



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Clay county, the site of much James family history, is celebrating it's 200th anniversary this year. Co-incidentally it is also the 200th anniversary of the log cabin part of the James farm house. Our celebration of this dual anniversary will be held on April 23 this year. There will be multiple presentations that day as well as a food truck that are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Due to these planned festivities, we thought it would also be the perfect opportunity to schedule our annual friends reunion for the same day, even though it is earlier in the year than is traditional. It will be well worth attending and we look forward to seeing you there!

The last year or two has seen changes in the farm neighborhood with large houses being built within earshot of our shoots. So far there are three but since they are built on fair sized acreages there is unlikely to be many more. In short, the area is becoming much less rural. This hasn't discouraged us from our aim to have three shoots this year and board members Gary Blackwell and Paul Carrington are working hard to set them up at a local police range. I will publish the dates and locations when we get them. **Bryan Ivlow**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

WINTER AT THE JAMES FARM



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OBITUARY



Arnie Lillo 1938-2021

Members will be saddened to hear of the passing on Christmas Day of Arnie Lillo. Arnie was a friend to many, generous and talented.

Many of us will have visited his Jesse James Theme Park in Good Thunder, Minnesota, which includes life sized metal cutouts depicting key events during the famed Northfield bank robbery of 1876.

He had a keen sense of humor. When I visited the Park in 2007, Arnie very kindly gifted me a miniature version of one of his Northfield sculptures. As he passed it to me, I commented on what a great Jesse James pose it was but before I could take it, Arnie pulled back, turned the sculpture over, took a sticker clearly marked, 'Clell' from the base and, handing it to me with a smile, said, "There you go... Jesse James"!

Arnie will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with his family.



Photos from Arnie Lillo's Creations facebook page and website

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAMES CABIN EVENT



23 April 2022
10am – 4pm

Mark your diaries folks!

On 23 April 2022, the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of what became known as the James Cabin.

Guest Speakers

We have a great line up of guest speakers –

Scott Cole will give a history of the old cabin

Joe Hall will talk about the Samuel family

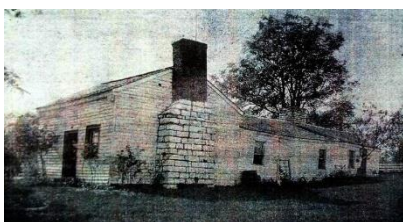
Mark L. Gardner will give a presentation on Jesse James

Bryan Ivlow will share his knowledge of period firearms

Bryan Shibley will give a history of Clay county

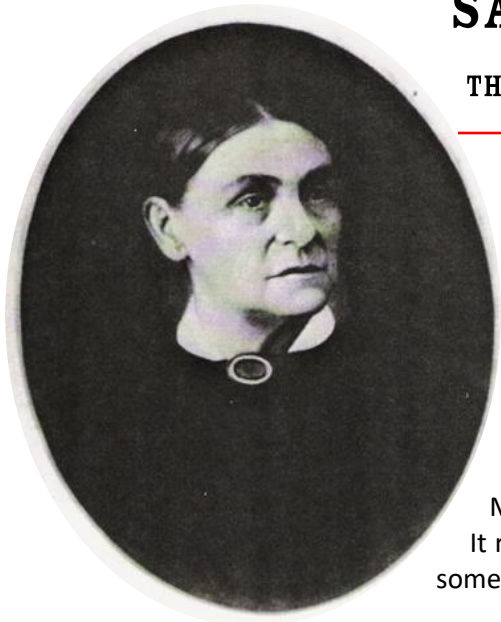


Come and meet members of the James family...‘Frank James’ may even make an appearance!!!



SARAH LINDSAY COLE THOMASON

THE REASON THE JAMES BOYS DON'T HAIL FROM KENTUCKY



The story of Sarah Lindsay Cole Thomason is, on the face of it, a simple one.

Sarah was born on 15 April 1803 in Scott County, Kentucky, into a family of notable regard.¹ She married James Cole in 1824 and on 29 January 1825, their first child, Zerelda Elizabeth Cole, was born. A year later, on 29 November 1826, a son, Jesse Richard Cole, followed. Widowed at the age of twenty-three, Sarah remarried in 1838, moved to

Missouri, gave life to three more children and died on 12 October 1851.

It reads like many other stories of women in the early 19th century, but sometimes things are not quite as straightforward as they seem.



BY
MICHELLE
POLLARD

According to stories passed down through the generations, Sarah's life changed on 27 February 1827, when her husband, James Cole, died after an accidental fall from a horse. Their son, Jesse, was just a few months old and Zerelda was just two when "she was left by her mother with her grandfather, Robert [sic] Cole," at the Cole Tavern.² "The Black Horse was quite a place... Most of the men in town would visit the tavern regularly, yet some of the ladies of Lexington denounced the Black Horse as 'Sodom'."³ It was not entirely the best place to take, let alone abandon, young children.

In truth, the Cole Tavern and the Black Horse Inn were not the same place. The former was owned and run by Richard Cole Snr. and was indeed "known far and wide by its notorious name, Little Sodom." It had become the "gathering place for the cutthroat and river ruffians who fought over cards, women, and whatever until the next boat was ready for shipment. Many arguments and killings took place by the men who waited to take advantage of the weary travelers."⁴ Contemporary reports spoke of the unsavory ambience of the Cole Tavern. "Quitting Frankfort, we took a different route which brought us, after riding ten miles mostly through woods, to Cole's who keeps an inn on this road in opposition to Daly, on the other end", Fortescue Cuming wrote in his *Tour of the Western Country*. "But any traveler, who has once contrasted Cole's rough vulgarity and the badness of his table and accommodations, with the taste, order, plenty, and good attendance of his competitor, will never trouble Mr. Cole a second time; especially as there is no sensible difference in the length or goodness of the roads, and that Daly's is through a generally much better settled country."⁵

This tavern burnt down during the winter of 1811 and although Richard's son, Richard Cole Jnr., followed his father into the business in 1812, he did so by becoming proprietor of his father's competitor, the Dailey Tavern, later the Offutt-Cole Inn or Black Horse Inn. Richard's blatant opposition to his father was not entirely surprising as, in 1802, Richard Cole Jnr. had publicly shamed his father in the local press. His turning to the

NOTICE.

