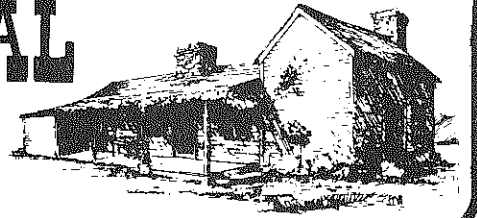


JAMES FARM JOURNAL

Newsletter of
"FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM"



VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 2

NOVEMBER — 1982

FJF Annual Meeting Elects Board and Makes Plans

The first annual meeting of the Friends of the James Farm was held September 17, 1982. Because of threatening weather, the meeting was moved to the Claybrook House, home of Mary James Barr (Jesse's daughter).

The first Board of Directors was elected and installed. They are as follows:

- President: Wilbur A. Zink, Appleton City, Missouri. A collector of James and Younger material. Author of *The Roscoe Gun Battle*.
- Vice President: Dr. William A. Settle, Jr., Tulsa, Oklahoma. Professor of History, University of Tulsa; Author of *Jesse James Was His Name*.
- Secretary-Treasurer: Milton F. Perry, Superintendent of Historic Sites, Clay County, Missouri. Elected to 3 Year Term:
- Martin E. McGrane, Pierre, South Dakota. Editor and Publisher. Author of book *The James Farm, The Home of Jesse and Frank James*.
- Ms. Margaret Baldwin, Independence, Missouri. Publishing house editor; co-author of book, *Wanted: Frank and Jesse James*.
- Lawrence Barr, Overland Park, Kansas. Grandson of Jesse James. Elected to 2 Year Term:
- Ms. Marley Brant, Hollywood, California. TV Producer. Plans a motion picture about the James-Younger gang.
- Fred Lee, Kansas City, Missouri. Historian. Has written many articles about the James-Younger gang.
- Philip Shreffler, St. Louis, Missouri. College Professor. Plans a book on Jesse James in the movies. Elected to 1 Year Term:
- Ted Yeatman, Nashville, Tennessee. Librarian. Author of *Jesse James and Bill Ryan at Nashville* and is working on a book about the Nashville residency of Frank and Jesse.
- George A. Warfel, Potomac, Maryland. Professional artist. Has executed portraits of the James and other western personalities.
- Jeanne Ralston, Liberty, Missouri. Member of the Clay County Park Commission.

Dues: The Board voted to add another dues category as follows: Special Individual, \$10.00. Such members are to receive a membership card, newsletters and free admission to the James Farm. Regular, Family, and Benefactors will receive in addition, a membership certificate, certain publications of the Friends, a 10% discount on purchases at the Farm; and gifts from time to time.

More Signs Of Our Times

Philip Schreffler of St. Louis informs us that there is a "Jesse James Inn" in the town of Asdee, Ireland, whose owner claims to be kin to the James family. Next time you are in Asdee, we suggest you plan on staying there.

Phil also tells us that just north of Cave City, Kentucky (near Mammoth Cave) are the "Jesse James Riding Stables". He also found on a Kentucky map a Jesse James Cave near Cave City. Perhaps we can rent a horse and ride into the cave.

Whenever you need parts for your car and you want to keep in vogue, you might think about dealing with the "Jesse James Auto Parts" store in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, 6 miles from the James Farm. Do you think they will sell you parts to fix a Ford?

In the Snow Cemetery, near Wayton, Arkansas, is the tombstone of "Frank James". Not a Frank James, but if the old man who lies there is to be believed, the Frank James. He was known as Joseph Vaughn, and when a "memoir" was published he purported to be the "real" Frank James (the one who lived and died on the family farm at Kearney, he claimed was an imposter). His story is discounted by students of the Jameses. He died in 1921 and he had some very tall tales to tell! (Frank is buried in Independence, Missouri, beside his wife, Annie, in the Hill Family Cemetery, in Hill Park).

James - Younger Robbery Dates

Chances are that the James-Younger band were particularly fond of carrying out their outlaw activities during the month of September and/or on the 7th day of the month. Twice these came together: at Northfield, Minn., on September 7, 1876 and at Blue Cut, Mo., on September 7, 1881.

A study of the dates of robberies supposed to have been committed by the James-Younger gang or their known comrades (from 1866 to 1881) reveals an intriguing pattern.

Over the years, the favored month for the outlaws was September with five robberies occurring during that month, but in different years. Three months tie for second place, with three robberies each: March, July and December. The remaining months saw either one or two robberies each. One wonders if the band's fiscal year began in September, or whether they were just attempting to stock the larder for the oncoming winter.

And is it possible that the practice of robbing during March, July and December had anything to do with planting first harvest and the onset of the coldest winter months?

Of all the possible days of the month on which to execute a "raise," the 7th was most popular (with seven robberies on that date!). There were robberies on 15 other dates, but never more than two on each. Perhaps this is coincidence, but instead it might have had something to do with a superstitious inclination toward the number 7.

