



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to our first Journal of 2023! We hope you are all well.

As you know, our main fundraising method is our shoots. This may be our last year using the Sugar Creek range because next year, the Clay county range should be up and running. With our promise of adding more shoots to this year’s calendar, maybe four or five, we are trying hard to fit our schedule around that of the local law enforcement. These are still to be confirmed and we would appreciate your comments before confirming. Potential dates are as follows: Sunday April 30, Sunday May 21, Saturday June 17, Saturday July 22, Saturday Aug 19, and Sunday Sept 24. Sunday shoots would start after 12 noon. If you have advice, comments or suggestions, my email address is bgiinthewoods@gmail.com. (notice that there are two i's together)



BY BRYAN IVLOW

We plan to add a rifle component to our shoots this year. We are working on the details but plan to have two classifications - one regular, which would be open sighted lever actions, and the other would be specialized, which would include rifles with peep sights that have a horizontal as well as a vertical adjustment, and rifles with original or copies of Malcolm type scopes. Watch our website for updates.

Saturday July 8 seems at this time to be a good date for our reunion. Beth has a speaker scheduled for that date who will talk about Order Number 11, the burnt district and its effect on the people. General Ewing, who issued the order is one of our shoot bad guys! Harry Truman's grandmother, who was affected by that order, was shocked that her own grandson joined the Union Army as an artillery officer in WW1 and was later President of that hated government. We plan on inviting other local historical groups to our reunion, as well as organising the ever popular bus tour. We will confirm this date in the next edition.

We were saddened recently to hear news that Angie Borgedalen, who was featured in our last issue, passed away on February 11 in her sleep. She will be missed. **Bryan**



The James-Samuel Homestead in the recent snow

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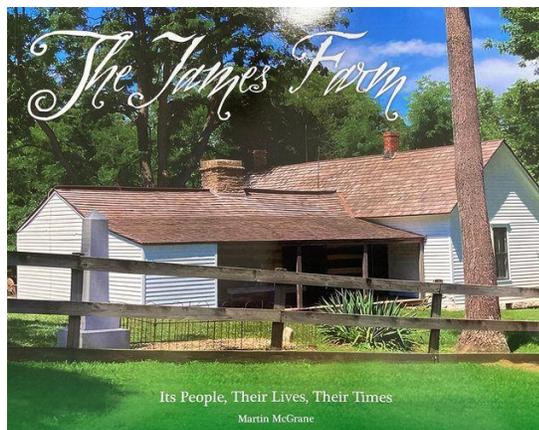
www.jessejames.org

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

Newsletter Proof Reading
Elizabeth Rains Johnson

Additional Research
Linda Gay Mathis

MUCH LOVED JAMES FARM BOOK REPRINTED!



Martin McGrane's much loved book, and companion to any visit to the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum, has finally been reprinted. It has taken much dedicated work over a number of years and from an army of determined individuals, as Liz Johnson explains.

I am so proud to have been a part of the process of getting this book ready for press, a number of years ago when I was still on the board. Martin McGrane, the author, had signed over the copyright to the Board so the book - then out of print - could continue to be printed and sold. Marty has been a James family historian for decades, in fact, pretty much almost since Clay County, MO bought the farm in the late 1970s and began restoration and then tours of the cabin and property.

Marty is one of most knowledgeable James historians and wrote an excellent book. I had shot new photos for the covers around 6-7 years ago, but, unable to find a reasonable printing cost at the time, it took years to find just the right printer ... and new photos were taken by Beth Beckett.

We took a lot of care in reviewing the book and editing anything in need of review. I had to re-lay out (graphically) and edit all the photos. I'm so pleased it came out so nicely.

I know a lot of people who just don't know the mid-1800s before, during and post Civil War history here in Missouri. The James family, and Frank and Jesse, were a huge part of it. McGrane incorporates so much of that history and the cast of men and women from those times. Truly interesting to be a part of this record.

The James Farm – It's People, Their Lives, Their Times is available to purchase, in person, from the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum or the Jesse James Bank Museum in Liberty, Mo. for \$20.00.

Photo credits – Cover illustration courtesy of the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum; Bryan Ivlow receiving the books from the printer, courtesy of Vivie Tison.

TALES FROM THE JAMES FARM PORCH

I have been given the privilege of working at the James Farm.

When I started. I had little knowledge of Jesse James other than the usual myths that have been passed on for generations. I started by learning from two excellent long time tour guides. Under their tutorage I learned enough to start to give tours. Wanting more information of my topic, I read more than a few books on our former Clay County native.

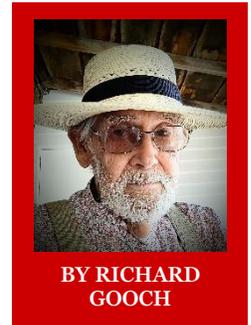
I developed my style of presentation by accident one afternoon. I had a single guest and after a long day we sat in a couple of chairs and just talked, more of a question and answer session, which was very successful.

After an injury, I was given a rocking chair on the south porch of the family home. I started to dress in period clothing and I was in business! Sitting in my rocker with our guests seated around me I provide twenty-five to thirty minute presentations in which I cover the history of the house, the contents of the home and incidents surrounding the events that are pertinent to the birth place and grounds. One of my favorite portions are the question and answer session with the guests.

