



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our annual reunion is coming up on October 12!

I am working on a great set of speakers for this year. So far we have the bootmaker who has examined Jesse’s and Abraham Lincoln’s boots. This person has been previously scheduled by Beth Beckett, the farm and museum director. We also have Steve Gingery who is a major collector and historian who will talk on the Jesse James imposters and the James family and Frank James responses. A third speaker will be Charlie Broomfield who will talk on the James boy’s connections with Harlem, Missouri, and Kansas City. Charlie was a county commissioner when the county decided to buy the farm from the James family. He has also published an historical book.



BY BRYAN IVLOW

A couple of unconfirmed possible speakers are Ann M. Raab Ph.D., an anthropology instructor at Longview college. Her talk on archaeological digs in Missouri’s civil war burnt district is really good. Another possibility is Susan Grinlinton who gave a talk last year on her grandmother, who was a caregiver for Zerelda in her later years. A repeat of that talk would be interesting.

More details will follow and we hope to see you there!

There have been some problems getting the lobby mural redone but we are pressing forward and it should be done by the time of our reunion.

Thanks to our secretary/treasurer we are in great financial condition. Income this year has included money from two revolver raffles, four shoots and our sales of Martin McGrane’s book on the James farm. Thanks to Caleb Pooker and Gary Blackwell our shoots are running very well and Caleb has found a way to save us about \$150.00 on sending out the prizes on each shoot by giving the winners their prizes at the finish of each shoot which pleases the winners also. A tree and a plaque honoring Martin McGrane for his many contributions to the farm will also be dedicated at the reunion. The Friends and the farm will both be profiting from his contributions for years to come. **BI**

Date for your diary

October 12, 2024

Friends of the James Farm Reunion

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NEWS FROM THE FARM

Now well into the summer months, Beth Beckett reports that “we have had such wonderful visitors this year from all over the United States and the world. Just recently, a lot of visitors are in town for the Chiefs football training camp in St. Joseph, Missouri.”

Beth tells us that work continues to restore the Benton mural and to introduce a touchscreen element to the tour of the Museum, made possible by a donation from the James-Younger Gang.

Also continuing is the Second Saturday Speaker Program. We have already enjoyed presentations on a variety of subjects, including Order No 11, guns of the west and quilt making and we have two more presentations before the end of the season. See page 6 for more details.



JESSE JAMES ARTICLE WINS AWARD

Mark Lee Gardner recently won an award from the Wild West History Association for his article, The Strange and Mesmerizing Death of Jesse James. We send him our congratulations!



THE FOTJF FRONTIER REVOLVER SHOOT JUNE 1, 2024

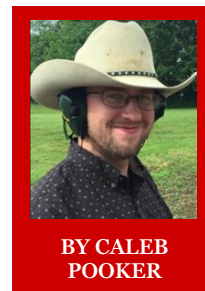


For the second shoot of the year, we had 13 attendees. It was a good day for shooting with cool temperatures to start, and just getting hot at the end of the event. In addition to some of our regular attendees, we had a few shooters attend who have not been able to attend for a few years, so it was nice to see some old faces.

We also drew for our spring raffle gun at this shoot, and the winner was Scott Englemann.

Also of note is that our September 21 shoot will be a little different. We will be holding a casual western three-gun competition with the emphasis on casual. Details will be released later, but even if you do not have a rifle and/or shotgun, plan to come anyway, as there will be both available to shoot for a small fee.

Shoot results



BY CALEB
POOKER

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place: Adrian Clark
- Second place: Dan Charder
- Third place: Del Warren

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place: John Hart

OVERALL CAP & BALL WINNERS

- First place: John Hart

OVERALL CARTRIDGE WINNERS:

- First place: Del Warren
- Second place: Terry Barr
- Third place: Adrian Clark

WOMEN'S DIVISION

- First place: Deane Schirmer



At right – Raffle winner, Scott Englemann, with FOTJF President, Bryan Ivlow and Del Warren, the founder of James Country Mercantile, Liberty, Missouri, who very kindly donated the gun.

LEARNING THE ART OF THE HOLDUP

Was an 1865 train holdup a blueprint for the James–Younger Gang?

July 21, 1873. Members of the James-Younger Gang hold up a Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad train near Adair, Iowa. The outlaws derail the engine before emptying the express safe of about \$3000. It's their first train stickup; it won't be their last.

But where did they get the idea? It may have come from a similar incident that occurred more than eight years earlier and many miles to the east.

Early evening of May 5, 1865. More than a dozen men crossed the Ohio River from Kentucky in small boats. Their destination: the railroad tracks just outside North Bend, Ohio, about 18 miles west of Cincinnati. They reached the designated place and dislodged the tracks. At around 8pm, the westbound Ohio and Mississippi train hit the derailment, causing the engine and express car to overturn. The bandits swarmed the train, robbing passengers (not women) and hauled an Adams Express safe from the damaged car. They blew it open and took \$30,000 in bonds. It's unclear what the take from the passengers totaled.

The gang was at work for more than an hour before departing. And they left the same way they came: rowing skiffs across the river into Kentucky. When they got to the other side, they stole some horses from a farmer and continued their escape.

Civil and military officials didn't receive word of the holdup for several hours, and even then, they had to make provisions for crossing the river. A posse of militia finally got to Kentucky early on May 7; by that time, the robbers were long gone. But they left a trail that was easily followed. The hunt came to an end at the village of Verona, where telltale signs of the outlaws were everywhere—empty liquor bottles, bullet holes, even some of the bonds taken in the heist. The robbers themselves were nowhere to be found. They apparently split up and headed in various directions. The posse soon gave up and went back to Ohio.