THE public are hereby cautioned from taking an assignment on a bond executed by the subscriber, to a certain Richard Cole, of the county of Woodford, for the amount of two hundred dollars, and dated, so well as I can recollect, on the 8th day of September, 1793, as I am determined not to pay it until the said Richard Cole does make to me a sufficient conveyance to a small tract of land, lying in the said county of Woodford, and as a consideration for which the said bond was executed. There are other reasons which I think unnecessary to mention, which would make it improper for me to discharge the said bond, unless compelled thereto by law.

RICHARD COLE Jnr.
Woodford county, Oct. 27, 1802.

Guardian of Freedom, Frankfort, Kentucky,
November 3, 1802. With thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.

Black Horse Inn no doubt widened the gap in their relationship resulting in the son receiving just six shillings “to remember me” in Richard Snrs Will.⁶

Sarah had not taken her children to live at a notorious tavern in desperation, nor had she abandoned them there - The Black Horse Inn was their home. James Cole worked at The Black Horse and Zerelda, during an interview with a Kansas City newspaper, stated, “I was born in the brick part of a log tavern owned by my grandfather, Richard Cole, Jr., in Woodford County, Ky.” That is not to say the environment was any less eventful. The tavern was still a hub of the community and the children would have grown up meeting and interacting with a whole range of no doubt interesting characters. In 1827, just a few months after their father’s death, an uncle was murdered at the Tavern.

“On Saturday night last, the house of Richard Cole, a well known tavern-keeper ten miles from this place, in Woodford county, was attacked,” local newspapers reported. Richard Taylor and George Gillespie had apparently been encouraged by a Mr. Wallace to “go with him to Cole’s, to drink”. Taylor had refused, stating that there was bad blood between himself and the Cole’s but nevertheless was persuaded to go. The Cole family “had mostly retired for the night” but one of the young Cole’s handed Wallace some spirits and “whilst he and Taylor and Gillespie were drinking, James Cole came in... [and] insisted that Taylor should challenge him to a duel.” It was James Cole’s claim that Gillespie had “been telling lies on him and that he should fight then, or make acknowledgement.” Taylor declined.

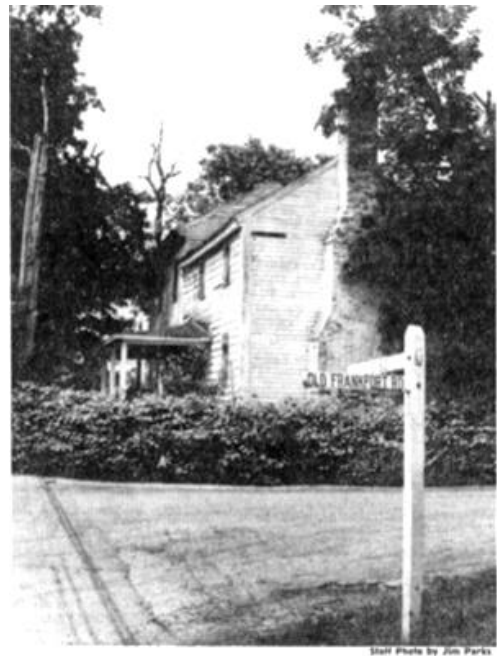
Not letting the situation rest there, James insisted that if not he then his brother, Amos, would beat Taylor and the former jumped down from the table he had been sitting on in readiness. “About this time, old Mr. Cole entered the room; his first salutation was ‘damn you, are you for war!’ Taylor replied no. The old gentleman then ordered them out of the house – they went out into the road, some of the young Cole’s following.” The Cole’s were, by this point, armed with a bar from the door and an iron poker, which was thrown, striking Gillespie and starting a fight. Taylor was subsequently stabbed in two or three places, Gillespie received a wound to his head and Amos Cole was killed after receiving thirteen or fourteen stab wounds.⁷

Significantly, the antagonist in this story was noted as James Cole who, according to stories, had died three months earlier on 27 February 1827, a date singularly gained from a 1922 census of the now long-gone Cole family graveyard.⁸

The possibility that James Cole lived beyond 1827 is given further credit by the Will of his father, written on 15 December 1834. By that time, Richard Cole Jnr. was one of the wealthiest men in the county and he left sizeable amounts of money and land in his Will.

Third, the plantation on the North side, except one piece of ground, including the grave yard with a [two words indecipherable due to ink marks] to it I require to be sold upon a credit of one and two years with a lien upon the property for the price and all the residue of my estate. I require to be sold at a credit of twelve months the proceeds to be divided between my daughters Elizabeth Martin and Sally Lewis and my son James Cole and Sarah Ann Cole, the daughter of my son Amos and Loyd Cole the reputed son of my deceased son Jesse and child of Fanny Bevin and Jessee Cole, son of my son James, and Zurrilla Cole the daughter of my son James, in the following portions to wit. My Daughter Sarah and Elizabeth are to have full shares. James and his two children aforesaid are to have one share. Loyd Cole and Sara Ann Cole to have each one third of a share. It being my especial desire that Loyd be well educated out of his portion.

Jesse Cole had died in 1833, just a year before the Will was written, and was the only one of the three brothers to be recorded as ‘deceased’ by their father. Neither James nor Amos were noted specifically by their father as



This former tavern in Midway is being restored. It was the childhood home of Zerelda Cole, mother of Frank and Jesse James.

The Black Horse Inn, childhood home of Zerelda and Jesse Cole.

having died before the Will was written but James appeared as the only brother to be included as a beneficiary, a fact that remained intact even after the Will was amended in 1837.⁹

Richard Cole Jnr. died two years after amending his Will, at the age of seventy-six, an event that some claim forced Sallie into her subsequent marriage to fellow Kentuckian, Robert Thomason. Twelve years her senior, the marriage was surely a necessity as Sallie moved quickly to replace one guardian with another. Records prove, however, that this was not the case. Sallie and Robert Thomason were married in Scott county on 18 September 1838 while Richard Cole did not pass until the following July.

Robert Thomason
95 &
Sallie Cole
14th March 18th Sept 1838
by Benjamin F. Kinnery

DIED—In Woodford County on the night of the 8th July, Mr. RICHARD COLE, at an advanced age. Mr. COLE was in good health, riding over his farm the previous day, and was found dead in his bed in the morning.

Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954; Kentucky Gazette, 18 July 1839

To protect the sizeable inheritance gifted to them by their grandfather from any shenanigans planned by their new step-father, Zerelda and Jesse were, in the summer of 1839, placed under the guardianship of their maternal uncle, James M. Lindsay. The guardianship documents provide the first, and currently only, written proof that James Cole had died before 8 August 1839.¹⁰

Zerelda & Jesse infants orphan over the age of 14 years
of James Cole deceased comes into Court and with
their application made choice of James M. Lindsay
as his Guardian whereupon said James M. Lindsay
came into Court and together with William Johnson by
James M. Lindsay his attorney in fact presented and ac-
knowledgeed bond in the penalty of \$10,000 conditioned
according to law.

Following her marriage, Sallie moved with her new husband to Clay county, Missouri, and set up home there. Robert, also a widower, was the father of six children and, together, they added three more – Sarah Elizabeth Thomason Patton, 1826-1924, Martha Ann Thomason Mimms, 1841-1919, and Mary Alice Thomason Scott, 1844-1930.¹¹

Cow. motions of James M. Lindsay he is appointed
Guardian of Jesse Richard Cole infant orphan
of James Cole dec'd. whereupon said James M.
Lindsay came into Court and together with
William Johnson as his security by James M. said
by his attorney in fact presented and acknow-
ledged bond in the penalty of \$10,000 conditioned
according to law.

Guardianship papers of Zerelda and Jesse Cole,
Woodford county, Kentucky, Order book, 1839, page 291.
With thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.

Sallie's daughter, Zerelda, stayed in Kentucky, under the guardianship of her uncle, and was educated at a Catholic convent there. It was while studying there that she met and fell in love with Robert Sallee James. They were married on 28 December 1841, when Zerelda was just sixteen, and the couple wasted no time in visiting her mother in Missouri. Zerelda remained in the state while her husband returned to Kentucky to finish his schooling. Their first son, Alexander Franklin James, was born on the Thomason farm in 1843.

Sarah Lindsay Cole Thomason died on 12 October 1851, little more than a year after the untimely death of Rev. Robert Sallee James and at a time when her daughter was witnessing the removal of her own children and the sale of personal items at numerous auctions to settle her husband's estate. There was no notice in the newspaper of Sallie's passing and perhaps few noticed her leaving this world, nor recognised her contribution to it. But she was a strong woman in a time when women needed to be strong. She had shone a light and paved the way for the formidable spirit that was Zerelda Cole James Simms Samuel and she was the maternal grandmother of Frank and Jesse James who, without her, would most likely have been born in Kentucky.

1. David Herndon Lindsay, a Captain in the Confederate army during the Civil War and later a Kentucky State Senator was a nephew and Vachel Lindsay, the American poet, was also a relative.
2. T.J. Stiles, *Jesse James, The Last Rebel of the Civil War*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2002, p17.
3. Marley Brant, *Jesse James, The Man and the Myth*, Berkley Books, 1998, p6.
4. Michael Graves; tsgraves website.
5. Fortescue Cuming, *Cuming's Tour to the Western Country 1807-1809*, Applewood Books (reprint), Massachusetts, p195.
6. Richard Cole Snr. died on 21 November 1814 and was buried in the Cole family cemetery. It is interesting to note that most genealogy sources, including Richard's replaced gravestone, contains the middle name of 'James'. This middle name is similarly applied to his son. No contemporary sources, however, have thus far been found that notes the middle name James nor a middle J initial. It's inclusion is a mystery and appears to be incorrect. A transcript of his Will is available at tsgraves.com. Correspondence with Scott Cole.
7. Kentucky [Frankfort] Reporter, 19 May 1827.
8. The 1922 census of the cemetery contained the following information from the headstones: Ann Cole wife of R. Cole died Feb. 11, 1795 age 65 years. Richard Cole died Nov 21, 1814, Susan Palmer, born 1778 died 1823, William Y. Cole, born Sept 16, 1788 died June 19, 1823, Amos Cole, born Feb. 1798, died May 12, 1827, James Cole, born Sept. 8, 1804, died Feb. 27, 1827, Jesse Cole, born May 21, 1793, died Aug. 3, 1833, Julia Austin, wife of James M. Austin, died July 11, 1835, age 18, Mrs. Sally Cole, born Oct 1, 1765, died Nov 8, 1836, Richard Cole, born April 23, 1763, died July 9, 1839, Greenberry Moore, born Oct 31, 1815, died Mar. 21, 1852, Jesse R., daughter of G & S.F. Moore, born Aug. 25, 1851, died May 9, 1852. Only Ann's stone remains. A replacement has been made for her husband, Richard Cole Jnr.
9. Richard Cole Jnr's Will, written 15 December 1834, Will Book L, p 172. With many thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.
10. Woodford County, Kentucky, Guardian Bonds Book--1836-1840, August 8, 1839. With thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.
11. Robert Thomason was born on 17 December 1791 and died, 2 April 1864. His first marriage was to Bethany Jones on 24 July 1817 in Henry County, Ky. Bethany died on 22 December 1836. MP

FRANK AS A TRAIN GUARD?

This interesting article has been sent to us by Chuck Rabas.

St. Joseph (Missouri) Weekly Herald, May 14, 1896 (page 6) **FRANK JAMES AS A GUARD.** An Express Company Figuring to Employ the Noted Ex-Bandit. St. Louis, Mo., May 11--It is reported that an express company is negotiating with Frank James, the once noted bandit, now a theatre employe [sic], for guard on express trains carrying large amounts of money and valuables. The company believes that Frank James has such a reputation that the ordinary robber would hesitate to tackle him. James is willing to accept the position and guarantee that no train in his charge will be robbed except over his dead body, with one single provision, that the express people put up a bond of \$30,000, this amount to go to his widow in case of his death.

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JAMES TIMBERLAKE: “JESSE J’S NEMESIS”

The title for this article came from the *St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette* of February 21, 1891, and told of the death of James R. Timberlake, ex-sheriff of Clay County who had been heavily involved in the hunting of Jesse James.

