James-Younger Gang JOURNAL

PO Box 78 • Liberty, Missouri 64068 • www.islandnet.com/~the-gang **Fall, 2006**

James-Younger Gang Convention is Sept. 28-30 in Clive, Iowa

Author Johnny Boggs to Keynote Event

Boggs

Johnny D. Boggs, two-time winner of the Spur Award from Western Writers of America, and recipient of the prestigious Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, will be guest lecturer at the JYG banquet Saturday evening, Sept. 30. Boggs' lecture is titled "Jesse James In Fiction and Film: Separating the Fact from the Myths – Or Not" From John Newman Edwards to Ron Hansen and Jesse James Jr. to Tyrone Power and now Brad Pitt, the Jesse James story has been a ripe subject for writers (some who didn't even claim to be doing fiction) and filmmakers. Here's an historical analysis from a film critic, fiction scribe and quasi-historian.

Deadline to secure a room at the Country Inn & Suites, where all the action is taking place, is Aug. 30 – book your room today! See page 15.

Booklist magazine ranks Boggs "among the best Western novelists at work today." His two Spur Awards came in 2002 for his short story, "A Piano at Dead Man's Crossing," and in 2006, for his lyrical baseball novel, "Camp Ford." In 2004, Boggs won the Wrangler for his novel "Spark on the Prairie: The Trial of the Kiowa Chiefs."

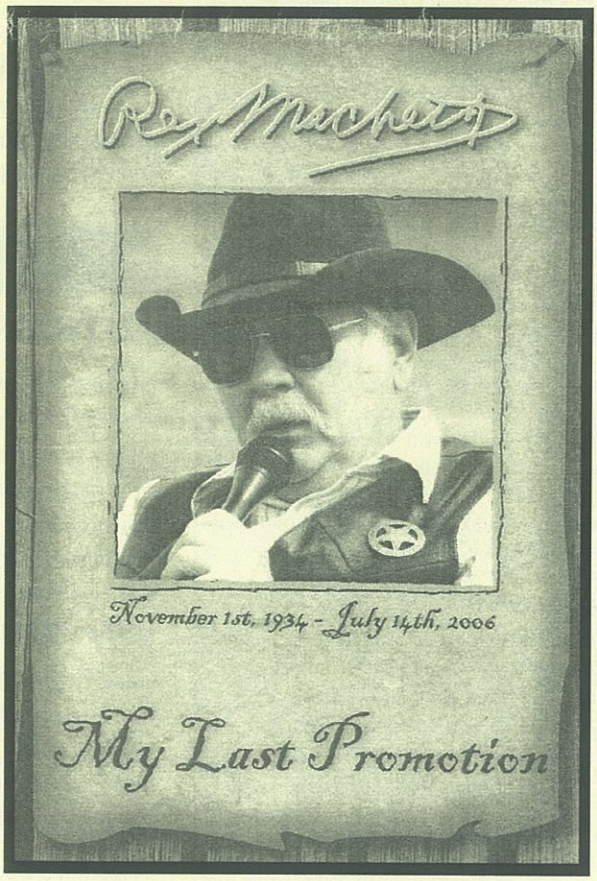
Conference *continued on page 17*

Editors Note: The James-Younger Gang that went to Germany is not the same group as the James-Younger Gang that publishes this Journal – though we share an appreciation of the James-Younger era of our nation's history.

James-Younger Gang wows 'em in Germany

The Northfield, Minn.-based James-Younger Gang took their raid reenactments on the road and across the ocean to Germany for two weeks of Wild West showmanship. Story on page 8.

In Memoriam



Long-time James-Younger Gang member Rex Macbeth passed away July 11, 2006. Tributes to Rex on page 4.

James-Younger Gang
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Editor: Rob Schanilec

The Mission of the James-Younger Gang is to preserve and promote the true story of the James-Younger Gang, their families, Civil War guerrilla associates and that exciting time in American history in which they lived.

The Organization: The James-Younger Gang is a not-for-profit educational and historical Missouri corporation, which serves as a source of exchange for writers, historians and family descendants. ANYONE who enjoys studying the history of this exciting and romantic era in our nation's history is welcome to join.

The Gang is dedicated to help support the James Farm and Museum, Liberty Bank Museum, Northfield Bank Museum, Pattee House Museum, Bushwhacker's Museum, Milton F. Perry Research Library and all other historic sites and institutions preserving James-Younger era history.

Members will enjoy receiving news about new research, member projects, field trips and museums through the quarterly *James-Younger Gang Journal.*

The Gang sponsors an annual convention for their membership. Such conferences are held in locations around the nation that are significant to James-Younger era history. The annual "Milton F. Perry Award," sponsored by the Gang, recognizes authors, writers and researchers for the best contributions to James-Younger history each year.

Join us: Whether you are a writer, historian, family descendant, or simply want to escape from the stresses of everyday life by joining others with a common interest in the James-Younger story, you will enjoy being a Gang member. We invite you to ride with us by sending your membership dues today. Individual memberships are $20 per year for U.S. residents, $25 elsewhere. Family memberships are $25 and $35 respectively.

J-Y Gang Board of Directors:

President: Jack Koblas
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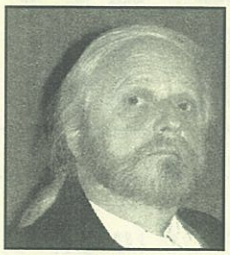
To Join or for information regarding membership and activities in our organization, contact Marcia Smith at nottabadvue@earthlink.net or write James-Younger Gang, PO Box 78, Liberty, Mo 64068.

From the president...



Koblas

The James-Younger Conference is coming next month. Many of us still haven't recovered from last year's meeting, but Frank Younger is already greasing up his fiddle strings and, hopefully, Janice Lanke hasn't forgotten how to prepare those tasty hor d'ouvres, sweets and nibbles. We have some very good speakers again this year and are offering a bit of variety so as not to make this repetitive of Northfield, Overland Park and earlier conventions. Each conference should be unique and stand on its own merit.

And please don't forget: On Saturday night at the banquet, in between listening to Lonesome Ron Affolter's anything but last blue yodel, and perhaps Sharon Younger's first, we will be holding our annual silent auction where you can take home anything from one of Rick Mattix's books to a nearly full-sized, stuffed stick horse. We ask that if any of you have items to donate to the auction – and they don't have to be Jesse James related – please bring them to the convention.

Remember, too, if you haven't already reserved a room at the Country Inn & Suites in West Des Moines, do so before the 30th of August deadline. Peggy Yurczak, who deserves accolades by the dozens, has been working with hotel management to set up this convention. Peggy was told that after the Aug. 30 deadline, all rooms being held for the James-Younger Gang will be rented to guests outside the group.

If you are interested in participating in any way to help make this conference one of the best – lecturing, music, taking registrations, displays – please let one of the officers know. Or if you have photographs of last year's gathering in Northfield, bring them along to share with others.

Again, this is your convention and I wish to thank all who are assisting in any way, shape, or form. About all I can add is what Cole Younger said the day he was released from Stillwater Prison when asked: "What do you think of it, Cole?" Facing the man who had asked the question, Cole replied, "Well, I thank heaven for this and the friends who did so much to help us."

Letter to the Journal

AUTHENTICITY

Marley Brant has it right (Spring 2006 *James-Younger Journal*). When the Gang was formed a dozen years ago, one goal was to try to separate fact from fiction regarding the James-Youngers. Now *The Journal* appears to stir the two together and leaves it up to the reader to sort it all out.

Case in point: your recent story with headline and photo identified as "Jesse James casket." We all know it really wasn't. Jesse wasn't buried in a wicker basket any of the three times.

When we observed the 100th anniversary of Jesse's death in 1982 I was both a museum director and full-time investigative reporter for the *St. Joseph Gazette.* The mortuary offered to lend their wicker basket to the museum for the occasion.

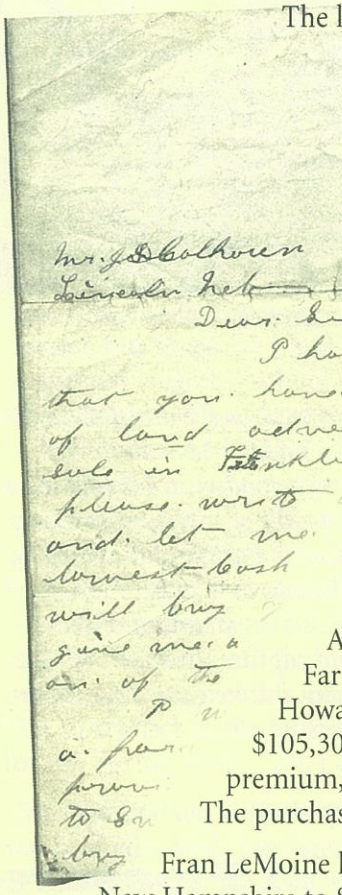
But as hard as I tried to document the artifact, the best we could determine was that it was an old wives' tale passed by one funeral worker to another. Death photos appear to show an ice-cooling box (not the casket found at the James Farm). None of the newspapers or primary sources at the time mention the wicker container.

In the 1882 city directory, William

Letter *continued on page 6*

Jesse's last letter brings $123,201 after December display in St. Joseph

By Gary Chilcote, Patee House Museum



The last known letter believed to have been written by Jesse James a month before his death in 1882 cost the buyer $123,201 Dec. 15, 2005, at auction in Amherst, New Hampshire.

Only three days before the sale, R&R Enterprises Autograph Auctions brought the letter back to the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph where most historians believe Jesse James wrote it on the kitchen table March 2, 1882.

Actual cost of the "Nebraska Farm" letter written by "Tom Howard at 1318 Lafayette" was $105,300, plus a 17 percent buyer's premium, bringing the total to $123,201. The purchaser remained anonymous.