It is my goal to provide a pleasant and informative visit for our valued guests. We tour guides at times find ourselves being asked questions about what the guests see in movies. Well, most of the movies have been a good source of entertainment but not so much when it comes to factual information. Topics like Frank James killing Bob Ford in revenge for Ford's assassination of Jesse or the "famous" Hackberry tree in the front yard in one movie. One man insisted that the brothers were only driven to crime after the railroads, attempting to purchase the farm, bombed the house. We also have to deal delicately with family oral histories concerning the James brothers. I am amazed at some to the questions asked after the lecture. One guest had seen Jesse's original coffin in the museum. In the twenty years Jesse was buried at the farm (1882 - 1902) the coffin, wooden but lead lined, collapsed around Jesse. When Jesse was exhumed, he was removed from the damaged coffin and placed in a new one when he was reburied in Kearney, Missouri. The guest, a history student, stood silent for a period of time next to the former grave. He then asked how many of the coffins like the one Jesse had been buried in had suffered a similar collapsed condition. I looked at him but no answer could come forth as most had never been exhumed so there was no way of knowing!

We, the tour guides at the James farm, hear a large variety of family oral histories that are contrary to known history. We carefully handle such histories while attempting not to dispute the family legends.

Being a tour guide at the James farm allows me the opportunity to meet and interact with guests of varied backgrounds. I am an ambassador for the farm and county of which I am proud for the opportunity. **RG**



BY RICHARD GOOCH



UPCOMING EVENTS

RAFFLE

We are having another raffle this year much like the one last year. We have purchased the gun from James Country Mercantile for \$500.00 like last year. Last year the gun was a replica Colt open top. This year it is a pre-open top. It is a Colt replica model 1851 with a Richards Mason single action conversion from cap and ball to fire .45 Colt cartridges. It has a five and a half inch barrel. As we did last year, to keep the odds of winning good, we will sell only thirty-two \$25.00 tickets. The draw will be held at the end of our final shoot of the season.



SECOND SATURDAY SPEAKERS

Beginning in March, and continuing on into the Fall, every second Saturday of the month will see the Jesse James Museum play host to a range of special presentations related to the wider James story. Further information will appear on the Jesse James Birthplace Facebook page, the FOTJF website and in future editions of the Journal but, for now, here are a few exciting dates for your diary!



March 11 – 10am – The History of Clay County Bryan Shibley

Bryan Shibley, who will be a familiar face to regular visitors of the Birthplace, will present a fascinating history of the county of Clay, from the earliest settlers, through the turmoil of Civil War, all the way up to its recent bicentennial celebrations.

June 10 – 10am - William C. Quantrill – Father of Post Civil War Banditry Dr. Loftin Woodiel

Dr. Woodiel, a university professor, security executive and criminal justice professional, uses historical context, psychological evaluation and criminological theory to ask whether teachings provided by Quantrill during the Civil War had a part to play in propelling the men who followed him into deviant careers once the war was over.



July 8 – 10am - Exodus: Order No. 11's Impact on Western Missouri Tom Rafiner

Using the 'Cass County Exodus' mural as a focal point, Tom Rafiner, a published University of Missouri graduate who has spent 20 years researching the Burnt District, promises to take you on a journey into the personal experiences of those affected by General Ewing's infamous Order.

All photos used by permission.

All events are FREE to attend.

June and July events in association with Missouri Humanities.

COLBERT'S STATION, INDIAN TERRITORY

Colbert's Station, located three miles southeast of present day Colbert, Oklahoma, was once an important crossing point on the Red River between Texas and Indian Territory. The Texas Road and the Butterfield Overland Mail route both crossed there.¹

In 1849, Benjamin F. 'Frank' Colbert moved to the banks of the Red River. Colbert, born on December 18, 1828 to Chickasaw parents, Martin and Sallie Colbert, built a house for himself and raised cotton and cattle. In 1853, he gained permission from the Chickasaw Nation to establish a ferry across the river and what became Colbert's Station was operated out of the home he had built. Business was so good that Colbert was able to give passage to Butterfield mail carriers for free and a larger home was built, a mansion Colbert called Riverside.²

During the Civil War, troops made good use of the ferry and, afterward, it remained popular for those engaged in cattle drives. According to the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, the rate for passage in 1872 was: "one dollar for a two-horse wagon, one dollar and twenty-five cents for a four-horse wagon, one dollar and fifty cents for six-horse wagon, twenty-five cents for a man and a horse, and ten cents a head for cattle or horses."

Pretty soon, a town grew up around the station and business boomed. The Station was described as follows.

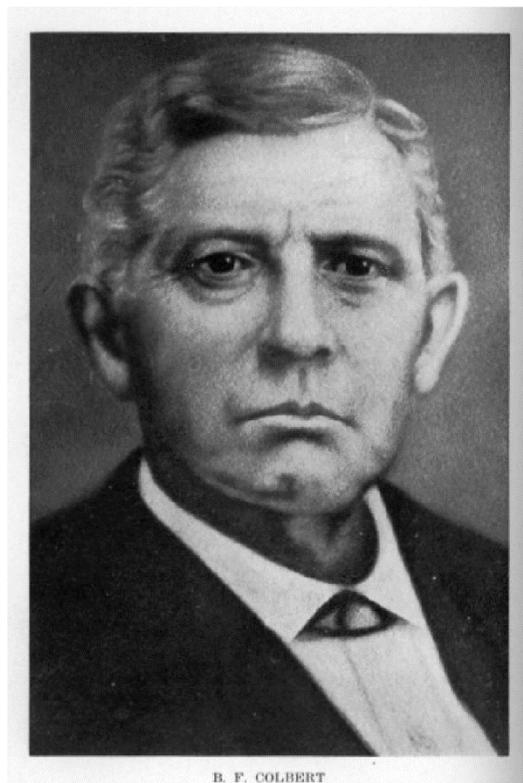
It was a large two room house with a hall-way, two shed rooms behind making a four-room house, painted white. There was also a two room log house about ten feet from the east end; one room was used for kitchen and the other a sleeping room for the negro cooks.