Timberlake had been born in Platte County, Missouri, on March 22, 1846, to John Timberlake and Patsy Noland. When James was about eighteen, his father left Missouri and moved to Illinois. Disturbed by the atmosphere generated by the ongoing war, James joined the Confederate army - in Colonel Alonzo W. Slayback's cavalry regiment and as a second lieutenant of General Joseph O. Shelby's brigade. After the close of the war he accompanied Shelby and Slayback to Mexico, travelling through to California where he stayed for some months before returning to Missouri, settling in Clay County as a farmer and raising stock.¹ Possibly one of the first mentions of Timberlake in a newspaper was his listing among the awards to citizens of Clay County at a recent Kansas City Fair: "Mr. J. R. Timberlake received a premium at Kansas City Tuesday on his yearling colt."² The next month he was awarded for the best buggy gelding at the Platte Fair.³ The following year proved to be even more a successful one: "Best mare 4 years old an[d] over, J. R. Timberlake, Liberty, Premium; Best pair of horses or mares for carriage J. R. Timberlake, Liberty, premium; Best mare (breeder), J. R. Timberlake, Liberty, premium; Best Draft mare four years old and over, J. R. Timberlake, Liberty, premium; Best draft mare one year old and under two, J. R. Timberlake, Liberty, Premium; Best gelding of any age or breed, J. R. Timberlake, Liberty, premium."⁴ James had married Katie Thomason 25 November, 1874, in Liberty (but attempts to find a mention in a newspaper have so far failed).⁵

Both Wikipedia and presumably their source, the *History of Clay and Platte Counties*, give 1876 as the year Timberlake was appointed Constable of Liberty township but *The Kansas City Times* of 16 May, 1877, that published the appointment, makes it clear it was a year later. Early in 1878, Timberlake acted as the Floor Manager at a "Grand Social Ball" on St. Valentine's Day in Liberty.⁶ In late July 1878 his future was no doubt improved by being appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms at a Congressional convention.⁷ Later in the year, it was announced that he, "candidate for Sheriff of Clay county", was visiting Kansas City.⁸ He was duly elected, serving four years.⁹

A year later, in November 1879, Timberlake and Deputy Marshal Hays of Jackson County led a posse on a raid of the James' farm but their effort to find the James boys was a complete failure, even being harangued by Mrs. Samuel who, "as if commanding an army, talked as if speaking to the boys, and said: 'Don't shoot, boys, until I tell you; there are only eight and we can kill them.'" ¹⁰ To make things slightly more embarrassing for Timberlake, a rumour was afloat that Jim Cummins had been arrested in a raid, causing *The Kansas City Times* to send him a dispatch on November 14: "Sheriff Timberlake, Clay County, Mo., Is there any truth that you have captured James Cummings and now have him in custody in a wounded condition. Answer immediately." Timberlake simply replied. "I have not as yet arrested James Cummings."¹¹ Possibly to repair some of the damage from November, it was announced on Christmas Eve that he was in the metropolis "and reports matters in the kingdom of Clay as quiet."¹²

Early in February of the following year he did have a notable success. A farmer, John L. Soper, living a few miles from Kearney, in Clay County, was fatally shot. A newspaper reported, "As James Mapes [Maib] was missing, there was a strong suspicion manifested that he was the guilty party."¹³ Naturally, given that the crime occurred in Clay County, "The James boys or their friends are associated in the minds of many in connection with this murder."¹⁴ Timberlake quickly took two of the suspects – Thomas and James Maib.¹⁵

James Maib was released by a grand jury in early March but Thomas was indicted for the murder of Soper.¹⁶ However, Bates Soper, son of the victim, was also accused of the murder having fled the family home.¹⁷ He wrote a letter from Wathena, Kansas, just to the west of St. Joseph "in which he denies bitterly that he did the shooting, but that he left home on account of his having taken a horse that did not belong to him, and sold it." The assumption was that he was making his way to Texas.¹⁸ However, he was captured in Maryville, Kansas, less than



BY ROBERT J.
WYBROW

100 miles to the west of Wathena, where Timberlake travelled to take him into custody. Any further details, if there were any, did not appear in the newspapers.¹⁹

Thomas Maib, being brought before the County Court Justices, was admitted to bail in the sum of \$4,000.²⁰ In June, the prosecution entered a *nolle pros* [a dismissal of the case], “on the ground of insufficient testimony, thus ending a case that has involved a worthy family in trouble and expense.”²¹

For Timberlake, the next few months were fairly mundane. In mid-June he was put off a train by the conductor who said Timberlake’s ticket “was too old.” Timberlake “having purchased it from the agent at Liberty as a good ticket refused to pay any more fare. A suit for damages is expected.”²² In mid-September at the Liberty Fair, he was awarded a gold-headed cane.²³ Throughout 1880 advertisements appeared for the Arthur House in Liberty, with Timberlake and B. B. Corbin as proprietors.²⁴

The year of 1881 was an eventful one for Timberlake, there being two train robberies in Missouri: near Winston on 15 July and near Glendale on 7 September. Soon after Winston, the newspaper headlines were saying there was, “A Belief That it is the Work of the James Boys’ Gang”, though confusion reigned as to where the gang had gone: the sheriff of Gallatin thought he had them trapped in some timber, while it was thought “the entire party were trying to reach Clay county”, Sheriff Timberlake’s home ground and he was “in high hopes of intercepting them.”²⁵

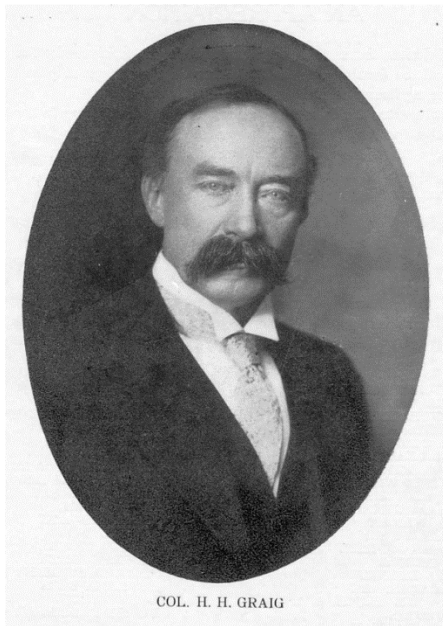
With a large posse, he raided the first place that came to mind where the Boys might hide: their mother’s farm. However, “a close examination of the entrances, etc., to the premises assured him that the murderers would avoid that place of all others.”²⁶