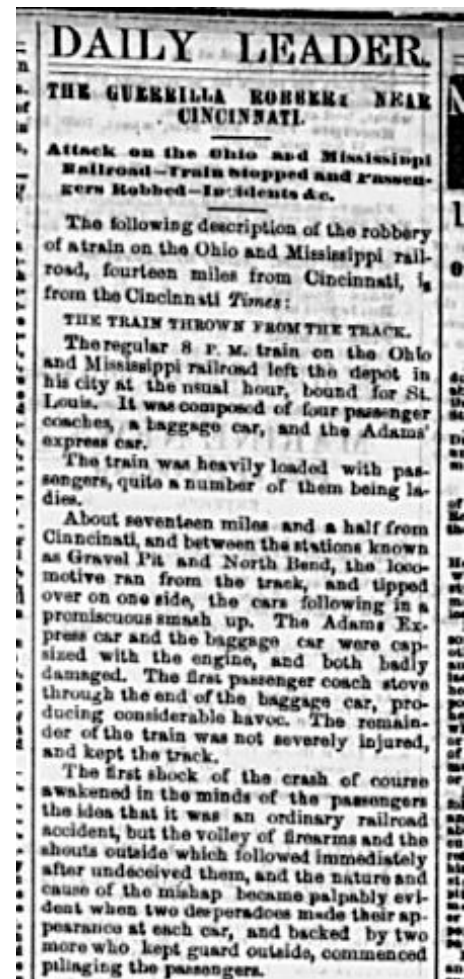
No-one was ever apprehended in the case. The members of the gang were never identified—but it was rumored that the culprits were former Confederate soldiers, out to make a buck for their post-Civil War lives. Modern hypotheses that this was a war robbery don't hold up. The conflict was over. And it was obvious that the robbers were in it for themselves, not for some misplaced notion of helping the Southern cause.

The robbery did make regional news and led to several other train holdups in the Midwest over the next few years. But the North Bend job is generally regarded as the first peacetime train robbery in U.S. history.

Could the James-Younger Gang have known about it? Probably. They had many connections to Kentucky and—it's speculated—may have known some of those who pulled the North Bend holdup. And the fact that the modus operandi was nearly identical—derailing the train, emptying the express safe, robbing the passengers—lends credence to the theory that the Iowa job was modeled on that in Ohio. Just why it took Jesse and company so long to try their hand at train robbery isn't clear. But the North Bend stickup provided a blueprint that was used for decades by outlaws seeking a big haul. **MB**



BY MARK BOARDMAN



The Cleveland [Ohio] Leader,
May 10, 1865.

THE HISTORIC COMMERCIAL HOTEL, OSCEOLA

On 28 April, Rob and Theresa Heckenlively hosted an open house event showcasing their brand new Jesse James Suite!

This listed Suite, which can accommodate two guests and boasts one queen sized bed, is the room where Jesse and Frank would stay when in the area during their escapades and it has recently been renovated, with a few amenities added! Close by are many additional sites such as Monegaw Springs and Roscoe, where the James/Younger gang was known to be.

The Suite is available now and reservations can be made either through Airbnb.co.uk or by calling direct on +1 319-939-8288. Address – The Old Commercial Hotel, 610 2nd St, Osceola, MO, United States, 64776.

Review by Jesse James Birthplace Historical Interpreter, Linda Brookshier.

A few months back, Diane Rogers asked me to go with her to Osceola, Missouri to the Historic Commercial Hotel. She was wanting to go stay in the newly completed Jesse James suite and wanted someone to go with her. I thought it sounded like fun (even though the hotel is reportedly haunted and I am a BIG chicken!!!!)

So, on Monday, July 22 we met at the beautiful 1868 hotel and were greeted by the wonderful owners, Rob and Teresa Heckenlively. After checking in, we headed to the local Mexican restaurant and had a delicious dinner. We then headed out on an adventure! They took us to the Younger Brothers' Lookout in Monegaw Springs and the caves they hid in. We then headed to Roscoe where in March of 1874, John Younger was shot and killed in a shootout. Apparently at one time, Monegaw Springs was a "Happening" town but today there is nothing left. There is almost nothing left of Roscoe either except a small park, as what was left of the town was destroyed by a flood in the 1990s.

As I said, the main reason for our trip was to stay in the Jesse James Suite! Apparently when in Osceola, Jesse would always request the same room which looked out across over to the St. Clair county courthouse. He chose this room because he could see if the sheriff or any of the deputies were heading across the street toward the hotel. He had his horse tied up to a tree right outside of his room. If he saw the sheriff or deputies heading his way, he would climb out of the adjoining window, shimmy down, and escape on his horse!

This was a wonderful experience and I had nothing "other worldly" happen to me! I encourage anyone that is in the Osceola area to definitely check out the Historic Commercial Hotel! You will NOT be disappointed. **LB**



The Jesse James Suite.
Pictures from Airbnb website.

After your visit, be sure to purchase this stunning Jesse James Suite t-shirt!

SECOND SATURDAY SPEAKERS

You will be pleased to know that Second Saturday Speakers have returned! As before, all presentations will be in the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum Theater and are free to attend. There will be a charge if you wish to look around the old Homestead, which we very much recommend!



