



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a more active time now that the pandemic reaction era is mostly over.

Our first two shoots went well and have added to our treasury. The third shoot is on September third and a report will follow in the next Journal.

After the first shoot, James Country Mercantile in Liberty gave us a very good price on a replica Colt 1872 cartridge conversion of a muzzle loading 1851 Navy to a .45 Colt caliber cartridge revolver the way they were historically converted before the advent of the 1873 single action army. That is the gun of all the western movies. James Country Mercantile then handled the legal transfer without the usual charge. We raffled the gun off with thirty-two \$25.00 tickets. With limited tickets the odds were good and the friends made \$300.00 out of it! We hope to do more of these. The lucky winner was Raymond McElwee.

The crown jewel of the summer was our bus tour of the locations of the Pinkerton raid on the James farm. The tour was preceded by an excellent slide presentation by Michelle Pollard in the museum theater. We then boarded the bus and Scott Cole took over showing us many historical sites including the house where Jesse got married. It has new siding and has been added to but it is the same house. Scott's tour showed the rail line that the Pinkertons came and left on and explained that line connected to the first bridge over the Missouri river in Kansas City which caused Kansas City to become the dominant city in western Missouri instead of St Joseph. We saw the route of the raiders plus locations of houses and landowner properties as well as the location of historical cemeteries and the James family church. Scott's knowledge of the area, the people and its history is amazing. **Bryan Ivlow**



BY BRYAN IVLOW



The auctioned firearm

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EVERYBODY'S INTERESTED IN JESSE JAMES!

The sites related to the James story continue to receive well earned praise and positive publicity.

On 3 June 2022, Kansas City's Fox 4 Zip Trips rated the Jesse James Birthplace top of its list of must see stops in Kearney!

And, as we mentioned in the last issue, the Jesse James Birthplace was visited in May by J. D. Huitt, a local history teacher and presenter on the YouTube channel, The History Underground. Since then, Mr. Huitt has shared three interesting videos about James sites in the area, including those in Kearney, Liberty, Independence, Richmond and St. Joseph. Be sure to check them out if you haven't already done so!



THE JAMES-YOUNGER GANG DEFEATED

Unfortunately, the planned James-Younger Gang Annual Conference has been cancelled due to lack of numbers. This is obviously very sad news and we sincerely hope that the Gang will be able to enjoy a full program next year.

Visits had been scheduled to the Jesse James Birthplace and Museum, the Excelsior Springs Museum and archives, the Civil War battlefield in Lexington, and the Historic Watkins Mill and State Park.

All these sites remain open and a visit is highly recommended!



Photos from respective facebook pages

FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM SHOOT

6 AUGUST 2022



The August shoot went very well.

We had nineteen shooters, taking into account the fact that some shooters shot twice in two different categories.

The temperature was in the high nineties and was terrible. Fortunately, we were all tough enough to live through it!

After the shoot, several shooters bought multiple revolver raffle tickets so we reached our target of thirty-two tickets sold. The draw was held and won by Raymond McElwee.

THE ANNA JAMES WINNERS OF CARTRIDGE SHOOT:

First place: Bailee Verban
Second place: Deane Schidmer

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF GENERAL SHOOT

First place: Stewart Barber
Second place: Caleb Blackwell
Third place: Gary Blackwell

THE ANNA JAMES WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET SHOOT:

First place: Bailee Verban
Second place: Deane Schidmer

THE CAP & BALL WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

First place: Caleb Blackwell
Second place: Stewart Barber
Third place: Gary Blackwell

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TARGET:

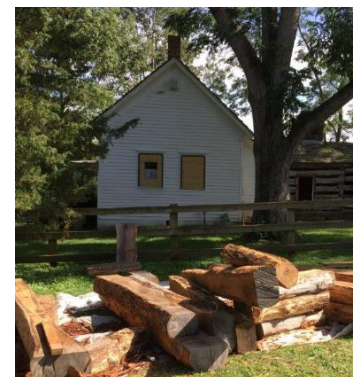
First place: Gary Blackwell
Tied Second place: Caleb Blackwell
Third place: Wayne Leatherby

THE CARTRIDGE REVOLVER WINNERS OF THE GENERAL SHOOT:

First place: Caleb Blackwell
Second place: Gary Blackwell
Third place: Wayne Leatherby

In the next issue...

**Details of the recent
restoration work
carried out on the
old James cabin.**



“THE BOLDEST ROBBERY OF THE SEASON”

CASS COUNTY, DECEMBER 1873.

In one of his numerous letters, Jesse James said, “Neither one of us [Frank or himself] was in Cass county at the time mentioned, nor at any time within the past year. I am as guiltless of this Cass county store robbery as a child unborn, and knew nothing whatever of it until I saw it in the newspapers.”¹

The robbery of a country store in Cass County, alongside the border with Kansas, may not appear in many of the books on Jesse but was carried in newspapers in St. Joseph, Fort Scott, Kansas, Sedalia, St. Louis, Jefferson City and other places. The earliest available account of the robbery, four days after it occurred, spoke of the robbery as being “one of the boldest, coolest and most remarkable robberies ever perpetrated, even in the crime paradise of the great Southwest.”²

The robbery took place on Friday, 5 December 1873, a half-mile from the Missouri-Kansas border and twenty-one miles from Harrisonville, Cass’s county seat. The target of the robbery was a store owned by Bryant and Chandler, located at a crossroads in a farming community. On that fateful evening, Mr. Bryant was alone in the store when two mounted strangers rode up, dismounted and entered the store. They immediately struck up a conversation with Bryant and, purchasing a woollen scarf before catching Bryant off guard, they both drew their revolvers and presented them at his head, demanding his money. “Mr. Bryant, we want all your available cash. We must have it or take something you value still more dear. So shell out without noise or delay.”