Fran LeMoine hand-carried the letter from New Hampshire to St. Joseph for the special two-day showing in the adjoining Patee House Museum. The public had a chance to see the two-page letter one last time before it went back into the hands of a private collector.

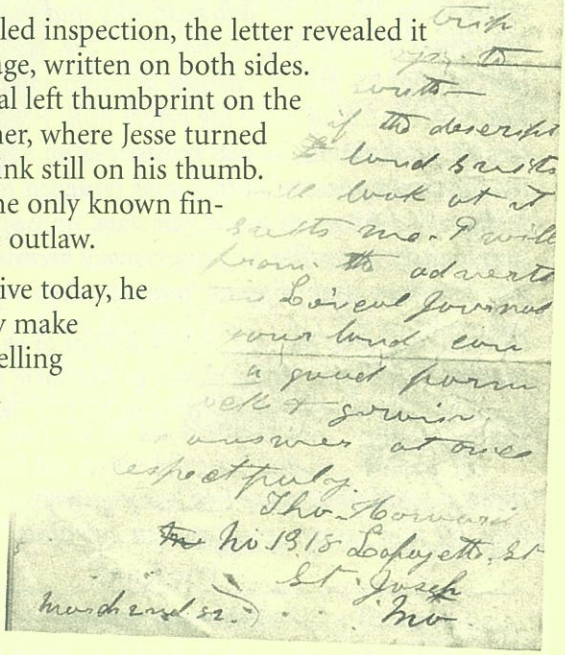
Jesse James was living in St. Joseph under the name of Tho. Howard when he answered an add by J.D. Calhoun in Lincoln, Neb., offering to sell a 160-acre farm there for $10 per acre.

In the letter, Jesse asks about "your lowest cash price" when Jesse actually had little cash on hand. When he was killed by the Ford brothers on April 3, 1882, he had little money and the sheriff auctioned his possessions to raise $127 for his widow.

But the day he was killed, the Fords were making plans with Jesse to rob the Platte City bank the next day, so perhaps the cash withdrawal was to help "buy the farm," which obviously Jesse did, but not in the way he had in mind.

During a detailed inspection, the letter revealed it was a single page, written on both sides. There's a partial left thumbprint on the lower, left corner, where Jesse turned the page with ink still on his thumb. It's probably the only known fingerprint of the outlaw.

If Jesse were alive today, he could probably make more money selling his letters than he ever did risking his neck to rob banks and trains.



Descendents of historic figures might still hold the cards

The following is reprinted from a Jan. 12, 2006, Washington Post *article.*

The great-nephew of John Dillinger can seek damages from a tourism organization that opened a museum about the gangster more than six years ago without permission from the family, a judge ruled.

Jeffrey G. Scalf owns 75 percent of the commercial rights to the Dillinger persona and said he never gave permission for its use by the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Lake Superior Court Judge John R. Pera ruled this week that the bureau has been illegally profiting from the Depression-era gangster's colorful life and artifacts, allowing Scalf to seek damages.

The bureau had acquired the artifacts from a collector who had run a museum in southern Indiana, paying $417,500 for them in 1998. Pera ruled that the collector and the bureau both used Dillinger's personality without family consent in violation of Indiana's Right of Publicity Statute.

An attorney for the bureau, Daniel C. Kuzman, said he is likely to ask the judge to delay any trial on damages while he appeals the ruling.

Dillinger was shot to death in 1934 by federal agents outside the Biograph theater in Chicago. Crown Point is about 30 miles southeast of Chicago.

Tributes to Rex MacBeth

See ya down the trail – old pard.

– Your friends, the James-Younger Gang

Rex McBeth has died.

Historian and gun collector Rex McBeth passed away this morning, July 14, 2006, at about 3:30 a.m. at his home in Mankato, Minn. Rex was a devoted member of The James-Younger Gang and recently had appeared in a symposium at the Annual Meeting last year in Northfield, Minn., where he uttered the now often quoted line, "I'm interested in who beshot who!" Rex also was an active participant in NOLA.

Rex had been in declining health for about a year and was diagnosed as terminal in the last six months. He surprised many of his friends by systematically and matter-of-factly informing them he was preparing to die. He appeared healthy and his robust attitude deceived some. Nevertheless, Rex took control of what lay before him. Following an extensive hospitalization, he was released to an assisted care facility. He then appeared to rally and returned to his home. Only last week he returned to his gun shop, now operated by his son. Shortly thereafter he progressively became weaker, in the past few days often slipping in and out of consciousness.

Not too long ago, Rex asked Jack Koblas to speak at his funeral. Rex's wife, Rosie, stated to Marjorie Best she expects to attend the next meetings of both NOLA and The James Younger Gang.

It can be said that today Rex has finally learned who beshot who. He now knows it better than any of us."

– Eric James

Poor, dear Rex. God rest his soul. He was a special blend: rugged, but tender – creatively talented with wit and words – possessing a keen sense of humor – a good story teller – he had an abundant knowledge in all things "Old West" – he had sharp intuition – he had the ability to deliver a keynote speech or appreciate a good ballad – he loved fancy antique firearms and luxury automobiles with classy styling, plush interiors, load of extras and lots of varrooom! He was treasured by his loving wife and family. He cultivated many lasting friendships and fond memories during his life on earth. He exemplified great strength and courage in the face of mortal crisis. He will be remembered for his "black hat and western style," the long-legged rambling, loping walk, his broad sweet smile and that winsome twinkly little gleam he would get in his eyes. What a guy! See ya down the trail…old pard."

– Janice Lanke

Rex (left) and Arnie Lillo at Lillo's Jesse James Theme Park event June 3, 2006.

I just received word that our own local western historian, Rex Macbeth, passed away during the night. I went in to visit with him again last week. We had a good visit. He told me I had the honor of having his last public speaking at my Jesse James event at my Jesse James Theme Park on June 3, 2006. I'm honored and thankful that he was able to be there. I know he wanted to be there and do the narration of the James/Younger Gang robbery and capture. It was a struggle for him to make it through the day, but he gave a great performance and I will miss him very much.

– Arnie Lillo

The Treasure of Pleasure

By Rex Macbeth

I often set alone at night
And stare out at the street
And think of my life
The joy and the strife
Of victories and defeat.

I wonder, was there something else
I should have done with my life,
Did life hold in store
Something far more
Then family, job, and wife?

I feel the years fast slipping by
Life's road could end tomorrow
What would I leave
But a few to grieve
And show their common sorrow.

Perhaps the secret I have found,
I'll gladly share the treasure,
Just try each day
In your own best way
First give, then get, some pleasure.

Was Frank James a school teacher in Barren County, KY?

by Vivian Rousseau

Miss Mary Beals, long-time esteemed resident of Glasgow, daughter and sister of the Beals herein mentioned respectively, can verify the following, having often heard of the happenings discussed.

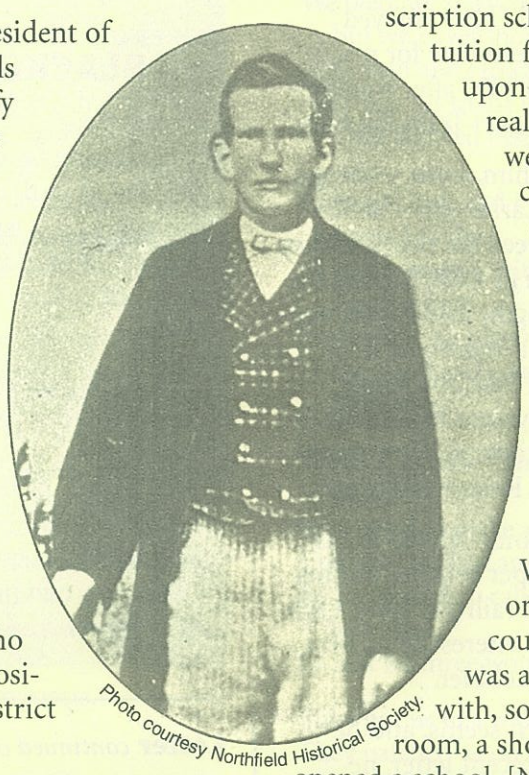


Photo courtesy Northfield Historical Society

"The people of Glasgow know where the Sinking Spring School house is and what excellent people live in that district, but there is a bit of history connected with this school district, which is probably unknown to many. In 1877, when Mr. John H. Beals, one of our well-known and best citizens, was chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Sinking Spring School district, Esquire Payne, a friend of Mr. Beals, came to him and introduced a young man by the name of Hiram Hudson, who made application to Mr. Beals for the position of teacher in the Sinking Spring district for the Spring term.

"Mr. Beals talked with the young man and found that he was well educated, intelligent and of pleasing address, so he consented for Mr. Hudson to teach the school, but, entered into a contract, witnessed by Esquire Payne, that if the young man's work was not satisfactory, Mr. Beals could discharge him at the end of any month. This was a subscription school and each parent paid so much tuition for each child. Mr. Hudson entered upon his duties with much enthusiasm and real ability, so the patrons and pupils alike were delighted with him. When the time came to select a teacher for the fall school, or free school, Mr. Hudson was chosen and accepted the place.

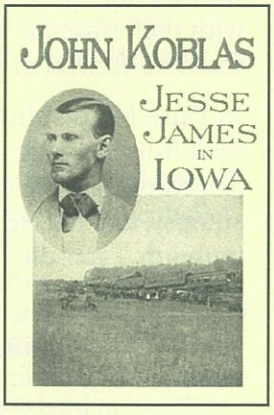
"Again he made great success of his work; the pupils were fond of him and the parents felt their children were progressing splendidly. Mr. Hudson knew not only what to teach, but how to teach it. He disciplined his school well, but retained the love of his pupils.