September 14 – 10am – Songs of Jesse James
Bryan Shibley

October 12 – 10am – Historic Boots and Boot Making
Michael Anthony

Don't forget: October 12 is also The Friends of the James Farm Reunion



THE FOTJF FRONTIER REVOLVER SHOOT JULY 13, 2024

For our third shoot of the year, we only had 13 attendees, mostly due to the heat, but we still had a good time! This was the last regular shoot of the year as the 21 September shoot will be a casual old west three-gun competition. We also had three attendees shooting cap & ball revolvers this time, so a reminder that we do score cartridge separate from cap & ball, so bring out either, or both for improved chances of placing, and more experience with both. Unfortunately, one shooter did have issues with his gun, but thankfully the community of shooters that attend rallied to try and get him back into the competition.

Hope to see everyone in September for the next shoot. Remember that you are welcome to attend even if you do not own a rifle or shotgun as there will be both available to rent for a small fee.



BY CALEB
POOKER

OVERALL CAP & BALL WINNER

- First place: Gregory Quirin
- Second place: John Hart
- Third place: Greg Higginbotham



OVERALL CARTRIDGE WINNERS:

- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Del Warren
- Third place: Gary Blackwell

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place: Caleb Blackwell
- Second place: Del Warren
- Third place: Michael Schroeder



THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

- First place: John Hart
- Second place: Gregory Quirin
- Third place: Greg Higginbotham



WOMEN'S DIVISION
First place: Deane Schirmer

VETERANS REMEMBERED ON NEW MEMORIAL



By Michelle Pollard
and Scott Cole

On May 27, 2024, a new Memorial was unveiled at the Jesse James Park in Kearney to commemorate those from Kearney and Holt who died in war. One man **not** being considered for inclusion due to his death occurring after the First World War, was Gilbert Ray Duncan, uncle to Jesse's great granddaughter, Betty Barr. When volunteers and staff at the Clay county Archives in Liberty, Missouri, were asked to research the sixteen men whose names did make the list, fellow James descendent and Archive volunteer, Scott Cole, thought the family omission an injustice. "My motivation for nominating Gilbert lay more with Betty's mother, Thelma," Scott told us. "I never met Thelma, but know that she was in close contact with my great grandmother in exchanging family info. I found a

number of letters written by Grandma in Thelma's collection, which Betty donated to the Archives in Liberty." With these in hand, Scott began researching the life of Gilbert Ray Duncan.

Born in Paradise, Missouri, on August 6, 1897, to parents Jehoiada "Joe" Duncan and Elizabeth Ida [Fry] Duncan, Gilbert spent most of his life growing up in Holt, where he graduated in 1916. Working as a clerk in a drug store but already a volunteer in the Missouri National Guard, Gilbert was mustered into C Company, 3rd Infantry Regiment, later the 140th Infantry Regiment, on March 28, 1917.

From April 25, 1918, until February 2, 1919, Gilbert was fighting in France, getting his first taste of battle in the Gerard Mer Sector of the Vosges Mountains that July. In September, Gilbert would take part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Beginning on September 26, the Offensive sought to take full advantage of the arrival of 600,000 fresh US troops to support tired European soldiers in a decisive fight fought along the entire Western Front. It was the largest operation of the American Expeditionary Forces during the First World War and the most costly. Twenty-six thousand two hundred and seventy-seven US soldiers were killed and over ninety-five thousand were wounded, including Gilbert Duncan.

"Two days into that massive battle," research provided by Scott Cole and used for Gilbert's online biography states, "Duncan was wounded by machine gun fire and gassed while lying in the Argonne Forest. Recuperating in France, he finally arrived home more than four months after the war ended."

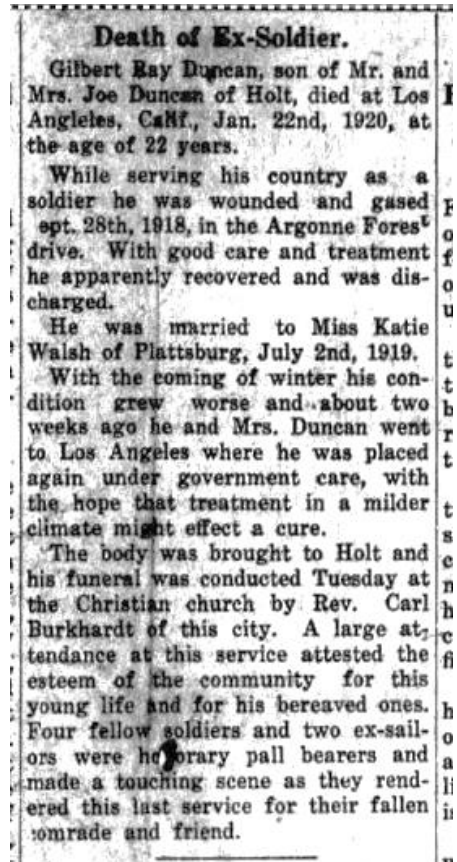
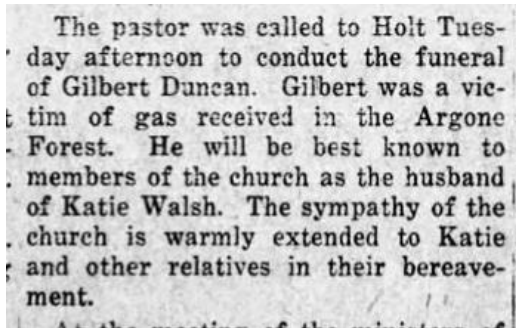
On February 15, 1919, Gilbert was discharged, receiving just 10 percent disability, and married Katherine Walsh on July 2, 1919, in Plattsburg, Missouri. Unable to work and hoping a different climate might help his condition, the pair headed west in early 1920, arriving in Los Angeles where Gilbert was admitted to hospital.