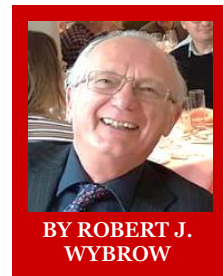
“But I will not submit----”

“Yes, you will,” he was told. Not acceding to their unpleasant request, they bound him with the scarf, blindfolded him, and took around \$400 from his pockets, before ransacking the store for whatever they fancied, possibly valued at around \$50.

At this point a local farmer entered the store and, like Bryant, he was bound, blindfolded and robbed. Two more potential customers/prisoners came in, actually brothers, and were similarly treated, except that one of them, Isaac Burson, attempted to escape and was brought to his knees with a bullet through his hip. Wounded, he was brought back into the store, bound and blindfolded. Finally, two more entered separately, taking the robbers’ tally to six men. To this can be added a boy aged about fourteen who was normally a clerk in the store but had been in Kansas City. After searching him and relieving him of his wallet, knife, several pieces of twine, a buckle, a few nails and some papers, the robbers made use of him by getting him to help them with their plundering of the store. One of the men, an Irishman, was the butt of the robbers’ jokes, particularly when he said, in his brogue, all that he had on him was “forty cints.” A teacher, J. W. Miller, was given the useful advice to stop at home and avoid such trouble, and was relieved of \$50 in cash, a silver watch, pocket knife and cape. Burson was examined to check his injuries and, when he objected to them taking his pocket book, was told he should “not be thinking about a lot of d—d old papers.”

Carrying their loot – gloves, handkerchiefs, clothing, cigars, tobacco and whiskey – the robbers herded their prisoners outside and while one brought up their horses, the other guarded the men. The latter robber warned his prisoners that he would be watching them for fifteen minutes while his comrade rode away, also demanding they remained there for two hours. The men then rode away, taking Burson’s horse. The boy unloosed himself and untied the others. Pursuit traced the robbers to about nine miles from Fort Scott but here they were lost, though it was supposed they were heading for the Indian Territory.

The two were described as “about twenty-five years old, intelligent and rather good looking. One had sandy whiskers, light hair and eyes and is about six feet tall. The other is shorter and has dark hair, moustaches and imperial. One had a chinchilla and the other had a soldier’s overcoat. Both had black hats.” A reward of \$500 was offered for apprehension of the thieves and the return of the stolen horse.³ Later, a newspaper ended its story



BY ROBERT J. WYBROW

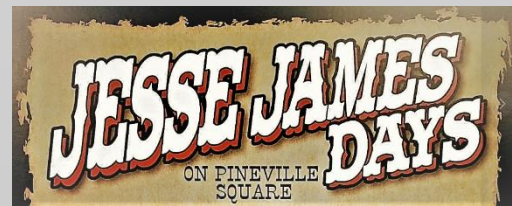
of the robbery with, "It is expected that the Governor will offer a large reward for the capture or extermination of this desperate band of thieves, who have so long been a curse and a disgrace to Western Missouri."⁴

Newspapers began to suggest that the robbers were "presumed to be the Younger Brothers," and had passed near Appleton in St. Clair County.⁵ By this time the pursuers numbered forty or fifty and they were joined by A. F. Wyckoff, Thomas W. Cobb and Henry W. Cotton and the group headed towards Monegaw Springs, well-known to the Youngers, where the party divided, some making for Colonel Simm's Hotel and others camping at the foot of a hill. There are no details as to the sizes of the two parties, but two (or four) of them were captured by five outlaws: "the two Younger brothers, Morrow, Kirkpatrick and one stranger," all "armed with shotguns, besides being well supplied with side arms and well mounted." Being disarmed, the prisoners were held until Monday, 8 December.⁶

Three of the robbers were later given as "John and Robert Younger and Frank James, the late Cass county robbers."⁷ The "Morrow" may have been Joseph Morrow, from Chalk Level township, who had noticed a party of six riders approaching, calling on him to halt, but he spurred his horse and rode off. The group then met a friend of the Youngers and telling him they were hunting the Youngers for a stolen horse from Clay County, the news soon reached the Youngers. The captured pursuers were taken to Mr. Wilson's hotel, where a breakfast was ordered for them. After breakfast one of the Youngers made them aware of their predicament: "Now, gentlemen, we have you in our possession, and can do with you as we wish; and if you (the hunting party) had me and my brothers in your power, beyond a doubt you would kill every one of us. But we are men – men possessing too much brave blood to be guilty of such butchery." They were then given a history lesson:

"There were certain parties whose political views were different from theirs at the breaking out of the war in 1861, and certain men of that party murdered their dear old father, who, at that time, was living in Jackson county, Missouri, a peaceable citizen, and all for the sake of robbing him of a few hundred dollars in cash. The most damnable act being to strip their widowed mother of all stock and provisions of every kind; burning his house over her head, thus turning her penniless out in the cold storms of winter – the snow six inches deep – and her and her younger children did not have enough clothes to protect them from the wintry blasts. She was thus compelled to call upon friend and stranger for assistance – for clothes enough to keep her little children from freezing. She drove from place to place, and finally brought to an untimely

JESSE JAMES DAYS PINEVILLE, MISSOURI.



