



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 200th year anniversary of the original farm log cabin went very well. Beth and her crew did a very good job in setting the whole thing up. The food truck provided large hamburgers with plenty of fries and the farm staff handed out water and great tasting cookies.

Scott Cole added humor to his talk on the farm history. Joe Hall's talk on Samuel family history was very interesting. Bryan Shibley gave us a super history of Clay county and Mark Gardner sang cowboy ballads and the ballad of Jesse James. He also told us about the many verses and variations of that song. My talk went quicker than I thought it would, but the rest of the hour was taken up by people handling the guns and asking questions about them.

Attendance was very good, the room was packed, and it was great to see Betty Barr happily mixing with everyone, not looking a day older than she did years ago.

Dennie Anderson won the silent auction picture for \$150.00 and Steve Ginrich made a donation to the Friends and the Farm, for which we are very grateful. The farm received some historic Jesse James hotel in St. Joe envelopes and a Jesse James dime novel. The Friends also had some artifacts including two western hats and a clay pipe that we were going to auction but it was too windy.

After the farm program we held a board of directors meeting at the Pizza Shoppe on Kearney. It was the first since the pandemic and it went very well. We discussed having a bus tour. Afterward I checked with the Kearney school bus co. and they said that they sometimes do that depending on the date. We want a Saturday when Michelle Pollard is here so we will check with her about which Saturday would be best for her. We also discussed the insurance for our three shoots this year. The preliminary quote from last year's provider is \$2000.00, more than we would expect to make on them. Our insurance broker is checking elsewhere, our board members are also checking with other local options, and the NRA gave me a pair of possibilities to check during business hours. **Bryan Ivlow**



BY BRYAN IVLOW

2022 SHOOT DATES

Our shoots for this year are as follows –

**4 JUNE
6 AUGUST
3 SEPTEMBER**

Further details will follow.

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2022 PRESERVE MISSOURI AWARD

On April 19, the Jesse James Birthplace received the 2022 Preserve Missouri Award. This award was presented by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation and was accepted by Assistant Director, Bryan Shibley from Representative Hurlbert.



The online citation at *preservemo.org* reads –

The James family log house, birthplace of outlaw Jesse James, was originally built in 1822 in the saddlebag style. An addition was added to the east side of the home in the 1890s and in 1938, a kitchen was added off of that. The home passed through the James family until it was purchased by Clay County in 1978, complete with original furnishings. The county began working shortly after purchasing the property, starting with the reconstruction of several outbuildings, including a smoke house and slave cabin. A study completed in 2017 identified a number of areas needing repairs and improvement to ensure the longevity of the cabin. Restoration work started with site draining. The perimeter of the 1822 cabin was excavated to stabilize the foundation. Ventilation was added around this perimeter along with a mesh barrier to prevent animals from penetrating the foundation. Floorboards were also pulled from the 1822 portion, the crawl space leveled out, and a vapor barrier installed. New shingles were installed on all three portions of the cabin. Logs were inspected and salvageable logs were treated with Bora-care and consolidant. Any logs that were identified as too deteriorated were replaced with new logs. All chinking and daubing was removed and replaced with a historically appropriate mix of lime, clay and hemp fibers. Siding on both the exterior and interior was removed, some of it salvaged and reused, and the rest replaced with a new matching siding. All of the windows from the 1822 and 1890s addition were removed and restored as well. With work completed, Clay County Historic Sites has ensured that the Jesse James Birthplace will remain as a historic destination for years to come.

Huge congratulations to everyone involved!

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!



On 23 April 2022, the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum celebrated not only the 200th anniversary of the county of Clay, but also the 200th anniversary of what became known as the James Cabin! The event was well attended with a plethora of guest speakers and a veritable army of tour guides on hand to tell the visitors about the history of the James family and the place they called home.

Guest Speakers



Clockwise: FOTJF President, Bryan Ivlow, spoke about period firearms; Joe Hall, descendent of Zerelda and Rueben's daughter, Fannie, spoke about the Samuel family; Scott Cole, descendant of Mrs. Samuel's brother, Jesse Cole, gave a presentation on the history of the James cabin; Jesse James Birthplace and Museum assistant director, Bryan Shibley, presented research on the history of Clay County; Betty Barr spoke about her great grandfather, Jesse James; and author and musician, Mark Gardner, entertained us all with his rendition of the Jesse James song, attributed to Billy Gashade.

All anniversary photos on this and subsequent pages courtesy of Linda Brookshier

200TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED!



Pam and Vivie, seen here on the left, were some of the first tour guides to welcome visitors to the restored home after the County acquired the Jesse James Birthplace in 1978. Both currently serve on the FOTJF Board.

To the right are just a few of the current tour guides who continue to do a fabulous job of greeting visitors and sharing the history of the James/Samuel history as well as that of their unique, historical home.



TOURS OF THE OLD HOMESTEAD



A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

COLE AND JIM YOUNGER DESCRIBE THE NORTHFIELD BANK ROBBERY

There were eight men who took part in the ill-fated Northfield, Minnesota bank robbery on September 7, 1876. They were Jesse and Frank James; Cole, Jim and Bob Younger; Charlie Pitts; Bill Chadwell/Stiles and Clell Miller. Bill Chadwell/Stiles and Clell Miller were killed on the streets of Northfield. Charlie Pitts was killed near Madelia, Minnesota. Neither of the James brothers gave interviews, wrote letters or gave accounts, that we know of, about the robbery. However, from the day of their capture on September 14, 1876, the Younger brothers talked.

While they were in prison from 1876 - 1901, the brothers gave newspaper interviews about the robbery. After his release, Cole Younger wrote an autobiography that was published in 1903. In the book, he described the events that led up to the robbery, the robbery itself and the capture of the three Younger brothers. A similar account of the robbery appears in the 1909 book, *Convict Life of the Minnesota State Prison* by W. C. Heilbron. Cole's last account of the robbery was given to Jesse James Jr. and Harry Hoffman shortly before his death in March, 1916. To the frustration of historians, each account differs in some way from the others.

Jim Younger was usually content to have his more gregarious brother be the mouthpiece for the brothers. Jim rarely gave details of his past to visitors, newspaper people or busybodies who asked questions. There was one exception. As a young man, Jim had fallen in love with Cora McNeil. During his years in prison, Jim and Cora continued to correspond. As well as mundane matters, Jim related information to Cora of historic significance. The latest book published in 2021 by Marley Brant, *Tortured Soul: Jim Younger in His Own Words*, documents some of the letters Jim Younger wrote to Cora McNeil. If Jim's account matched any of Cole's many versions of the truth, a full factual account could be documented. Unfortunately, the accounts by the two brothers differ from the beginning.