The aftermath of the ‘Blue Cut’ robbery was even less productive for Timberlake, he being mentioned as having organised a posse when telegraphed by Governor Crittenden.²⁷ Two days later, however, the same newspaper published an interview with him, starting with the pronouncement that nobody in the state “knows more about the James boys and train robbers in general than he”, and then going on to report Timberlake’s views on the robbery and specifically the gang members involved. First, he said that he believed the robbery had been committed by “the old gang” - a controversial view - and that he had “no reason to believe he [Jesse James] was not” involved. The controversy revolved around two terms: “the old gang” and “green hands”, something the current writer has looked at in his works on the noted Missouri outlaw.²⁸ Timberlake, while saying he did not think “that the robbery was committed by green hands”, went on to hedge his bets by adding, “There were, to be sure, green hands in the affair, but the leaders were not new ones at the business.” The newspaper, in a separate section, possibly mischief-making, asked “Whether Marshal Timberlake’s view of the robbery is the correct one.”²⁹

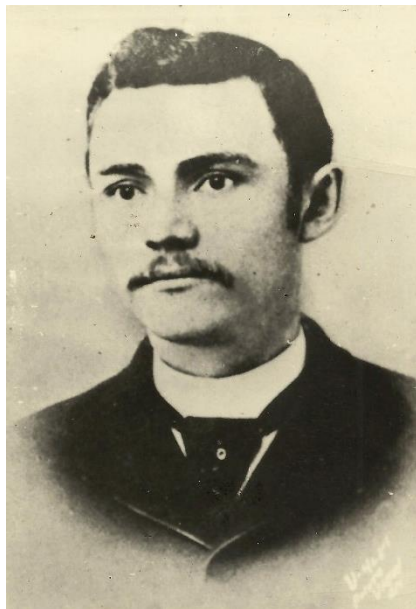
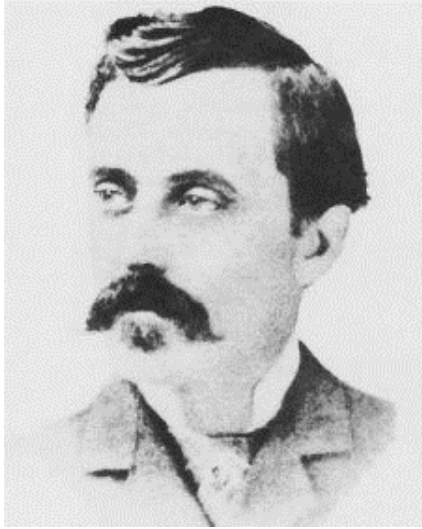


ARTHUR HOUSE,
B. B. Corbin & Jas. R. Timberlake,
Proprietors.
LIBERTY, CLAY CO., MO.
TERMS REASONABLE.
THIS commodious House has recently
been refurnished, and now has no su-
perior in Northwest Missouri. Elegant
Sample Rooms and ample accommodations
for Commercial Travelers.
March 26, 1880.-461f.

Top: Sheriff James R. Timberlake
Bottom: Advertisement for The Arthur House,
Liberty Tribune, 28 April 1882



COL. H. H. CRAIG



The remainder of 1881 passed quietly but in the first month of 1882 Timberlake reappeared in the newspapers, unfortunately with an unsuccessful raid on the home of the Fords, looking for Jim Cummins and Ed Miller.³⁰ Success followed later with the capture of two of the James gang. The first of these, in February, was thought to be Wood Hite, a cousin of Jesse's, but who was actually Wood's brother, Clarence. Wood Hite was dead, killed weeks earlier, and Clarence had been arrested at the family home in Kentucky by Police Commissioner Craig, Timberlake, Bob Ford and Dick Liddil.³¹ Timberlake accompanied Hite to the jail at Gallatin, having "no idea of letting the \$5,000 reward slip through his fingers."³² Another newspaper added a proviso to the split of the money, "The reward of \$5,000 offered by the governor for the conviction of each train robber implicated in the Winston and Blue Cut outrages will not all go to Messrs. Timberlake and Craig. There are other persons, whose names are not known to the public, who will get their 'bit,' and it can be said right here there is no disposition on the part of any one to be greedy in the matter of reward."³³ The remuneration for Timberlake and Craig was possibly significantly higher, expecting "to earn \$20,000 or \$30,000 in the shape of rewards before they are through."³⁴

The February Term of the Clay County Circuit Court for 1882 saw the beginning of a case against Timberlake brought by Charles S. Crane, a suit that was to last through to 1883.³⁵ In mid-March there was a court case between "Thomas J. Maib vs. Timberlake et al – tried by jury; verdict for defendants."³⁶ The end of the month brought further revelations and another confession, Hite previously having made one; this being by none other than Dick Liddil. He too, like Timberlake and Craig, was to get a share of the \$5,000 reward for Clarence Hite - \$500.³⁷ As the month closed, Governor Crittenden said in an interview that the reward had been paid to Timberlake and Craig.³⁸

Jesse James was assassinated on 3 April 1882 by Bob Ford, aided by his brother, Charley. Timberlake was an obvious witness for the inquest into Jesse's death, saying that he was acquainted with Jesse from 1864 to 1870, but had not seen him for more than a decade; also giving physical details of the dead outlaw.³⁹ Jesse's funeral was originally expected to be officiated by W.R. Rothwell, fifth president of the William Jewell College, Liberty, at the request of Sheriff Timberlake, and a newspaper reporting Timberlake's death said he had been "master of ceremonies."⁴⁰

Unfortunately for Timberlake, as it was later to transpire, the controversy surrounding the killing of Jesse was also to engulf the sheriff: "Timberlake and Crittenden claimed that they were aware of what was going to happen, which the Fords emphatically deny."⁴¹ Soon after the same newspaper reported, "Craig, Timberlake and Crittenden will probably be indicted to-day for complicity in the murder [of Jesse]." Timberlake is quoted as saying in that event, "We know what we will do. We will lay off our revolvers and go to jail like little men if they want

Top to bottom: Henry Craig, Dick Liddil and Bob Ford.

us to. And then, well, you'll see what will happen then."⁴² While some newspapers spent many columns of print in praising Timberlake and Craig, others were decidedly caustic in their comments, suggesting they were no better than the Fords: "Craig and Sheriff Timberlake declare Frank James must go – the way of Jesse. All of which means that if Frank James should ever be assassinated, Craig and Timberlake will develop 'sand' enough to bob up serenely and claim the reward. Brave fellows!"⁴³

