

JAMES FARM JOURNAL

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Summer 2013

FOJF REUNION PROMISES FUN, FELLOWSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT

by Liz Johnson

If there is one thing James family historians love to do, it's talk about the James family to anyone who will listen. The annual Friends of the James Farm reunion gives everyone a chance to do just that - visit with like-minded people and those interested in learning more about Jesse, Frank, Zerelda - the entire family, plus learn more about pioneer life in Missouri, and how the war affected the families here.

It is astounding to learn that the James family were not just Confederates, not just southern sympathizers, not just outlaws - they were early Missouri pioneers caught up in the war - before, during and after.

The reunion is a two-day event held Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, that begins with a catered reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Friday evening outside the Liberty Bank. Hors d'oeuvres and iced tea will be served. Guests will meet members of the Friends of the James Farm Board of Directors as well as garner an opportunity to meet and greet James family descendants, historians and spend some time

getting to know one another prior to Saturday's activities.

Saturday's events include a bus trip to Independence that, among other sites to be visited, will be the 1859 Jail & Marshal's Museum. Guests will be in for a treat as Frank James, Cole Younger and Jesse James Junior will be on hand at the jail, which is located at 217 N. Main Street, Independence.

Liz Johnson is a writer and historian from Lexington, Missouri. She previously worked for the Excelsior Springs and Richmond, Missouri newspapers and won a number of writing and graphic design awards from the Missouri Press Association. Contact Liz at jollyhill@gmail.com.

INDEPENDENCE JAIL HELD FRANK JAMES, QUANTRILL AND OTHERS DURING LATE 1800S

by Martin McGrane

Thousands of people have toured the historic Jackson County Jail and Marshal's House on the edge of the city's old Courthouse Square, but Frank James got to know the place very well indeed during a six-month incarceration there following his 1882 surrender to Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden.

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The jail, complete with accommodations for the marshal and his family, was built in 1859 and it was a rough place. None of its twelve cells was heated and some prisoners reportedly died of exposure to the wintertime cold.

Throughout the Civil War and after, the jail saw a steady stream of prisoners pass through, most of whom have been forgotten to history. William Clarke Quantrill was also held there briefly during the winter of 1860, prior to becoming the infamous Confederate guerrilla leader.

Frank James was taken to the jail in the summer of 1882 to await trial for

Continued on page 3...

FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vivie Tison

Friends of the James Farm Reunion 2013

It's about that time of year again . . . time for the Friends of the James Farm Reunion 2013, when we see each other, swap stories and stretch our sense of history about the James family and their unique history. Board members have worked hard to plan what will undoubtedly be remembered as the best and biggest reunion for some time. You won't want to miss this one.

Mark your calendar for 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 7, at the Jesse James Bank Museum, 103 N. Water Street, Liberty, Missouri, to meet and greet old friends and new.

Plan to arrive early to register on Saturday, June 8 at the James Farm, join us for coffee and rolls before Marty McGrane's presentation on the James family's involvement in the history of Independence, Missouri, before and after the Civil War.

The bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. as Scott Cole narrates the background of the historic sites we will visit on our way to Independence. We will tour the 1859 Jail and Marshal's House where Frank James was held prisoner before standing trial in Gallatin, Missouri. We will also pay our respects to the graves of Frank and Anna James in Hill Park Cemetery 10499 E. 20th Street, Independence, Missouri.

For lunch, guests are free to dine at one of the many fine restaurants on the square. After returning to the farm, we will hear Barbara Hughes give a presentation on how people mourned the dead during the Civil War. Dinner will be a catered event with musical entertainment following.

A registration form is included in this newsletter. The total cost of the day's events and dinner is \$40. Or, guests may pay \$20 to attend the morning presentation by Marty McGrane and bus tour to Independence; or \$20 just to attend Saturday afternoon's presentation by Barbara Hughes and the evening's dinner and entertainment.

You will notice there isn't a form for the pistol shoot this year. We have moved that event to Saturday, June 29.

The writers' contest, as well, has been moved to a later date. The board wants to concentrate more time and attention on promoting it to younger writers than we have in the past. We will update you on deadlines for the contest when it is announced.