There was no stove, only skillet and lids for baking. I don't know how they did so much cooking for there were never less than from ten to twenty eating there. However, they put up good food and plenty of it. On the northwest, about thirty yards from the main house there was a cottage, twenty by twenty feet, with double beds and fireplace. They called it the office.

The main house had a large veranda in front, also a Bermuda grass yard with three or four large oak trees, and there was a good orchard on the southwest side. On the east side was the garden, with some two or three graves. East of the garden was the barn and north of the barn the cow and hog lots with a large lot of near five acres in Bermuda grass.

It was a pretty place. The main road was about one-fourth of a mile north of the house and led down to the ferry. Several hundred acres were in cultivation and there were houses for the negroes in different parts of the fields. It was a stage-stand where the coaches changed horses and drivers. One coach went south at night and the other went north usually about noon.

They always had two drivers, one for each way. Colbert kept around 100 head of hogs and milked eight to ten cows. He owned a ranch about twelve or fifteen miles northeast, where he kept several hundred head of cattle. After a few years he moved all his cattle up near Erin Springs where he broke out a large farm and fed his stock of beef cattle. His oldest son, Martin Colbert, had charge of this farm.³



B. F. COLBERT



BY MICHELLE POLLARD

Eventually, the original Colbert home, a one-story double log house, became the Butterfield's station for changing horses and feeding and lodging passengers. "Frank became one of the richest and most prominent members of the Chickasaw Nation; owning large herds of cattle, a steam-driven sawmill, a gristmill, a cotton gin, and hundreds of acres of land on both sides of the river."⁴

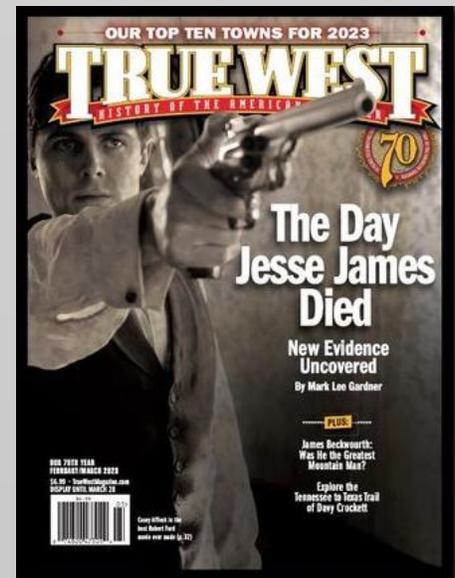
Anyone wanting to cross the river crossed at Colbert's Station and the experience was apparently a very pleasant one. "While on the other side of the river," one visitor recorded, "we were very hospitably entertained by Mr. Frank Colbert at his house, where we partook of one of the best dinners we enjoyed during our whole trip. Mr. Colbert is one of the chief men of the Choctaw Nation and is universally esteemed by all who know him. There is scarcely anything in his appearance or manners that would lend one to suppose that he has Indian blood... He is now the owner of a large amount of very valuable land, and has one of the most comfortable residences in the country... nearly all travelers through the Nation stop with him. He has a farm of some 400 acres, and employs eight or ten white laborers to cultivate it. He has a very large and fine garden, with nearly all varieties of vegetables and a handsome and well shaded enclosure in front of the house, covered over with Bermuda grass."⁵

Colbert's enterprise was threatened briefly in 1872 when the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway began building a bridge across Red River. Colbert's response.... build his own bridge. "The bridge was finished either in 1874 or 1875, I forget which," John Malcolm, a pioneer ferryman who worked for Colbert, recalled. "However, it only stood about eleven months and a few days, for I tended the bridge all the time. In August 1875 or 1876 there came the biggest overflow that was known on Red River. The railroad bridge went out first. One span of it floated down and lodged against the north pillar of the wagon bridge, but did not even shake it. There was a heavy drift of logs and trees coming down and much of this lodged around the middle pier. Sometimes it would break loose then big cottonwood trees would strike it endwise and bounce back like rubber balls. Frank Colbert and I measured how far the bridge stood above the water. It measured fourteen feet from the bridge to the water. It was guaranteed by the contractor to stand up to twelve feet, but the center pier was battered off the piling by the heavy drift. I was out on the north span and a boy by the name of Liddell was about twenty steps behind me, when the pier and the two middle spans went out and the boy went down with the wreck." The boy miraculously managed to remain on the wrecked section of bridge and was rescued twenty miles downstream.

Ironically, the superintendent of the railroad, whose bridge was also lost, was one of those stranded on the wrong side of the river and Malcolm was asked how long it would take to get the ferry up and running again. A boat had to be built from scratch but was ready in "about ten or twelve days. The boat was 80 ft. long by 16 ft. wide. We had to run it by oars until we got a cable again and I had charge of it for over a year. I then rented for two years, married the second year, in 1879 and moved to Texas on a farm that I had bought a few years before."⁶

By 1878, the Brenham [Texas] Weekly Banner was observing another reason for visitors to flock to the Station - "Colbert's Station

JESSE'S DEATH MAKES FRONT PAGE NEWS... AGAIN



The Feb/March issue of True West Magazine features some interesting articles inspired by our editor!