Sadly, the change did not help Gilbert's condition and he died on January 22, 1920, aged just twenty-two. "The body was brought to Holt and his funeral was conducted Tuesday at the Christian church by Rev. Carl Burkhardt of this city," the Plattsburg Leader reported. "A large attendance at this service attested the esteem of the community for this

At right: Gilbert Ray Duncan, from the Forster Barr Collection. Used by permission.



young life and for his bereaved ones. Four fellow soldiers and two ex-sailors were honorary pall bearers and made a touching scene as they rendered this last service for their fallen comrade and friend.”



Finally, there appeared in the old newspapers, a phrase that Scott felt should secure Gilbert’s place on the list of the Kearney remembered. “He gave his life for his country,” the minister at Gilbert’s funeral assured all present, “just as if he had died upon the battlefield.”

“So, I built a case on Gilbert’s behalf,” Scott told us, “and was successful.”

On May 27, 2024, when the new Memorial for the Kearney and Holt servicemen was unveiled, it contained the names of seventeen young men.

- Donald W. Bean
- Roy E. Boggess
- Howard T. Calder
- William P. Dykes
- John W. Hagan
- Glen C. Hartel
- Loma M. Hash
- Matthew D. Mason
- Ernest H. Porter
- Robert E. Suell
- Charles W. Smith
- Kenneth A. Smith
- Earl D. Chanslor
- Gilbert. R. Duncan
- Sparrel Harris
- Clinton M. Marsh
- Albert A. Vincent



Sources: Scott Cole, KPGZ News, Plattsburg Leader, Plattsburg, Mo., January 30, 1920.

Photo of the Memorial at left, and images of all seventeen soldiers (not in order) from the Kearney Holt Fallen

Warriors Memorial facebook page.

EVERYBODY HAS HEARD OF JESSE JAMES, BUT WHO KNOWS ABOUT FRANK?

This was the title of a rare public appearance of Greg Higgenbotham. Many of you will be familiar with Greg looking and sounding a lot more like “Frank James” but this June, Greg was the featured speaker at the Clay County Museum’s Third Thursday program, and he came entirely as himself.

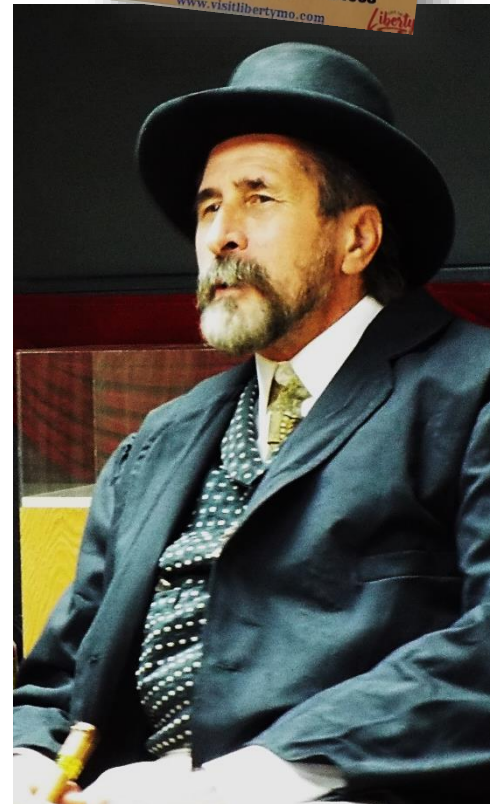
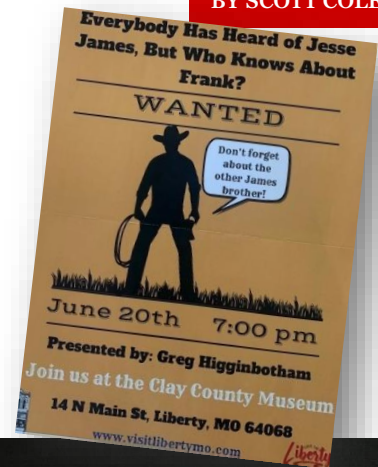
Reflecting on more than 40 years of researching and portraying the infamous outlaw, Greg discussed the courtship and marriage of Frank and Annie and the strong resentment of Frank by her Ralston relatives that never seemed to soften. Well educated and refined, Annie came from a wealthy and prominent family of Independence, Missouri.... a far cry from the hardscrabble life of the James’s. It was a resentment that would endure for more than a hundred years when the descendants of the Ralston family refused to allow a Confederate grave marker to be placed on Frank’s grave, a marker that to this day resides in the Jesse James Birthplace Museum.

Despite the Ralston family's beliefs, Greg described Frank as soft-spoken, well-educated, and of a gentlemanly nature. He went on to mention that he took exception to the portrayal of Frank in the 2010 remake of “True Grit”. In the movie’s final scene, Frank neglects to stand and greet an approaching lady and is chastised for a lack of manners. Clearly agitated by an inaccurate take on Frank’s nature, Greg stated that such an incident was “pure Hollywood”.

In his final topic of the evening, Greg discussed the experience of participating in the excavation and survey of Jesse’s first burial site at the James Farm. Working with the first director of Clay County’s historic sites, Milton Perry, and volunteer David Smith, Greg described the excitement he felt upon finding the bullet that had wounded Jesse as he tried to surrender in Lexington, Missouri. **SC**



BY SCOTT COLE



“Frank James”
Greg Higgenbotham in 2018.

Don't miss these upcoming events ...

August 14-17

Jesse James Days, Pineville, Mo.