The reason given by the brothers for their journey to Minnesota varies from the men going on a vacation to do some gambling, targeting Minnesota as it was prosperous, to a specific journey to steal the monies of Northfield residents, former Union General Benjamin Butler and his son-in-law. In some accounts, Cole related that the eight bandits rode on horseback to Minnesota, while in others, he stated the group took a train from Missouri to Minnesota. However, in separate newspaper interviews in the June 30, 1889 *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, both Cole and Jim said that they met by accident in Council Bluff, Iowa. Jim was persuaded to join the group and the eight men rode a train from Iowa to Minnesota. Jim's letters to Cora do not describe why they went to Minnesota but he related that he joined the group in Iowa. Because the outlaws were seen purchasing horses around Minnesota in August and September, it seems probable that they took a train from Iowa to Minnesota instead of riding their own horses. The form of transportation they used to get to Iowa is in question.

Cole wrote how the men split into different groups to explore Minnesota and purchase horses. As they travelled around, the men spent time gambling and talking to people to get information. They stayed in hotels under various aliases, usually posing as cattlemen. There were visits to Minneapolis, St. Paul and Red Wing as well as other towns. According to some of Cole's accounts, the town of Mankato was a possible robbery site. He said they didn't rob the bank because area farmers had a bad crop season due to grasshoppers or one of the men, possibly Jesse James, thought he'd been recognized on the street near the bank. Jim made little mention of their activities, unless it was related to horses, other than to say he enjoyed their time in Albert Lea. He did not mention the aborted Mankato robbery.

For many years, the identity of the three robbers who entered the bank has been debated, especially the identity of the man that killed the cashier, Joseph Heywood. Publicly, Cole Younger denied that the James brothers were involved. After their capture, neither Jim nor Bob would discuss the robbery and Cole refused to identify by name any of the other participants. He did say that the man who shot Joseph Heywood was the man that was killed when they were captured. This man was Charlie Pitts. In his book, Cole said there were two men in the robbery he didn't know called "Woods" and "Howard". Howard was a frequent alias Jesse James used, while Frank James sometimes called himself Woodson. Cole wrote that his brother Bob, Charlie Pitts and Howard



BY DONNA
HARRELL

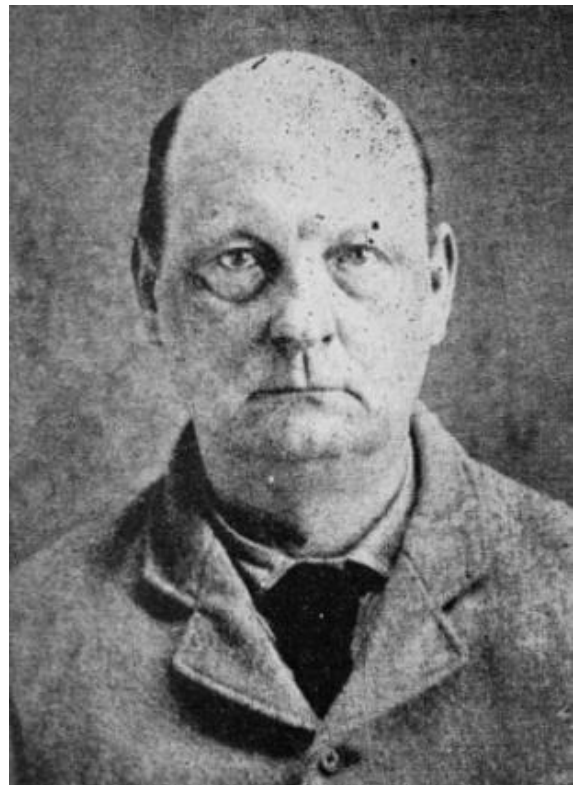
were the men who entered the bank. Again, he identified Charlie Pitts as the man who killed Heywood. Before his death, Cole told Jesse James Jr. and family friend Harry Hoffman the identity of the killer but asked them not to reveal who it was. Hoffman later said that the killer was the man who rode the “dun horse”. This led people to believe it was Frank James. Cole may have publicly named Charlie Pitts as the killer in an attempt to shield his good friend, Frank James.

However, to Cora, Jim had no problem naming Bob, Charlie Pitts and Frank James as the men who entered the bank. He also identified Frank James as the man who killed Joseph Heywood. Jim had no loyalty to the James brothers as they were not friends. According to both brothers, Frank told them that as he was jumping over the counter to leave the bank, he saw Heywood getting into his desk drawer. Frank assumed Heywood was pulling out a gun so he shot at the cashier. However, witnesses in the bank said the outlaw was on his way out of the bank but he returned to Heywood and shot him point blank in the head.

As to why the robbery didn’t go as planned, both Cole and Jim wrote that a bottle of whisky played a part. A few hours before the robbery, Charley Pitts, Bob Younger and Frank James had lunch in Northfield, then Charley Pitts bought a bottle of whisky. After Bob died in 1889, Cole wrote that Charley, Bob and Frank had been drinking and that had he known, he would have stopped the robbery. However, in another account, Cole said he found out prior to the robbery that Bob had been drinking so he sent his trigger-happy brother into the bank instead of having him on the street. Why would these professional robbers put themselves, their brothers and friends in mortal danger by drinking?

Another much debated story over the years is that Jesse James suggested the wounded Bob Younger be killed so the rest of the gang could get away. The shot-up outlaws escaped Northfield and spent days trying to elude hundreds of people searching for them. Bob and Jim Younger had infections from their wounds and they were slowing the group down. On September 14, the James brothers rode off on two horses they stole, leaving the Younger brothers and Charlie Pitts.

Cole Younger maintained that the split with Howard and Woods was because the pair were frustrated by the slow get-away due to the wounded Youngers. As they weren’t wounded, Howard and Woods thought they had a better chance of escaping without their companions. Cole related that he and his brothers gave their valuables to Howard and Woods then parted amicably. On his deathbed, Cole was asked by Harry Hoffman about the story. He denied it happened and stated that at no time did Jesse James or anyone else suggest Bob be killed. Cole said that the Jameses



Cole and Jim Younger while in the Stillwater Penitentiary.
The St. Paul Globe, 4 July 1897

had captured two horses for the Youngers but Bob's wound got worse. Cole told the James brothers to ride off. At another time, Cole said the split was decided in hopes that the posse would concentrate on the outlaws on horseback thus taking the pressure off the wounded men on foot.

Jim Younger told a different story. He said that there was frustration at the slow escape. He claimed that Jesse made a sarcastic suggestion that they shoot Bob or that Bob could take Charley Pitts' slower horse and he could follow as he could. Jim said there was anger, shock and disbelief at the suggestion, bad joke or serious idea, that they should either shoot Bob or abandon him. After some arguing over horses, the James brothers left the Younger brothers and Charley Pitts to fend for themselves.