Michelle wrote to respectfully contradict contents of a True West YouTube video and draw attention to research conducted several years ago by herself and fellow researchers Linda Gay Mathis, Robert J. Wybrow, Liz Murphy, Chuck Rabas and the late Paul Saeli, that proves Jesse knew about Dick Liddil's surrender (and probably Wood Hite's murder) before his own death in April 1882.

The issue contains an article, *The Strange and Mesmerizing Death of the Outlaw Jesse James* by Mark Lee Gardner, which includes an interesting history of the gun Bob Ford used, a new interview with Ron Hansen, author of *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, and a look back at some iconic True West covers featuring Jesse.

Available now!

over in the Territory is fast becoming a regular Gretna Green. Thither all North Texas couples go and get married when there are obdurate 'parients' [sic] at home."⁷ Colbert, with four marriages of his own, may have added to the reputation. His first wife, Martha McKinney, was a Cherokee who bore him two children. The second, Malinda Factor, was a Chickasaw who died in 1853. Colbert's third wife, Georgia Anne McCarthy, was a white woman who gave birth to three children, and the fourth, Lou Goldsby, a Cherokee, bore him nine children.⁸

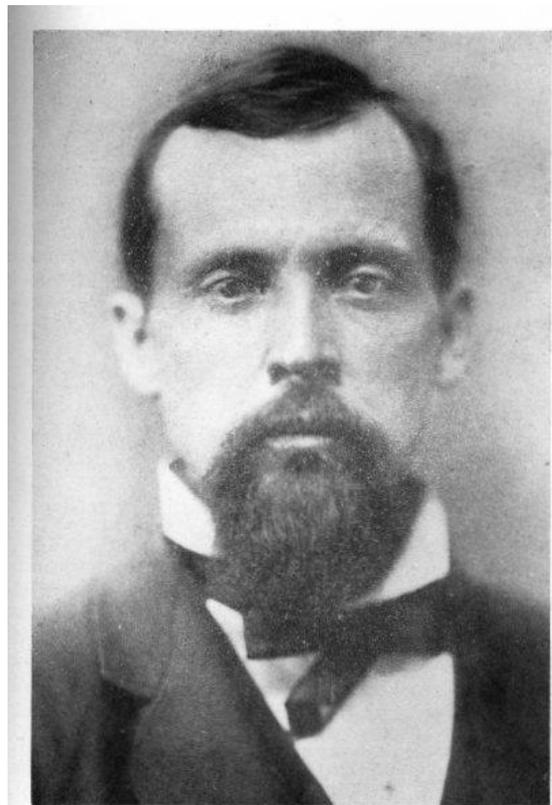


Colbert's Ferry, 1872

Part of the Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photography Collection,
DeGoyler Library, Southern Methodist University

Standing as it did just a few miles from Sherman, Texas, the Station was close to the home of Jesse and Frank James' younger sister, Susan. In 1870, she had married Allen Parmer and the pair had set up home there. Texas had also been a safe place for irregular Missouri bushwhackers during the war and some had remained there, including John Maupin. "There was [a] store a little over a mile south of the river on the road owned by John Maupin and Jim Maupin, his brother," John Malcolm remembered. "John was one of Quantrell and Anderson's men, and when I did not buy [from the Native Americans] they did... The James boys, also Cole Younger and some others were comers and goers with us; got well acquainted with them. Frank James went by the name of Frank Rapp, Jesse by the name of Williams."⁹

As with any traveller to the region, visits from the James brothers would have required them to cross the Red river and most everyone did that at Colbert's Station. It was during an interview with Jesse's son in 1896, that a connection between the Station and Jesse James first appeared in print. Under the Kansas City Star headline, *No Acting For Jesse Jnr*, the article spoke of how "Davis & Keogh, well known theatrical managers in New York City, made [Jesse] a good offer to go on the stage and play a part in 'The Great Train Robbery' a realistic melodrama which opened in Chicago last Sunday night." Jesse was offered parts of either the robber chief or the "heroic deputy

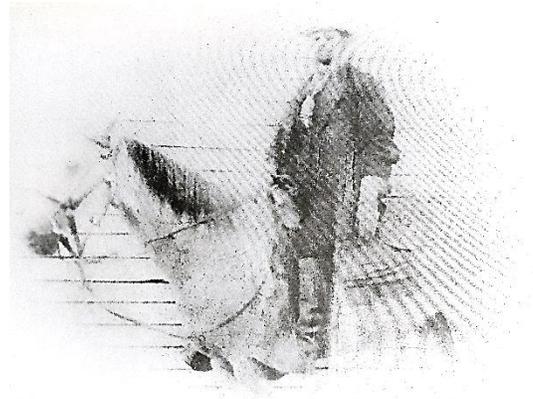


JOHN RICE MAUPIN

sheriff." At first, Jesse seemed to be interested in the idea, saying how he thought he would like to play the sheriff best but if not, then the robber would be alright. However, his mother was not so certain. "She was asked if she would give permission for him to appear as the robber. 'No, sir, I'd object to that,' she said. 'The sheriff is not so bad, but I'd object to the robber. I don't want my boy in that business.'" Ultimately, Jesse refused to appear in either role but not before indulging his guest with a look through some old family photographs. "'This portrait of my father,' said James, as he pulled a photograph from a small frame, 'is the best one we have. He went to Nebraska City, Neb., just to have it taken. He was the probably 26 years old. He was afraid to enter a photograph gallery in Missouri for fear that someone who knew him would see him coming out. This one here,' picking up a small tintype, 'was taken at Colbert Station, I. T., when he was about 23 years old. That white horse was my father's favorite.'"¹⁰