The Jesse James Days are celebrated each year in August on the town square in Pineville, Missouri. In 1938, the movie 'Jesse James', starring Tyrone Power as Jesse and Henry Fonda as Frank, was filmed there due to the fact the town had not changed much since the 1880s. The Old McDonald County courthouse served as a stand in for the courthouse at Liberty.

'Jesse James' was the third highest grossing movie of 1939 and people became so familiar with the location that photos of the buildings used for the film often appear at auction claiming to be the real homes of the famous outlaws.

The Pineville Jesse James Days include concerts, a Jesse James pageant, carnival rides and boardwalk games.



Info and photo from the event Facebook page

THE LAST DAYS OF FRANK AND JESSE JAMES FESTIVAL

Springfield, Tennessee hosted another successful festival on 27 August 2022.

The town was used during the filming of the movie, *The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James*.

The Festival included a bank robbery re-enactment, live music, family entertainment and a Western Style Shoot Out at High Noon!



SADDLE UP FOR THE DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS

A whole range of events were once again planned for this year's Defeat of Jesse James Days in Northfield, Minnesota!

Running between 7 and 12 September, the event included a Memorial for cashier, Joseph Lee Heywood, a rodeo, carnival, car show, live music and, of course, the spectacular bank robbery re-enactment!



Info and photo from the event Facebook page

grave, caused by exposure and the wretched treatment she received at the hands of the Federals. Humanity shuddered at the thought!

"There are a few of the d---d party here who had a hand in that hellish act, and you are still trying to implicate me and my brothers in every crime committed in Missouri, or any other State. Now, gentlemen, we set you at liberty; go to your homes and stay there. We want to stay the hand of blood, if possible, but if we can't be permitted to live as peaceable citizens, the blame will rest upon other men's shoulders, and not upon ours. This we disdain. You know that my brother, Cole Younger, was accused of being one of the party who robbed or had a hand in the robbery of the railroad in Iowa, which was committed some time ago. At that time I and my brother were in St. Clair county, Missouri. This we can prove by the very best citizens of the county – men whose word is always acceptable. When a certain party found out that we could prove our innocence in regard to the Iowa railroad robbery, then we were horse thieves – insisting that we had stolen horses. As we can prove a good title to every horse we have had in our possession since the war, the d—d fool party, who differs with us politically, has called upon Governor Woodson, of Missouri, to hunt us out of St. Clair county, as if we were thieves and robbers. But I do hope that Governor Woodson has too much intelligence to believe any such Radical lies, told by men whose hands are still red with the blood of our innocent old father, who was most brutally murdered during the war. They committed this and other damnable acts, and try to conceal their crimes by shouting 'murder' at the back of other people. And why? They would rejoice in the destruction of me and my brothers simply because they fear some vengeance at OUR hands – a just retribution. This we also disdain; and all we pray for us to be let a lone, to enjoy ourselves in peace. The war is long since past, and we now know there is a just God who will punish the crimes of all wrong-doers with him we are willing to let the matter rest.

"Now mount your horses, gentlemen, and go back to Appleton City and stay *there*. We don't want to hurt you, and don't drive us to kill any of you, for such is a very unpleasant task. We wish you a safe and pleasant journey home, but under no circumstances must you come back. Good-bye."

The article ended with an editorial reading very much like it had been written by John Newman Edwards, apologist for the James and Younger boys: "If the Younger brothers have committed any crime, act the part of gentlemen, and show them that you esteem them as such. Summon them before a

tribunal of justice in the usual way, but don't hunt them as if they were a lot of dogs. We will guarantee to say that if they were *summoned* before the Court they would come without being sent for. But by this way of *hunting* them down, somebody is going to get hurt, and then the world can rejoice in being rid of one big fool."⁸

A few days later, another report 'cleared' the Youngers of involvement in the store robbery. A resident of the area, Henry Demming, had had two horses stolen on the night of the robbery, and, with neighbours, set off on the track of the thieves toward the Indian Territory. They were later joined by another posse and there divided into two groups, one riding east into Missouri, the remainder heading southward. The next day, the Demming's horses were found eleven miles from Baxter Springs in Cherokee County, Kansas, in its southeast corner. The horses had been abandoned "by two men answering in every way the description of the store robbers." Further enquiries led Demming to believe that his horses had been stolen by an organised gang of horse thieves, operating from southern Missouri into the Indian Territory; "and that the Youngers were not in the country, as far as they could hear or understand."⁹

There then occurred a spat in the newspaper industry between two rival publications, *The State Journal* and the St. Louis *Dispatch*. The former started out by saying, "According to the St. Louis *Dispatch* there never was a set of men so much abused and unjustly lied on as Arthur McCoy, the James and the Youngers. Of not one in all the long catalogue of robberies and murders they were charged with were they guilty. The *Dispatch's* sketches of them were therefore appropriately denominated Major Edwards' Book of Martyrs, of which, in view of the reports charging them with the recent Cass county robberies, he will have to bring out a supplement."¹⁰

Just a week later, another editorial appeared attacking the *Dispatch*: "Some time since, there appeared a lengthy and well written article in the St. Louis *Dispatch*, emphatically vindicating Arthur McCoy, the James and the Youngers from the charges against them of robbing certain banks, the Iowa train, etc. The article asserted that with the close of the war they abandoned their bloody profession and lived a life of retirement and peace, and justified the savage fierceness with which they had pursued their trade of blood, by recounting alleged wrongs, at the beginning of the war, upon their households. But recent developments, respecting a late robbery in Cass county, is tending very much to discredit the *Dispatch's* story. At least the crime of the robbing referred to is traced almost conclusively to the door of the Youngers, at Monegaw Springs, in St. Clair county."¹¹