What was their motive for going to Minnesota? Had the men in the bank been drinking? Did Jesse James seriously suggest Bob Younger be killed? As interesting as the accounts of Cole and Jim Younger are, the brothers rarely told the same story. This leaves historians no closer to the truth of what actually led the eight bandits from Missouri to their downfall in Minnesota in September, 1876.



"The Missouri Bandits", *Sioux City Journal*, September 26, 1876.

"The Youngers", *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 30, 1889.

"Praying For Pardon", *The Saint Paul Globe*, July 4, 1897.

"Wild West Here", *Knoxville Sentinel*, June 15, 1903.

Younger, Cole. *The Story of Cole Younger By Himself* (Provo, Utah: Reprint, Triton Press 1994)

Brant, Marley. *Tortured Soul: Jim Younger In His Own Words* (Lanham, Maryland: TwoDot 2021)

Heywood, Laura and Wybrow, Robert J. *The Outlaw and the Lawman: Some Reminiscences of Cole Younger and Harry Hoffman* (Great Britain: Westerners Publications Limited 2007) pg. 30 – 47.

Heilbron, W.C. *Convict Life at the Minnesota State Prison Stillwater, Minnesota* (Stillwater, Minnesota: Valley History Press 1996) pg. 131 – 148. **DH**

THE HOUSE THAT JACOB BUILT

The oldest section of the James/Samuel cabin was built in 1822 by Jacob Groomer and the recent celebrations saw members of his family, Jeff and Amy Sith, return to take a look!

Jeff is Jacob's fourth great grandson.



“MY VERY SOUL REVOLTS”

MRS. JESSE JAMES AND THE FRANK TRIPLETT SAGA

April 2022 marked not only the 140th anniversary of Jesse James' assassination but also the anniversary of the first books written to document it. The first to appear was by Jacob William Spencer, a St. Joseph newspaper editor. “On the same day of the murder,” Mr. Spencer remembered, “I contracted with a large printing establishment to publish a book for me of about 200 pages... My contract called for the delivery of the book the following Monday. After my day's work at the office, I wrote all night in order to supply copy for the printers. The book was delivered on time and before the last copy was bound the entire edition of 5,000 copies were sold to news dealers in many cities of the country. Had the edition been 500,000 copies I could have sold every one of them.”¹ Due to the tight timescale, Spencer's offering undoubtedly contained much of what he was including about Jesse's assassination and the aftermath of it in the newspapers he edited, while others, such as J. W. Buel and Joseph A. Dacus, scrambled to add chapters to their already published works.²



In St. Louis, publisher J. H. Chambers had something rather more significant in mind. “Immediately after the killing of Jesse James,” Frank Triplett explained later, “I made arrangements with J. H. Chambers to go to Kearney to see Mrs. James, wife of the outlaw, and Mrs. Samuel, his mother, to obtain facts in regard to his life for publication in a book.”³ It was a novel idea and one that made Triplett's task a distinctly difficult one. To capitalise on public interest in the James story brought on by Jesse's death, the book had to be written quickly. Triplett had been warmly welcomed by Jesse's family, remembering how “Mrs. James especially was delighted at having a chance to dictate the facts of the case,” but his reliance on dictated material, which his subjects rarely gave in order, slowed the process considerably. Their first meeting relinquished enough material to keep Triplett busy for several days and he left, making sure the two women understood the importance of drawing up some kind of contract for royalties.⁴

“For more than a week,” Triplett recalled, “thirty to sixty pages of manuscript (making from twenty to forty printed pages) were furnished daily to the compositors. In this haste,” he admitted, “no time was given for any attempt at fine writing.” While Triplett hurried to commit their words to print, Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel, in accordance with their agreement with him, prepared a statement declaring Triplett's book to be “the only correct and authorized edition” of Jesse's life. On 7 April 1882, their authorisation to publish announced publicly and confidently that “we have furnished the facts from Jesse James' private memoranda, and from our own knowledge of the occurrences and we know them to be authentic.” Their statement dutifully confirmed that the “said work is compiled by Frank Triplett, at our dictation.”⁵

A week later, and in light of a comment Mrs. James had made to a reporter that she would indulge in no interviews, Jesse's widow was compelled by Triplett to write to Mr. Chambers and clarify her position. The comment, she assured him, “was not meant to apply to my book, dictated to Mr. Triplett, and to be published by you.” In that book, she said, “I give all facts!”⁶ Mr. Chambers must have been reassured for he was soon contacting Mrs. James with regard to royalties. “I do *certainly* want a *written contract* for royalty,” Mrs. James had told him, “and it *must* be *done* before the books are *put on sale*.” Again, she assured him that all other purported interviews concerning the life of her husband were false, reassuring the publisher that her dictated words remained exclusive.⁷

As a goodwill gesture, Chambers sent the women a \$50 advance on book royalties and all seemed to proceed smoothly. However, as April closed, Mrs. James was becoming increasingly aware that although she had sworn to keep her narrative exclusive, the planned book did not include her words and her words alone. On a trip to St. Louis to view the book, staying at the Southern Hotel under the name ‘Mrs. W. Jay’, she had found it already “prepared for the publication”, while advertising, prepared by the publisher, was introducing her book, not as one concerning the life and treacherous death of her husband, but as one concerning “the lives and career of Frank and Jesse James”. Worse, it was claimed that “all the matter it would contain would be furnished by me.

This statement is absolutely false," Mrs. James asserted, "as I am not, never have been, and never will – because I cannot – furnish any facts criminating either Frank or Jesse James."⁸ Rumours that Frank James had met his sister-in-law during her stay in St. Louis, revised later to Mrs. James receiving a letter from Frank, delivered by an old member of the gang, caused unwarranted excitement but highlighted the impact Mrs. James' alleged confessions might have upon the life of her yet illusive brother-in-law at a time when St. Louis newspapers were ringing with talk of his imminent surrender.⁹



So quickly did the news spread of Mrs. James' disappointment in her new venture that, on her return to Kansas City, it was already being claimed that "her arrangements with Chambers, the St. Louis publisher, have all fallen through. It appears that she furnished material for the book and was to be allowed to see the proofs and make any changes or alteration she might choose; in fact it was to contain nothing of which she disapproved. She claims that Chambers violated his agreement, and would only allow her to see 92 out of 220 pages of the book. Thereupon she informed him that she would withdraw from the connection with the book, and would publish a card disavowing and repudiating it."¹⁰