If any particular dates were important to the band, they must have been September 7 and December 7. Of the 26 robberies from Liberty to Blue Cut, these are the only two dates that repeat themselves.

Could it be that Jesse, Cole and the others conducted their business more "by the numbers" than we ever suspected?

— Philip A. Shreffler

New James Book

Carl Breihan, author of several books about the Jameses and Youngers, wrote that he is working on a new one to be called *The Blood Spattered Trail of Frank and Jesse James*, which will be based on a ledger Frank James wrote in 1912 and includes an account of the Civil War years as told to Carl's grandmother by Frank.

"You'll be surprised," he wrote, "at the stories Frank tells about their doings . . . as kids."

The book will be out soon and the description has certainly whetted our interest!

Frank James Surrenders (Again)

On October 6, 1882, Frank James turned himself over to Barbara Potts, Mayor of Independence, Missouri, and was incarcerated in the Jackson County Jail after a lunch in the old Merchants Hotel across the street. His cell is well furnished with a fine carpet, pictures, table, chairs and a bed. Frank sits there, reading Shakespeare and greeting well-wishers. On Friday evening, October 8, he was the guest of honor at two receptions given for him in the jail by the Jackson County Historical Society.

All of this, of course, were events commemorating the centennial of the surrender of Frank James in 1882. At that time he gave himself up to Governor C. C. Crittenden of Missouri and was sent by train to Independence to await trial for train robbery. A large throng greeted his arrival at Independence, accompanying him to the hotel and jail. Today the hotel is a deli, and the jail has been restored, and an actor played the role.

Friends Board member Margaret Baldwin and co-author Pat O'Brien autographed copies of their new book *Wanted: Frank and Jesse James*. Frank was greeted by large numbers of people in the cell, which has been furnished with unusual comforts as it was at the time.

Historic Graves

Atha Manley of Frankfort, Kentucky, informs us she has located the grave marker of Ann Hubbard Cole, maternal great-grandmother of Frank and Jesse James, in the old Cole Cemetery in Woodford County, Kentucky. According to *Background of a Bandit*, the birthplace of Richard Cole and his wife, Ann, is clouded with uncertainty. Claims have been made they were born in Pennsylvania. They lived (and may have been born in) Culpeper County, Virginia, before coming to Woodford County—probably prior to 1783. The tavern he owned, Black Horse Tavern on the old Frankfort-Lexington Road, is being restored.

Ann Hubbard Cole died February 11, 1795 at 65 years of age. Hers is the oldest grave marker in the cemetery.

(We solicit information and pictures of grave markers of the family. Photos must be 8"x10" black and white glossy if they are to be printed.)

Annual Meeting, Reunion Festival: All Together

The Annual Meeting, on September 17, was held in conjunction with the City of Kearney's annual James Days Festival and the Frank and Jesse James Pistol Shooting Competition. Members attended a splendid barbeque held in their honor; saw the United Rodeo Championship Finals, and parade; visited an exhibit of Western art by Board Member George Warfel and saw the winner of the Pistol Competition shoot the flame from a candle. In addition, they visited a crafts fair, took tours, and attended parties.

They had such a good time, the Board voted to hold both the Annual Meeting and the James Family Reunion during the weekend of the James Days Festival, as they felt those coming to the Reunion would like to have the opportunity to attend these festivities, too. The tentative dates are the third weekend in September, 1983.

Jesse James at Christmas ...

Above all, Jesse James was a devoted husband and father to his wife, Zee, and the children, Jesse Edwards and Mary. An account of the family's Christmas in 1881 indicates the importance and faith he placed in family affairs.

The Tom Howards, as they were known in St. Joseph, Missouri, moved on Christmas Eve to a house at 1318 Lafayette Street and after unpacking their belongings, prepared for Christmas.

Jesse went to the Presbyterian Church where a Christmas tree party for the children was being prepared. Apparently he was to be one of several Santas who would distribute toys and candy to little boys and girls who had been "good". Instead, he borrowed one of the suits and took it home.

Then, after the children had been sent to bed he donned the suit and whiskers and he and Zee filled the pack with presents and awoke the youngsters. Like all young children (Jesse was 6, Mary nearly 3) meeting Santa, they were awed and thrilled. Little Jesse (known as Tim Howard in St. Joe) and Mary said they had indeed been good during the year and deserved presents from Santa. They whooped with delight as he took the presents from his sack. Then, "Tim" began exploring the bag, hoping to find yet another toy. He stopped with a crestfallen expression:

"You're not Santa Claus; you're just my Pa!"

He had felt one of Jesse's pistols through the sack.

Jesse and Zee tried to comfort the heart-stricken little boy by telling him that Santa was so busy that year, they had helped him distribute presents; but, that next year, he would be certain to come himself.

Mollified, the children took their gifts and went to bed after promising to be good all of the next year. (Jesse James was killed April 3, 1882. This was the family's last Christmas together.)