1. *Nodaway Democrat*, Maryville, Missouri, January 22, 1874.
2. *Fort Scott Monitor*, Kansas, December 9, 1873. Some newspapers gave the site of the robbery as being near Broseley but that was a hamlet in Butler County, founded in 1915, to the far south and east of Missouri, hundreds of miles away from Cass County; and even the post office address was given as "Broseley, Cass county, Mo." Quite a mystery.
3. *Fort Scott Monitor*, Kansas, December 9, 1873; *The Sedalia Democrat*, Missouri, December 10, 1873; *The St. Louis Republican*, Missouri, December 11, 1873; *Fair Play*, St. Genevieve, Missouri, December 18, 1873.
4. *The Kansas City Times*, Missouri, December 12, 1873.
5. *The Sedalia Democrat*, Missouri, December 10, 1873.
6. *The St. Louis Republican*, Missouri, December 11, 1873; *The Kansas City Times*, Missouri, December 12, 1873. The newspapers disagree as to how many of the pursuers were captured – two or four. Ben Morrow was mentioned in Dick Liddil's confession a number of times, when Liddil met Jesse James at Morrow's farm. No Kirkpatrick or Kilpatrick appears in any of the accounts of the gang's robberies, but it may have been a member's alias.
7. *The Sedalia Democrat*, Missouri, December 13, 1873.
8. *The Kansas City Times*, Missouri, December 12, 1873.
9. *The Sedalia Democrat*, Missouri, December 17, 1873.
10. *The State Journal*, Jefferson Missouri, December 19, 1873. The offending *Dispatch* article appeared on November 22, 1873.
11. *The State Journal*, Jefferson Missouri, December 26, 1873.

As always, for Liz.

PRESENTATION AT THE JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE

On 13 August, I gave a presentation at the Jesse James Birthplace on the bombing of the James Farm on 26 January 1875...

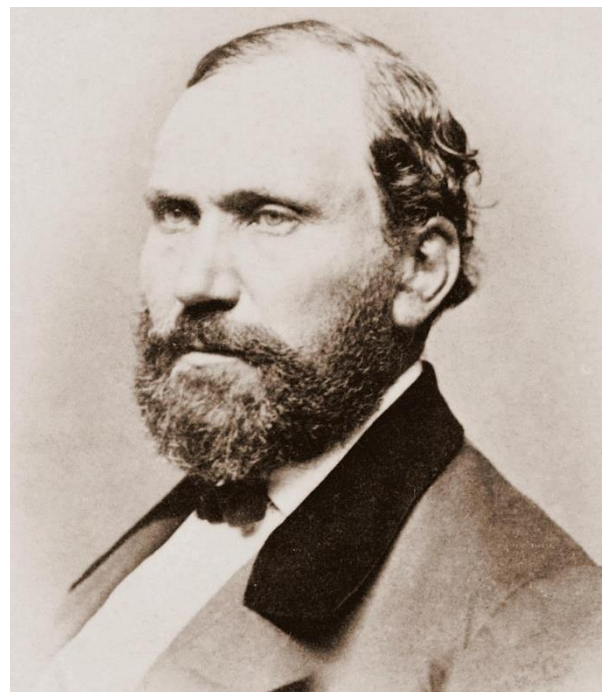
By the year of 1874, the James-Younger Gang was well-known and that year saw more robberies attributed to them than any other. Lawlessness, and Missouri's apparent tolerance of it, was high on the political agenda and many hoped that the Chicago-based Pinkerton Detective Agency could bring some order to the state. In fact, they did little to help the situation.

On 10 March 1874, Pinkerton detective Joseph Whicher arrived in Liberty, Mo., with a plan that could only be described as foolhardy. He intended to walk up to the James Farm, acquire a job as a farm hand and single-handedly capture the James brothers. Everyone he spoke to, including Sheriff Patton, told him his plan was ridiculous – the James' and Samuel's were not in the habit of hiring strangers and the family would immediately recognize Whicher as a detective. Instead, Patton suggested Whicher find a job at a neighboring farm and build up his case from there but the detective was having none of it and was last seen walking towards the James Farm. He was discovered the next morning, dead on a road.

A week later, a similar fate awaited Detective Lull when he came across two of the Younger brothers and engaged them in a fight now known as the Roscoe battle.

In the middle of this melee of robbery and murder, Jesse James married his cousin, Zerelda Mimms – not in Mexico or under a bridge in the middle of nowhere at the home of Zee's sister in Kearney, just a few miles from his birthplace.

Allan Pinkerton must have been spitting feathers! And counting his many losses – money, detectives and reputation. With all of that no doubt in mind, he set in motion a plan actually suggested by Sheriff Patton and placed Detective Jack Ladd in the neighboring farm of Daniel Askew. Pinkerton had been developing an idea that criminals worked to patterns and knew that, after robberies, most reports stated the culprits headed back into Clay county. Jesse had got married nearby. Pinkerton knew the James' would come home eventually and when they did, Pinkerton just needed to be ready for them. He prepared his