When spring came, Mr. Hudson endeavored to get a subscription school, but could get only 24 pupils and he thought 30 was as few as he could afford to begin work with, so he decided to move to a vacant store room, a short distance from Oil City and here he opened a school. [Note: Oil City is now a non-existent community located close to Beaver Creek, the old Mt. Tabor Church, etc]. In all his contract and reports signed by law, he signed his name Hiram Hudson. Among his pupils at Sinking Spring were Mr. Isaac Beals, Miss Callie

Teacher *continued on page 18*

Jesse James in Iowa

By John Koblas, North Star Press



All of us in the James-Younger Gang know about Quantrill, "Bloody Bill" and the Kansas-Missouri Border War, but how many can say they are well schooled on the "Puke War" – the border war between Missouri and Iowa?

Although Missouri became a state in 1820, the northern boundary was never properly and legally surveyed. When the territory of Iowa was subsequently created, the southern boundary was simply defined as Missouri's northern boundary, setting up potential for the later conflict. There was a close call, however, early in the state's history when Missouri and Iowa went head-to-head over a contested tract of land.

And what about the strange tale of the Siam [Iowa] treasure and murder mystery which did not come to light until July, 1915, and was linked to a rogue's gallery of familiar assassins – Mattie Collins, Martha Bolton, Dick Liddil, and Bob and Charlie Ford – all eager to put an end to Frank and Jesse James?

"Jesse James in Iowa" is the 51st book published by JYG president, John Koblas, half of which deal with the James-Younger Gang and other outlaws. Koblas, an authority on the Northfield, Minnesota raid of Sept. 7, 1876, is perhaps best known for his award-winning volume, "Faithful Unto Death."

His new title links Jesse James with the state of Iowa and focuses primarily on the Corydon bank robbery and the Adair train heist; although several other sightings are discussed and many debunked. The book is available from most book chains, North Star Press, or from the author at $14.95 plus $2 shipping: 523-2nd Ave. SW, Lonsdale, MN 55046.

Zerelda's blackberry cobbler — a James family tradition

By Ronald H. Beights

My British friend, William E. Upton, and I have enjoyed exchanging letters across the Atlantic Ocean now for nearly three years. He first wrote to me in April 2003 after reading my book, "Jesse James and the First Missouri Train Robbery."

Bill's avid interest in Jesse James also led him, some years ago, to contact noted James-Younger writer Carl Breihan in St. Louis. A close friendship developed between the two, and they corresponded regularly until Carl's death in 1998. Among the many things Bill learned during their lengthy association was that Carl's grandmother once worked as a seamstress in St. Louis at the old American Hotel, where Frank and Annie James often stayed during Frank's employment in that city. It was through his grandmother that Carl came to know members of the James family – Jesse E., Stella, Robert and others.

Over the years, Bill received scads of James-related items from Carl. To name just a few: Newspaper articles, photos, nails from the James farmhouse, an old railroad spike Carl picked up at Gads Hill and – of special interest to us here – mother Zerelda's recipe for blackberry cobbler.

That recipe sparked Bill's imagination, it seems, and he came up with a very unique idea. In a recent letter, he wrote of picking wild blackberries in the field behind his garden. What berries he and his wife, Olive, don't eat, they can for future use. One of those uses, he writes, has become something of an Upton family tradition. Just for fun, every year on Jesse's birthday (Sept. 5), Olive closely follow Zerelda's old recipe and bakes a big, fat blackberry cobbler. It's an interesting commemoration to Jesse. And who knows? Perhaps as the Uptons' are sitting at the table partaking of this scrumptious after-dinner dessert, a certain blue-eyed outlaw is looking down from above (or up from below, as the case may be) silently longing to join them for just one more taste of Ma's blackberry cobbler.

Except for the use of lard rather than shortening, this cobbler recipe is no doubt very similar to many of those found in modern-day cookbooks. One thing sets it apart, though. It was, according to Carl Breihan, the one used by Zerelda. So, for those Gang members who may wish to give it a try, here's the recipe exactly as Bill copied it for me.

Bill Upton, age 75, is a member of the English Westerners Society. Over the years he has been a soldier, butcher, truck driver, miner, leather tanner, lumber yard employee and shoe factory worker. Now, happily retired and with their family grown, Bill and Olive live quietly in the Northhamptonshire town of Rushden in central England.

JAMES FAMILY BLACKBERRY COBBLER (1860)

2 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/3 cup of lard
3/4 cup plus 2 tsp milk
1 quart of blackberries
1 cup of sugar
Butter

Mix baking powder, flour, lard together. Add milk to form dough. Mix sugar with blackberries and place in buttered 2-quart pan. Cover fruit with dough and dot with butter. Bake for 40 minutes at 375 degrees. *(Ha Ha. Oven setting is modern, of course, Ron. Zerelda had a stroke oven and baked the cobbler until it was ready. Oh, and the family ate it, Ron, with honey from their farm beehives.)*

Letter *continued on page 2*

Sidenfaden and his mortuary were spelled without the extra "e." In later years and ads, the name was spelled *Seidenfaden.* Over the years, morticians merged, with Heaton-Be Gold becoming Heaton-Bowman, then taking over Sidenfaden. In recent years it's called Heaton-Bowman, Smith & Sidenfaden.

And it's not open 9-9 daily, 7 days a week. It's a mortuary, with the "museum" room open normal business hours when no funeral or evening visitation is scheduled.

At Patee House Museum, we have the canvas stretcher we took from the attic of J.W. Hedden's home and office at 323 North 8th. He was the coroner involved in Jesse's autopsy, and his old medical tools were given to the museum. Later doctors claimed this was used to carry Jesse's body.

Like the Sidenfaden basket, we can't prove it, and have no intention of claiming otherwise, or displaying it.

As Milton Perry used to say, when it comes to Jesse James, there's still a lot of *fake lore* going around. I think Marley Brant is correct. Perhaps the James-Younger Gang should put more emphasis on searching for facts.

Gary Chilcote,
Patee House Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri

A perspective on Jim Younger...

Whiling away the hours in Stillwater

By Kirk Ort

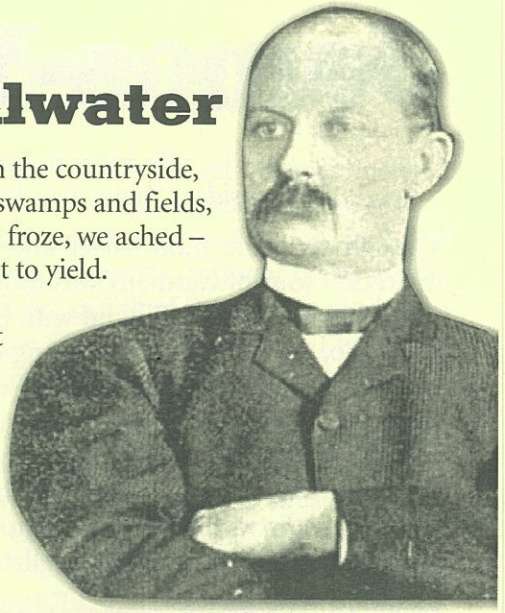


Photo courtesy Northfield Historical Society.

Dearest friend,

Time here has no beginning nor end and I pass the hours before lock-down sawing away at my fiddle. It is our only music and the men seem not to mind and are silent while I play. My bow has, of its own accord, begun to draw a sad and simple tune from the strings. My neighbors ask me to repeat it again and again – it reminds them of something, I suppose, or someone. For myself, these words come to mind...

Bob was hot to go but then Cole was more reserved,
So we tried to talk him down but brother Bob would not be swerved.
I'd seen my share of trouble – didn't want to see no more,
But I went along to watch their backs – Well, what's a brother for?
And now we're tryin' to keep our heads above Stillwater.

Eight men on eight good horses rode north to take the gold
From fat, rich, Yankee farmers – easy pickin's we were told
We roamed around and eyed the banks from one town to the next
'Till we decided Northfield was best in all respects.
Regrets can float forever on Stillwater.

Eight men on eight good horses – eight men with one sure plan
We all knew our business and Chadwell knew the land.
We planned with great precision we studied long and well
Then the locals started shooting and the plan went all to hell.
And we started on the path to find Stillwater.

Bob was at the counter – Cole and I were in the street
When a shotgun blast from nowhere blew Miller off his feet.
They fired from every corner and Cole and I were hurt.
Three of our men were still inside the bank – one lay dying in the dirt.
And voices began to call us to Stillwater.

Smoke and curses filled the air, our horses reared and bucked
"They're killin' us out here!" Cole screamed as another bullet struck.
The inside men emerged to meet a withering hail of lead
Chadwell tumbled from his saddle and now our guide was dead.
And no else could lead us around Stillwater.

The noise was all but deafening, the air was hard to breathe,
There never was a place that we all wanted so to leave.
We spurred our mounts toward the river but then brother Bob went down
Cole went back and scooped him up and we thundered out of town.
We rode from Northfield headed for Stillwater.

They chased us through the countryside, through woods and swamps and fields,
We bled, we starved, we froze, we ached – but we never thought to yield.
Woodson and Howard struck off to the west – we decided best to split
Cole and Bob and I turned to the south on foot with Charlie Pitts.
We walked on toward the depths of cold Stillwater.

When the posse finally found us we were trapped down in a slough,
We vowed to make a fight of it and again the bullets flew,
Cole was riddled and bleeding bad, I took one in the head,
By the time Bob called "Surrender!" our friend Charlie Pitts was dead.
So just we three would live to see Stillwater.

They put us in a wagon and they hauled us all away,
They patched us up and fed us and they kept the hounds at bay.
They said if we pled guilty, the law would let us live.
So we gave a short confession – it was all that we would give.
And by our words we sunk down in Stillwater.

The years have ground by slowly; our wounds are ancient scars,
And sometimes we almost forget that there's life beyond these bars.
Good friends and loving family have begged for our release,
Someday perhaps for Cole and me – Bob's already found his peace.
He just gave out and slipped below Stillwater.

