17 May 1881 Nashville fire "is supposed to have been spontaneous combustion in the paint and oil cellar of Warren Bros' paint establishment and was not discovered till it came streaming up through the elevator. Thirty-four buildings in all were destroyed and twenty were badly damaged."¹³ Jonas Taylor "occupied the one story brick house No. 9 South College street, as a blacksmith shop. His utensils, tools etc valued at \$500, were lost; no insurance."¹⁴

Although the question over whether the pages containing references to 'Ben Woodson' had been deliberately tampered with or made difficult to read due to fire damage, they were still supported by the testimony of Detective Field – that Frank had been seen in Taylor's store on both 11 and 12 March 1881. For his part, Taylor seemed surprised that the James brothers were in fact the famed bank and train robbers so frequently written about. "It was not reasonable to suppose," he told a reporter, "that men who worked for a living as hard as they did would resort to highway robbery to get money."¹⁵

In April 1884, Frank was found not guilty of the Muscle Shoals robbery and life went back to normal for Jonas Taylor.

A well-liked and respected member of the Nashville community, Taylor made many public appearances, whether it was to host an ice cream festival at his home "for the benefit of Mrs. Ross' infant class", acting as judge for the Derby Winner Company's horse-shoeing contest at the Grand Opera House, or while carrying out his duties as an elected member of the County Court for the Seventeenth District.¹⁶ But Taylor was also a man who liked to be in the thick of it.



JONAS TAYLOR,
BLACKSMITH,
The Finest and Best Arranged Shop in the South.
No. 146 NORTH COLLEGE ST.
Twenty-two years' experience. Can do any kind of
Horse Shoeing. Work Quickly and Satisfactorily Done.

Nashville Banner, 9 January 1892,
showing a temporary address.

In 1888, the Nashville Banner reported that Taylor had returned from a trip to Chicago to arrest W. A. Helmer. Taylor told the Banner reported that Helmer had taken a team of his horses on 7 June worth \$450 but had paid "on credit by false representation." Helmer then mortgaged the horse to a Mr. Long for \$234 and "slipped off to Chicago with them." Taylor obtained a requisition from Governor Taylor and set out to find Helmer and bring the horses back, which he did.¹⁷

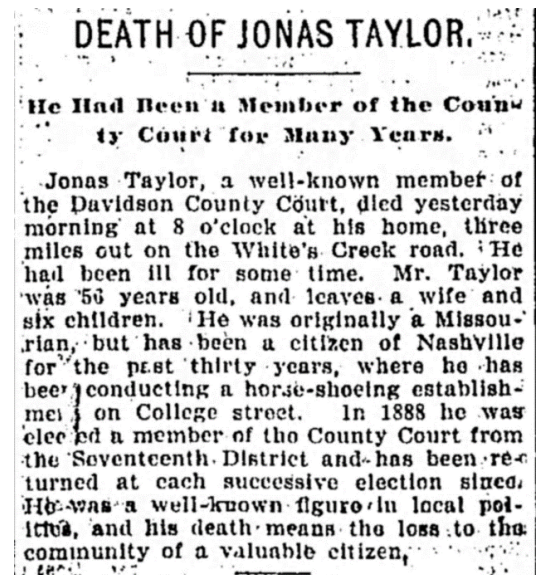
Similarly, in 1894, "there was difficulty at the Seventeenth District voting precinct" when Joe McCall, under the influence of alcohol, "became very boisterous," and began throwing abuse at a Mr. Campbell. A fight began between the two men, which Special Deputy Sheriff Marion Boyd attempted to stop but was restrained by onlookers. "Jonas Taylor then stepped forward and was in the act of separating the men when a man named Cox stabbed him in the side."¹⁸

It was perhaps this same bullish character trait that resulted in his attempted murder in 1893. "A serious cutting affray occurred

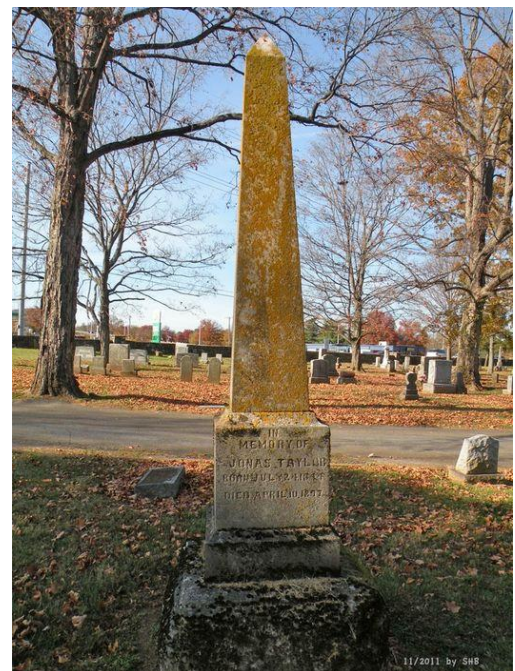
on the White's Creek Turnpike Saturday night between 8 and 9 o'clock," the Nashville Banner reported on 19 June. "Jonas Taylor, a well-known blacksmith, was attacked by W. R. Daniels Sr., and his two sons, W. R. Daniels Jr., and David Daniels. There had been a previous difficulty between the parties and meeting on the pike the quarrel was renewed." During the attack, Taylor "was badly cut about the neck and throat." Judge Wilkinson, who happened to be passing by, immediately issued warrants and the father and one son were arrested and placed in jail. David Daniels, who was believed to have cut Taylor, escaped. The injuries "were not of a serious nature."¹⁹