Mr. Chambers, in his defence, stated that by the time Mrs. James had arrived in St. Louis, most of the book had been written and already approved by her. That there remained twenty-five pages, concerning Bob Ford's trial and the burial of Jesse James, "at which Mr. Triplett was present". Although this proved Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel were not the only contributors to the book, Chambers still encouraged "persons entertaining any doubt as to the sources of our information or its full and reliable character [to] have all doubts removed by calling at our office, corner Third and Locust streets, and inspecting the contract, letters, receipts, etc., signed by Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel."¹¹ In short, Mr. Chambers maintained that, "to all fair minded persons these letters, contracts etc, must be convincing evidence that this book in question is compiled from the full, free, perfect and voluntary dictation of Mrs. Jesse James, as well as Mrs. Samuel, and gives every secret act of the great bandit."¹²

Mrs. James staunchly disagreed. "My very soul revolts at the suggestion of lending my name or sanction to any publication of Jesse James' career," she wrote to the St. Louis Dispatch on 29 April 1882, "yet I have been represented as dictating such a book." She remained adamant that she had furnished no information about crimes charged to the brothers.¹³ On the contrary, she had been bombarded. While staying at the Southern Hotel in St. Louis on 28 April, Chambers had "intruded himself into my

presence (during the absence of my attorney), accompanied by reporters of the several St. Louis daily papers, then by a consciousness, systematic course of philandering and prompting, created purported interviews with me." This apparently continued all day, at a time when Mrs. James was suffering "with a sick headache and was otherwise in such a distressed condition of mind as to be almost irresponsible for my words or acts."¹⁴

WANTED—Agents for the Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James, written by his wife, the only life authorized by her, and which will not be a "Blood and Thunder" story, such as has been and will be published, but a true Life by the only person who is in possession of the facts—a faithful and devoted wife. Truth is more interesting than fiction. Agents should apply for territory at once. Send 75c for sample book. J. H. Chambers & Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. James and an advertisement from the St. Louis Globe Democrat, 20 April 1882

On 2 May 1882, a report by one such reporter appeared in the Nashville Daily American, taken from the weekend edition of the St. Louis Republican. The reporter, having discovered the true identity of 'Mrs W. Jay', had sent a card requesting an interview, which was declined. Undeterred, the man "stepped into the elevator, was raised to the third floor, and soon rapped at the door" of room 118. He was greeted by J. H. Chambers "who stated that Mr. Haire [Mrs. James' attorney] was not in; that he and Miss Blake had gone out for a ride." Greeting the reporter, Mr. Chambers believed Mrs. James might indeed agree to be seen and went to fetch her. "She was attired in a neat suit of black, and her general appearance was that of a farmer's wife in comfortable circumstances. Her hair was blonde, her eyes a deep blue." Her daughter, Mary, just two years old, was with her. "I don't feel much like talking," Mrs. James began but was reassured by the reporter that the interview would be as brief as possible. Subsequently, Mrs. James confirmed that she was in the city to speak to Mr. Chambers and Mr. Triplett - who "is writing the book which has been dictated by Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuels," Chambers interjected. Mrs. James was then handed an evening paper which contained a purported interview with her and, as her attorney and lady friend returned, she was advised by them to go into an adjoining room. "It was apparent," the reporter noted to Chambers, and in her absence, that Mrs. James, "did not want to express herself freely," to which Chambers, who had allowed the journalist to enter, "exhibited a contract between Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. James and himself in which the two former pledged themselves not to impart any information, either directly or indirectly, regarding the lives of Frank and Jesse James to any newspaper reporter, publisher, or anyone who would publish it. The penalty for a violation of this clause was to render the whole contract null and void." Despite this, Chambers entered Mrs. James' room a few minutes later to ask if she would continue the interview but was told by 'Miss Blake', in no uncertain terms, that she would not. Much speculation was placed on the identification of 'Miss Blake', with a popular, though unconfirmed, belief that the mysterious woman answered the description of Jesse's sister, Susan. Chambers persisted until the interview was finally resumed. After several questions regarding the location of Frank James and details of her marriage, the reporter turned his attention to the Ford brothers and Bob Ford in particular. "I don't feel like talking any on that subject," Mrs. James said. "I want to be polite, but I don't want to talk any more now." The reporter noticed she had become visibly affected - "her voice became tremulous, and moisture appeared in her eyes." He left her, gazing "abstractedly out of the window."

Having read of Mrs. James distaste for his book, Frank Triplett formulated a lengthy response, printed in the St. Louis Globe

A BUSY DAY!

There were plenty of visitors to the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum for the Anniversary presentations!



The car park was full!



And old and new friends had plenty of time to chat about all things James and Clay related!



Democrat on 3 May 1882. He told the story of his initial meeting with Mrs. James and that he had asked if they had yet spoken with anyone else about providing the life of her husband. She said she had not; "that J. W. Buel wished an interview but they would not grant it," perhaps due to his recent confession that he had known Jesse was to be shot a full week before it had occurred. Triplett then stated that he had gone "to Kansas City to obtain further information from Mrs. James in regard to the various stage, bank and train robberies in which her husband participated [and] while there I got desired information." Much was then written about Buel's continued efforts to be granted an interview before Triplett set out the legal contract in producing his book, "The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James". Triplett argued that the women's signatures proved Mrs. James was "willing and anxious to lend her name and sanction to this book; to furnish facts for it and so draw royalties from it." He said that plates had been left with her and she had "pronounced herself satisfied" and her subsequent assurances to the contrary were false. Triplett's account was, understandably, supported by J. H. Chambers who described Mrs. James to a reporter as being "quite shrewd." According to Chambers, he had left proofs with Mrs. James when she had said she was too exhausted to read them but, on his return, she had read them all.¹⁵

On 3 May 1882, Mrs. James stopped at the World's Hotel in St. Joseph with her lawyer and "a lady friend" before returning to Kansas City in the afternoon. "The object of her visit was to inquire into the process by which Mr. Burbank obtained possession of the watch taken from her house and claimed by that gentleman as his property." Mrs. James had "understood that ex-marshal Craig would not permit the watch to pass from his possession except by writ of replevin, and in the trial of the rights of property, she expected to prove that her husband had purchased the watch, paid for it and made her a present of it." The reporters though, distracted by her difficulties with Mr. Chambers, felt compelled to ask her for a quote or two on that subject but she was "too ill to devote much attention to this matter and while here was compelled to keep her bed nearly all the time. She is reduced to a mere skeleton, and intense agony is depicted in every lineament of her features. All who saw her predicted that unless she obtains rest and quietude she cannot long survive. Her mental condition is alarming and she suffers from nervous prostration which had its origin in the state of her health prior to the killing of her husband, and which was intensified by the shock from which subsequent persecutions and annoyances have prevented her recovery." Despite this, the reporters were able to glean that, in all probability, "she will adopt measures for the suppression of the book, having been informed that it contains matter to which she cannot subscribe – in fact, she says, it contains no matter that she has furnished. She is severe in her condemnation of the course pursued by Chambers and the reporters for the sensational press." Complete withdrawal was a new tactic as Mrs. James continued to insist that, despite Triplett's assertions to the contrary, she had never "furnish[ed] any statements concerning the history of her late husband, so far as his supposed connection with crimes are concerned."¹⁶