James Farm Sales Items

BOOKS

- (1) *Jesse James Was His Name* by William Settle \$7.50
- (2) *Background of a Bandit* by Joan Beamis & William E. Pullen (genealogy) \$6.00
- (3) *Goodbye Jesse James* (collection of newspaper articles) \$4.50
- (4) *40 Years of History at the James Farm* by Martin McGrane \$4.50
- (5) *Jesse James: The Making of a Legend* by Larry C. Bradley \$10.00
- (6) *Jesse James and Bill Ryan at Nashville* by Ted Yeatman \$3.00

POSTERS

- (1) Missouri "Wanted" Poster \$1.00
- (2) Kentucky "Wanted" Poster \$1.00
- (3) Minnesota "Wanted" Poster \$1.00
- (4) Map (shows sites of robberies) ... \$1.00

POSTCARDS

- (1) Old Grave Site
- (2) New Grave Site
- (3) 1885—Family Members in James Yard
- (4) Frank Standing By Gate
- (5) James Farm, Kearney
- (6) Jesse's Home, St. Joseph
- (3 for \$1.00)

MISCELLANEOUS

- (1) First Day Covers (issued on the Centennial of Jesse's death and burial — set of two) \$3.50
- (2) T-Shirts (children and adult sizes) \$8.00

All prices listed above include postage. Please make checks or money orders to "James Farm Fund". (Regular, Family, Supporting, and Benefactor Members Receive 10% Discount).

RETURN TO:

"FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM"

Route 2 • Box 236
Kearney, Missouri 64060

James Genealogy Published

We receive frequent inquiries regarding the genealogy of Frank and Jesse James. When we do, we refer them to the only published genealogy of the family: *Background of a Bandit* by Joan M. Beamis and William E. Pullen. It traces the families of the Rev. Robert Sallee James, and Zerelda E. Cole, their father and mother.

The first paternal ancestor of Robert James so far definitely identified is William James of Hanover County, Virginia. He married Mary Hinds on July 15, 1774. He subsequently moved to Goochland County, on Lickinghole Creek and owned land in Goochland, Louisa and Fluvanna Counties. He died in 1805. Nothing, so far, seems to be known of his parents or his wife and the Hinds family. Robert James' family also included Mims, Poor, and Woodson. Other families are Varble, Williams, West, Hite, Woodward, and Dunn.

Zerelda Cole's line begins in the book with John Cole who died in Culpeper, Virginia in 1757, her great-grandfather, and Anthony Lindsay, 1736-1808, her maternal great-grandfather. Many family names are mentioned, including Reynolds, Hines, Sparks, Roberts, Hyatt, Graves, Jett, Cropper, Yates, Lewis, Nicholson, Maret, Hall, Christenberry, Cane, Frazee, Applegate, Landrum, and Calvert.

Information on the progenitors of Jameses and Coles is sought.

Copies of the book can be obtained from the Farm by sending a check made payable to the "James Farm Fund" for \$6.00 per copy.

We would like to obtain copies of other relevant published genealogies so we can print information about them so our readers can obtain them, also.

Please send all material to the James Farm, Route 2 Box 236, Kearney, Missouri 64060.

Word has been received that Lawrence W. Barr, of Overland Park, Kansas, grandson of Jesse James, and Board Member of the Friends, has been made a "Kentucky Colonel". Congratulations, "Colonel" Barr!

Mr. Barr was also featured in a long article in the *Sun Newspaper*, Overland Park, Ks.

FRIENDS CHRISTMAS GIFT

For persons wishing to give a gift at Christmas that will last year long, we suggest a membership in the Friends of the James Farm. All recipients will receive a gift card with your name, and their membership card entitling them to free admission to the Farm. Individual and Family memberships receive a lovely print of the James Cabin by artist Tom Beard; and, in addition, a beautiful print of Jesse James by western artist George Warfel. You, as donor, will also receive one of the Warfel prints.

All Individual and Family members will also receive a handsome membership certificate. All members will receive the newsletter throughout the year and invitations to special events.

JAMES HISTORIC SITES —

Member Jewell James informs us that the building that housed the Southern Bank of Kentucky which was robbed March 20, 1868 by the James-Younger gang has been purchased by Gran Clark of that city who is now restoring it. Mr. Clark plans to open the two rooms where the robbery took place to the public. We will keep you informed as to the progress of the restoration.

The old smokehouse at the James Farm was restored last summer, and the white board fence was installed around the house and lot as originally. We are now restoring the old slave quarters at the rear of the house lot.

New post card views have been taken of the cabin and when they are published we will send a set to each member of the Friends.

Yes, I wish to join the Friends of the James Farm

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Individual \$20.00 per year
- Family \$30.00 per year
- Student \$15.00 per year
- Supporting \$50.00 per year
- Benefactor \$100.00 or more per year
- Corporate \$100.00 or more per year

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM)

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Kearney, MO 64060