But if they ever decide that time has evened up the score,
And these two antique outlaw brothers may go and sin no more,
Then I'd like to go back home where I will spend my last few years,
Praying for forgiveness for the pain, the blood, the tears.
But even then I'll never be.
Completely safe, completely free,
Of the dirty, dark, cold misery
That is Stillwater Penitentiary.

James-Younger Gang takes

By Mary Rossing
Past president, Northfield Historical Society

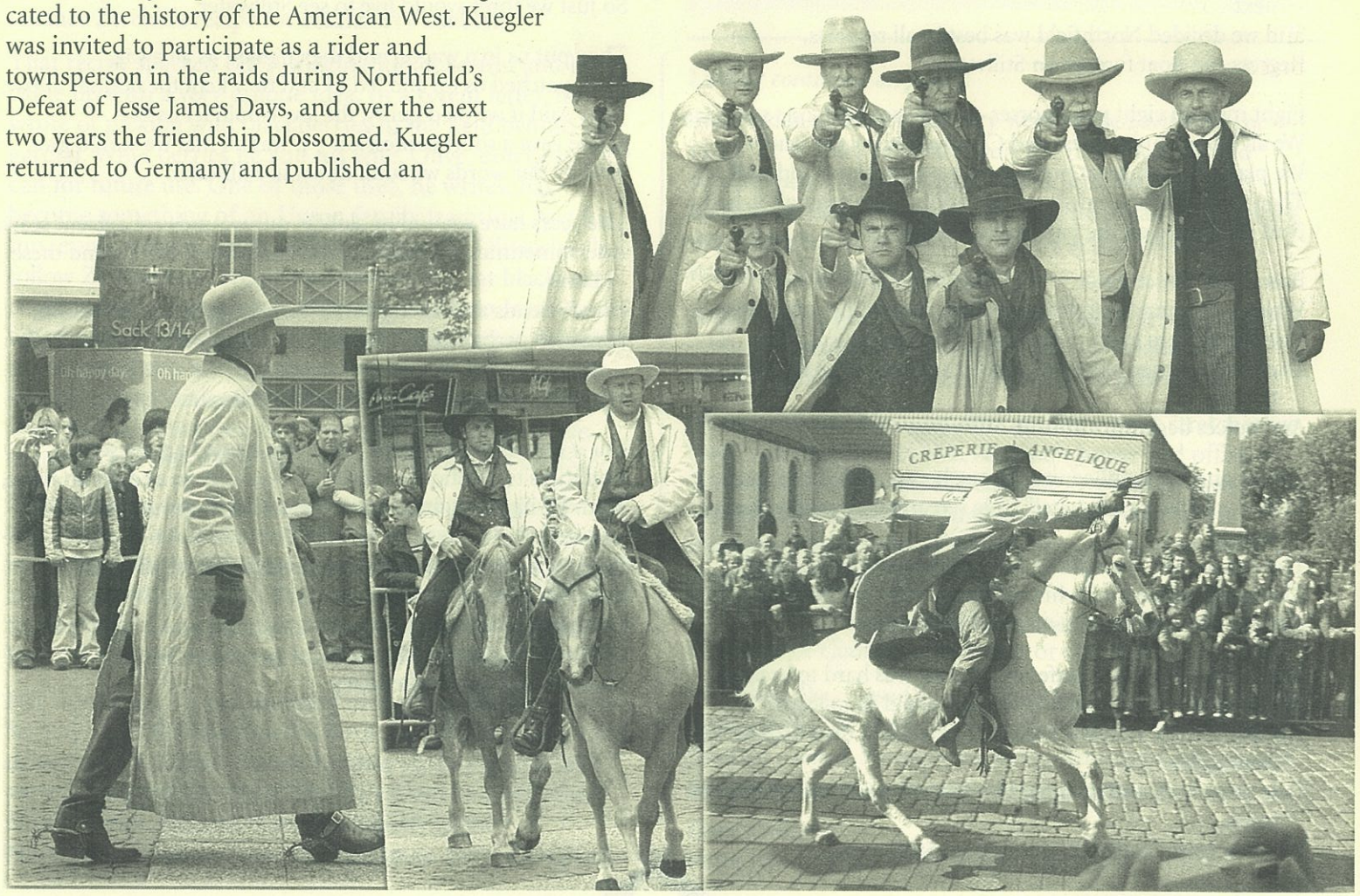
Though the plane, motorcoach and hotels were modern, my recent tour of Germany was more like traveling back in time. Just like Buffalo Bill did with his Wild West Show 100 years ago, the James-Younger Gang brought an authentic taste of the old American West to Europe this past May, and I was invited to tag along! Members of the Gang spent 13 days this spring reenacting the infamous raid on Northfield throughout Germany. They delighted crowds and the media with stories, authentic costuming, fine horsemanship and, of course, well-tuned performances.

Living in 1876 for two weeks was a new experience for me, but not for the seasoned reenactors. The James-Younger Gang has traveled around the United States for years to reenact the raid on the First National Bank, but this was their first trip overseas.

Why Germany? The idea was born a few years ago when Gang leader Chip DeMann became acquainted with Dietmar Kuegler, publisher of a German magazine dedicated to the history of the American West. Kuegler was invited to participate as a rider and townsperson in the raids during Northfield's Defeat of Jesse James Days, and over the next two years the friendship blossomed. Kuegler returned to Germany and published an extensive spread in his magazine about the raid reenactment, and later a full-length book about the Northfield story – of course, in German! But his enthusiasm was so great that a conversation soon began about how they might have the Gang visit Germany.

But would the Germans welcome us so enthusiastically, and, more important, come up with some euros to help offset the cost of having the Gang travel so far? Surprising to many Americans is how popular the culture and history of the American West is with the German public. This is due in part to the popularity of a series of novels written by German author Karl May during the first part of the 20th century. Generations of Germans have grown up reading stories about his two fictional characters, Old Shaderhand and Winnetou, set in a highly romanticized version of the American West. Today these stories are still celebrated with reenactments, elaborate outdoor theater productions and

Gang members below are (back row, l to r): Steve Kline, Jon Medine, Dietmar Kuegler, John Radtke, Jim Braucher and Chip DeMann. Front row: Trip DeMann, Jess Radtke and Sean Francis.



the Wild West to Germany

various town festivals throughout Germany.

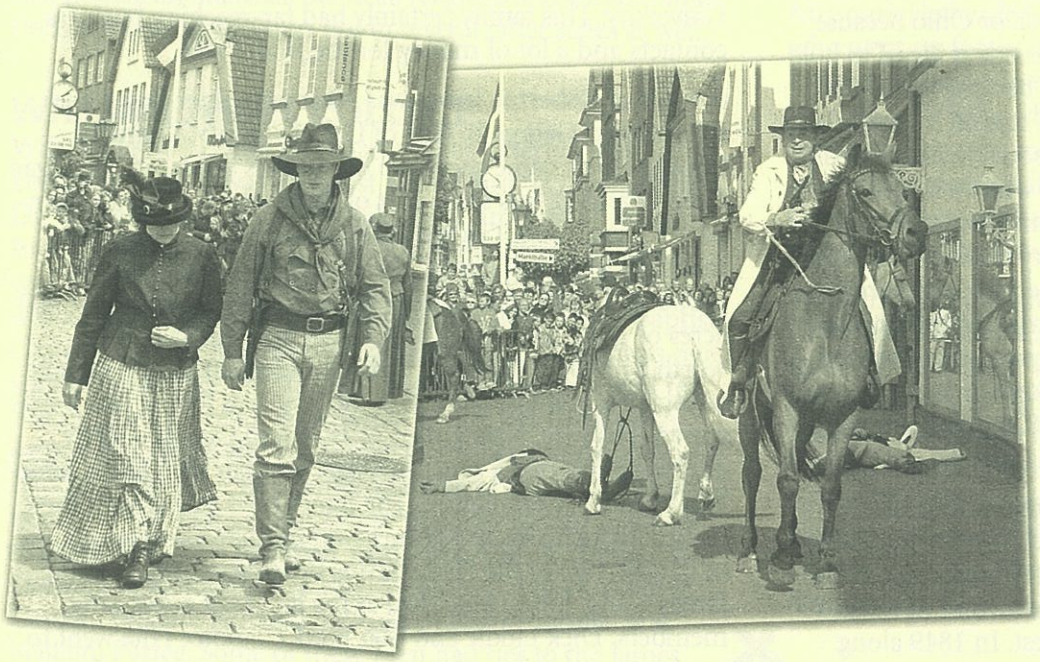
May's hometown of Radebeul, outside of Dresden, is the site of a huge annual weekend festival and the permanent grounds have villages with names like "Golden Nugget Ranch" and "Little Tombstone," complete with saloons with Old West store fronts. People of all ages come dressed in their western and historic American outfits, ride horses, listen to music, watch gunplay and, of course, eat bratwurst and drink beer. The James-Younger Gang was right at home with all these. Radebeul also boasts an amazing museum of Native American artifacts so extensive that they regularly loan items to the Smithsonian.

Over the 13 days abroad, the Gang did two performances in each of three locations, including Heide, Braunschweig and Radebeul using three different groups of borrowed horses. As one might imagine, this makes for some interesting stories (told with more laughter now that they are in the past). For instance, not all the horses provided were able to neck rein, meaning that riders needed to use both hands to drive. This made it especially difficult to shoot while on horseback. Most used snaffle bits with d-rings and no chin straps or drop shanks for leverage, meaning that steering, and more important, stopping, were sometimes a challenge. Add some questionable levels of training, two mares in heat along side a stallion, enthusiastic crowds, cobblestone streets and gunfire, and it is amazing that there was not more mayhem and injury!