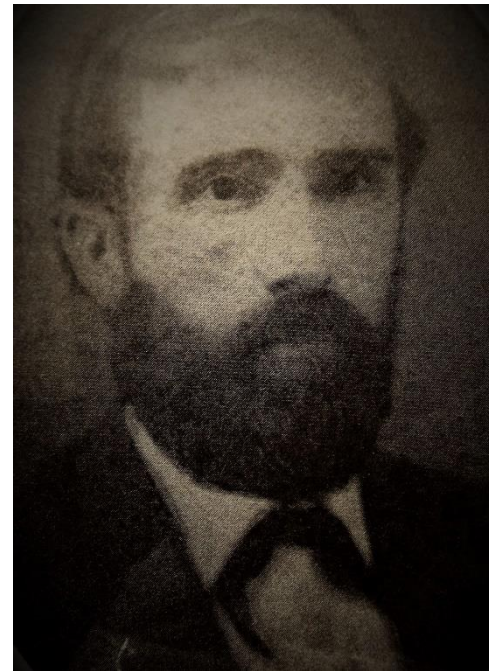
Allan Pinkerton wrote to George Bangs at his New York office that the Clay county business was hitting him hard and that he couldn't believe how much effort he was having to put in to catch two or three men.

own operatives and set up arrangements with the railroad to transport them and the large amount of ammunition he was having agent, Robert Linden, collect from the St. Louis Arsenal. He had men in the US postal service scan mail in and out of the James Farm and set about finding a local man who could coordinate efforts on the ground. He found such a man in Liberty lawyer, Samuel Hardwicke.

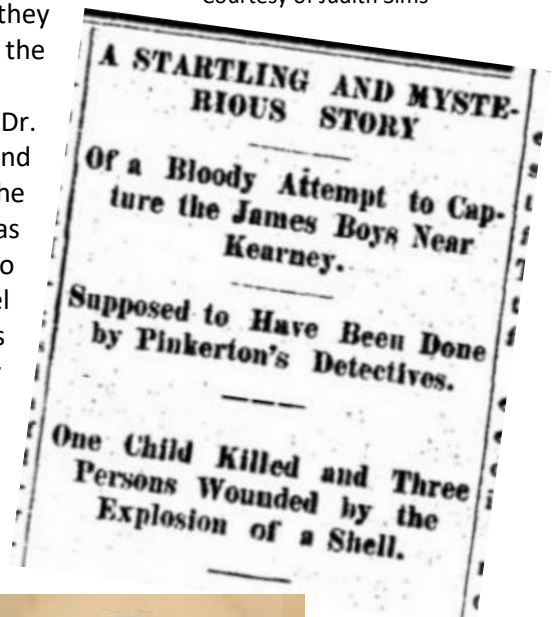
From the secret correspondence unearthed by the great Ted Yeatmen and Fred Egloff, we know that Hardwicke was heavily involved in Pinkerton's plans. It was suggested that he would be on site when officers attempted the arrest of the brothers, counting men back onto the special train. He was trusted to recruit a local surgeon and was aware of Pinkerton's primary intention – to “completely destroy the house. Blot it from the face from the earth.” It seemed unnecessary, vindictive even, but harked back, perhaps, to the days of the war when houses were burned to staunch support for Missouri guerrillas. Pinkerton was no doubt hoping to create a world where there was no safe Castle James for the brothers to come back to.

At 5pm on January 25, 1875, Jack Ladd sent word that the James' were home. At around 7.30pm a special train stopped north of Kearney and detectives were brought to the James Farm by local guides hand picked by Samuel Hardwicke. At 12.30am, without warning, they started work on Allan Pinkerton's primary aim and set light to the house.

The family and servants were woken by voices outside. Dr. Samuel, realizing the house was on fire, went outside and extinguished the flames with his bare hands. Returning to the house, he noticed that debris, meant to ignite the interior was strewn across the kitchen floor. Mrs. Samuel was attempting to push a large device into the fireplace but was failing. Dr. Samuel continued the endeavor but the device soon exploded. Much has been written about the device – that it was meant to merely illuminate the interior or smoke the family out – but Ambrose noticed an oily liquid coming out of it, suggesting it was Greek fire – a device Pinkerton had told Hardwicke was being brought from the Arsenal to use on a family home. Greek fire consisted of two pieces of metal held together to form a sphere. A fuse burned hot and would eventually cause the sphere to explode, scattering the combustible liquid held within it over a large area and resulting in a huge fire. Jesse later called it a 'mistle of war' and it must have felt like that in the confines of the family kitchen, where all the family and servants had gathered. The explosion was heard two miles away, the force knocked Ambrose out of the door, and debris was shot in all directions. The first responders, neighbors, many of whom were family, and four attending doctors, found carnage on their arrival. Several had been wounded but none as severe as Mrs. Samuel and her eight year old son, Archie. Mrs. Samuel's arm was badly injured, amputation



Samuel Hardwicke
Courtesy of Judith Sims



Archie Peyton Samuel
and part of the bomb that killed him.



was required, and Archie had a large piece of shrapnel in his abdomen that proved fatal.

The next morning, a jury, including Mrs. Samuel's brother, Jesse Cole, and her neighbor, Daniel Askew, found that Archie had been murdered by unknown persons. As the first reporters arrived, a funeral was held for him.