During a rare interview, Jesse's father had claimed that, in August 1870, "Frank and myself went to Texas, and well down upon the frontier, where we remained until the winter of 1871. With a man by the name of D. C. Wells, we visited the Indian Nation, spending some time among the Choctaws and Chickasaws." They came home again in April 1871, when Jesse was twenty-three.¹¹

In March 1898, Frank Colbert was in Denison visiting family. "He complained of not feeling well and when his purchases and business had been attended to left for home. No one supposed that that would be Mr. Colbert's last trip to Denison. Such, however, was the case. Mr Colbert retired earlier than usual, but still none of his family nor Mr. Colbert himself were seriously concerned. At midnight his condition became suddenly alarming, and at one o'clock he had ceased to breathe. Physicians had been summoned but Mr. Colbert was dead on their arrival."¹² **MP**



A copy of the image Jesse Edwards James showed the Kansas City Star reporter and the image as it appeared in their 27 September 1896 edition.

1. okhistory.org. Transcribed by Larry O'Dell.
2. Ibid.
3. *Colbert Ferry on Red River, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory*, Recollections of John Malcolm, pioneer ferryman, recorded by W. B. Morrison. *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. 16, No. 3, September 1938. Grayson county TXGenweb
4. *Lives in Photography: Denison, Texas, 1872 - 1999*, Mavis Anne Bryant, c2012; pp. 91-93.
5. *The Galveston Daily News*, 25 July 1872.
6. *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, op. cit.
7. *The Brenham [Texas] Weekly Banner*, 4 January 1878.
8. *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, op. cit.
9. Ibid.
10. *Kansas City Star*, 27 September 1896.
11. *A Terrible Quintette*, John Newman Edwards, *St. Louis Dispatch*, 23 November 1873.
12. *The Sunday [Denison, Tx.] Gazetteer*, 19 March 1898.

Colbert's Ferry was added to the National Register of Historic Places (#72001057) in 1972. Only the footings are still visible.

BOB FORD AND A PAWNBROKER

Bob Ford, after becoming a celebrity with the killing of Jesse James, was never one to miss out on ways to make money and as well as appearing on the stage, he rented out some of Jesse's belongings to pawnbroker Blitz of Kansas City; including the gun with which he had killed Jesse. Bob said he wouldn't sell the gun "unless a mighty big price is paid for it."¹

In what appears to be a normal piece of editorial, but is similar to a modern-day promotional advertisement, *The Kansas City Daily Times* wrote, "There is always a romantic degree of interest attaching to the relics of the life and labors of men whose deeds or misdeeds have given them either a glorious or a disgraceful notoriety.... Hardly less interest attaches to the relics of that great bandit chieftain, Jesse James, whose deeds have emulated those of the most famous robber captains of history or romance. In the possession of Mr. C. Blitz of Kansas City, a gentleman whose enterprise in the world of commerce is equalled only by his well-earned reputation for business integrity, are the famous shot gun, shot belt and saddle of Jesse James."²

Blitz wanted some details of the provenance of the pistol he was renting, so Bob had to produce an affidavit:

State of Missouri, County of Jackson – as: Personally came before me, J. C. Ranson, justice of the peace in and for the county of Jackson, Robert N. Ford, who, having been by me duly sworn, deposes and says that the pistol No. 50-432 Colt 45 calibre here shown is the same that he, Robert N. Ford used to shoot and kill Jesse James, at the city of St. Joseph, on the 3d day of April, 1882.

{Signed} ROBERT N. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of May, 1882.

J. C. RANSON, J.P.

The pistol was put on exhibition, along with Jesse's gun and cartridge belts, at C. Blitz's Famous loan office at No. 19 West Fifth Street.³ These possessions were not however the only items Bob had rented; Jesse's saddle being another. But here Bob 'struck out' – the saddle was never his to dispose of. The disputed saddle had been secured by Bob after Jesse's death but had been stolen from J. L. Evans of Kearney around Thanksgiving the previous year.

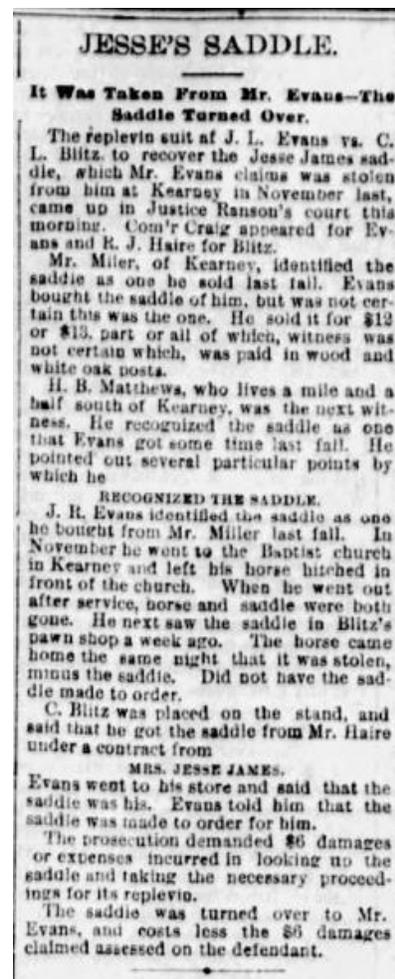
Sheriff Timberlake of Clay county, noticing the saddle in Blitz's shop window, began to look for its owner. Timberlake influenced Evans to journey to Kansas City and he claimed the saddle immediately when he saw it.