A week later, on 11 May 1882, a letter from Mrs. James to a "citizen of Nashville" appeared in The [Nashville] American. A. E. Sneed, had written to Mrs. James on 19 April and received her reply in a letter, written from 316 East 17th street, Kansas City and dated 7 May 1882. "I am the same person, without doubt, that boarded at Mr. [sic] Kent's under the assumed name of Josie Howard," Mrs. James wrote. Having stated that the children had not forgotten Mr. Sneed, Mrs. James then

"I WAS THERE"



The assassination of Jesse James was recently featured in an episode of Theo Wilson's 'I Was There' for the History Channel, in which the presenter appears to travel back in time to view historic events first hand.



Images from Theo Wilson's facebook page

asked the recipient to hand the enclosed card to the editor of the Nashville papers. The card, the editor noted, “reads as if it might have been written by a lawyer”, and was necessary, Mrs. James claimed, because “this man Chambers has bought off the leading papers of Missouri and I can’t get anything published here at all. It looks though as if everybody was trying to swindle me.” She then thanked Mr. Sneed for his sympathy, ending, “my heart is almost crushed with grief.”

The accompanying card, following the theme begun during her recent trip to St. Joseph, attempted to cut all ties with both Frank Triplett and J. H. Chambers. “I never furnished to Frank Triplett, or anyone else, a single fact for said book, [The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James],” the card read. “I never saw the contents of said book, and as a witness to the truth hereof, I refer to R. J. Haire, Esq., of Kansas City, who, as my attorney, is cognizant of the facts.” Mrs. James further stated that she had never received the \$50 advance on royalties and had never signed anything. “As a wife mourning the untimely loss of a faithful and loving husband; as a mother praying and seeking for the welfare and happiness of my two infant children; as a woman of enfeebled health, so heart-broken and crushed beneath the weight of sorrow so recently fallen upon me as to cause me to expect peace only upon the arrival of the messenger of death, I publicly and most solemnly enter my protest against the systematic and unmanly course taken to enrich an entire stranger by making it appear that I have so soon forgotten all wifely duty and love, betrayed another’s trust and built upon the ungraced grave of a murdered husband a towering monument of my sins to the lasting shame and disgrace of my loved children.”

Her words appeared desperate, contradictory and, in many ways, pointless, for with the book completed, the publisher began his quest for agents to sell it. In May 1882, *The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James* was being advertised across the country as a true life history of Jesse James. The publishers prided themselves in producing a book dictated by the wife and mother of the outlaw, devoid of the ‘blood and thunder’ stories that had characterised earlier biographies. Within a week, the same book, with *The Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James* featured on the internal title page but the apparently new title, *The Life and Times of Jesse and Frank James*, emblazoned on the cover, was being described as containing “every secret act – every hitherto unknown incident – every crime and every motive.”¹⁷



R. J. Haire

The Democratic Party of the State of New York: A History of the Origin, Martin Willie Littleton. 1905
With thanks to Linda Gay Mathis.

JESSE JAMES.

Wanted—Agents for the Life, Times and Treacherous Death of Jesse James, written by his wife, the only life authorized by her, and which will not be a “blood and thunder” story, such as has been and will be published, but a true life by the only person who is in possession of the facts—a faithful and devoted wife. Don’t be fooled by persons advertising old books as new, authorized works. THERE IS ONLY ONE BOOK AUTHORIZED BY WIFE AND MOTHER. Copies of letters of authority, with fac similes of signatures, mailed on application. Truth is more interesting than fiction. Agents should apply for territory at once. Book now ready. Send 50 cents for sample book.

J. H. CHAMBERS & CO., St. Louis, Mo.

St. Louis Globe Democrat, 20 May 1882

Ironically, Frank Triplett’s book did appear more lenient toward the outlaw brothers than earlier variants. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch of 26 May 1882 contained one of the first reviews under the title, *Life and Times of Jesse and Frank James*. “The book certainly has the merit of being written in a plain, unvarnished manner,” the review began, “with here and there a very successful dash at Maj. Edwards’ ornate style, and without the usual accompaniment of blood and thunder.” Major John Newman Edwards was a well-known newspaper editor and friend to the James’. An adjutant to General J. O. Shelby during the Civil War, Edwards’ book, *Noted Guerrillas*;

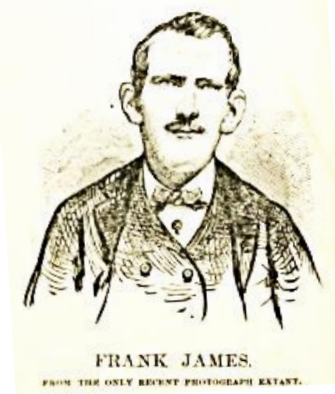
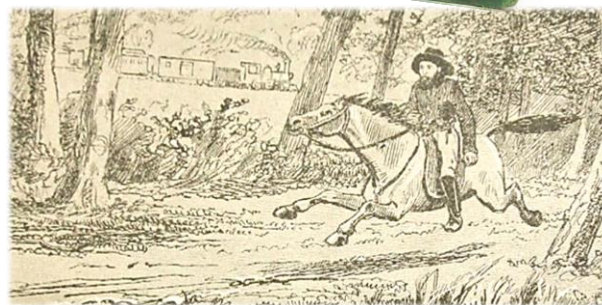
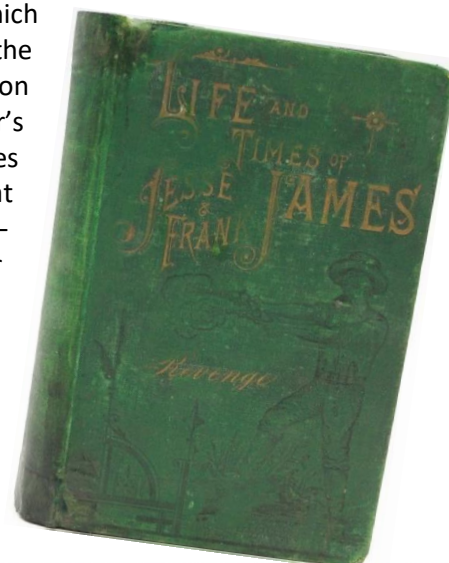
Or the Warfare of the Border, painted the brothers as southern heroes, while his post-war editorials glorified the robberies they were accused of and then denied their involvement in them.