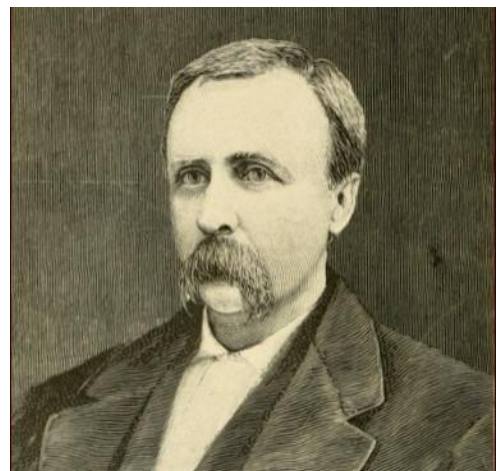
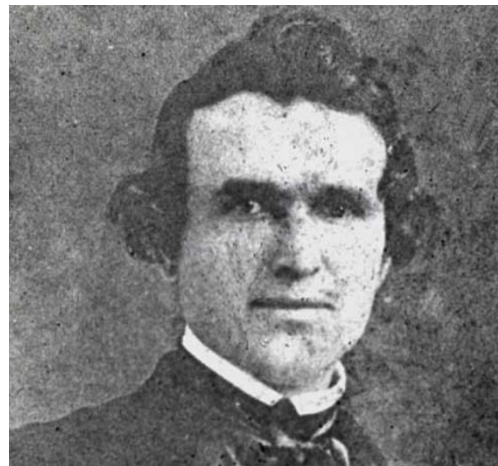
Were the James brothers home? Mrs. Samuel said, "Do you think that those boys would have looked upon their poor old mother with her arm all shattered and covered with blood, and their little brother... and nobody killed? No sir! They might have been killed, but certainly somebody would have been." She had a point, but rumors suggested there had been a fight. Locals had heard gunfire and there was blood in the snow and bullet holes in the east side fence. Rumors also suggested that the raid had been successful, that the James brothers had been arrested and the population waited patiently for news to that effect from Chicago. But no such news came and Sheriff Groom was forced to investigate alternative rumors – that the James' had been wounded and were hiding nearby; that they had escaped using subterranean passageways; that they had stolen a horse and made their escape. A few arrests were made but nothing came of it. One by one the rumors were proved false and it became clear that, although the James' may well have been at the house at 5pm, they had left by midnight.

In February, George Caleb Bingham was sent to investigate the affair and found that only a full trial would be able to ascertain who was involved and what parts they had played. He did not think there had been a fight – the blood was not enough to suggest a gunshot wound and the bullet holes in the fence were historic. The gunfire could be explained by two factions of officers, arriving in different directions, firing on each other, and he found no credible evidence that the James' had been in the area since the previous April, which tied in with Jesse and Zee's wedding. In March, the Clay county Grand Jury found indictments against Allan Pinkerton, Robert Linden, Jack Ladd and five other men who were to them unknown. It wasn't enough for Jesse James.

In March of 1875, Jesse penned a letter to a local doctor stating that he was in possession of two apparently incriminating letters written by Samuel Hardwicke. "Hardwick wanted the letters burnt," Jesse wrote, "but knows they are too valuable to me. They [sic] can not be a doubt but Hardwick is the instigator of the brutal murder," Jesse continued, "and he knows every man that was there." Jesse wanted Hardwicke indicted with the others and his letters presented to the Grand Jury so the world to see what he already knew - that "H. is the most guilty of all." However, Hardwicke never appeared as anything more than Pinkerton's lawyer and despite witnesses being heard, no one was ever arrested, nor held responsible, for the murder of Archie Peyton Samuel.

But public opinion had changed. Just months before, there had been a cry for these outlaws to be vanquished, now the law had surpassed their notoriety. The raid on the Farm was an outrage. Even the James brothers did not throw bombs into homes and murder children in the dead of night.

John Newman Edwards, who had been glorifying the crimes attributed to the James' and Youngers while simultaneously offering them space in his newspaper to deny the charges against them, saw an opportunity. He most likely did not know if the James' and Youngers were ex-Confederates continuing a cause or ex-Confederates falsely accused, what he did know was that he could use both to highlight the lingering legacy of the Civil War, confined within the words of the 1865 Missouri Constitution. Much had changed since 1865, but Edwards knew there was more to be done and he also knew that in January



George Caleb Bingham and John Newman Edwards

1875, and just as momentary sympathy leaned toward ex-Confederate outlaws, delegates were being chosen to rewrite the Missouri Constitution. Edwards penned the Amnesty Bill.

Put forward by Jeff Jones of Calloway county, the Bill asked for pardon for the James' and Youngers for crimes charged to have been committed by them during the War and fair trial for crimes charged to have been committed by them since the war. It was put to the vote the following week and although more voted for it than against it, it was not by the two thirds majority required and the Bill failed. Friends were encouraged, however, and planned to put the Bill forward again. They would not get the chance. On 12 April 1875. Daniel Askew was murdered.



Rumors suggested he might have been killed by the same men who had raided the James Farm, or by friends of the James', or by the James' themselves. Whatever the case, the Clay county Grand Jury was once again forced to announce the death of one of it's citizens by unknown persons. Sheriff Groom, tasked with keeping the people safe, wrote two, possibly three letters just a week after Askew's murder. The first was to Gov. Hardin. The Amnesty Bill had failed but Groom begged the Governor to extend offers of a fair trial to the James brothers. They say they are innocent, he wrote, and if that is true then they can go clear and we can have peace. Covering all bases, his second letter was to George Caleb Bingham, asking for delivery of twenty breach loading rifles. His third was to Jesse James.

"You asked if I was innocent why I did not give myself up," Jesse wrote. "I believe Gov. Hardin would give me an impartial trial if it was in his power but don't you know that I have been lied on and persecuted so long [and] the public prejudice is so great against me that it would take one hundred thousand dollars to defend me." That being the case, Jesse had set in motion a plan that would catch the men *robbing on my credit*. He even gave the law officer the names of four men he was interested in capturing – Clell Miller, Tom McDaniels, Sol Reed and Jack Keene. Their arrests would, Jesse believed, "rectify the charges against us and lift the dark stain from our character and then we can easily prove our innocence to the world."