Jonas Taylor, Justice, friend to the James brothers, and Nashville Horse-shoer continued to serve his community until he died at his home on 10 April 1897 after a long illness. His funeral services were conducted the following day by Rev. F. E. Alford and interment was at Spring Hill Cemetery.²⁰ His wife, Melinda, died in 1936 and was buried next to him.

1. Tombstone for Jonas Taylor; contact with Taylor family
2. Nashville Daily American, 21 April 1884.
3. They were married on 29 March 1868 in Wilson, Tennessee. Marriage certificate records for Wilson Co., Tn., 1868. With thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.
4. Nashville Daily American, 21 April 1884.
5. Martha DeBow Casey Collection. With thanks to Jeff Thoele for sharing.
6. Death register for Nashville, Davidson Co. Tn., 1880. With thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.
7. Nashville Daily American, 8 March 1884.
8. Nashville Daily American, 21 April 1884.
9. Ibid.
10. Nashville Daily American, 15 March 1881.
11. Wyandotte [Kansas] Republican, 29 September 1881.
12. Nashville Daily American, 21 April 1884.
13. Knoxville [Tenn.] Daily Chronicle, 20 May 1881.
14. Memphis [Tenn.] Daily Appeal, 18 May 1881. Note from Linda Gay Mathis – "Regarding Jonas Taylor and his \$500 dollar loss for this fire episode, it appears he was just renting the building when he lost his tools, etc. The building was worth \$2,000 owned by Mr. Williams of Eagleville, Rutherford County; not insured." Another fire occurred in 1892 – "The North college street chemical engine extinguished a small blaze yesterday afternoon in Jonas Taylor's blacksmith shop, just across the street from the engine-house. The loss was small." Nashville Banner, 31 October 1892.
15. Nashville Daily American, 8 March 1884.
16. Nashville Banner, 1 August 1887; Nashville Daily American, 7 December 1895; Nashville Banner, 10 April 1897
17. Nashville Banner, 2 July 1888.
18. Nashville Banner, 17 July 1894.
19. Nashville Banner, 19 June 1893.
20. Nashville Daily American, 11 April 1897.



Nashville Daily American, April 11, 1897.



The 1900 census for district 17, Davidson county, Tenn, lists Malinda Taylor as a farmer and the head of her household, which also contains her sons, Sam, Robert, Jonas and Richard, daughters Belle and Jennifer, Malinda's sixty-eight-year-old mother, Josephine Couzens, George, Jennie and Samuel Couzens and two servants, John and Thomas Campbell.

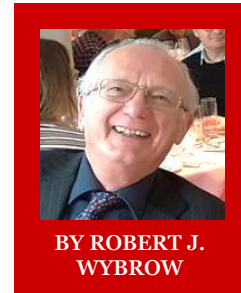
THE ABORTED SOMERSET BANK ROBBERY

In an earlier edition of the *Journal*, I produced an eyewitness account of the robbery of the Columbia bank in April 1872 and here follows accounts of an aborted robbery of the bank in Somerset, Kentucky 43 miles away, including one by the president of the Columbia bank, Judge T. T. Alexander.

The *Interior Journal* of Stanford, Kentucky published the following story on May 10:

The villains who robbed the bank at Columbia were the five strangers who entered our town on the morning of April 26th, no doubt for the purpose of practicing the same game upon our unsuspecting bank officers and would no doubt have fully consummated their design had not a few timely occurrences taken place, which made the robbers think they were watched and suspected. The second time two of the gang entered the bank, Wm. Gibson, J. C. Patton, Squire Thompson and J. C. Bogle, four brave and determined looking men, were present, besides Mr Dunlap the clerk. This formidable defence was too much for the robbers, who merely asked that a twenty dollar bill be changed, and retired. The attack was intended at the time. One of the villains being stationed at the bank window with a drawn pistol and the remaining two mounted on their horses near the bank for the purpose of keeping the citizens off should an attack be made. After receiving the change, three or four, perhaps all of them went to the Huskison House and ordered dinner, in the meantime the same two who had visited the bank took a stroll around the square, visiting most of the shops and stores in several of which they found shot guns and rifles, there being three in full view at the store of Collier & Owens, and several young men making their appearances on the street with their guns preparatory to a squirrel hunt. They soon returned to their companions reporting what discoveries they had made when the whole party mounted their horses and left town, not waiting for their dinners.