Observing all this, I have a new appreciation for the level of skill that these riders have in order to perform the seven-minute drama on horseback. I also gained a deeper knowledge of the amount of effort that goes into acquiring costumes, boots, tack, saddles and horses used in our Northfield raid. Six of the eight riders on the trip brought their own historic (and valuable) saddles and all of the riders had an extra suitcase just for their gear. (This was the first trip I have been on where the men had more luggage than the women!)

Although much of the clothing is reproduction, some are original pieces from the 1800s. Rider Steve Kline, for instance, wore an original Navaho pawn belt circa 1890 and rode on a beautiful J.S. Collins 1875 saddle. Chip DeMann and son Trip, as well as Kline, all wear custom-made boots to replicate those from the 1870s. The clothing that Trip wears was collected over the years at antique stores by Kline and includes an original coat and vest from the period. Hats, spurs, pants, shirts and dusters are all appropriate reproduction, and none of it comes cheap. The personal investment that these men have made to accurately tell the Northfield story is incredible, not to mention the purchase, care, transportation and training of their own horses when at home!

But a raid is not a raid without guns. Since firearms are severely restricted in Germany, and a nightmare to transport, the Gang did not bring their own pieces along. Instead, Dietmar Kuegler arranged for a German manufacturer to loan the Gang Colt Peacemaker reproductions manufactured for this historic visit with "Jesse James" and "Northfield" engraved on the barrel. They were manufactured in such a way that they would not be able to shoot live ammunition unless re-barreled. They were all given back to the manufacturer before returning home.



Beyond performances, there was plenty of time for sightseeing, signing autographs, making new friends and drinking good German beer. I would add that it's hard to beat walking into a little neighborhood pub in a small German town with eight cowboys in full western dress. You certainly get noticed and very quickly have a whole handful of e-mails!

Most importantly, the Northfield story was shared with a wider audience and the good will from this is immeasurable. I would expect to see some Germans darkening the door of the Northfield Historical Society in coming years, and we will surely welcome them at our local pubs. "Prost!"

Those James boys had connections

By Nancy Samuelson

First published in the Journal of the Western Outlaw-Lawman History Association, Inc.

Have you ever wondered how Jesse and Frank James managed to stay on the outlaw trial for 16 years? Of course, a sizable portion of the gang was killed or captured in Northfield, Minn. in 1876. At other times, various men suspected to have taken part in robberies engineered by the James brothers were also captured and jailed. However, Jesse and Frank, like the Energizer Bunny kept going, and going and going.

One way to answer questions about a lot of Old West folks of legend and fact is to do in-depth genealogical research. This kind of research not only reveals family ties but often reveals who the neighbors were, and what the political, social and religious affiliations of the family were. Such an in-depth look at the James family is long overdue. This search is not yet complete by any means, but many interesting discoveries have come to light.

This article will deal with close relatives in the James Family – the Cole, Thomason and Samuel families and some other relatives. Rev. Robert S. James, father of Jesse and Frank, was one of the founders of William Jewell College and there are a number of interesting connections there, too. The James boys were both involved in a number of military and guerrilla activities during the Civil War. The boys acquired many very interesting friends during their war time service. Many of these friends were very well to do and very well connected. A lot of these friends were to assist the James boys in a variety of ways over the years.

It is also of interest to note that most of the population of Missouri came from southern states. Southerners with slaves could not immigrate into Illinois, Indiana, or Ohio because provisions of the Northwest Ordinance made it illegal to hold slaves north of the Ohio River. Missouri became the logical destination for Southerners. The land in central Missouri, and especially in areas bordering on the Missouri River, proved to be rich. This area became thickly settled with well-to-do Southern families, especially families from Kentucky. And like the James family, many of these Kentucky families had earlier been in Virginia and were well connected to the movers and shakers of the entire nation. The first settlers in this area were Daniel Boone's sons and they began to make salt in present day Howard County. This area became known as the Boon's Lick or sometimes as "Little Dixie." By 1820 about one third of the population of Missouri was in this area.

Several other factors also proved to make this area of Missouri prosperous and well developed. The fur trade and the trade over the Santa Fe Trail were very important to the financial life of Boon's Lick. After 1843 a torrent of settlers followed the Oregon Trail on further west. In 1849 along came the California Gold Rush and this was followed in 1859 by another gold rush to Colorado. Thousands of people went through this area. People moving west bought supplies, wagons, horses, mules, oxen and food from merchants in western Missouri. As a result of the trade generated by the western movement, a lot of the wealth and power of Missouri became centered in the Boon's Lick section of the state.

JAMES FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Earlier genealogical studies of the James and related families have been done and at least two books have been published on this subject. But these studies do little more than list basic family relationships. The social, business and political connections of this family are worth a closer look.

One brother of Robert S. James has briefly been mentioned in genealogical studies of the family that have been published; this is Thomas Martin James. A lot of detailed information about him and his family has still not been found, but some interesting things have been discovered. Thomas James came to Missouri after 1852 and settled in Kansas City. On the 1860 census he is shown as owner of a boarding house and his net worth is between $10,000 and $15,000. Thomas was an early partner in a trading company dealing with the Sac and Fox Indians. In 1863 Thomas founded a crockery and glassware business. T. M. James and Sons were importers of and dealers in crockery and glassware, French china, table and pocket cutlery, silver-plated ware, and various other related items. In 1877 this company did a business of $400,000. The company had a large local trade and a general trade throughout Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Nebraska and Colorado. The two sons, John Crawford and Luther Tillman James, were educated in the East at Brown University. This family certainly had far-reaching business contacts and a lot of money for the mid-1870s.

A sister of Robert S. James was Nancy Gardner James and she married George B. Hite of Logan County, Kentucky. George Hite's name shows up on various deeds, etc. in Logan County and he was some sort of clerk who recorded a number of these deeds. George Hite prospered during his first marriage to Nancy James. The couple had a large family, probably 12 children. George owned a fine home, about 600 acres of good land in Logan County and was said to be worth $100,000. However, he began speculating, principally in tobacco, and lost heavily. In 1877 he was forced into bankruptcy. His wife, Nancy, died in 1878 and George shortly afterward married a much younger woman who had a somewhat unsavory reputation. The James boys stayed with their uncle, George Hite, in Kentucky on numerous occasions and, of course, two of the Hite cousins became members of the James Gang. Wood Hite died at the hands of other gang members, Dick Liddle and Bob Ford. Clarence Hite went to

prison and was released only a short time before his death.

Mary James married John W. Mimms and this couple raised several of her younger siblings after the parents died. This family moved to Missouri around 1857 and ran the Mimms Hotel in Kansas City. John Mimms was also an ordained Missionary Baptist minister. He was said to be a power to be reckoned with along the Missouri-Kansas border in the 1850s. Red Legs, Border Ruffians, Jayhawkers, and slave drivers stayed at the Mimms Hotel and were entertained impartially by "Uncle John." His business contacts would have been numerous and far-reaching. Jesse James was cared for in the Mimms home while recovering from a gunshot wound he received while trying to surrender at the end of the Civil War. John Mimms' daughter, Zee, married Jesse James in 1874 about four years after John's death.

Another James sibling was Drury Woodson James. He served in the Mexican War and around 1848 he went to the California gold fields. He became a cattle dealer and supplied miners with meat. He was first in or around Hangtown, now Placerville, Calif. He later owned a huge ranch and a large resort hotel. Drury served in the California state legislature for several years and helped incorporate the town of Paso Robles, Calif. He was a very wealthy man and had a lot of political influence in California. Frank and Jesse James were known to visit their uncle Drury in California at least once.

Still other James siblings were ministers, merchants, dentists, or a combination of these professions. Most of them were well connected in the Kansas City area. William James was a merchant and a Methodist minister. He was the one who performed the marriage of Jesse and Zee in 1874. Elizabeth James married Tilman West and he became a merchant in Kansas City. John R. James was a dentist and practiced first in Kentucky, then later in Arkansas and Missouri. Almost all of the immediate family of Robert S. James were well to do and had numerous financial, political, religious and social connections not only in Missouri but in several other states as well.

WILLIAM JEWEL COLLEGE

William Jewel College was chartered in Liberty, Missouri in February 1848. It was a Baptist school and was named for Dr. William Jewel who donated a large amount of money to found a Baptist college in Missouri. Rev. Robert S. James was a well-known Baptist minister in the Liberty area. He was a forceful minister and the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. Church membership grew and the church was reorganized under his direction. In 1844 the church joined the North Liberty Baptist Association which Rev. James also helped found. He also organized two other congregations of Baptist in the area. Rev. James was one of the founders and a trustee of the new college. Other members of the board of trustees were: Rev. Jeremiah Vardeman, Col. Alexander W. Doniphan, Randolph R. Craig, William C. Ligon, William Carson, William Hubbell, Edward Madison Samuel and William Partee. Some of these men had ties to the James family that went back into Virginia and Kentucky.

Rev. Vardeman came from Virginia to Kentucky and he married Elizabeth James. She was the daughter of John M. James and Clara Nall. Rev. John M. James, Jr., a son of John M. and Clara James, graduated from Georgetown College in Kentucky with Robert James in 1843.

Col. Alexander Doniphan was a Mexican War hero. He had previously commanded a brigade of the Missouri State Militia during the Mormon War. He was a forceful man with a finely honed sense of integrity. His leadership, it was said, was of the frontier variety – not the West Point variety. His men claimed he was "not afraid of the devil or the God that made him." He had represented Mormon leader Joseph Smith in several court actions during the troubles that group had in Missouri. After Gov. Lillburn Bogs court-martialed Smith and other Mormon leaders he ordered Doniphan to execute these men for treason. Doniphan openly defied the governor and refused to carry out the order because he thought it would be murder.

