

# JAMES FARM JOURNAL

Newsletter of  
"FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM"



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SEPTEMBER — 1984

## Annual Meeting, Reunion, Pistol Shoot, All on September 22nd!!

For the first time, the annual meeting of the Friends of the James Farm, the annual Reunion of the James and allied families, and the Frank & Jesse James Pistol Shooting Contest will all be held the same day, Saturday, September 22, 1984.

The program will be attuned to the interests of our members and will include a paper by the author of one of the best known genealogical guides to the National Archives; descriptions of nights spent in the old cabin by "ghost busters", excerpts from a modern musical history of Quantrill's Raiders, tours of the old house and Claybrook, the home of Mary James Barr, Jesse's only daughter, a barbeque picnic supper and the shooting contest. Besides the Frank & Jesse James shooting contests, we will have the first Anna James event.

In Kearney, there will be the exciting finals of the United Rodeo Association of America, where cowboys who have been competing all summer, try for the grand prizes; a large western street parade, a crafts fair; variety shows; 5 and 10K runs and lots of other things to do.

Programs for our events and registration forms are below.

### Frank & Jesse James Pistol Shooting Contest

In 1982, we began our annual Frank and Jesse James Pistol shooting contest. Shooters with vintage weapons or reproductions fired at targets copied from one Frank used at the farm in 1904. Their scores were compared with his and prizes given to the winner. Other targets consisted of a bird's head and a candle flame at which shooters tried to repeat feats accomplished by Jesse.

Last year Dave Bruegger of Hollywood, California, generously provided prizes and volunteered his time and experience in managing the contests, for which we express our appreciation. Dave also worked out the scoring pattern we use.

This year, for women we will add the "Anna James Contest". Anna, wife of Frank James, used to shoot at tin cans on fence posts. We encourage female shooters to show their stuff! Rules are listed below, together with registration fees and prizes.

Prizes will be as follows: Frank James Contest, \$25.00; Jesse James Contest, \$25.00; and Anna James Contest, \$25.00.

#### RULES FOR FRANK JAMES COMPETITION

Each contestant will fire 18 shots at a paper target reproduced from the actual target made by Frank James and fired at by him on August 29, 1904. Scores will be computed by assessing points for hits in concentric rings.

Shots will be fired from a standing position 30 feet from the target. Fixed sights and grips only will be permitted. No rests or supports will be permitted.

The following types of pistols will be permitted: (or reproductions), with fixed sights only:

Colt "Navy", Model 1851, .36 caliber percussion revolver;

Colt "Army", Model 1860, .44 caliber percussion revolver;

or pistols of a similar nature.

Weapons will be loaded at the firing line only. All weapons will be inspected before, after loading and after firing.

Black powder or pyrodex must be used. Cylinders must be greased to prevent misfire.

Ties will be shot off.

Limit: 10 Contestants

Prize: \$25.00

### Where to Stay . . .

Several motels and one outstanding resort hotel are located within a few miles of Kearney. They are listed below with phone numbers. National chain motels can be reached using the toll-free "800" number. All other chains are in Kansas City, 20 miles south.

Liberty, Missouri, on I-35, 10 miles south:

Hallmark Best Western Inn

816-781-8771; 1-800-528-1234

Motel Super 8

816-781-9400; 1-800-843-1991

Excelsior Springs, Mo., 6 miles southeast

Elms Resort Hotel, 816-637-2142

Monterrey Motel, 816-637-2176

For Camping —

Watkins Mill State Park, 3 miles east

Phone 816-296-3387

### Supper Is Served!!!

For those who want it, we will have a picnic supper consisting of a delicious combination barbeque sandwich (ham and beef), cole slaw, baked beans and a drink, all for \$5.00 per person. The food will be catered by the Center-ville Junction Barbeque in Kearney — and it is good!

Please check on the registration form if you want the supper. Remember: \$5.00 each. (Of course, you can bring your own picnic if you wish.)

#### RULES FOR JESSE JAMES PISTOL COMPETITION

Each contestant will fire 6 shots as follows:

(a) Three shots will be fired, using the right hand at a candle flame at a distance of 30 feet. (The juncture of the flame with the candle will be the center of the bull's eye on a drawing behind the candle if the actual flame is not extinguished). Points will be assessed for hits in concentric rings from the center.

(b) Three shots with the left hand as above. All shots must be fired from a standing position using fixed sights and grips only. No rests or supports will be permitted.

The following types of pistols will be used: Smith & Wesson .45 caliber, Model 1875; Colt .45 caliber, Model 1873; pistols of a similar nature, or pistols listed for Frank James Competition.

Extinguishing the candle flame without touching the body of the candle will constitute the winner. Ties will be shot off by repeating the contest.

Limit: 10 Contestants

Prize: \$25.00

#### REGISTRATION FORM

JAMES REUNION & FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM

#### PISTOL SHOOTING CONTESTS REGISTRATION

September 22, 1984

**RULES FOR ANNA JAMES PISTOL SHOOTING**  
(Women Only)

Each contestant will fire 6 shots at a #2 tin can placed on a hay bale, from a distance of 30 feet. Scores will be computed by assessing points for hits on the can.

Shots will be fired from a standing position 30 feet from the target. Fixed sights and grips only will be permitted. No rest or supports will be permitted. Shooters may use either or both hands while shooting.

The following types of firearms will be used: .38 Caliber revolvers or smaller; made prior to 1900, or replica.

Weapons will be loaded at the firing line only. All weapons will be inspected before loading and after firing.

Ties will be shot off.

Limit: 10 Contestants

Prize: \$25.00

A bar of iron which is worth but \$5.00 becomes worth \$250,000 when made into watch springs.

Canton Press, June 13, 1872

**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 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 (before restoration)
  - (6) Jesse's Home, St. Joseph
  - (7) James Farm, Kearney (front view restored)
  - (8) James Cabin, Kearney (after restoration)
  - (9) Jesse James
- (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).

**PROGRAM**

**Saturday, September 22, 1984**

**JAMES FARM • KEARNEY, MISSOURI**

- 2:00 P.M. Welcome.
- 2:05 P.M. Business Meeting, Friends of the James Farm
- 2:30 P.M. "Researching Your Family Tree"  
Richard Pence, author of *Researching Your Family Tree* and *The History of the Pence Family*
- 3:15 P.M. "January 25 — My night in the James Cabin" by Richard Crowe; Ghost Hunter, Chicago, Ill. "My Night Alone in the James Cabin" by Philip Shreffler, St. Louis, Mo.
- 4:15 P.M. Excerpts from a Musical History of Quantrill's Raiders — Chris Edwards, Columbia, Mo.
- 5:00 P.M. Barbeque
- 5:00 to 6:30 P.M. Frank, Jesse James and Anna James Pistol Shooting Contests

**You Are Invited . . .  
Be Sure and Attend!**

**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)**

RETURN TO:

Non-Profit