Although Jesse claimed to be in Missouri in July 1875, complying with the terms of an Amnesty Bill he must have known was null and void, Jesse, Zee, Frank and Annie were in Tennessee. Jesse and Zee were expecting their first child, born on 31 August. A week later, the Huntington, West Virginia bank was robbed by four men. A posse went after them, but it was a farmer who successfully shot and killed one of them. The dead outlaw was named first as Cole Younger, then as Jesse James and was finally identified as Tom McDaniels. Jesse, no doubt elated, quickly put pen to paper. This was typical detective work, he claimed, whereby he and Cole Younger were immediately named when everyone could see the dead man was neither of them. Furthermore, Tom McDaniels was one of the men mentioned in Jesse's letter, as was Jack Keene, who was also arrested for his part in this crime. Subsequently, James biographies mentioning the Huntington robbery doubt the James-Younger gang's involvement. So far, Jesse's plan was working.

And his new found independence had come at a good time. A few days before the Huntington robbery, John Newman Edwards had fought a duel and utilized his time away from the newspaper business to write *Noted Guerrillas; or the Warfare of the Border*. Of course, as 1875 drew to a close, it did not signal the end of Edwards' career as a newspaperman, nor was it the end of the James-Younger Gang, nor Samuel Hardwicke's attempts to have them caught. And neither, thank the Lord, was it the end of Castle James! **MP**

ALL ABOARD FOR THE FOTJF BUS TOUR!

It was clear that the forty strong group of travelers, waiting in the 97 degree mid-afternoon Missouri sun, were excited, but nothing excited them more than the realization that the school bus they were going to be travelling on for the next two and a half hours had air conditioning!!!

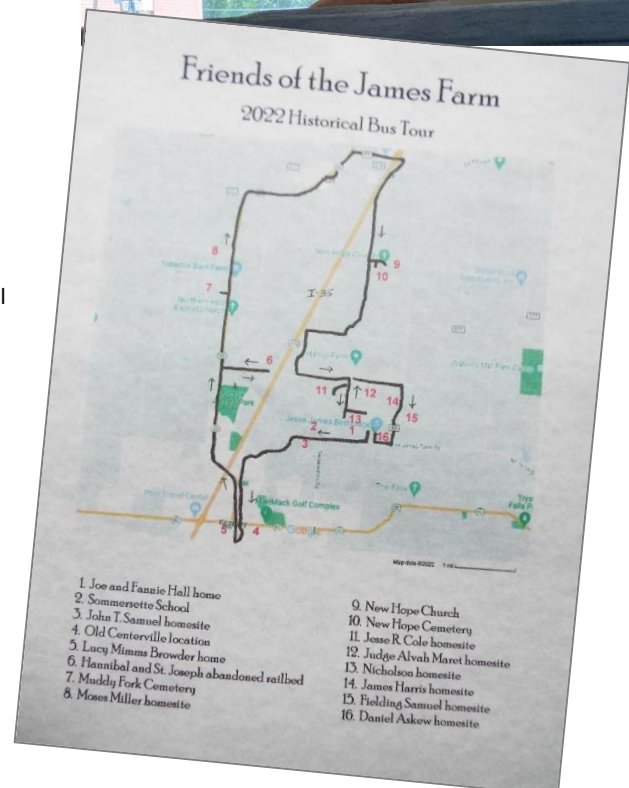
The tour itself, expertly led by James descendent, Scott Cole, began at the Jesse James Birthplace and meandered through the surrounding countryside, taking in sites related to the retreat of law officers and detectives after the attack on the James Farm in 1875, as well as the locations of the homes of several family members and local residents. The tour also included the Muddy Fork cemetery, possible final resting place of Clell Miller (it's possible the wrong body was returned to the family), and New Hope church and cemetery, the former having been reorganised by Rev. Robert James, the latter being an opportunity to pay our respects to Daniel Askew, murdered after the raid on the James Farm, as well as members of the wider James family.



The location where Pinkerton agents were dropped off by the special trains on their way to James Farm on the night of bombing.



Jesse Richard Cole took his own life in this area in 1895.





Left: The Muddy Fork Cemetery, close to the home of Moses Miller and the final (possible) resting place of his son, Clell Miller.



Left: The graves of Robert and Sallie Thomason, Mother and step-father of Zerelda James Simms Samuel.

Right: The grave of James Harris, who was the administrator for Rev. James' Estate.



Left: The grave of Daniel Askew, murdered on 12 April 1875 in his front yard. Askew had harbored Pinkerton Detective, Jack Ladd, before the raid on the James Farm that previous January.



The site of the old Sommersett School, where Frank and Jesse attended lessons.



From top to bottom, clockwise: the site of New Hope church, reorganized by Rev. Robert James; the site of the Daniel Askew homestead; the Browder home, site of Jesse and Zee's wedding; and the location of the home of Fannie and Joe Hall - Fannie was Jesse, Frank and Susan's half-sister.

Additional photos courtesy of Linda Brookshier

THE HISTORIC COMMERCIAL HOTEL, OSCEOLA

Osceola, Missouri, was plotted and established in 1839 and during its early years was a busy Steamboat Port city, located on the Osage River, providing the area with cargo of raw materials, finished goods, as well as agricultural products. Osceola was also a close port for steamboats headed to Monegaw Springs and its claimed healing water that attracted many of the elite to this vacation destination. Later, a train depot would come to Osceola. Osceola at one point was the third largest city in Western Missouri.