Around the same time Dick Liddil appeared in the newspapers but physically disappeared for a while, his whereabouts, however, had been known to Timberlake, who denied the knowledge to Sheriff McGuinness of Ray County. The newspaper account gave no idea as to why Timberlake was keeping Dick 'close to his chest' but one suspects it may have had something to do with collecting rewards.⁴⁴ Timberlake then got into an argument with Police Commissioner Craig about arms belonging to the Fords, threatening Craig with a suit if they were not delivered pronto, which they were.⁴⁵

In early May, Timberlake appeared on stage at a mass meeting to endorse Governor Crittenden's actions against the train robbers and Timberlake was thanked in one of the resolutions adopted at the meeting.⁴⁶ Towards the end of the month, Timberlake and Bob Ford's attorney instigated a change of venue for Bob in his trial for the murder of Wood Hite, Jesse's cousin.⁴⁷ A little later it was announced that Frank James "has nominally surrendered to Sheriff Timberlake under a flag of truce", the sheriff registering in a St. Louis hotel under an assumed name.⁴⁸ Timberlake's closeness to the Fords created problems for him when the train he and the brothers were travelling on near Liberty had stones thrown through the windows. Timberlake and the Fords then spent some unsuccessful time firing their guns into the brush.⁴⁹

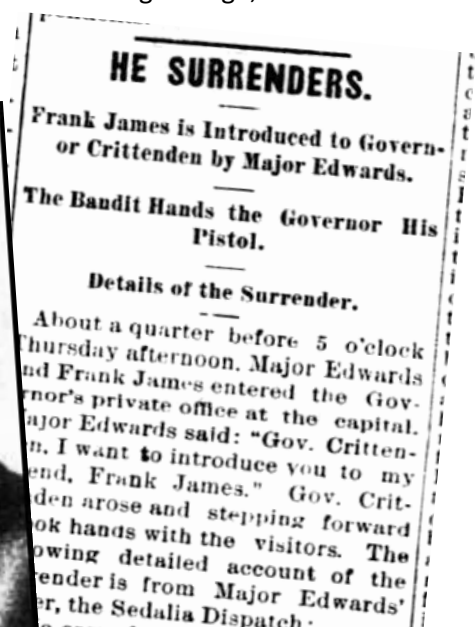
Sometime in the middle of 1882 Timberlake must have realised, or had been warned, that his involvement with Governor Crittenden and the assassination of Jesse was proving distasteful to the Clay County population and, seeing the 'writing on the wall', had a letter published in which he announced he was standing for the office of collector for Clay County and offered various reasons why he should be selected.⁵⁰

As well as hunting criminals and sending them to the penitentiary, Timberlake also helped to get a pardon for one James W. Williams (aka Gilbert Watson) who had been imprisoned in 1880. The sheriff argued that the sentence had been illegal at the time as the prisoner was under 18 years of age, unknown to the court.⁵¹

In spite of his political problems, Timberlake was appointed Sergeant at arms for the Democratic Convention at Cameron in August.⁵² Around the same time he attended a picnic at Acme Springs and became involved in a heated argument with Blue Thompson, a Legislative representative of Clay County. It was said that guns had been drawn but friends saved any real trouble.⁵³ The political problems were strong enough, in the words from one newspaper, that "Timberlake has been slaughtered and the spirit of Jesse James still lives." It was also said "that the sheriff's participation in the capture of Jesse James had something to do with his defeat [as collector]"⁵⁴

Towards the end of September, it was announced that Jim Cummins had been arrested in Kentucky and Timberlake, after consulting with Governor Crittenden and Commissioner Craig, left for that state.⁵⁵ Timberlake's trip, however, was a wasted effort as the suspect was not *the* Jim Cummins and the embarrassed sheriff had to give an interview on his return about the circumstances.⁵⁶

The surrender of Frank James on 5 October "came like a thunderclap" to Timberlake, Craig and Prosecuting Attorney William Wallace.⁵⁷ They were



Shelbina, Missouri, Democrat, 11 October 1882

instructed to travel to Independence to meet Frank.⁵⁸ A few weeks later, Timberlake appeared as a defence witness for Bob Ford at his trial for killing Wood Hite.⁵⁹

In early January 1883 Timberlake, with others, were paid their expenses and for services rendered pursuing the James gang and his share was \$500.⁶⁰ Soon after, Timberlake expressed his determination to leave Clay County and settle on a ranch near Caldwell, Kansas, with his brother, but he soon returned to Missouri.⁶¹ In April, Timberlake was mentioned in two law cases. The first of these was a case by the Metropolitan National Bank but this "was dismissed for lack of prosecution."⁶² The only mention of the second case was that Timberlake's opponent was one Charles S. Crane.⁶³ The remaining mentions of Timberlake in 1883 were mainly to do with the trial of Frank James in the late summer of that year;⁶⁴ and in September he commenced a suit for \$5,000 damages against three men: Karnes & Ess and J. S. Chick.⁶⁵

In January 1884, "a constant reader" asked *The Kansas City Daily Times* why Craig and Timberlake had received \$10,000 from Governor Crittenden after the assassination of Jesse and its pithy response was "Because he had promised to. The railroads raised a fund for the purpose."⁶⁶ The following month, Timberlake and R. M. Roper were appointed deputy marshals.⁶⁷ In April and in May, the case with Crane/Crain continued.⁶⁸

January 1885 found Timberlake job hunting again, being an applicant for the appointment as marshal of the court of appeals; but again he was unsuccessful.⁶⁹ In April, he revived the case against three men named Ess, Karnes and Chick, and it was said to be an old suit dating back to 1878 concerning the failure of the Mastin bank in that year. The jury failed to come to an agreed verdict and the case was dismissed.⁷⁰

Late 1886 turned out to be very much of a strain for the ex-sheriff when his failure to win back his position continued, prompting him to issue a 'card' in his defence "concerning an issue being made against him concerning his alleged connection with Jesse James' death." The newspaper account ended, "There is hardly any probability of Capt. Timberlake's election."⁷¹ Then, in early December, his wife died of pneumonia.⁷² Just two weeks later, a newspaper carried a story of an incorrect rumour that Timberlake had committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.⁷³

The case against Ess and Karnes resurfaced in April 1887, though its result does not seem to be in the newspapers.⁷⁴ A happier story for Timberlake in the following year concerned his dog Tip, who liked to 'play' with fire-crackers.⁷⁵