Doniphan was offered a Brig. Gen. Commission and command of a division of the Missouri Confederate State Guard in 1861 when Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson attempted to take Missouri out of the Union. Doniphan turned this offer down and remained a Union man. However, Doniphan remained life-long friends with his law partner in Liberty, David Rice Atchison. Atchison did fight for the Confederate side during the war and he was a Missouri legislator, a judge and a U. S. senator for many years. Both Doniphan and Atchison were from Kentucky and came to Clay County, Missouri in 1830. Atchison had attended Transylvania University in Kentucky and for a time one of his classmates was Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy. He renewed his friendship with Davis during the war.

Atchinson was one of the foremost Confederate leaders in Missouri. He headed several groups of "Border Ruffians" who went on forays into Kansas. He also led the first raid on Lawrence, Kansas in the late 1850s. He spent part of the Civil War years in Texas where he owned a ranch. Some of the Missouri guerrillas may have found refuge with Atchinson when they wintered in Texas. Atchinson settled in Clinton County, Missouri after the war but some of his close relatives remained in Clay County, where Jesse and Frank James lived.

William Jewel founders William C. Lion, Randolph R. Craig and William Carson were all known to the James family in Kentucky. William Hubbell married into the James family in Pulaski County, Kentucky. William Partee founded the Center for Baptist Studies at William Jewell. He was a Vardeman descendant and a James cousin. Edward Madison Samuel was well known to the James family in Missouri. He was a prosperous merchant in Liberty. There is, however, no known relationship between him and Dr. Reuben Samuel, stepfather of the James boys.

Connections *continued on page 12*

Connections *Continued from page 11*

THOMASONS, PATTONS AND WOODSONS

The grandmother of the James boys, Sarah "Sallie" Lindsay Cole, married a second time after her first husband died. Her second husband was Robert Thomason. He had several children by his first marriage and he and Sallie had four more children. This family came from Kentucky and settled in Clay County, Missouri. Another prominent Kentucky family in Clay County was that of Rev. Daniel Patton. Patton started the Shady Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church and he had a large family. One of Rev. Patton's sons, Thomas, married Sarah Elizabeth "Bettie" Thomason, a half-sister of Zerelda James Samuel. Thomas Patton had a brother, George Erwin, who served as the sheriff of Clay County. Later George Patton served as superintendent of the Confederate Home in Higginsville, Missouri for several years.

John S. Thomason was another sheriff of Clay County and his son, Oscar, served as his deputy. John S. Thomason was a nephew of Robert Thomason, Zerelda James Samuel's stepfather. Elizabeth Thomason, daughter of Grafton Thomason, was a niece of Robert Thomason. She was married to Sheriff James H. Timberlake who was given a lot of credit for bringing the activities of the James Gang to an end. One does have to wonder just how hard all of these James relatives worked to bring Jesse and Frank to justice. There have been a number of suggestions that Timberlake had a lot to do with the jury selection for the trial of Frank James, too.

The Woodson clan is also most interesting. The Woodson name had been passed down in the James family for sometime and this was Jesse's middle name. Frank was also known to use the name Woodson from time to time. Silas Woodson was the governor of Missouri who offered the first reward for the James Gang after the Gads Hill robbery. Silas and the James boys were all descendants of the same Woodson family back in Virginia. Woodson proposed several measures to the Missouri legislature for actions that were to lead to the capture of the James boys. Some of these measures were never funded and about one third of the house abstained from voting on one these bills. Woodson also went through the motions of appointing some state secret service agents to spy on the James boys. However, it was noticed that the only people contacted by Woodson's spies were all known friends of the boys.

There were numerous other Woodsons in the area as well that may have brought influence to bear on the subject of the James boys and/or actively assisted them to avoid the law. There was a Samuel Woodson who was an attorney and who served as the mayor of Independence at one time. He was also in the loan business and a trustee for many large estates. Several Woodsons served in General Jo Shelby's command and several other Confederate soldiers who attended veteran reunions in the area were named Woodson.

Two very prominent Missouri men were the brothers, Frederick and Edward Bates. Caroline Matilda Woodson was the mother of these men. Frederick Bates was governor of the Missouri Territory and of the state of Missouri for a short time. Edward Bates served in the state legislature and senate, and as a U.S. congressman. He was also attorney general of the state of Missouri and served as U.S. Attorney General under President Abe Lincoln.

CIVIL WAR FRIENDS

A number of large, prominent and well-to-do families in the Boon's Lick area had sons who served with guerrilla units, and/or under Gen. Jo Shelby and Gen. Sterling Price during the war. Several members of these families openly welcomed the James boys into their homes and actively assisted them during the post-war years. Two of the most prominent of these families lived mostly in Jackson County and these two families had intermarried over the years. These were the Chiles family and the Hudspeth family. Both families were early settlers in Jackson County. Members of these families were the movers and shakers of the community. They engaged in trade on the Santa Fe Trail, owned huge farms, raised blooded cattle and horses, founded banks, and served on the boards of banks, schools and churches. Some of the men in these two families were officers of the law and judges as well.

Some of the Hudspeth boys had been playmates of Frank and Jesse while they were all schoolboys. Joel Hudspeth rode with both Quantrill and Shelby. After the war his home was always open to the guerrillas. Several of the Hudspeth clan welcomed Jesse and Frank into their homes and treated them like visiting royalty. There were always horses readily available in Hudspeth stables whenever the boys needed fresh horses. Dick Liddle, who became a member of the James Gang, lived with one of the Hudspeth families for a number of years and he trained Hudspeth race horses.

The Pence family was another large family with a number of James connections. A Thomas Pence of Clay County died in California the same month as Rev. Robert James. Donnie and Bud Pence were brothers who rode with Quantrill. After the war the Pence boys were accused of assisting the James boys in at least one bank robbery. Not long after that robbery the Pence boys went south where they became lawmen, married sisters named Samuel and settled in Samuels Depot, Nelson County, Kentucky. The James boys were known to visit the Pences and to stay in their homes on occasional trips back to the Bluegrass State.

The Poole (or Pool) boys were also with Quantrill and Todd during the war. Capt. Dave Poole surrendered himself and 48 men at Lexington, Missouri at the end of the war. Jesse James was with Poole's men at the time as they returned from spending the winter in Texas. Some of the Poole family lived in Lexington and when the bank there was robbed Dave and his brother led a posse after the robbers – or did they? It is more likely the Pooles were assist-

ing the gang and formed the posse as a means of stopping any serious pursuit of the bandits.

Several of the Poole tribe later relocated to Texas where they ran cattle ranches. It is very possible that the Poole's furnished shelter to the James boys when they were visiting in Texas. Of course, sister Susan James and her ex-guerrilla husband, Allen Parmer, were always happy to have the James boys as guests in their home in Texas, too.

SHELBY AND EDWARDS

By far the two most important war-time friends the James boys acquired were Gen. Jo Shelby and Maj. John N. Edwards. Edwards served as Shelby's adjutant throughout the war and went into Mexico with Shelby after the war. Later Edwards became a well-known newspaper editor and was a prime supporter of the James boys through his editorials. Edwards also wrote two books about the war: "Noted Guerrillas" and "Shelby and His Men."

Shelby was from one of the most aristocratic families of Kentucky. His father died when he was young and his mother, Maria Gist, then married Benjamin Gratz. The family lived in Lexington about a block from the famed Transylvania University. The family had a large hemp-raising operation and a rope-making plant. Shelby was later to become a wealthy hemp planter in Missouri. Shelby had four half brothers and the five boys had a number of well-known boyhood chums: John Hunt Morgan, the great Confederate raider; Benjamin Gratz Brown, a major political power in Missouri, a post-war governor of the state and a candidate for vice president; and Francis Preston Blair, Jr. a leading light in Missouri politics as well. Blair had other relatives in Washington, D.C. in the federal government and this family was very instrumental in keeping Missouri in the Union. Brown and Blair were also cousins of Shelby.

After the war, hostility against ex-confederates and those with southern leanings was deeper and more vindictive in Missouri than anywhere else. The Drake Constitution of Missouri was an instrument of vengeance against the former rebels. Former Confederates and those suspected of disloyalty were disfranchised, forbidden to teach, preach, practice law, perform marriage ceremonies, or engage in corporate business. The Ouster Ordinance caused the removal of judges and other government officers at the whim of the governor. It was not until 1870 that the reason was reintroduced in Missouri politics and B. Gratz Brown as governor was one of the key reasons for the return to some sort of sanity is state politics.

The only occupation open to Shelby was that of a farmer because he was not permitted to engage in business. He had a large plantation and hundreds of veterans from both sides were welcome at Shelby's home. The James and Younger brothers and their friends were especially welcome. They were Shelby's old boys and in his eyes they could do no wrong. Shelby also credited Frank James with saving him from capture on one occasion. He felt he owed Frank a debt he could never repay and Jesse was included in the debt owed Frank.

In 1872 Frank arrived at the Shelby home in very poor health. The Shelby's nursed Frank for two and a half months. When he recovered enough to travel, Frank left for Tennessee. At Frank's trial, Shelby said he had not seen Frank again until the trial, 12 years later.

Constables and sheriffs knew where Jesse and Frank came and went a good bit of the time. None of the law officers ever called at the Shelby residence when the boys were there. Shelby had made it clear that anyone who attempted to surround his house or to take the James boys had better be ready to suffer the consequences. It does not appear that any of the local law enforcement officials wanted to tangle with Jo Shelby.

Shelby and John N. Edwards clearly arranged for the surrender of Frank James to Gov. Thomas T. Crittenden, another old Kentucky friend of Shelby. Edwards then arranged for John Finis Philips to defend Frank when he was tried. Philips was one of the "Big Four" lawyers that practiced in central Missouri. Philips was a commissioner of the state supreme court, had a judgeship on the Kansas City Court of Appeals and later served 22 years as judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Other members of this quartet were equally impressive men: F. M. Cockrell was a former Confederate general and a U. S. senator from Missouri for 30 years. George Vest had gone with the South and was elected to the Confederate Congress. Vest was later a U.S. senator from Missouri for many years. Thomas. T. Crittenden served as a Lt. Col. in the Union army, as governor of Missouri from 1881 to 1885 and as consul general in Mexico from 1893 to 1897. He was the man that made the deal with the Ford brothers to capture or kill Jesse James.