The Historic Commercial Hotel was built in 1867 and completed in 1868. It was built on the limestone foundation of a previous wooden structure, built in 1838 and burned during General Jim Lane's Kansas Redlegs raid in September 1861, known as "The Burning of Osceola".

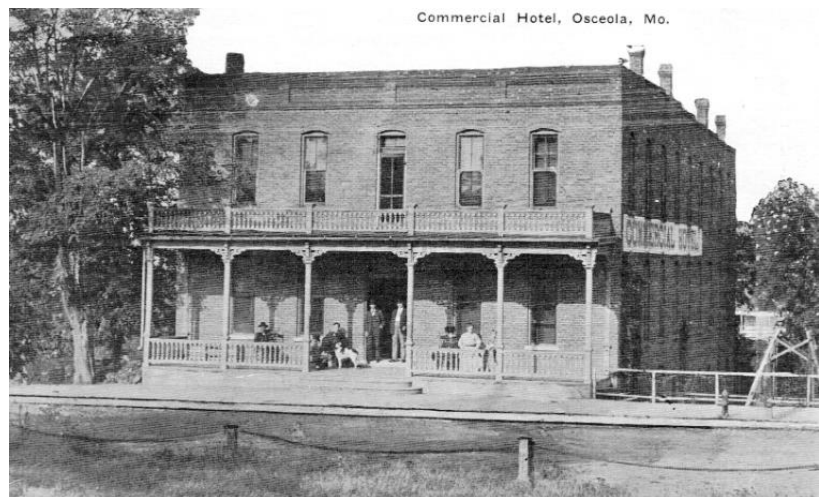
"A pleasant gathering place through the span of over 150 years, The Historic Commercial Hotel still bears the original banisters where guests' hands were placed so long ago."

Legend has it that the James Boys and Youngers were patrons of the hotel and would always request their favorite rooms. Jesse would often request the southeast corner, chosen because he could see the Courthouse from the second story room and make a quick exodus by the window or second floor porch door escape. They could access their horses tied to the tree and exit quickly, crossing a wagon bridge a short two blocks away that spanned the Osage River. It has been reported that the James-Younger gang would at times of their travel stay a night or two.

Records show that guests during the week of September 1903 included Frank James & Cole Younger, who stayed here while their Wild West show was in town. It is also documented that Pinkerton Agents Lull and Boyle stayed at The Commercial Hotel the night before traveling to Roscoe and looking for the Youngers. This would end with the death of Detective Lull, local Deputy Daniels and John Younger at "The Roscoe Gunfight" (actual site is a short distance away with the home that the bodies lay in rest before burial and transport, still standing). Also a short distance away is "The Kingdom" which is the homestead of the Younger Boy's close uncle, Charles Younger, who resided here with Elizabeth Simpson and family. The home's stone foundation and fireplace is still visible along with a small family cemetery behind it.



BY ROB
HECKENLIVELY



The Historic Commercial Hotel in 1903.

A river boat taking tourists from Osceola to Monegaw Springs.

President Harry S. Truman, country western movie star Tom Mix, burlesque dancer Sally Rand and many other celebrities have made this their temporary home for a night or so. During the 1880s there were “Drummer Rooms” on the first floor. Area Salesman would bring their wares in drums and display for sales. The Parlor room still bears the original metal ceiling. The original 1868 Bannister that leads to the second floor is still in use. During the early years the dining room at The Historic Commercial was in those years very formal and each table had a “Celery stand”. A small boy would make a trip around the square ringing a bell with a large menu board of that day’s menu selection.

Sources

St. Clair County Newspaper *Micro film articles*
 The Burning of Osceola by *Richard Sunderwirth*
 The Families of Charles Lee and Henry Washington Younger by *Marley Brant*
 Osceola: A town on the Border by *Lawrence Lewis*
 Guns of Monegaw and The Roscoe Gun Battle by *Meredith/Linda Anderson*

Reservations can be made by visiting [AirBnB.com](https://www.airbnb.com) or [VRBO.com](https://www.vrbo.com). Please note that the hotel is closed November to February.



The Historic Commercial Hotel, Osceola, as it looks today.

“REMEMBER OSCEOLA, BOYS!”

The Sacking of Osceola took place on September 23, 1861, when Jim Lane’s Jayhawkers and Redlegs attacked the town, easily routing the small Confederate force stationed there.

Accounts claim that Jim Lane’s men, plundered the town, freed two hundred slaves, executed nine citizens and then set light to the buildings before taking full of advantage of the town’s supply of alcohol. They drank so much they had to leave in wagons, unable to walk.

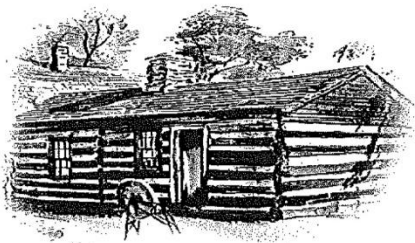
In an effort to stop their men drinking, officers spilled liquor onto the streets where the combustible liquid served only to fuel the intense fire that eventually engulfed all but three of the eight hundred buildings in town.

“Remember Osceola, boys!” was yelled during Quantrill’s attack on Lawrence, Kansas, home of Jim Lane, on August 21, 1863, a retaliation which in turn resulted in the depopulation of four Missouri counties as part of General Ewing’s Order no. 11.



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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