Timberlake passed away on the 20 February, 1891, in Liberty, Clay County, aged just 44. Kansas City's Chief Speers said of James, "While I was acquainted with Sheriff Timberlake, I did not know him very well" but later added "I understand that he subsequently became somewhat dissipated."⁷⁶ The cause of Timberlake's death was said to have been "an accidental overdose of morphine, taken to induce sleep." One newspaper said of him, "James Timberlake was the beau ideal of a hero. He stood over 6 feet tall, and broad in proportion. He was a magnificent specimen of manhood. With the strength of three ordinary men and the courage of a lion he combined all the graces of an Apollo and was noted one of the handsomest men in western Missouri." In an interview, Governor Crittenden spoke highly of Timberlake, quoted as having said that, "had it not been for the efforts of Sheriff Timberlake and Captain Craig, the James gang would never have been broken up." The newspaper report is very much a eulogy for Timberlake, mentioning him bearing "a charmed life" as members of the James gang rode past his home while he sat in a chair smoking his pipe and fired numerous shots at him, unsuccessfully. On another occasion he is supposed to have been barricaded in a barn by the gang but obviously made his escape.⁷⁷ He was buried next to his wife.⁷⁸

Kansas City Times, 21 February 1891

SHERIFF TIMBERLAKE DEAD.

THE NOTED PURSUER OF THE JAMES BOYS PASSES AWAY.

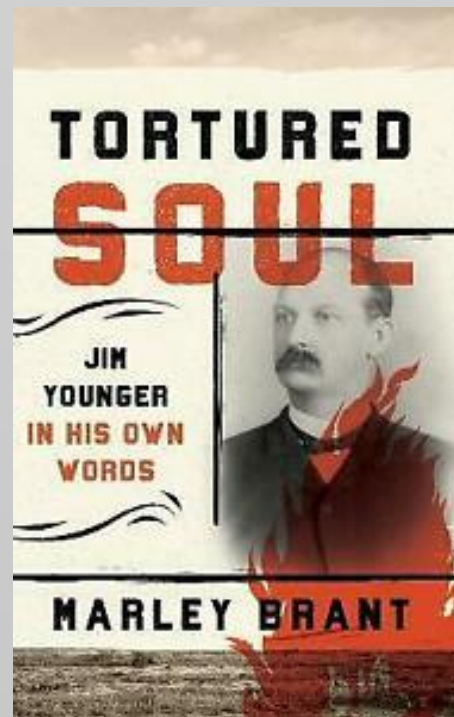
Death the Result of an Accidental Overdose of Morphine—The Clay County Official's Chase With Captain H. H. Craig After the Train Robbers While They Were at the Zenith of Their Career—Ex-Governor Crittenden's Recollections.

James Timberlake, formerly sheriff of Clay county, died at his home in Liberty Thursday at midnight after a short illness. Death was caused by an accidental overdose of morphine, taken to induce sleep. The funeral will be held at 11 o'clock this morning.

Timberlake was, to use ex-Governor Crittenden's words, "the truest and bravest man that ever lived." He was a man who knew absolutely no fear and whose loyalty to the state and his office, rid this country of the most dangerous and lawless gang of desperadoes and robbers that ever infested it. In Sheriff Timberlake's death Missouri lost one of the principal factors in the extermination of the James brothers gang and the killing of Jesse James, the noted leader. The other man with whom this credit was shared was Captain H. H. Craig, at that time a member of the board of police commissioners of this city, but at present a lawyer, temporarily absent at Corpus Christi, Tex.

1. *History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri*, National Historical Company, St. Louis, 1885, pp.368/369; Wikipedia, though here his middle initial is given as H; Alonzo Slayback was a lawyer and at his death, in October 1882, was a law partner of James O. Broadhead. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* wrote an editorial page article and Slayback raced to the newspaper's office to demand a retraction but was shot by the managing editor, John A. Cockerill.
2. *Liberty Tribune*, 18 September 1874.
3. *Liberty Tribune*, 9 October 1874.
4. *Liberty Tribune*, 24 September 1875.
5. *History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri*, National Historical Company, St. Louis, 1885, p.369.
6. *Liberty Tribune*, 1 February 1878.
7. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 25 July 1878.
8. *The Kansas City Times*, 18 October 1878.
9. genealogytrails.com/mo/clay/countyofficials.html; *Liberty Tribune*, 15 November 1878.
10. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 11 November 1879.
11. *Kansas City Times*, 15 November 1879. The newspapers often misspelt Jim's name, adding a 'g' to the end of his family name.
12. *The Kansas City Times*, 24 December 1879.
13. *St. Joseph Weekly Gazette*, 5 February 1880. Soper was just short of his 51st birthday when he was shot and left a wife, four sons and two daughters.
14. *Fulton Telegraph*, 6 February 1880. Locals would have remembered the fatal shooting of Daniel Askew a few years earlier.
15. *The Kansas City Times*, 4 February 1880. James was twenty-three and married with two children; Thomas was twenty-six and unmarried.
16. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 5 March 1880.
17. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 27 March 1880.
18. *The Kansas City Times*, 30 March 1880.
19. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 22 April 1880; *St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette*, 22 April 1880. There is a history of Bates Soper in A. L. Webber's *History and Directory of Cass County, Missouri*, *The Cass County Leader*, 1908, pp. 166-174. Briefly, in 1879 he stole a horse and spent 18 months in the penitentiary. Soon after his release he married and lived with his mother in Clay County for six years before moving to Arkansas. In April 1891 he murdered his wife and two children with an axe for which, eight years later, he was executed, after also confessing to killing his father.
20. *The Kansas City Times*, 14 April 1880.
21. *Richmond Democrat*, 17 June 1880.
22. *Kansas City Times*, 18 June 1880.
23. *Kansas City Evening Star*, 20 September 1880.
24. *Liberty Tribune*, the advertisements also appeared in 1882 and 1883.
25. *The Kansas City Times*, 17 July 1881.
26. *The Kansas City Evening Star*, 18 July 1881.
27. *The Kansas City Times*, 9 September 1881.
28. *"Jesse James, Prince of Robbers!"*, published by The English Westerners' Society, 485pp, 2015.
29. *The Kansas City Times*, 11 September 1881.
30. *The St. Joseph Herald*, 8 January 1882.
31. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, 23 February 1882; *The Owensboro Messenger*, Kentucky, 19 September 1882.
32. *The St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 24 February 1882.