After his surrender, Frank James was indicted in Davies County. He was charged with the murder of John W. Sheets in the bank robbery at Gallatin in 1869, participation in the train robbery at Winston on July 15, 1881 and the murder of conductor William Westfall and of Frank McMillan, a passenger on the train. Frank was duly tried and Philips conducted an excellent defense during the trial. Gen. Jo Shelby also made an appearance at the trial. Shelby had lunch with John Edwards just before the two of them appeared in the court room. It appeared that a major component of their lunch had consisted of a well-known Kentucky product, bourbon whiskey. Shelby put on something of a show at the trial as he was obviously intoxicated. But due in large part to his influence outside the courtroom as well as in it, Frank James was never convicted of any crime.

CONCLUSIONS

How did the James boys remain at large robbing banks and trains for 16 years? One answer to that question clearly

Connections *continued on page 14*

Connections *Continued from page 13*

must be they had a lot of protection and assistance through the years from some very powerful people. Local law officers were close relations, and family and friends had money and a lot of influence.

Old Confederate comrades clearly provided safe havens and helped in other ways as well. John Newman Edwards provided great public relations for years and convinced a large amount of the Missouri population that the James boys were heroes not villains. After all, the boys only robbed banks and railroads. These institutions were fair game. Banks foreclosed on mortgages with elation and railroads stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from a number of Missouri counties through the sale of worthless bonds. Those James boys were just doing their civic duty! The James boys were seen as champions of the oppressed and downtrodden South – remember the Drake constitution, the Ouster Ordinance and all the bitterness of the Reconstruction years?

It appears that there was little serious effort on the part of local and state officials to capture the James brothers until after the political climate had changed and Gratz Brown brought the liberal Republican element into power. The Pinkertons, of course, did make serious attempts to capture the James brothers. However, the Pinkertons were probably their own worst enemy. They lost what little support they had in Missouri when Pinkerton agents raided the James/Samuel's home killing little Archie Samuel and crippling Zerelda Samuel.

One glaring question does remain. Where were the federal law officers? Not once in all the literature about the James Gang does there appear mention of any significant attempt by the U.S. Marshals and their deputies to apprehend the James Gang. The gang robbed trains carrying the U.S. mail and other federal property and conducted robberies in several states. Why did the U.S. Marshals Service maintain a hands-off policy where the James Gang was concerned? And that question is a subject for further research and another article at sometime in the future.

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Members:

Saved by the Bell

Roger Brezina

By Roger Brezina

With bloodshot eyes, a bloodshot conscience
And bloodshot outlaw accomplices
Buried under a page of Old West history,
A not-so-dead "dead man" falls to the mission floor
And a page of history unfolds a forgotten skeleton
That interrupts religious services.

Bill Stiles was the old man's name
Whom the law had said was dead,
But confessing where he lay, he claimed
From the Northfield raid he'd fled.

"That time," said Stiles, "I saved myself."

Some Unknown Power held him to the mission floor
And as the congregation gathered near
He heard the tender voice of an evangelist
Asking him to give himself up to God.
They stole a tear from his quivering eye
Then they robbed him of his fear.

Repentant as he lay paralyzed,
Converted in the chapel aisle
He regained his strength and realized
Long last he'd learned to smile.

"This time," said Stiles, "I saved my soul."

Old West books

JYG members Karen and Will (Gordon) Shinn have built up an impressive collection of Old West books including signed first editions, TimeLife Old West books, assorted biographies and storys on the James family, Wyatt Earp and others from both sides of law and order.

The Shinns are now in a position to sell the contents of their collection. They hope to have it all all listed online at www.oldwestlegacy.com. In the meantime, you can visit that site for a "contact us" page for more information.

Member Profile:

Chuck and Pat Parsons
Luling, Texas

As a native Iowan growing up in Minnesota, it was perhaps inevitable that I should acquire some knowledge of America's most famous outlaw band – the James-Younger Gang. I have an early memory of my parents taking me to the site of the Adair train robbery of July 1873. I have seen it numerous times since then.

In 1950 my father bought a farm in southern Minnesota and then Mother decided one day that we should all go visit Northfield. It was on occasion of one of the reenactments, sometime in the early 1950s. I remember visiting the Schilling Museum and seeing what was purported to be the ear of Charlie Bigelow, who wasn't even at Northfield. I remember seeing a number of guns and a spur that was picked up after the street battle. What we didn't see, but I have since found on my own, was the grave of cashier Joseph Lee Heywood. And just the other day during a visit to Minnesota, I finally visited the grave of Nicolaus Gustavson.

In a sense, I can say that my parents influenced me in what has become a fascinating hobby, the study of outlaws and lawmen – not only of the Iowa and Minnesota borders, but of the entire American West. Since this is so huge a country, I have narrowed my focus mainly to Texas outlaws and lawmen, Texas Rangers and feudists of the late 19th century.

During these early years I read a great deal. Such titles as "Wyatt Earp Frontier Marshal" by Stuart N. Lake, "The Saga of Billy the Kid" and "Tombstone," both by Walter Noble Burns, come to mind. Initially I believed every word in them, not yet realizing that some writers only touch upon the truth, yet make it so believable.

Works by Ed Bartholomew were also influential. Being a Texan, of course, meant that his writings focused on Texas characters, and the book that influenced my way of thinking most was his "Kill Or Be Killed," the record of the chain of killings of ex-Texas Ranger by John Wesley Hardin, then the killing of Hardin by John Selman, then his killing by George Scarborough, then his killing by presumably Will Carver, and his killing by Elijah Briant, who

Profile *continued on page 16*

Profile *Continued from page 15*

died in bed. The writings of C.L. Sonnichsen also influenced me greatly, mainly his work "I'll Die Before I'll Run: The Story of the Great Feuds of Texas."

At some point during these years – from high school to grad school, a first marriage, two children, teaching and then school administration – I developed the idea that I could find great enjoyment and possible fame and fortune in researching and writing about these colorful outlaws and lawmen. In my early naive efforts I recall copying in long hand lengthy articles about the Northfield raid from various newspapers. Then micro-film readers were read and I wore down many a pencil to a stub. My idea was that I was the one selected by fate to write the definitive history of all the bank and train robberies on the James-Younger Gang! Reality soon set in and the ultimate book on the James-Younger Gang was put on a back burner. After reading and appreciating the works of Dr. Settle, Robertus Love, Homer Croy, Marley Brant – not to mention the ultimate James-Younger Gang authority Jack Koblas, the project is now far, far back on the burner and will probably never be seriously contemplated in this lifetime.

Some of my earliest writings did deal with aspects of the Gang. A short article on Oscar Sorbel appeared in the English Westerner's *Society's Tally Sheet*, as well as an article on Sheriff James Glispin in the journal, *Minnesota Sheriff*. Numerous book reviews and articles appeared in publications such as *Wild West, True West* and *Real West,* now defunct.

One of the most important events in my "writing" career was being published in the first issue of the NOLA publication, the *Quarterly of the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History*. Becoming a life member of that organization opened numerous doors for me, but the most important thing was making so many friends through the years. Without NOLA, I would never have met up with such great people as Carl Hage, Marley Brant, James Ross, Jack Koblas, Emmett Hoctor, Milt Perry, Sheila James and, of course, Rex Macbeth, who many years ago gave me a guided tour of the Northfield-Madelia country. Thanks to the James-Younger Gang I have friends now all over the country, including several in England, such as Michelle Pollard whose interest in Jesse James is formidable.

I have had some success in writing about Texas characters. On my first trip to Texas in the late 1970s, I visited Barney Hubbs of Pecos. We had done some correspondence, mainly about Clay Allison. He had a mass of material gathered about the noted gunfighter but was too busy with other projects to write it up in booklet form. My visit was propitious: I stayed for a week in his office (more like a functional hotel room) and wrote up a biography of Allison from his available materials. Our deal was I would write it up, he would get it printed and the proceeds would go to the West of the Pecos Museum. Ultimately, the little booklet went out of print and, rather than merely reprinting it, Mr. Hubbs and I decided to do a greatly expanded hard cover version. This was "Clay Allison: Portrait of a Shootist," published by Pioneer Press of Seagraves, Texas.

The success of this first effort inspired me to continue with biographies such as "Phil Coe: Texas Gambler," "James Madison Brown: Texas Sheriff," "Texas Turfman, C.B. McKinney: The Law in South Texas" and "Pidge: A Texas Ranger from Virginia." I was fortunate when State House Press of Austin, Texas decided to publish my biography of Texas Ranger L.H. McNelly, one of those fascinating characters who – after surviving four years of Civil War, three years as a captain in the Texas State Police, and then two years as a captain in the Texas Rangers, was dropped from state service because his medical bills were too high. He died shortly thereafter from tuberculosis. This was followed by my having a chapter about the Iron Front Saloon in the book, "Legendary Watering Holes: The Saloons that Made Texas Famous," published by Texas A&M University Press. Now I am looking forward to my biography of Texas Ranger John B. Armstrong, the man who captured John Wesley Hardin in 1877, also published by Texas A&M, and am currently working on a study of the famous Sutton-Taylor Feud of South Texas to be published by the University of North Texas Press, hopefully in 2007 or 2008.