Back in late November the previous year, Evans had travelled the two miles north from his home to Kearney, hitching his horse near the Baptist Church. When he returned, around 10 o'clock, the horse had gone but turned up the following day on the road leading from the town but minus its saddle. That same night, the store of J. M. Gow, in Kearney, had been robbed, of "two or three thick overcoats and some hats," and it was suspected that the thieves had also stolen Evans' horse.⁴

Recognising his saddle, J. L. Evans, accompanied by Sheriff Timberlake, issued a replevin suit against C. L. Blitz to recover his saddle, with the case being heard before Justice Ranson on May 12.⁵ Commissioner Craig appeared for Evans and the ubiquitous R. J. Haire for Blitz. Mr. Miller, of Kearney, identified the saddle as one he had sold the previous year. The price had been \$12 or \$13, he wasn't sure of the exact amount, but part of it was paid in 'goods, consisting



BY ROBERT J. WYBROW



The Kansas City Star, May 12, 1882

of wood and white oak posts. The saddle was also recognised by H. B. Matthews, possibly a neighbour of Evans, who recalled him getting the saddle. On the stand, Blitz told of getting the saddle from Mr. Haire under a contract from Mrs Jesse James. Evans regained his saddle, plus \$6 damages and costs.⁶ Just to add to the 'damages,' Jesse's widow asserted that it was Charlie Ford who had stolen the saddle. According to Zee, Jesse had given Charlie \$20 to buy a saddle in Kearney but stole one instead.⁷

Notes and Sources

1. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Missouri, 3 May 1882.
2. *The Kansas City Daily Times*, Missouri, 1 May 1882.
3. *The Evening Star*, Kansas City, Missouri, 6 May 1882.
4. *The Kansas City Daily Times*, Missouri, 2 May 1882.
5. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, Missouri, 3 May 1882. Replevin is the recovery of goods unlawfully taken, made subject to establishing the validity of the recovery in a legal action and returning the goods if the decision is adverse.
6. *The Kansas City Star*, Missouri, 12 May 1882.
7. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Missouri, 20 May 1882. RYW

As always, for Liz

Membership Fees Are Due, Folks!

We take this opportunity to remind you that membership fees are due. To continue supporting the Jesse James Birthplace please complete the form on the back of this issue and return to -

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

All membership levels include –

One free entry to the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum every time you visit * 10% off any purchase made in the museum gift shop * Four FOTJF Journals per year sent either to your email or home address * An invitation to special events, including the shoots and the annual re-union.

We offer a wide range of membership levels, offering you not only the chance to enjoy the membership rewards above but also to further support the valuable work being carried out to maintain the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum and the history of all those connected to it through kind donations.

BUSHWHACKER	\$25.00
CLAY COUNTY IRREGULAR	\$50.00
ROAD AGENT	\$100.00
LONG RIDER	\$250.00
HOME GUARD	\$500.00

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

I WAS JESSE JAMES'S UNDERTAKER

In 1995, the remains of Jesse James were exhumed from the grave at Mt. Olivet in Kearney at the request of his family. State law requires an undertaker be present during an exhumation and so Mr. David Griffin of the Fry Funeral Home was present. The home was chosen as it had “buried members of the James family down through the years,” Mr. Griffin said.

On the evening of October 27, 1995, and having declared the remains to be those of Jesse James, Prof. Starrs delivered the remains, contained within a 24x12 inch container, wrapped and securely sealed, to the funeral home. Jesse, in this reduced state, was placed in a full-sized hardwood casket.

Although conceding that he had “never been involved in anything like this,” Mr. Griffin also stated that he “just played it as a funeral director would, as far as helping with the arrangements of the service.”

Visitation was allowed on 28 October and, at that time, “the six great grandchildren of Mr. James were present, so the 200 visitors would express their interest in a part of history they were witness to.”

Just before noon, the casket, covered with six Confederate flags, was transported to the Knights of Columbus Community Centre by motorized hearse. When each flag was removed from the casket, it was given to each of the six great grandchildren.

Following the hour-long service, a white, horse drawn carriage, carried the casket to Mt. Olivet cemetery where the reburial was witnessed by over six hundred people.

May he now, forever, rest in peace.



Clockwise: The remains arrive at Mt. Olivet in a horse drawn carriage; the coffin at Mt. Olivet; Funeral directors David Griffin and Toby Polley take the casket by an honor guard to the waiting horse drawn carriage.

Source: Jesse James Laid to Rest – Again.... By Edward J. Defort. With kind permission from David Griffin.

NEW HOPE CELEBRATION ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY SEPT. 29 - LARGE CROWD AND INTERESTING DAY

On October 2, 1929, the Liberty Tribune contained the following article under the headline above.

Sunday morning, September 29, dawned an ugly misty fall day but in spite of all that some over 300 people attended the Centennial celebration of the New Hope Baptist church, which is located in Washington township. Some came from as far away as Long Beach, Calif., to attend, others from Kansas City, Liberty, Kearney, Plattsburg, Lathrop, Mosby, Lawson, Excelsior Springs, Oklahoma and Kansas.

At the Sunday School there was an attendance of 85, a fine attendance as only eleven visitors present for Sunday School. At eleven o'clock Rev. J. A. Robb, who is pastor of Prairie Home and Rock Falls churches, and for the past two weeks has been conducting a revival meeting at New Hope, conducted the services. Rev. Robb read the sermon lesson from a Bible printed in 1791. The Bible is in the possession of C. M. Gow and has been in Mr. Gow's mother's family for years. Following the morning service a basket dinner was served.