September 4-8

Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield, Mn.

September 13 & 14, 20 & 22

Jesse James Festival, Kearney, Mo

October 12

The Friends of the James Farm Reunion,
Jesse James Birthplace, Kearney, Mo.

JESSE JAMES AND CAP ENYART



BY MICHELLE
POLLARD

It was while researching the possibility that Jesse James had visited a real estate agent in Lincoln, Nebraska just before he died, that I noticed an image in the Kansas City Times, April 5, 1882. The caption read - *JESSE W. JAMES from a photograph taken March 13, 1882, and furnished The Times by his wife.*

I had seen this image before, but the date suddenly struck me as interesting. According to the letter Jesse had written to J. D. Calhoun on March 2, 1882, Jesse would have been three days into a trip to northern Kansas and southern Nebraska when this image was made. If I could find the photographer, I might be able to trace a portion of that trip.

As March 13 was, at that time, fast approaching, I decided to write a post containing The Times sketch on a facebook page I co-administer. And it was there that another whirlwind journey began!!!



JESSE W. JAMES
[From a photograph taken March 13, 1882, and furnished THE TIMES by his wife.]

Long time Jesse James historian, Chuck Rabas, remembered seeing an advertisement in The Times offering the image for sale. I hoped The Times was selling copies of the original but as I had only ever seen sketches, that seemed unlikely. Still, the chance to prove the existence of copies, and the possibility of those copies offering the name of the photographer, spurred me on to find the advertisement. What I found instead was a fair amount of friendly banter between rival Kansas City newspapers over whether the image was authentic.

On April 7, 1882, the Kansas City Journal made the claim that, instead of having an image of Jesse James, "The Times printed a woodcut of a well known and respectable citizen of Weston and labelled it 'Jesse James', but not content with that fraud it is selling the cut for \$2 each." So, The Times was selling copies of the cut, not the original photograph? "As a first class fraud, the Times has always stood at the head," the Journal continued. Other newspapers joined in, including The Humboldt [Ks.] Union of April 8, 1882. "The Kansas City Times printed a cut of what they supposed was taken from a photograph of Jesse James. The story has leaked out that the photograph was of a citizen of Weston, Mo., and that a compositor of the Commercial, of that place, who owned the picture, sold it as the original of Jesse, and thus the innocent Times man was taken in." Unhappy with the accusation, on April 10, The Times printed their reply. "Day after day [the Journal] has been accusing the Times of being a 'sensation monger'. It said our cut of Jesse James was made from a photograph of a citizen of Weston, while that gentleman says he never had a photograph taken and no one ever had a picture of him."

The Journal, undeterred, chided The Times for continuing "to assert that it is genuine," and was sure The Times was "now proposing more bogus illustrations." The Journal, its reporters promised, "has no desire to undertake a cheap imitation of the Police Gazette," a comment that may have raised a smile when the Police Gazette included their own version of the photograph in their April 22, 1882 edition.¹ This time, though, instead of having been furnished by Jesse's widow, the Gazette carried the caption, *From a portrait taken expressly for the Police Gazette.*

It seemed clear that the image, though used by various biographers since, has never been fully authenticated and while copies of the cut were sold, it does not appear that the original ever surfaced. With that part of my journey done, I diverted to another story that had caught my eye.

My search for Jesse James photographs in the old archives of newspapers.com had inevitably thrown up results of alternative portraiture and a report of May 25, 1948, in the Nebraska News Press reminded me that "the late Cap Enyart of Nebraska City, whom James visited, is said to have engineered James into the Wallbaum studio about 1875 to have his picture taken." There were certainly rumors at the time that Jesse had been in the

area – The Omaha Republican of February 5, 1875, wrote, “It is reported that Jesse James, one of the celebrated James brothers of Missouri, passed through Omaha recently on his way to California” – and the image has since become the most used photograph of Jesse James, largely due to its clarity and assertions from the James family that it offers the best likeness.² Few seem to question that it was taken in Nebraska City in 1875 and so, always keen to find out more about these peripheral characters, and being easily distracted, I decided to find out more about this Cap Enyart. Who was he? How did he know Jesse? Is this story true? And, if it is, how did he manage to convince the most wanted man in America to sit for a photograph?

Captain Logan Enyart was born in Monroe county, Ky., June 20, 1831 and moved to Missouri at the age of two, settling first in Clay and then Daviess county. “Logan Enyart got his first education in a log hut schoolhouse in Daviess county,” spending three months a year there and completing his education in two winters.³

At the age of twenty-two, on July 14, 1853, Enyart married Lucy Ann Chiles and, when war broke out, enlisted with Company C., First Missouri Cavalry. He saw fighting at Blue Mills, Lexington and Springfield, all in the state of Missouri, and was involved in covering General Price’s retreat before being wounded in the left shoulder and forehead during the battle of Pea Ridge.