Now, in 2006, my wanderings over the West are not solo. On June 4, I married a young lady whose interest in history and genealogy is equal to my own. She is now Pat Parsons and we make our home in Luling, Texas, an hour from Austin and an hour from San Antonio. Since we both still love to wander an old cemetery looking for a specific grave site, we finally found, with a little help, the grave of Nicolaus Gustavson! Pat has a specific interest in the history of outlaws and lawmen as her great uncle, Henry Scudder Biggs, was shot and killed in a "difficulty" in Sanderson, Texas in 1903. Thus we both have our specific projects in our travels and research.

Research and writing has been a constant joy to me, and presumably some readers appreciate my efforts. It all started because decades ago my parents thought enough of instilling the love of history within me by taking me to the site of America's first train robbery in Adair, Iowa, and then to the Waterloo of that same gang in Northfield.

Conference *Continued from page 1*

Boggs, who lives in Santa Fe, N.M., is a frequent contributor to many Western magazines, including *True West* and *Wild West*. Other novels include "Arm of the Bandit: The Trial of Frank James," "East of the Border" and "The Big Fifty." He is currently working on a novel, "Northfield," scheduled for release next year. His website is www.johnnydboggs.com.

Registrations are being taken for the 2006 James-Younger Gang Conference Sept. 28-30, with special rate rooms available at Country Inn & Suites, 1350 NW 118th St., Clive, (West Des Moines) Iowa. Send registrations to Acting JYG secretary/treasurer, Jan Goodman, 5320-47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417. You may also phone or e-mail registration to 612/729-6440 or joannims@prodigy.net.

Cost for all three days, including all events, bus tour and banquet is $80/single or $150/couple. Thursday only is $10; Friday only is $30; Saturday only is $40. Send check or money order with whether you will be going on the Friday bus tour so an accurate count can be tallied.

Reserve your rooms now at the Country Inn, www.countryinns.com/cliveia or 515/457-3606. Rooms are $69 (be sure and tell them you are with the James-Younger Gang to get the discount). All rooms come with two queen beds or a king, microwave and refrigerator. The hotel has a fitness room, pool and sauna, and provides a complimentary breakfast with a couple of hot items every morning. Within walking distance next to the hotel are a Cracker Barrel and a Mexican restaurant with a nice little bar. If you need a ride from the airport, tell them when you register at the hotel and a shuttle will pick you up.

Tentative Itinerary (subject to change):

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28:

9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. – Arrival/check-in/registration. Vendors and social activities all three days. Wandering minstrel Lonesome Ron, James-Younger poetry, open forum, lunch and supper on your own.

4:00-4:30 p.m. – Lecture by Robert Leonard "Dutch-Catfish" Pribble II of the Pribble Museum of Arcadian Life, Osprey, Fla., "Jesse W. James – Arcadian Folk Hero."

5:30-6:30 p.m. – Welcome cocktail reception and business meeting including election of officers.

6:30-10 p.m. – Brief welcome by local dignitaries, followed by, among other things, an itinerary review, bus trip preview lecture, and slide presentation on "Jesse James in Iowa," by Jack Koblas.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29:

Bus trip: Buses depart 8:15 a.m. from Country Inn & Suites.

Stop no. 1: 9:15-10:30 a.m. – Wyatt Earp House, Pella Historical Village, Pella, Iowa. The restored boyhood home of Wyatt Earp is located in the Pella Historical Village, a collage of more than 20 buildings – some more than 150 years old. These structures are nestled in a courtyard laced with brick walkways.

Stop no. 2: 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Corydon, Iowa, where on June 3, 1871, Frank and Jesse James, Cole Younger and Clell Miller robbed the Ocobock Brothers Bank. Private tour of the Prairie Trails Museum of Wayne County, a large main brick building housing 25,000 artifacts in five galleries covering more than 21,000 square feet. The museum is home to a first-person account of the actual robbing of the bank as well as the actual safe tapped by the boys.

Lunch on your own and lots of free time.

Buses depart Corydon at 4:30 p.m. and arrive West Des Moines 6-6:30 p.m.

7-10 p.m. – TBD: lecture and social including James-Younger square dance.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

8:30-9:15 a.m. – Lecture TBD

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Lecture TBD

10:30-11:15 a.m. – Guest speaker: Rick Mattix, "Midwest Banditry and the Jesse James Tradition." Mattix is one of the leading authorities on 1920s-30s gangsters and is well versed on our boys as well. Books co-authored by Rick "Mad Dog" Mattix include "Thompson, the American Legend: The First Submachine Gun," "Public Enemies: America's Criminal Past, 1919-1940," "Dillinger: The Untold Story (Expanded Edition)," and "The Complete Public Enemy Almanac: New Facts and Features on the People, Places, and Events of the Gangster and Outlaw Era, 1920-1940." Mattix has served as research consultant to other authors and various true crime programs such as A&E Biography episodes on Ma Barker and Bonnie and Clyde; and documentaries on Dillinger, Capone and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. He was recently interviewed for an upcoming two-hour History Channel presentation on Midwest depression gangs titled "Crime Wave," airing this fall. His web site is at www.geocities.com/teaser_4224/RickmaddogMattix.html.

11:15-1:30 a.m. – Lunch with soft music by Lonesome Ron.

Conference *continued on page 18*

Conference *continued from page 17*

1:30-2:15 p.m. – Panel: Moderator Chip DeMann and authors Johnny D. Boggs, Rick Mattix, Jack Koblas and more to be named. Panel topics to include the later years of Cole Younger and Frank James focusing on their Wild West Show and Jesse James activities in Iowa.

2:15-7 p.m. – Signings by authors, social activities, free time and an optional tour to the Adair train robbery site 45 minutes away.

7 p.m.-until the cows come home – Banquet, "The Desperadoes" performing cowboy music (45 minutes), silent auction, Johnny D. Boggs lecture and tomfoolery.

Many other activities are being considered including a showing of James-Younger films. If you have suggestions or wish to participate in any events, e-mail Jack Koblas at jkoblas@gmail.com. See you all in Iowa.

Teacher *continued from page 5*

Beals, Miss Nora Dollins, Mrs. Mary Dollins Perrin, and the Misses Crabbe. At the close of the third school, Mr. Hudson returned to his home in Missouri.

Following this, the Sinking Spring Community was startled, shocked, to hear that Mr. Hiram Hudson, the gifted school teacher and polished gentleman, was none other than the notorious bank and stage robber, Frank James, and that while posing as a school teacher, he was in reality "hiding out." After he and his brother, Jesse James, had robbed a bank in Missouri, the authorities in Missouri had been working on the case for months and finally traced Frank to Barren County. A description was sent here which tallied exactly with the description of Prof. Hiram Hudson.

Note: In other accounts it was noted that occasionally Mr. Hudson could cancel classes for the day when a mysterious "friend" would ride up by horseback. It was later learned that this was Jesse James.

Jesse James Ate Here

This banner that says, "Jesse James Ate Here," for many years hung over the Jesse James Café (now the Northfield (Minn.) Historical Society). Since the early 1960s, it's been hanging over this Algona, Iowa, garage.

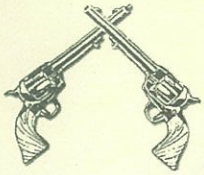
JYG president, Jack Koblas, received a letter and this photo from a lady in Algona, Ia. – "someone I'd never heard of before this and she had never heard of me." Her son went out to buy her a Christmas present and saw Jack's book, "Jesse James Ate Here," in an Iowa bookstore and just had to buy it for Mom. When he gave it to her she got so excited. She couldn't believe her eyes. She read it and loves it.

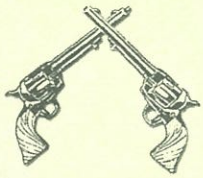
When she was a little girl, she lived with her parents in Northfield. Her father was a carpenter and was asked in the early 1960s to remodel the Riverside Café (where the Northfield Historical Society gift shop is today). The café had an awning hanging above it that read "Jesse James Ate Here." The owner was going to throw it away but this girl's father asked if he could keep it as a souvenir. The owner said OK and it has been hanging over their garage in Iowa ever since.

Be sure to register today for the Annual James-Younger Conference September 28-30 in Clive, Iowa

Deadline to secure rooms at Country Inn & Suites is August 30 – so call them right away – 515/457-3606.

Clip and send in the registration form to your right TODAY!





James-Younger Gang
13th Annual Meeting
Sept. 28-30, 2006 – Clive, Iowa
REGISTRATION FORM

❑ $80 Single ❑ $150 Couple

Inclusive of all three days and all events, including the bus tour and banquet.

OR

❑ $10 Thursday only ❑ $30 Friday only ❑ $40 Saturday only

TOTAL ENCLOSED $_____

clip and send in **TODAY!**

Tentative Basic Itinerary (much more to come)

Thursday, Sept. 28
9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. – Registration
4-4:30 p.m. – Lecture
5-6:30 p.m. – Social, Business Meeting
6:30-10 p.m. – TBD

Friday, Sept. 29
8:15 a.m. – Bus Tours
7-10 p.m. – TBD

Saturday, Sept. 30
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. – Lectures/Panels, etc.
7 p.m. – Banquet

❑ YES – I do plan to take in the bus tours!

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please send in registration by August 24, 2006

Please send check or money order and direct any questions to:
Jan Goodman, 5320-47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55417
Phone: 612/729-6440 • E-mail: JOANNIMS@prodigy.net
(Be sure to specify whether you will be going on the Friday bus tour so we can get an accurate count.)

Reserve rooms now at the Country Inn & Suites, www.countryinns.com/cliveia, 515/457-3606. Rooms are $69 (tell them you are with the James-Younger Gang to get the discount). All rooms come with two queen beds or a king, microwave and refrigerator. The hotel has a fitness room, pool and sauna, and provides a complimentary breakfast with a couple of hot items every morning. Within walking distance are a Cracker Barrel and a Mexican restaurant with a nice little bar and a lot of restaurants within driving distance. A shuttle is available, so inquire about being picked up at the airport if that's what you want.