The afternoon session was called to order by their pastor, Rev. Amo Whittiver. He made a few appropriate remarks on the occasion and on pioneer preachers.

The devotional was given by the Juniors and it was well rendered.

The Baptist church at Liberty and their pastor, Rev. F. C. Feezor, sent greetings to the church. The church history was given by Lawrence Barr, a great grandson of Rev. Frank James [sic], who was pastor of New Hope from 1843 to 1850. The list of pastors of New Hope was given by Rev. C. F. D. Arnold. Rev. Arnold was converted at New Hope and was later pastor of the church in 1902. Rev. Arnold as has been said by a prominent pastor in a Clay county church, knows more about Baptists of northwest, Missouri than any man living today.

The music was furnished by the church choir.

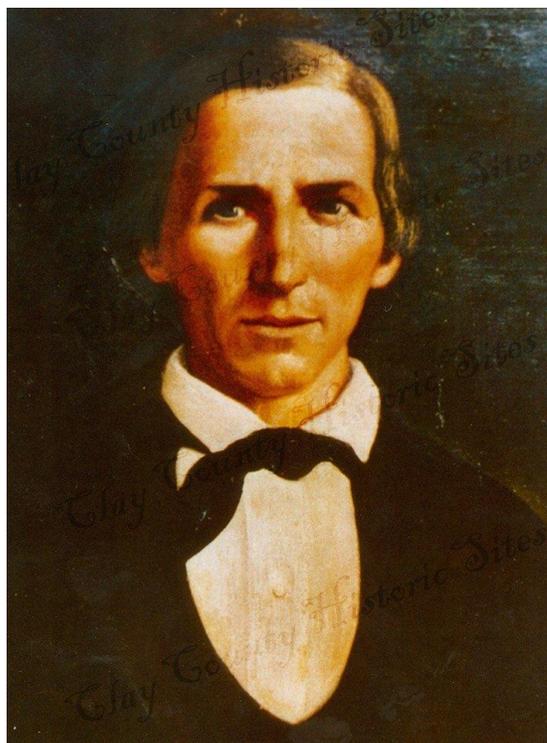
The W. M. U. put on a play entitled, "How State Missions Came Home to Sarah" and it was splendidly given.

The services at the church closed by the choir singing a song dedicated to New Hope and was written by Mrs. Otto Barr, the church pianist and it was very fine.

After the services at the church were concluded the audience was invited to witness the baptism of five who had been converted during the meeting. This service was held south of the bridge on Lewis Downing's farm. The revival closed Sunday night after continuing two weeks. There were eight additions to the church.

Those who attended this celebration feel it was a great day and wish that the church might be able to celebrate again in like manner one hundred years hence. Many old members and friends of the church were there and many others would have been had the weather been more favorable.

New Hope is situated in a valley with a long hill on either side, a beautiful location. The present building was erected in 1898 almost on the site of the previous one. The new church is considerable smaller than the first one erected of brick, although the same brick was used in both buildings.



Rev. Robert Sallee James

Many sacred memories hold dear to the older citizens of this community.

The cemetery where many of the early members sleep is on the hill just west of the church and is well kept, an honor to them who strived amid hardships and made many sacrifices that the church dear to them might flourish.

The work begun one hundred years ago is being carried on and the church which was renewed in the fall of 1928 enjoys all the organizations such as the Women's Missionary Society; the B.Y.P.U., Y.W.A., the R.A., the G.A. and Sunbeam Band. They have a splendid Sunday school and attendance is exceptionally good. Their pastor is a young man, Rev. Amo Whittiver, student in William Jewell College. Rev. Whittiver is the thirty-second pastor. Some of the former pastors were such men as: Franklin Graves, Asa N. Bird, R. F. [sic] James, C. M. Brown, R. H. Jones, H. A. Hunt, C. F. D. Arnold, I. T. Williams, W. T. Campbell and others.

The splendid work done by this church is an example of what rural church is an example of what rural church can do if they are filled with the spirit of the love of Christ. May this church be as shining light to the pathway of all who are within her reach.



The Historic Marker at New Hope Church and the building as it appears today, now the New Directions Church.

Photos from mycouriertribune.com

HISTORY OF NEW HOPE CHURCH 1829-1929 Missouri was settled in the early years of 1800 and by the year 1820 application was filed for admittance into the union. In 1821, Missouri was admitted as a state.

Between the years 1824-25 emigrants came from Kentucky to Missouri and settled in the vicinity of New Hope. A great many of these early settlers were Baptists, but they had no church in which to worship. They were very desirous, however, of worshipping their faith so they joined the congregation of Beer Sheba now called Mt. Zion, located between Liberty and Excelsior Springs, Missouri. The congregation of Beer Sheba also did not have a church building in which to worship so they held services at the home of James Monkirs. As time went on the Baptists of the New Hope vicinity decided that the distance was too great to travel to Beer Sheba, therefore they held a meeting and organized a branch of Beer Sheba. They met in 1828 at the residence of Henry Greene near a spring on the farm of Joseph Thompson's. The exact spot of the residence was four hundred yards north of the A. J. Gow farm.

At this first meeting in 1828 the congregation elected Rev. Ben Riley of 2nd Platte as mediator and Rev. Howard Everett of Rush Creek as clerk. Both of these ministers preached alternately for several years. For many years, however, there were not any regular services. Billy Thorp Bramely and John Edwards occasionally visited the church and preached to the people. This congregation sent messengers to the Fishing River Association in 1829-30-31.