The occurrences, together with the anxiety of some of our citizens to find out who the robbers were, (some seven or eight going over to the hotel in a body and propounding some very pertinent questions, one of the crowd having proposed a bet that he could find out their business) saved our bank, perhaps the lives of the worthy and accommodating officers of the same. The robbers were between this town and Columbia five or six days, planning their movements and gaining all the information they could on the sly, having a complete map of this county, giving every path and cross road, and it is believed one of the number was acquainted with this part of the State. They spent several nights in our county, making inquiries regarding the fighting men in our town, and in each conversation the horrors of bloodshed and the tragedies enacted upon our streets were portrayed to them in vivid colors. One of our town blacksmiths telling them, in reply to a question asked him, that before the sale of ardent spirits was stopped here, a man was killed in town most every day – that they fought with knives and pistols and that all the citizens went armed now. This blacksmith believed them to be soldiers and that they were after some of the boys of our town and talked in this manner to give them a scare, if possible.



The supplier of these details was just given as “ALERT” but otherwise unidentified.

In the aftermath of Jesse’s assassination, the newspapers were full of peoples’ memories of events concerning the gang and Judge Alexander was asked about the Columbia robbery. His version of the Somerset affair was as follows, after a brief introduction on Columbia, and appeared in the *Interior Journal* of April 25, 1882:

They had selected the bank at Somerset, twenty-five or thirty miles East of Columbia, as their objective point on that raid, but were prevented from making the attack by a very peculiar circumstance. They entered Somerset on the Friday previous to the attack on Columbia, and after reconnoitering the situation were just getting ready to begin operations when the incident referred to occurred, frustrating their design, and causing them to abandon the undertaking.

One of the party entered the bank to have the customary talk with the cashier: another was posted on the corner close by to observe the movements of citizens, while the other three went after the horses. Two of them mounted, and started in the direction of the bank, and the other followed, leading the horses of the two who were planning for the attack and robbery. The arrival of the first two on horseback was no doubt understood to be the signal for the man on the corner to join his comrade in the bank, when the work was to begin in there; the two

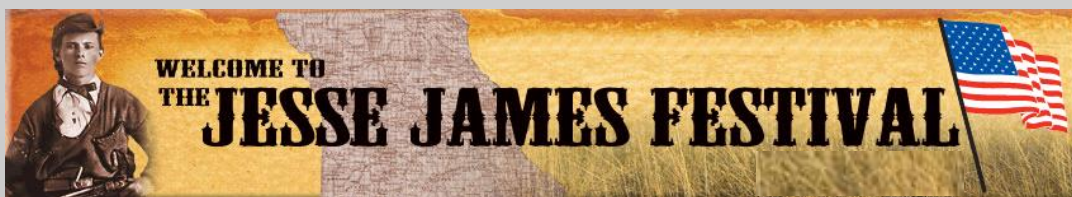
mounted men were to keep the citizens from approaching by indiscriminate firing. The man leading the two riderless horses was to have them ready by the time the work was accomplished, so that the two men in the bank could run out, mount and all retreat out of town together. But fortunately for that bank and unfortunately for Mr. Martin and the bank at Columbia, when the financial member of the gang entered he saw something that caused him to alter the plans. Two men, one a stock raiser of that county and the other a mule trader from the South, between whom several transactions in their line of business had taken place, had appointed that day and that bank as the time and place to make settlement, and when they came to compare accounts they could not agree. Both were hot headed and impetuous, and insisted on trying to reconcile their differences they got mad; hot words passed, and they came near having a fatal encounter. The quarrel was raging furiously when the bandit – it was Jesse – entered the bank. Both had their pistols drawn and the cashier was between them begging them to desist, and preventing them from shooting each other. When Jesse's educated eye saw what was going on he either knew it was no good time to inaugurate a robbery or thought the gang was being watched, and the row between the traders was only a ruse resorted to in order to throw them off their guard until they would be surrounded.

He took but one glance at the outraged traders, and turning on his heel he walked out of the door, signaled to his followers that the jig was up, and when the two horses were led up the two men mounted, and all five of them rode out of town. They went in the direction of Monticello, and stopped for the night at a country store, where a political meeting had been held during the afternoon. The candidates were still there, and the bandit gang represented themselves as stock traders, entered into the discussions that were going on, and had a good time generally. The next day they rode over the hills of that region and spent the night on the Cumberland river, and on Sunday they turned their horses' heads toward Columbia, and stopped for the night at a farm-house a few miles from the town.