NEW BOOK FROM MARLEY BRANT



Opening this book for the first time, you can almost hear an audible sigh of relief for those involved in its existence.

The circumstances of it's meandering life is well documented within and before it goes on to showcase the testimony of Jim Younger through letters he sent to Cora McNeil.

The failed raid on Northfield is, not surprisingly, covered in detail but it is perhaps the more intimate revelations that present the most interesting aspects of the book. Sections, for example, that relate the relationships between the Younger brothers, and especially chapters that concentrate on Jim's relationship with John, are insightful and interesting.

Marley Brant's extensive knowledge of the Youngers is used sparingly as she masterfully allows Jim's own narrative to fill the pages, only interjecting briefly to clarify and explain. This book is a very welcome addition to any collection. **MP**

33. *The Kansas City Times*, 25 February 1882. The unnamed persons would have been the Ford brothers and Dick Liddil, whose names should not be revealed before the trap had closed around Jesse.
34. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, 25 February 1882.
35. *Liberty Tribune*, 24 February 1882; 9 and 23 February 1883.
36. *Liberty Tribune*, 17 March 1882.
37. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, 30 March 1882.
38. *The Kansas City Times*, 31 March 1882.
39. *The St. Joseph Weekly Gazette*, 6 April 1882.
40. Michelle Pollard, *Witnesses to the Passing of a Legend – The Death and Burial of Jesse James*, *The English Westerners' Brand Book*, Summer 2013; *St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette*, 21 February 1891.
41. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 6 April 1882.
42. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 17 April 1882.
43. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 22 April 1882.
44. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 25 April 1882.
45. *St. Joseph Herald*, 3 May 1882.
46. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 8 May 1882.
47. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, 25 May 1882.
48. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, 29 May 1882; *St. Joseph Herald*, 30 May 1882.
49. *The Tipton Times*, 31 May 1882.
50. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, 6 July 1882.
51. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 31 July 1882.
52. *The Kansas City Daily Times*, 16 August 1882.
53. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, 17 August 1882.
54. *St. Joseph Weekly Herald*, 24 August 1882.
55. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 29 September 1882.
56. *The Kansas City Daily Times*, 5 October 1882.
57. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 6 October 1882.
58. *The St. Joseph Weekly Gazette*, 12 October 1882.
59. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 20 October 1882.
60. *Dade County Advocate*, Greenfield, 4 January 1883.
61. *St. Joseph Herald*, 18 January 1883.
62. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, 2 April 1883.
63. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 18 April 1883; a later newspaper gave the spelling as Crain.
64. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 30 August 1883.
65. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, 5 September 1883.
66. *The Kansas City Daily Times*, 15 January 1884.
67. *The Kansas City Evening Star*, 18 February 1884. According to the Clay County History Timberlake was appointed Deputy U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri.
68. *The Kansas City Daily Times*, 18 April and 13 May 1884.
69. *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 10 January 1885.
70. *The Kansas City Times*, 23 and 24 April 1884. There was a Mastin bank in Kansas City that failed in August 1878. Chick may have been part of a banking house in New York indirectly involved in the Cass County bonds scandal of 1872.
71. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 29 October 1886.
72. *The Kansas City Times*, 5 December 1886.
73. *The Kansas City Star*, 20 December 1886.
74. *The Kansas City Star*, 11 April 1887; *The Kansas City Times*, 12 April 1887.
75. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 15 September 1888.
76. *St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette*, 21 February 1891.
77. *The Kansas City Times*, 21 February 1891.
78. *The Kansas City Times*, 22 February 1891. **RJW**

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE!



Top to bottom –

The UMKC School of Law re-enacted
the trial of Frank James. (1996)

Pinkerton agents guard artefacts donated
by Ethelrose Owens. (1988)

A scene from the James Farm's in-house video. (2012)

Devastating storm damage. (2021)

O.F NOEL - EMPLOYER OF MR. HOWARD



MR. OSCAR F. NOEL.
Well-known Nashville man who died at his home last night at the age of 93 years.

Oscar Fitzallen Noel was born at Canton, Kentucky, on 11 April 1821. "He did not have the advantages of a university education, but was of a rugged type of character." He moved to Nashville at the age of seventeen and secured a position with John F. Smith in the wholesale grocery trade, continuing here until he was able to start his own grocery store. His wealth came quickly and before long he had purchased a property on Church street and Third avenue and erected a large office building he called Noel Court. The offices burnt down several times but Noel always had them rebuilt.

He was President of the Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company before he sold his interests, becoming instead President and owner of the Tennessee Telephone Company. He was also one of the charter members of the Fourth National Bank of Nashville.

Noel was one of the first men to build a grain elevator in the South. He operated the Jackson Mills in Nashville and later established the Cumberland Milling Company and was seen as a pioneer in what became Nashville's biggest market. He was one of the largest realty holders in Davidson county and was owner of a magnificent estate, Noel Place.

Married three times, Noel did a lot of charitable work and was a substantial supporter of the Old Woman's Home and local orphanages. "He was a man of strong convictions, and left no doubt as to his views."

Noel died at his home after a short illness on 11 June 1914 and was buried at Mt Olivet cemetery, Nashville.

Source: Nashville Banner 12 June 1914.

MRS. SAMUEL'S BLACKBERRY COBBLER

We thought, with all this cold weather, you might like a recipe for Zerelda's famous Blackberry Cobbler.

1 cup flour	½ cup butter or lard
2 t baking powder	2 ½ cups blackberries
½ t salt	1 cup sugar
1 cup milk	fresh cream

Mix blackberries and sugar and let stand for 30 minutes.

Mix flour, baking powder, salt and milk in ungreased 8" cast iron skillet.

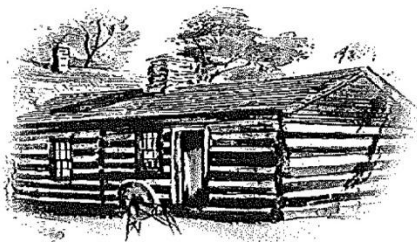
Stir in butter until blended.

Spoon blackberries over batter.

Bake in a 375 degree oven for 45-55 minutes or until dough rises and is golden. Serve with fresh cream.

Friends of the James Farm

c/o Jesse James Birthplace and Museum
 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.