After one year of organization under the Branch of the Beer Sheba church the members decided that perhaps the church could function better if they had an

organization of their own. So in the year 1829 or one hundred years ago last July the members met and organized the church which was called New Hope.

In 1830 the members erected the first church which was a log house with one room twenty feet by twenty-two feet with no loft. The first church clerk was Dick Miller and he donated one acre of land on which this first church was built. In those days people did not have much money so this church had to be put up by the members, that is so many members subscribed the required number of logs, some furnished boards and other members subscribed to so many feet of whip sawed plank.

About 1833 Elder Solmon Kimsey, a member of the New Hope church requested that he be ordained as a minister and take charge of the church. For some unknown reason the meeting to ordain him was never held. Mr. Kimsey became discouraged with this treatment so he left the vicinity and joined a Free Will Baptist church. He was ordained and later came back to New Hope church and was employed to preach. After two years of ministry the congregation became divided on the subject of communion and in addition Rev. Kimsey commercialized preaching to a large extent. The congregation finally divided and those who believed in free communion joined Rev. Kimsey and organized a Free Will Baptist church in another community. Only fifteen members of the New Hope church remained, but those few were very faithful. This group of members chose Samuel Riggs as pastor.

During this time there was a young man by the name of Robert James who was preparing himself for the ministry. Rev. James was born in the year 1818 and received his early education in the rural schools. He attended Georgetown college, Georgetown, Kentucky and received his diploma from that institution. He was licensed to preach in 1839 and was married to Zerelda Cole in 1842 [sic]. He came with his family to Missouri in 1843.

When Rev. Robert James arrived in the vicinity of New Hope his first interest was the church. He concluded that while the church was partly successful in its missionary endeavor, that better work could be obtained if the church was reorganized. The church was very active under this reorganization and the membership was increased to ninety-four. This reorganization was in 1844 and in the same year the North Liberty Association was consummated. This meeting was held at New Hope and Rev. Robert James was very successful in taking New Hope in this association. Liberty (Second Baptist), Little Flock (Lebanon, Clinton County), Pleasant Ridge and Richmond were also members of this association. Rev. James also organized churches at New Garden and Providence.

VINTAGE VALENTINE

We recently hosted a very popular event on Valentine's Day where visitors were invited to make vintage Valentine cards. Even Jesse couldn't resist coming along!



TRUE WEST AWARD

The Jesse James Birthplace and Museum has, once again, been honored with an award from True West Magazine. The award is for Best Preservation Effort of the West.

Congratulations to all involved!



It was during the ministry of Rev. James that the second church was built on the same site where the present church now stands. Part of the money was given by Rev. James toward the building of the church and the members very ably assisted him. This church was built during the days of slavery and it is said that Rev. James sent some of his negroes to assist in its building.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Rev. James was one of the founders of William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. It was during the year 1848 that about thirty men applied for the ministry. Rev. Robert James met them and decided that an institution should be organized to train men for the ministry. Rev. Robert James was very influential in this meeting toward the founding of the college which was named after Dr. William Jewell who had done so much in the Baptist work all over the state. It is indeed a coincident that almost seventy-five years after the founding of William Jewell College that a great grandson of Rev. Robert James, one of the founders of the college, should graduate from the institution. Lawrence Barr graduated from William Jewell College in 1925. Rev. James went to California in 1850 and while there contracted some disease and died August 18, 1850, at the age of thirty-two.

The death of Rev. James was not only a loss to the church, but to the community. The New Hope church continued under the leadership of other ministers, but there were several periods between the years 1850 and 1890 that there were not any services. During those days ministers did not receive any stated salary, but accepted donations from the members of the church. At that time they believed that since they were servants of God that they were to preach and consider remuneration only a small part.

As the town of Holt, Missouri began to grow in population many members of the New Hope church withdrew their membership and attended churches at Holt. Early in 1890 activity was renewed at New Hope and with this renewed spirit the church was reorganized. The third church which is still standing was built in 1898 on the site of the second church. The brick of this second church was all used in the building of the present church. In the past twenty-five years there were several years in which no services were held, but the spirit of the church continued. Not only New Hope church but other rural churches have had difficult problems, perhaps because of lack of leadership, change in standards of living and the advent of the motor car.

Last fall a revival was held at New Hope by Rev. Robb and afterwards the church reorganized with 42 members. This church is now very wide awake. It is the hope of every one that it will continue this good work and that the name of the church New Hope will always be the spirit of it's members for many years to come.

OBITUARY

Angie Borgedalen

October 16, 1942 – February 11, 2023

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Angie Borgedalen, long-time friend of the Jesse James Birthplace, well respected and influential member of our community and former editor of the Liberty Tribune. Angie died in her sleep at her home in Arizona. Our thoughts are with Angie's family and friends at this time.

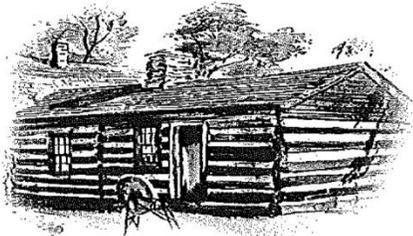
A celebration of Angie's life will be held on Saturday March 25, 2023 at Church Archer-Pasley, 119 Franklin St., Liberty, Mo, at 11am.

Photo from digitalmemorial.com



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 Hamil

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