Initially, the reviewer seemed disappointed that the 45 pages of Triplett's book dedicated to the "marvelous doings of the Quantrell gang" contained nothing new and the half dozen sketches used to illustrate it had been taken directly from Edwards' book. But then he seemed intrigued that, unlike earlier books by Buel and Dacus, efforts were made by Triplett "to prove an alibi for the Jameses in most of the bank robberies occurring since the war." To that end, "the bank robbery at Liberty, Mo., February 14 [sic], 1866, has a brief notice, and the presence of the Jameses and Youngers is denied." Doubt was also cast about the brothers participation in the robberies at Lexington, Russellville, Gallatin, Corydon and Columbia. In fact, their first raid together was noted as that of the bank at Ste. Genevieve, appearing just after the page to which Mrs. James claimed she was permitted to see, and was followed by the regular list of accusations up to and including the ill-fated attack on Northfield, Minnesota. The book staunchly denied the brother's involvement in the murder of Daniel Askew as well as subsequent robberies at Huntington, Winston and Blue Cut. Instead, the narrative claimed that Jesse had been left out of the Winston robbery by members of the gang – a significant statement, the reviewer thought, as it not only gave cause for Jesse's growing distrust of his gang members but also offered a previously untold story which could only have come from the dictation of his wife and mother.

Triplett justified his own bias in this book's Compiler's Epilogue saying it came from an understanding that "occurrences immediately after the war" presented "some slight shadow of an excuse... for the commencement of their course, which led on by easy degrees to the commission of terrible crimes." Triplett also laid out some responsibility for leniency to his two contributors, Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel. For the mother, he said, "the crime stained outlaw, his hands red with blood and his soul blackened with outrage, is still her boy... The son may cease to be good, may cease to be loving, may cease almost to be human; but the mother is always a mother... Who would have it otherwise?"

His impression of Mrs. James was equally stereotypical. "Probably no man alive ever merited the true, earnest love; the beautiful faith, and the unselfish worship of a loving woman," he wrote, "but the Infinite Wisdom has so created her that she gives it all freely to the husband of her love, though he may be base, unworthy, brutal."¹⁸

Nearing the end of his review, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter hinted that not everyone believed the book had been dictated by Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel. "The book further contains a well-written account of the assassination of Jesse," he continued, "with the funeral and all the attending circumstances but nothing more than the newspapers have already contained." Furthermore, he noticed how "the history of Crittenden's drum head court martial is lifted bodily from the Post-Dispatch." In fact, Governor Crittenden came off very poorly throughout and added his name to a growing list of those intent on the book's suppression. On June 2, the Memphis [Tennessee] Daily Appeal voiced their opinion that the book was a bad one, describing it as "likely to have a worse effect on the young who read it than any dime novel or yellow-covered sensation ever published. It glorifies murder and robbery, and surrounds crime of the worst character with an air of romance and adventure that cannot be



The rare first edition, titled 'Life and Times of Frank and Jesse James' contained several illustrations depicting their crimes as well as sketches of Frank James.

too severely condemned. It is to be hoped it's circulation will be restricted, and that the book may thus fail of its purpose."

It might have come as a shock to many when R. J. Haire announced that Mrs. James - sick, tired and unwilling to talk about her husband in public – had signed a contract with Mr. George Riches to take part in public lectures with her two small children.¹⁹ The "Life and Assassination of the Late Outlaw, Jesse W. James" by 'Dr.' Riches of Kansas, appeared for the first time in Kansas City in early June 1882 where it "did not enthuse the people of Kansas City." The Merchants' Exchange Hall was "fairly filled" with an audience that waited patiently for an hour after the appointed time for the lecture to begin. At 9 o'clock, Riches stepped out on stage and stated that before he introduced the widow and children, he would give a brief history of Jesse James. "He then stated that he was authorized by Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuels to say that the books lately published in St. Louis purporting to be a true account of the life of Mr. James prepared under the direction of his wife and mother were entirely unauthorized and false in many particulars." The lecture continued with information about Jesse's parents, his childhood and his youth. Attention was drawn to his many charitable acts and, as Jesse's widow and children were led onto the stage, Riches spent further time trying to "excuse the many desperate and blood thirsty acts of the man." Dr. Riches intimated that "Jesse was safe in the arms of Jesus" and denied his part in the Lawrence massacre, "although admitted other like atrocities." Mrs. Samuel was in the audience, it was claimed, but was not seen, and although Mrs. James "wept copiously the whole of the time", the sad scene merely added to the absurdity of it all. "The horrible pronunciation and grammar of the lecturer created a general smile," the report continued. "His allusion to young Jesse as a strapping caused a laugh, and before the peroration, which was flighty and disjointed, was completed, the audience was leaving the hall."²⁰ It appeared Mr. Riches' character was questionable. Described as "an old itinerant showman auctioneer and saloon keeper," Riches had evidently "kept a saloon for some time in Wellington, Kansas," an endeavour that "terminated just as it should have done."²¹

Word about his lecture must have reached Sedalia, for although it was optimistically scheduled to take place at the opera house, "the audience was a very small one, not exceeding forty persons, and a portion were admitted on complimentary tickets."²² Just "three ladies were present, and they left the hall in about ten minutes after the lecture began."²³

Newspapers far and wide heralded the lecture as "a miserable failure". The New York Star was amused by the fact that Mrs. James' audience had "declared that they didn't find her sensational enough – not nearly as much so as her late lamented spouse. It is evident that the widow has paid altogether too little heed to the requirements of a Missouri audience," they

MEET THE FAMILY

No event at the Birthplace would be complete without descendants of the extended James family, as well as those families who knew them.



Ann Wymore Cole, descendant of Jolly Wymore and wife of Scott Cole, and Monty Griffey, descendant of Sallie Samuel.



Elizabeth Morrow, granddaughter of fellow guerrilla, Ben Morrow, and Dennie Anderson, descendant of the Morrrows and Hudspeths.



Betty Barr, great granddaughter of Jesse James, next to a display dedicated to her at the Jesse James Birthplace.

Be sure to come and see it for yourselves!

continued. "She should have ascended the platform firing a six-shooter at the parquette circle and uttering a blood-curdling yell to show that all the snap hadn't gone out of the James family."²⁴

More was made of her appearance in St. Louis, perhaps due to her previous connections there with Chambers. Her arrival was noted in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of 9 June and she was followed to the Everett House, where she was staying with her two children and a maid. She rested there until the show at the Mercantile Library Hall that evening. Once again, a Post-Dispatch reporter requested an interview, was denied, and proceeded to her room regardless. Mrs. James, on his arrival, stated she was reluctant to speak to reporters as they always twisted what she said and then apparently engaged in a very long and detailed discussion, the authenticity of which can only be imagined.