Reading these two accounts it is fairly obvious that Judge Alexander had added details to enliven his version of the Somerset affair: Jesse James was not mentioned in any of the contemporary accounts of either the Somerset or Columbia episodes; nor was the two "outraged traders". The 1872 account mentions, by name, five men in the bank, not just two. The judge's account, however, may have been correct in the flight of the gang from Somerset to Columbia. While he had not been in Somerset at the time of the gang's activities, he should have had access, being president of the Columbia bank, to the fuller details of the events in Somerset.

For Liz in Scotland

50TH JESSE JAMES FESTIVAL



This promises to be an excellent event! The Jesse James Festival Committee are a group of volunteers who work tirelessly all year to put on this Festival over the first two weekends in September. Last year, Covid spoilt their plans, but they are back! Add these dates to your diary...

SEPTEMBER 10, 11 AND 16 THROUGH 19 2021
JESSE JAMES PARK, KEARNEY, MISSOURI

For full details of entry costs, events, rules and expectations, please visit jessejamesfestival.com

WIND DAMAGE AT THE FARM

As Bryan said in his President's report, the Farm and the surrounding areas were hit by an unexpected storm on 11 June 2021. The winds came so suddenly that a group on a tour of the old homestead had to be rescued by Beth in the staff minibus. Thankfully no one was hurt and although there was extensive damage to the trees around the property the building itself was spared.



Photos courtesy of the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum.

THE FAMILY COME TO VISIT!

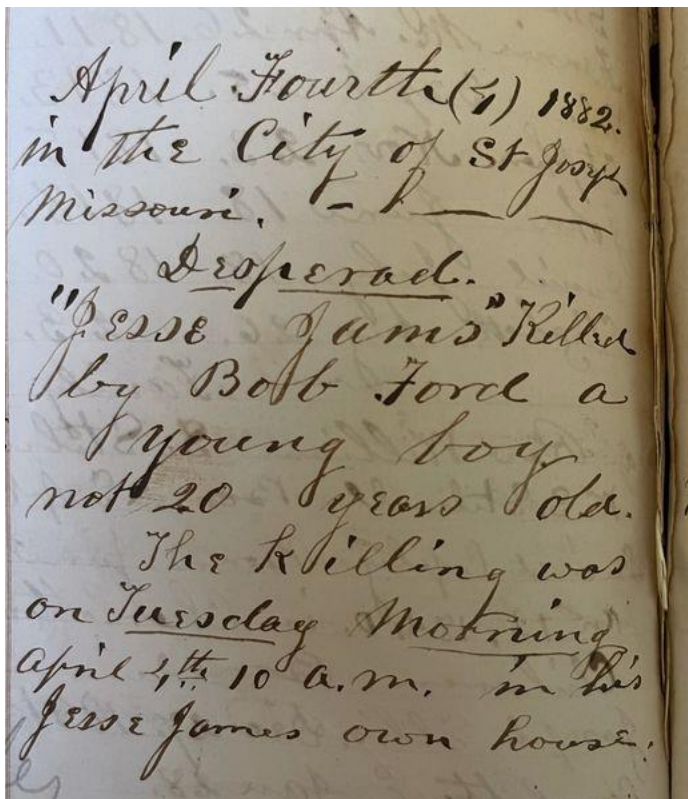
Betty Barr, Jesse and Zee's great granddaughter, came to visit the Farm recently and she very kindly donated a very fine image of her grandmother, Mary James Barr.



Left to right: Betty standing at the infamous fireplace; At the water pump, accompanied by tour guide, Mary, and David Smith; Betty with the donated image of her grandmother.



AN INTERESTING DIARY ENTRY



A visitor recently shared this image with the staff at the Birthplace.

It is an excerpt from the diary of a preacher in the town of Cuba, Missouri from the 1870s through the early 1880s.

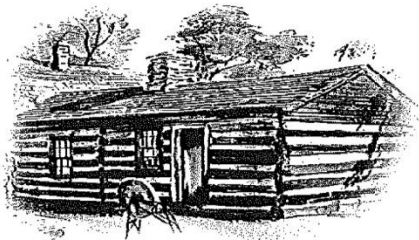
The Reverend William S. Stilwell was born September 25, 1813. He preached all across the country from Coeymans, New York to Cuba, Missouri. He wrote about all things pertinent to life at that time and he knew about Jesse James' death shortly after it happened.

As can be seen, the preacher noted the date of Jesse's death as 4 April but it is likely that is the day he heard the news and assumed it had occurred on that day.

Many thanks to these visitors for sharing!

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 Hamill

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.