We have been eagerly awaiting the restoration of Anna's diploma but as of this writing, it is not complete. There were many wrinkles and creases that had to be humidified and then pressed out. It is a slow process and the restorers want to ensure that it is done completely and properly. We thank them for their diligence. We will announce when it is completed and on display at the museum.

I look forward to seeing all of you in June!

Vivie Tison

...Continued from page 4

an 1881 train robbery and murder for which he was later acquitted. Upon his arrival he was greeted like a celebrity by a large crowd of admirers, and when he got to the jail he must have appreciated the special treatment his celebrity status accorded him. His cell was accessorized with fine furniture and artwork, its cold stone floors covered with a fine imported carpet.



Frank James' homey cell in the Jackson County Marshal's House and Jail Museum.

During the daytime his cell door remained unlocked and he had the run of the place. In the evening he hosted card games for his cronies.

The Jackson County Jail had a ringside view of many important historic events throughout its years as a lock-up. You're sure to enjoy visiting this integral part of local history during this year's Friends of the James Farm Reunion.

Martin McGrane is a former college professor and public relations executive. He is the author of "The James Farm, its People, Their Lives and Their Times," published in 1982. He is one of the editors of the James Farm Journal and resides in West Des Moines, IA with his wife, Sandy.

Saturday, June 8 Presents a Full Day of Fun Activities

- 8:30 to 9 a.m. – **Registration**
- 9 to 9:30 a.m. – **Guest speaker Marty McGrane:** "Civil War Events Around Independence" – presented inside the theater at the Visitor Center, Jesse James Farm & Museum, Kearney.
- 9:45 to 1:30 p.m. – **Bus tour to Independence.** Sites in Independence from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. include: Frank and Anna James' grave, the 1859 Jail & Marshal's Museum, the sites of the First Battle of Independence, occurring on Aug. 11, 1862, involving William C. Quantrill's guerrillas and the Second Battle of Independence, part of the Battle of Westport, fought Oct. 21-22, 1864. Lunch will be at Noon in Independence on the Square (you may buy or bring your own lunch). The bus departs at 1:30 p.m. to return to the James Farm.
- 3 to 4 p.m. – **Guest speaker Barbara Hughes:** "Mourning During the Civil War" – presented inside the theater at the Visitor Center, Jesse James Farm & Museum. Hughes will portray Amanda Pine Stout, a woman in mourning for her brother, who died in the Civil War. The PowerPoint presentation deals with the 19th century view of mourning and the impact the war had on mourning.
- 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. – **Annual FOTJF General Membership Meeting**
 - Financial Report
 - Elections
 - Bylaws Changes
 - Friends of the James Farm annual gift to the farm
 - Miscellaneous business/issues/comments
- 5:30 to 6 p.m. – **Social hour**
- 6 to 8 p.m. – **Evening meal at the James Farm**
- 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. – **Evening entertainment – the Wild Wood Boys**

Cost: \$20 for the morning speaker and bus tour to Independence (lunch is not provided); \$20 for the afternoon speaker, dinner, and evening entertainment

To purchase tickets, either email vtison@aol.com; mail your reservation to Friends of the James Farm, P.O. Box 404, Liberty, MO 64069; or purchase at the door. For more information, call the James Farm at 816-736-8500.

Please bring your own chairs for the Friday and Saturday evening events.

A reservation form is included on page 4 of this newsletter for your convenience.