Enyart transferred to Corinth, Mississippi, where he fought with both General Beauregard and General Price. He was again wounded at the Battle of Franklin, this time with a fractured nose and the loss of his left eye, but never once set foot inside a hospital. At Vicksburg, the entire army was captured, Enyart being among the first to be exchanged. After transferring to the army of General Johnston at Dalton, Georgia, Enyart took part in the famous retreat to Atlanta, taking part in battles across Georgia and Tennessee. He was again captured on November 30, 1864 and taken to Johnson Island, Ohio. Having signed the oath of allegiance on June 17, 1865, Enyart was released and made his way home, only to find all the land and stock he had accumulated before the war had been driven off or destroyed. With 50 cents in his pocket, Enyart reunited with his wife, moved to Nebraska and started what would become a lucrative freighting business.⁴

In 1866, Enyart went into partnership with J. W. Potter and Mont. Trimble and their combined success in fulfilling Government contracts allowed Enyart to expand, owning ranches in Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas. Soon, he was considered one of the wealthiest men in the state.⁵ A mason, a Democrat and member of the Legislature from 1872-1874, Enyart was described as one of the “picturesque”, “eccentric” characters of southeastern Nebraska.⁶ One writer, identified only as “J. H. S.”, remembered that “the Captain only had one eye but it sufficed for card playing. He could see farther with that one good one than most men could with two. His judgement was shrewd and his versatility amazing. Once, so I’ve been told, he bought a job lot of eyes from a peddler who ‘forgot’ to tell the captain that each eye was a different hue. Only time so far as I know that ‘Cap’ was ever cheated in a trade. But he made the best of it and changed his eyes as he did his shirts. It was rather disconcerting to his friends, though, to note that



The New York Illustrated Police Gazette,
April 22, 1882.



The Kansas City Star, September 27, 1896.



Captain Logan F. Enyart
Find a Grave – submitted by
Michael Lesley Ramsey

this Tuesday's eye was blue while last weeks had been brown or black." Every year, Enyart and W. C. Kidd, two participants of the Battle of Franklin, where Cap lost the eye, would organise a reunion.⁷

In 1884, Enyart co-founded the Farmer's Bank of Nebraska City. Two years later, "The Talmage Tribune [was] sold to John A. McShane, Logan Enyart, W. T. Canada et al" and two years after that, Enyart was called away to attend a family emergency following news that his brother, H. W. Enyart, had been shot on his ranch in Colorado.⁸ The wound did not prove fatal.

In 1894, Enyart's beloved wife, Lucy, died. Described as "an estimable lady of unusual nobleness of character and exceptional Christian fortitude," Enyart believed much of his success was due to her. "A husband, one son and three adopted children survive her."⁹ Four years later, on April 6, 1898, Cap Enyart married Katherine Richardson at Douglas, Neb. He continued to acquire land and stock, putting a lot of faith in the trade of mules, until his estate was estimated to be worth one million dollars at the time of his death, which, due to the existence of adopted children and a variety of wills, was fought over in the courts for several years.

There was no doubt in my mind at this point that Cap Enyart was an interesting character, but could his relationship with the James brothers be proven beyond Nebraska folklore? After all, even 'J. H. S.' had written, "Legend has it that when the Jameses were at their zenith and things got too hot for them at home they would travel by night to Nebraska and be guests at the Captain's farm in Belmont precinct, before he moved to town. But I've never believed the story."¹⁰

Cap Enyart's military career may offer some vague possibilities. He was a Confederate officer and, although the records do not show him ever becoming a guerrilla, as some newspapers later suggested, he had been at some of the same battles as Frank James when Frank was in the regular army, namely Pea Ridge and Lexington. There also appeared to be a connection between Enyart and at least one family of Missouri Confederate guerrillas. "Yesterday, Hon. Logan Enyart, Representative from Otoe county, received a dispatch that his father-in-law, Col. Jim Crow Childs [sic], an ex-Confederate, living about one and a half miles from Independence, had been instantly killed in a shooting affray in that place." Chiles, an uncle of Harry S. Truman, had been a Missouri guerrilla, as had his brothers, and there were several indictments against him from the war and since. Jim had stated openly that Deputy Sheriff Peacock was afraid to arrest him but on September 21, 1873, the two met in what became a deadly encounter on the streets of Independence, Mo.. Once the dust had settled, Jim and his son, Elijah, were both dead and Deputy Peacock, his son, Charles, and Marshal Farrow, were all wounded. According to the newspapers, Enyart would go to Missouri to make sure his relative's body was properly taken care of.¹¹ Jim Crow Chiles, an associate of the James brothers, was not Enyart's father-in-law, but a cousin of Enyart's wife, Lucy. It was tenuous but seemed to help support a growing theory that "Enyart had known the Jameses well in Missouri." He was able, according to sources, "to talk entertainingly about them. He knew the details of some of their exploits – those which followed in the guerrilla warfare days of the civil war, in which Enyart was a Confederate officer – and it was always his assertion that the brothers had been maligned mercilessly by their enemies; that many of the crimes attributed to them were committed by genuine desperadoes and that some of the things they did do were excusable because they were compelled to fight for their lives."¹² According to reports,



no one ever tried to arrest the brothers while staying with the captain and that has been put down to either fear or indifference as the James brothers were never accused of staging a robbery in Nebraska.

Judge M. W. Neihart, a “local justice of the peace and former official photographer for the United States Government,” had also met the James brothers during the war. “It was in 1861 or 1862 when Mr. Neihart first met the James boys. It was six or seven miles west of Hannibal, Mo., as the Judge remembers it. Altogether, he ‘ran across’ the brothers six or seven times.” After resigning his post as Government photographer, during which time, taking photos of criminals became a speciality, Neihart ran into Jesse in Nebraska City. Jesse was introduced to him by Cap Enyart as ‘Mr. Brown’, but Neihart recognised the man and the next day commented to Enyart on how well Jesse was looking. “What do you know about Jesse?” Enyart had enquired. “Oh, I guess I’ve met him as often as you have,” Neihart answered. Remembering Jesse, Neihart said, “He was a gentleman. I never saw a thing wrong with either of the James boys, for that matter. They were perfect gentlemen when in your company. They got a worse reputation than they earned.”¹³