Just three days later, on 12 June, it was revealed Mrs. James had been taken ill with fevers and would return to Kansas City for treatment. It was thought the tour would break for several weeks as "Mrs. James is completely broken down."²⁵ She never took to the stage again.

"Mrs. Jesse James had to give up the lecturing tour," one Missouri newspaper reported. "The people did not appreciate her and why should they? What claim has she on the people of this country? She sets herself up as an injured party and asks the sympathy and the money of the public. Instead of being ashamed to show her head in public she wants to be paraded and toasted."²⁶ It had been hoped that venues outside Missouri might prove more lenient but that did not seem to be the case. "If Mrs. Jesse James would earn an honest living for herself and children," wrote a reporter for the Baxter Springs News in neighbouring Kansas, "she should do it over the washboard as many much more worthy women have done a thousand times."²⁷

If nothing else, the failed lecture tour had provided a brief distraction from the failed book deal but then, on 23 February 1883, the Marion County [Palmyra] Herald, reignited the story when they reported how "Frank Triplett, author of the 'Life of Jesse James' has brought suit against the publisher, Chambers, for his percentage on the sale of 20,000 copies of the works." It no doubt caught the eye of Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel who, in September 1883, sought to retrieve their own royalties. "The dull routine of court life is about to be enlivened," the report began, "by a \$3,000 damage suit, in which the widow and the mother of the late lamented Col. Jesse James will appear as plaintiffs and the local publishing firm of J. H. Chambers & Co. will pose as defendants." The attorneys for Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel were Charles P. Johnson and J. F. Merryman, the latter being the same man who had represented Triplett, while Mr. Chambers was represented by Mr. M. A. Reed, of Doniphan & Reed. By way of an explanation, the paper reiterated the story that Triplett had been employed to write a book about Jesse and, to make it as authentic as possible, it was to be dictated by the two women. In return, they would publicly announce the book to be the only authentic one written about the outlaw. An agreement had been made for "5 per cent royalty on the first 15,000 volumes sold at \$2.50 each, and 10 percent on all subsequent sales." The petition alleged that 20,000 copies had been sold but the plaintiffs had been paid only \$50. The plaintiffs were also entitled to 100 bound copies of the book, free of charge, but had received only twenty. Furthermore, "in the event of forfeiture of the contract, the defendants obligated themselves to turn over to the plaintiffs the electrotypes plates, cuts and engravings used in getting up the work, which were to

A VISIT FROM THE HISTORY TRAVELER



J.D. Huitt, a high school history teacher from Bourbon, Missouri, visited recently.

Mr. Huitt produces very popular videos on Youtube called 'History Underground'. Keep your eyes peeled for footage he shot while visiting the Jesse James Birthplace!

become the sole property of the plaintiffs. In this they failed, it is asserted, as in all other respects, to carry out the agreement."²⁸

Depositions were heard before notary public, J. W. Porch, in the office of Doniphan & Reed in May 1884. Once again, Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel claimed that 20,000 copies of Triplett's book had been sold and yet they had received none of the promised royalties. A large part of the proceedings were then dedicated to ascertaining whether or not Mrs. James had authorised the publication of a card denying the authenticity of the book. An editor of the Herald was examined and could not recall if the card had been given to him by Mrs. James or by her attorney. He could not produce the original and it was his belief that Mrs. James "was at the time very much exhausted, both physically and mentally, and he considered that she was easily influenced by those in whom she reposed confidence." The report ended with recognition that "recently, Frank Triplett, author of the book in controversy, sued Chambers for royalty, with Mr. Merryman as his attorney, and obtained judgement for over \$1,000."²⁹

Although newspapers reported that the case would be heard in June 1884, it was August before anything further appeared in the media.³⁰ When it came, the proceedings continued to focus upon the card supposedly issued by Mrs. James and the repercussions of it. The counter claim was also made clear - that "the publication of the card was designed to injure the [defendants], and therefore the plaintiffs are not entitled to any profits arising therefrom."³¹

Nothing further was heard until 13 October 1884, when the Kansas City Times noted the arrival the previous evening of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. James and Jesse James Jr. at the Union depot. They were enroute to St. Louis, the paper explained, "where the case of Mrs. James against J. H. Chambers for the recovery of \$5,000 [sic] comes up this week." The following day, Mrs. Samuel appeared in Court No. 3 before Judge Barclay, represented by Charles P. Johnson and Frank Merriman; the defense by Messrs Pattison and Crane. It was clear that Mrs. Samuel had thought the book would contain exclusively what she and Mrs. James dictated but "the greater part of the book was based upon information obtained from other sources." It was also made clear that Mrs. Samuel had intended the book "to be a vindication of Jesse James, but that it was the contrary." She was asked what it was that she had supplied for the book and she said that her contribution "was related to events which came under her observation - such as the assault on her, in which her youngest child was killed and in which she lost her arm, and to the death of Jesse James; that she gave no information about any robberies or crimes committed by her boys because she knew nothing about them." She said, "If they were guilty of such acts, they never let me know anything about it."³²

Mrs. James had been present in the courtroom to hear the testimony of her mother-in-law, but was not called until the following day. "Mrs. James testified that she imparted such information as she possessed to be used in the book and signed a document to the effect that it was genuine. She was surprised when the book came out containing accounts of the robbery of trains and banks of which she

RE-ENACTORS AT THE FARM



Dan Carder and Caleb Pooker



Ann hard at work in the old kitchen.



Debbie and Dianne

had no knowledge, accompanied with her written statement in the preface that she authorized the publication, and she repudiated the book. She was afterwards induced to remove her objections, because she was told it would bring her a large income, as she had no means of support.” Mrs. James, the report noted, was “arrayed in deep black, gave her evidence in a clear and concise manner and went through a severe cross examination.”

Next to speak was Frank Triplett, who testified that he had been “deputised by Mr. Chambers to obtain from Mrs. Samuels data for the book, which he did, and which appeared in the book. For the first time, he admitted “the data obtained did not relate to robberies, the understanding being that it would be supplemented by much other information that might be obtained from newspapers etc.”