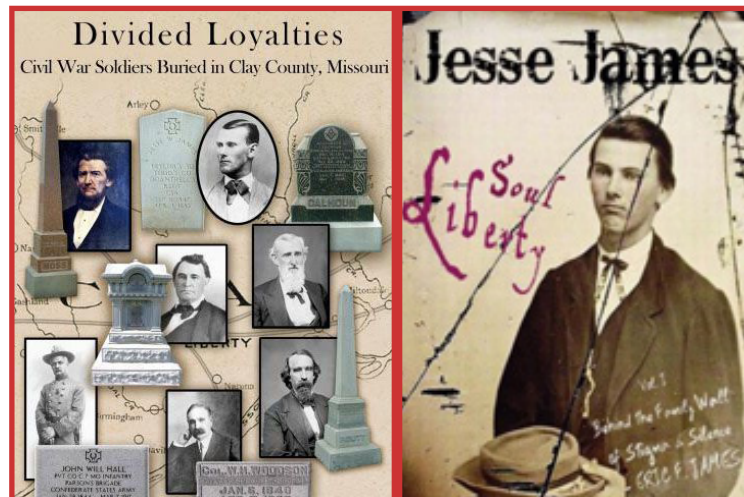
NEW HISTORICAL BOOKS

The Clay County Archives and Historical Library is proud to announce the May 2, 2013 release of a new book that will be of interest to history and genealogy buffs alike. *Divided Loyalties – Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County, Missouri* has been written in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

Divided Loyalties includes brief biographies of 800 Civil War veterans and 600 photographs. The 350-page book examines the effects of the war on the citizens of Clay County, the battles that occurred, information about the military units that were involved and much more.

Copies of *Divided Loyalties* will be on sale beginning May 2 at the Clay County Archives. All proceeds will benefit the ongoing operation of the Archives, which is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization.

The Clay County Archives and Historical Library is located one block east of Liberty Square in the Frank



Hughes Memorial Library building, located at 210 East Franklin Street.

In addition to *Divided Loyalties*, Eric James has written a new book, *Jesse James Soul Liberty, Behind The Family Wall of Stigma & Silence*. James' book can be ordered from Cashel Cadence House, 211 Wilderness Road, Danville, KY 40422.

JAMES FARM REUNION REGISTRATION

JUNE 7 and 8, 2013

Please mail or email (vtison@aol.com) your RSVP. We need a count for meals and bus space.

Bus Tour to Independence - \$20 • Plus 1859 Jail Museum
Catered Dinner and Entertainment - \$20

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: **Friends of the James Farm**
P.O. Box 404
Liberty, MO 64069

*Tickets may be purchased at the door. Registration is from 8:30 to 9 a.m., June 8 at the farm.
For more information, contact the Jesse James Farm & Museum: 816-736-8500

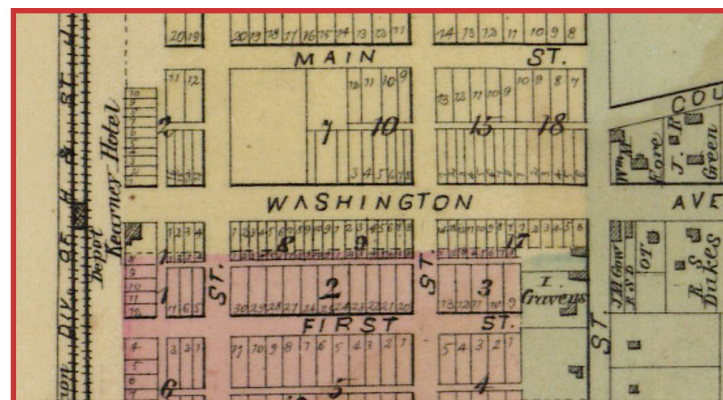
JESSE JAMES AND THE KEARNEY HOUSE

by Michelle Pollard

The Kearney House, built by George H. Plitt, was the first building to be constructed after the laying out of Kearney and the arrival of the Hannibal and St Joseph Railroad in 1867. The House, which Plitt operated first as a store and then as a hotel, was located on the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Railroad Street (now an alley) and although it was completed before the railroad

running of the House from John W. Harvey sometime in 1881.³ A year later John Maret swapped his farm for the merchandise in Solom Corum's store and the Liberty Tribune reported that 'Robert Pence will engage with Mr Maret as a partner'.⁴ On March 10, 1882 the same newspaper announced that 'George Woodruff has rented the Kearney Hotel.'

Due to paperwork and politics in St Joseph and a four hour delay in Cameron, Jesse James' funeral party had arrived at the Kearney Depot hopelessly late. When it did finally arrive, at 1.35am on April 6, the mourning party was immediately escorted to the sitting room of the Kearney Hotel, 'twenty

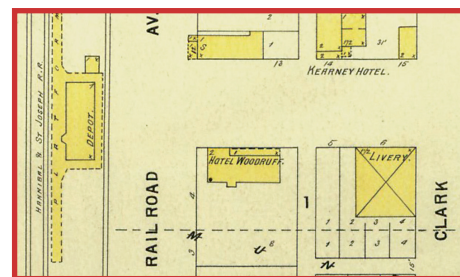


An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Clay County, Missouri – Compiled, Drawn, and Published from Personal Examinations and Surveys by Edwards Brothers of Missouri, 1877. Courtesy Clay County Archives and Historical Library.