Judge M. W. Neihart

When Jesse had visited the photographic studio in Nebraska City in 1875, it was then owned by Christopher Wallbaum. “A year or so later, J. H. Madison took over the studio... Judge Neihart came here in 1876, looking about at the studios because he was a photographer. Madison asked him to mind his place while he visited in Iowa. The Judge did but Madison never came back.” Neihart remained in Nebraska City, believing the image Wallbaum had taken was the only one ever posed by Jesse James. That was not true but it was certainly true that, if the March 13, 1882 image turned out to be fake, it was the last known photograph taken before Jesse was killed in 1882. To that end, Neihart always carried one regret - “I never could get him to sit for a picture.”¹⁴

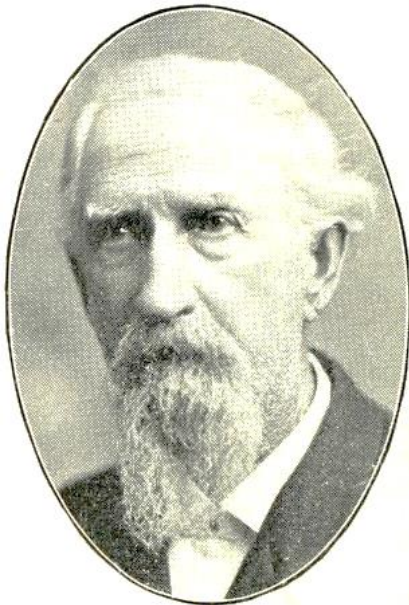
During the campaign for state senator in 1886, Enyart, on the Democratic ticket, found himself up against Republican, Paul Schminke. “Enyart says Schminke is a prohibitionist,” The Lincoln Nebraska State Journal observed after the pair had been “booming themselves” in the city. “Schminke retorts by saying that the people of Otoe county have no use for any of the friends of Jesse and Frank James.”¹⁵

So, maybe there was something to the story? Maybe some of the stories went too far – like the one that claimed “Enyart, who lived on a farm in those days, bought ground to make another lane leading up to his house, so that if Jesse had to leave in a hurry, there would be several ways to elude pursuers” - but maybe Jesse and Enyart did know each other and those recollections of his visits continued long after the deaths of both of them.¹⁶

In June 1934, for example, Victor A. Sturm was quoted in the Nebraska History Magazine recalling how “Jesse James, with a price on his head used to ride boldly down Central ave. in Nebraska City with his arms folded.” And in 1949, news that a man named J. Frank Dalton was claiming he was Jesse James, was met by Fred Moyer, “whose father and grandfather often saw Frank and Jessie James at Nebraska City.” Mr. Moyer “thinks it would be easy to test out the man who the Lawson, Oklahoma, paper claims is 100 year old Jesse... The Oklahoman could be asked about Logan ‘Cap’ Enyart, one of his Nebraska City cronies. If he could tell anything of early-day Nebraska City, says Mr. Moyer, there might be something to his claim.”¹⁷

Here, my research took another unexpected turn.

“Mrs Cox of Gallatin, Mo, and her daughter, Mrs. Randall, of Fort Worth, Texas, who have been in the city for some days, the guests of Captain and Mrs Logan Enyart, left for their homes last night.”¹⁸ It was a simple notice among many, detailing the comings and goings of residents, their families and passing dignitaries but it sparked a flurry of excitement in me! As a long time student of the Gallatin robbery and murder of December 7, 1869, the name Cox is well known to me. Major Samuel Porter Cox was the man credited with killing guerrilla leader, Bloody Bill Anderson, and many believe he was the intended target on December 7, Captain Sheets being killed



Major Samuel P. Cox

in a case of mistaken identity. With clouds of certainty forming in my head, I searched for my photographs of Major Cox's grave and sure enough, right there under his name was that of his wife – Amanda Thornhill nee Enyart.

Major Cox's wife was related to Capt. Enyart?! How? With a new search criteria, the answer was easy to find. "Capt. L. Enyart, President of the Farmer's Bank of this city and one of the wealthiest men of this section, went to Gallatin today to be with his sister, Mrs. Gen. Cox, and with her celebrate his eighty first birth anniversary."¹⁹ And further confirmation - "Capt. Enyart is enjoying a visit from his mother, Mrs. Enyart, and his sister, Mrs Cox and her husband Major Cox, from Gallatin."²⁰

I further discovered that, to some, Major Cox was considered a Nebraska City pioneer. "He was here with the soldiers in 1846-1847 and was a resident of this city in 1858," being employed there by the freighting firm Russell, Waddell and Majors. "He can point exactly to where the block house stood and can tell where his 'shack' stood on Fifth street." In fact, Major Cox was so familiar with the area that "he drew a plan of the fort and the block house for Morton's History of Nebraska."²¹

So! With my mind racing, I began wondering what, if anything, this meant. Major Cox and Amanda Enyart Thornhill did not marry until 1882, but with Enyart spending his early years in Gallatin, could it be considered likely Capt Enyart and Major Cox knew each other before they were family?²² Did Enyart tell Jesse he knew Major Cox? Did Enyart and Cox ever talk about the Gallatin robbery and murder and Jesse's alleged part in it? Major Cox never wavered from his belief that the affair had been perpetrated by Jim Anderson and Jesse James but is there evidence of Enyart's influence in some of the only newspaper articles that did not name Jesse as the murderer of Capt. Sheets? "Major Cox of Gallatin, Mo., who was here on a visit with Capt. L. Enyart, was the man who killed the famous guerrilla Bill Anderson near Gallatin during the civil war," The Nebraska City News-Press reported, "and who narrowly escaped being killed by Anderson's brother, who came to town for that purpose and killed another man by mistake."²³