The case attracted a lot of local interest with the local press noticing large crowds of spectators gathering to watch the proceedings, “among them quite a number of boys who were intent upon getting a good view of the mother and wife of Jesse James.”³³

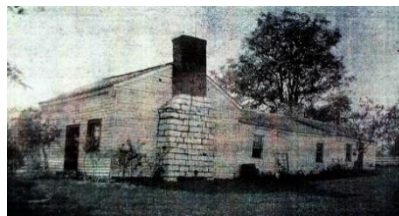
Just four days after their testimony had been heard, the court filed in the plaintiff’s favour, awarding Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel \$960 of their original \$3,000 claim. The judgement may have been bittersweet for although the women had not received the pay-out they were hoping for, the reduced amount was representative of a mere 1,400 copies sold.³⁴ Similarly, the book did not appear to have had any detrimental effects on Frank James who, having surrendered in October 1882, was subsequently acquitted and permitted to walk free.

Today, first editions of Triplett’s book are extremely rare, as are the earliest variations.³⁵ Modern day reprints often include an introduction to a publishing history that reads as sensationally as some of the stories it contains. It is a book that will remain an enigma, containing as it does the voices of two people who knew Jesse so well, mixed, inextricably, with the printed words of those who did not know him at all.

1. St Joseph Observer, 16 September 1922.
2. J. A. Dacus, *Life and Adventures of Frank and Jesse James*, 1880; J. W. Buel, *The Border Outlaws*, 1881.
3. St Louis Globe Democrat, 3 May 1882.
4. Triplett p xv; St Louis Globe Democrat, 3 May 1882.
5. The documents signed by the women were featured in the front of the Triplett book as well as in newspapers such as the St. Louis Globe Democrat, 14 April, 1882, 3 May 1882.
6. Included in the front of the Triplett book.
7. Ibid.
8. St. Louis Dispatch 1 May 1882.
9. Kansas City Evening Star, 1 May 1882.
10. Ibid
11. Ibid.
12. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 3 May 1882.
13. St. Louis Dispatch, 1 May 1882.
14. The [Nashville] Daily American, 2 May 1882.
15. Daily American, Nashville, 2 May 1882.
16. St, Joseph Herald, 4 May 1882.
17. The Bloomfield [Mo.] Vindicator, 27 May 1882.
18. The Compilers Epilogue appears at the end of Triplett’s book.
19. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 25 May 1882.
20. Osborne County [Kansas] Farmer, 15 June 1882.
21. Baxter Springs [Kansas] News, 15 June 1882.
22. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 8 June 1882.
23. Kansas City Times, 8 June 1882.
24. New York Star copied in The Miami [Paola, Kansas,] Republican, 23 June 1882.
25. Kansas City Star, 12 June 1882.
26. Mexico [Mo] Weekly Ledger, 15 June 1882.
27. Baxter Springs [Kansas] News, 15 June 1882.
28. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 14 September 1883.
29. St. Joseph Weekly Herald, 29 May 1884.
30. Ibid.
31. St. Joseph Gazette, 28 August 1884.
32. Kansas City Times, 13 October 1884; St Louis Globe Democrat, 15 October 1884.
33. All testimonies appear in same report. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 16 October 1884.
34. St. Louis Globe Democrat, 18 October 1884.
35. Variations The first edition was followed a few months later by a second print, which included a sketch of Jesse on the first page. A third variation was produced after Frank’s surrender in October 1882.

An interesting footnote to this story concerns the impressive monument to Jesse James which stood, for two decades, next to the house in which he was born. Much has been said, often derisively, about how the widow might afford such a monument. Perhaps there can be some answer offered by the fact that it’s 1884 arrival coincided with the awarding of this \$960 to Mrs. James and Mrs. Samuel. **MP**

200TH ANNIVERSARY FINAL PHOTO CALL!



THE BALLAD OF JESSE JAMES

Author and Musician, Mark Gardner, entertained the folks at the anniversary event on 23 April with an entertaining array of folk songs, including the well-known ballad, 'Jesse James'.

We caught up with Mark to ask him more.

"I've always been interested in finding the earliest instance of the publication of the 'Jesse James' ballad, and, to date, the earliest printed version I've come across appeared in the Sept. 15, 1886, issue of the *Daily Nebraska Press* (Nebraska City, NE), seen here on the right. It should be noted that this version of the song includes the fairly common verse referring to the song's author but instead of "Billy Gashade" or "Billy Lashade," this version names "old Bob Slade"! "Bob Slade" does not appear in any later versions of the song, either published or those versions collected by folklorists. It's doubtful that any of those "songwriters" named in the different versions actually wrote the song, but it is interesting."

Mark not only met Betty Barr for the first time but also got the chance to perform an encore of the 'Jesse James' song in the room where Jesse was born. "That was quite a thrill for me," he said.

If any members know of any earlier printed examples of the 'Jesse James' ballad, please get in touch and we will let Mark know! And also, be sure to check out Mark's new book, *The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation*, out June 21, from Mariner Books.



SELFIE WITH CLAY

The next time you are visiting the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum, make sure you have a selfie with Clay!

HE'S HERE ALL SUMMER!



JESSE JAMES.

BY THE TWO ORPHANS.

Jesse James was a lad
That killed many a man,
And he robbed the Denver train;
But that dirty little coward
That shot Mr. Howard,
Has laid Jesse James in his grave.

CHORUS.

Now Jesse James had a wife
To mourn for his life,
And children that were brave;
But that dirty little coward
That shot Mr. Howard,
Has laid Jesse in his grave.

Little Robert Ford,
That dirty little coward;
I wonder how he must feel;
For he ate of Jesse's bread
And slept in Jesse's bed;
Then laid Jesse James in his grave.

It was with his brother Frank,
He robbed the Gallatin bank
And carried the money from the town;
It was at this very place,
They had a little chase,
For they shot Capt. Sheets to the ground
They went to the crossing
One pleasant summer's night,
And they robbed the through express.
With the agent on his knees,
He delivered up the keys
To the outlaws, both Frank and Jess.

It was on a Wednesday night,
The moon was shining bright,
They robbed the Glendale bank;
The people they did say,
For many miles away,
It was robbed by Frank and Jesse James.

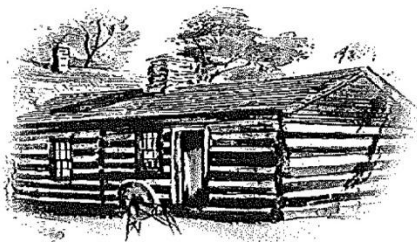
It was a pleasant summer morn,
Bold Jesse was at home,
Talking with his family brave,
Robert Ford came along,
Like a thief in the night,
And laid Jesse James in his grave.

Jesse was standing upon a chair,
Nailing a picture there,
Robert Ford came behind him,
With a pistol in his hand,
And to the floor Jesse James did land.

This song was made
By old Bob Slade,
As soon as the news did arrive
And I'll bet "there's no man
With the law in his hand,"
Could take Jesse James when alive.

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
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