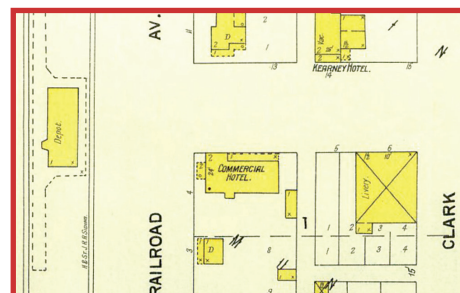
yards away and the nearest building to the station,⁵ where they were no doubt greeted by George Woodruff, the 'gentlemanly host' who had 'kindly tendered' use of the Hotel.⁶ Once inside, the box containing the coffin was 'carried into the office of the hotel, a dingy, low ceilinged room fifteen feet square.' The coffin was removed, 'placed upon the upturned box, the lid taken off' and 'the face of the renowned outlaw shown to about fifty persons assembled at [that] hour.'⁷ Mrs James, overcome with grief, wailed uncontrollably, her cries of sorrow growing 'louder and louder until they filled the house and thrust themselves far out into the night.' Mrs Samuel, fuelled by her daughter-in-law's grief,

struck out at Sheriff Timberlake and it was with 'much difficulty and after long persuasion that Luther James [a cousin to Jesse] led them away.'⁸

As dawn came, news spread that the body of Jesse James had arrived during the night and the Kearney Hotel was 'soon thronged with curious visitors anxious to catch a glimpse' of the famous outlaw. As they did so, many realised that they had often seen Jesse



1896 Sanborn-Perris



1901 Sanborn-Perris

on the streets of Kearney. In fact, 'two weeks ago to-night,' a Kansas City newspaper reported, 'Jesse James ate at the Kearney House, hired a team and went out into the country, and yet was not once suspected.'⁹

The fate of the Kearney Hotel is, to this author and at this time, unknown. Maps show that the hotel was either extended or rebuilt, becoming the Hotel Woodruff by 1896, the Commercial Hotel by 1901, and a vacant lot by 1927.

Continued on page 6...

...Continued from page 5

In 1921, newspapers reported that a fire had consumed the home of Mr. Woodruff. Within his home just east of the James farm, and lost to the fire, were relics of the old Kearney House, including the ledger in which could be found the signatures of all those who had accompanied Jesse's body to the hotel on the morning of 6 April, 1882.¹⁰

Sources

1. William H. Woodson, History of Clay County, Missouri, Topeka [Kansas] Historical Publishing Co., 1920, p 205; www.kearneyhistory.com. In 1882, the Kearney House was described as 'the only hotel in Kearney' by the Weekly Graphic, Kirksville, Missouri, 14 April, 1882, but this is incorrect. On 24 May, 1878, the Liberty Tribune reported that the 'Kearney House is kept by uncle Abe Netherton.' Two years later, in 1880, 'Uncle Abe' built the Netherton House, which stood slightly to the east of the Kearney Hotel on the north side of Washington Avenue.
2. Liberty Tribune, 3 February 1882. Robert Snell Pence (1829-1903) was the brother of ex guerrillas, Bud and Donnie Pence. He, like the James boys' father, was involved in the Gold Rush; he served on the jury after the attack on the James Farm in 1875; and he built the Sommerset School House where Frank and Jesse went to school. Samuel Anderson Pence, I Knew Frank, I Wish I Had Known Jesse, Two Trails Publishing, Independence, Missouri, 2007, pp 15, 61, 133, 187.
3. Missouri State Gazatteer and Business Directory 1881-1882 lists two hotels - The Kearney Hotel, run by John W. Harvey and The Netherton Hotel, run by Abe Netherton, p379.
4. Liberty Tribune, 13 January 1882.
5. The County Paper, Oregon, Missouri, 14 April, 1882.
6. Frank Triplett, The Life, Times, and Treacherous Death of Jesse James, Konecky and Konecky, New York, 1970, p279. There is some discrepancy over Woodruff's name. Pence states his name was Sam but newspaper articles clearly state George.
7. The County Paper, Oregon, Missouri, 14 April, 1882; Kansas City Daily Journal, 6 April, 1882.
8. The County Paper, Oregon, Missouri, 14 April, 1882.
9. Kansas City Daily Journal, 7 April, 1882.
10. Pence, Op. Cit., p 306.