Knowing that Frank James had surrendered and was acquitted after his brother's murder, I wondered if Frank and Cap Enyart enjoyed a more open relationship in the aftermath of it. Interestingly, Frank's last visit to Nebraska "was as a guest of the late Captain Logan Enyart." It appeared that Frank had stayed for a week and, during his visit, "the erstwhile alleged bank robber sat quietly in the window of the old Farmer's Bank building, in company with Captain Enyart and harked back to the old days when the state of Missouri offered thousands of dollars for him, dead or alive, finally pardoning him and receiving him as a citizen. 'Here I am sitting here with all this money,' he said during his visit, 'and twenty years ago they would have been hiding out on me,' he said with a laugh."²⁴

Their long standing friendship was further proven by Arthur Handley, who owned a letter from Frank James to Captain Enyart dated February 17, 1905. "Just what Captain Enyart's association with the James boys is not known but the tone of the letter is one indicating a close bond through the years." Rumors suggested that back in the day, Enyart had "been a bad man with a gun although in later years he was a highly respected and well-to-do citizen."²⁵

There was one last enticing piece of information. The Unionville [Mo.] Republican of June 14, 1883, listed a few of the twenty-odd witnesses due to be called by the state at the trial of Frank James in Gallatin. The list included, "Capt. Logan Enyart, ex-member of the legislature and ex-sheriff of Otoe county, Neb."²⁶ Two months later, on August 18, the Nebraska City News reported that "Capt. Logan Enyart has gone to Missouri to testify in the [Frank] James case." There are, frustratingly, no reports of his testimony, suggesting he might have been called to testify at the abandoned trial for the murder of Captain Sheets on December 7, 1869. The mind can only imagine what he might have said!

In September 1911, Enyart arrived in Callaway, Nebraska to inspect one of his properties and, having gotten into a carriage, “the team became frightened, made a sudden turn and upset the rig, and Mr. Enyart was violently thrown to the ground, receiving cuts and bruises of a serious nature, which may prove fatal.”²⁷ Returning home, Capt. Enyart was “attended by two physicians, and it is feared in addition to having his hip broken, he is injured internally.”²⁸ When death came over a year later, on November 9, 1912, it was believed to have been due to the injuries he had sustained in Callaway.

As with so many stories about the James brothers, investigation often leads not to answers but to more questions. I now know a lot more about Cap Enyart and although I am confident both James brothers knew him and regularly visited him in Nebraska, there is still no positive proof it was Enyart who encouraged Jesse to have the Nebraska City image made. It has been, as always, an enjoyable journey though and one that relinquished unexpected connections to Gallatin, just when I thought I had exhausted all probability of finding new information linked to the case.

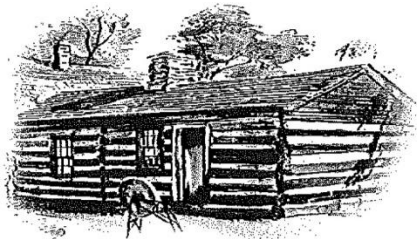
For that, Captain Logan Enyart, I thank you.

1. Kansas City Journal, April 8, 1882; Illustrated Police Gazette, New York, Vol. 40, issue 239.
2. The Kansas City Star, September 27, 1896.
3. The Loup Valley Queen, Callaway, Neb., November 14, 1912; The Douglas Enterprise, November 14, 1914.
4. Biographical Album of Otoe and Cass Counties Nebraska, Geoffrey Chapman Publisher, Chicago, 1889, pp706-709.
5. The Douglas Enterprise, Douglas Neb., November 14, 1912.
6. The Omaha Daily News, November 18, 1916.
7. Nebraska Daily News-Press on July 23, 1932.
8. The Daily Nebraska Pess [Neb. City], October 22, 1886; The Daily Nebraska News, August 24, 1886.
9. The Semi Weekly Otoe Chief [Neb. City], March 26, 1896.
10. Nebraska Daily News-Press, July 23, 1932.
11. The Daily Nebraska Press, September 24, 1873.
12. Lincoln Nebraska State Journal, October 2, 1927.
13. The Nebraska Daily News-Press, September 30, 1928.
14. Nebraska Daily News-Press, September 18, 1932; The Nebraska State Journal, February 5, 1939.
15. The Lincoln Nebraska State Journal, October 22, 1886.
16. Nebraska City News-Press, May 25, 1948
17. Ibid.
18. Nebraska City News-Press September 8, 1899.
19. Nebraska City News, June 21, 1912.
20. Nebraska City News-Press, April 26, 1906.
21. Ibid
22. Amanda Enyart’s first husband was Adolphus Thornhill, 1836-1874. They married on December 8, 1864, Samuel Cox’s first wife was Mary Ballinger, 1831- 1881. They married July 7, 1850.
23. Nebraska City News – Press, April 28, 1906.
24. Lincoln Nebraska State Journal, October 2, 1927.
25. Nemaha County Herald [Auburn, Neb.], December 10, 1936. The letter had been given to Handley’s father, an early resident of Nebraska City, by Capt. Enyart, who then passed it to Arthur “who values it highly.”
26. I have yet to discover proof that Enyart was sheriff of Otoe county, Nebraska.
27. Lincoln Nebraska State Journal, September 15, 1911.
28. Omaha Daily Bee, September 14, 1911.

With thanks to the Otoe County Genealogical Society and Untold History of Southeastern Nebraska. **MP**

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James homestead cabin —
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