I would like to extend special thanks to Gay Mathis and Steve Olson for their help researching for this article. M.P.

NEWS FROM THE FARM

By Beth Beckett

"So You Think You Have a Photo of Jesse James"

Researching the James family is very interesting, even more so if you think you have a photo of Jesse James. Here are several suggestions regarding researching your photo:

1. Try and date your photo by three different methods:
 - a. Hairstyles
 - b. Clothing
 - c. Type of photographic paper the picture is printed on
2. Does your photo have a frame that can be dated?
3. Do you live near an art museum? If so, contact the curator and they can assist you with dating your photo.
4. Is there some type of identifying mark in or on the photo, such as a street sign or the photographers name?

Then think logically. When were Jesse and Frank born? How old is the subject in the photo? Do the two dates jive?

An excellent book to assist you with your research is *Dressed For The Photographer*, by Joan Severa. This book will help you date photos from 1840-1900.

Again, think logically. Jesse and Frank were wanted men and smart. Do you really think they would have taken the time to have their photos made in each town where they robbed a bank? Provenance of your photos is going to be of the utmost importance.

Jesse James Farm & Museum Newest Exhibit

The newest exhibit at the Jesse James Farm & Museum is called The Later Years, and will start with Zerelda's death. After her passing, Frank inherited the home and the farm. The exhibit will explore what life was like on the farm in the early 20th century.

REMEMBERING JACK

by Christie Kennard

John J. "Jack" Koblas,
1943–March 8, 2013

I first met Jack Koblas when he agreed to be a speaker at our James Farm Reunion in 2005. He had just published a book about the men from Northfield, Minn., who defeated the James-Younger gang called Minnesota Grit. We were holding the reunion that year in the theatre on the William Jewell campus and Jack was our speaker. When he got to the podium he looked at me, as if a little puzzled about why he was even there and it was somehow all my fault. Then he launched into his subject matter – Northfield, the capture of the Youngers, the escape of the Jameses – and talked and talked, mesmerizing the audience with his charm, his humor and his relaxed confidence. He seemed to know the characters in his book intimately – the citizens of Northfield, the sheriff, the posse – just like he knew every gully and ditch of Hanska Slough outside Madelia where the Youngers were eventually captured.

Jack was short, compact and burly. He had a gravelly voice and a tender heart. He wore his grey hair in a pony tail, his eyes had a lovelorn expression, and it turned out there was just about nothing he couldn't do. He wrote poetry and short stories. He had been in a band called the Magpies in the '70s, which in 2007 was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. He had grown

up as a socialist, yet he wrote about America's great romantic author of the '20s, F. Scott Fitzgerald. He wrote endlessly about the James brothers, the Youngers, Ma Barker and other American outlaws, both 19th and 20th century, but he also wrote children's books, composed songs, was kind to elderly women and always seemed to be in some kind of trouble with the younger ones.

Jack contracted Parkinson's disease about a decade ago, which didn't slow him down much. During that time he served as the president of the James-Younger Gang, wrote prolifically and always had an apartment where guests could crash. When you had a telephone conversation with Jack, it seemed like he lived in a train station – there was always someone coming

through the door or walking past, or just rummaging around in the kitchen, putting groceries away.

He adored his children, his son, John Koblas, of Savage, Minn., and his three daughters, Stephanie Koblas-Rugg, of Apple Valley, Minn., Stacy Radcliff of Prescott, Wis., and Sarah Koblas of Eagan, Minn. Jack leaves behind six grandchildren and a great-grandchild. He also leaves behind an astonishing body of work: 70 books, several screenplays, more than 500 short stories, articles and poems. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his stimulating company and the appreciation he awakened in all of us for every aspect of our nation's history, but especially the outlaws.



The late Jack Koblas, center, with Michelle Pollard and Liz Murphy on the outskirts of Northfield, Minnesota, where Jesse and his gang stopped to cook and eat some stolen chickens. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Pollard)

ASPIRING AUTHORS, PLEASE NOTE:

The 2013 Writers' Contest has been postponed until 2014.

BLACK POWDER SHOOT RESULTS

by Bryan Ivlow

The spring Friends of the James Farm Black Powder and Old West Cartridge Revolver Shoot was held on Saturday, April 6. Since this was on the anniversary of Jesse's first burial at the farm, we used Bob Ford's picture as the special target. (Photos by Liz Johnson)

Winners

CARTRIDGE CATEGORY

First Place: Andrew Anderson

Second Place – Tie: Bob Foreman and Sean Edwards

Third Place: Bruce Houston

BLACK POWDER CATEGORY

First Place: Bill Allison

Second Place: Chris Simmons

Third Place: Paul Weller

SPECIAL TARGET CARTRIDGE CATEGORY

First Place: Bob Foreman

Second Place: Sean Edwards

Third Place: Andrew Anderson

SPECIAL TARGET BLACK POWDER CATEGORY

First Place: Chris Simmons

Second Place: Jeremy Allison

Third Place - Tie: Bill Allison and Paul Weller

We hope to see everyone back for the June 29th shoot.



Participants in the April 6 Black Powder Shoot load their guns under the watchful eye of spectators.



Ready, aim, fire! The smell of gunpowder in the air and the pop of guns firing are just part of the black powder shoot events.



David Bears (as Cole Younger)

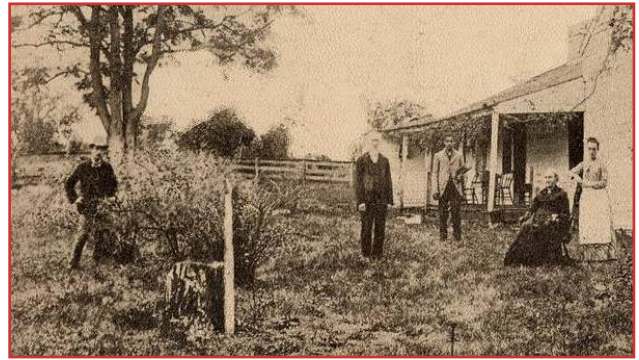


Bob Ford is dead.

FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of the James Farm Events



Photograph of the James Farm, 1908

June 7 – 8 (Friday, Saturday)

2013 Annual Reunion (see page 4 for registration form)

June 29 (Saturday)

Old West Revolver Shoot at the Jesse James Farm and Museum

September 15 (Sunday)

Old West Revolver Shoot at the Jesse James Farm and Museum

For more information, rules,
and registration, visit our
Web site: www.jessejames.org

Regional Historical Events/Exhibits

Aug. 17–18 (Saturday, Sunday)

Cross Border Tour of Quantrill's
Route to Lawrence and Back to Cass
County, MO.

Tickets are now on sale. They will
go fast, so get in on the early bird
registration and save some dollars.
For more information and how to
obtain your tickets, please visit the
Web site: www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/Special-Tour

Now through May 31

**Divided Loyalties: Civil War
Documents from the Missouri
State Archives.**

Exhibit at Excelsior Springs Museum
and Archives, 101 E. Broadway, Ex-
celsior Springs, MO. Open Tuesday –
Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 816-630-0101,
or visit: www.exsmo.com/museum.

May 28 – August 27

Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City Speakers
Alexander Majors House
8201 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO 64114

Tuesday, May 28 – Matt Spruill:
“Gettysburg” (held at Homestead
Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,
Prairie Village, KS

Tuesday, June 25 – Lane Smith:
“Decisions at Vicksburg”

Tuesday, July 23 – Arnold Schofield:
“Battle of Honey Springs”

Tuesday, Aug. 27 – Dr. Diane Mutti
Burke: “Order #11 and Civil War
Refugees”

For more information, visit:
<http://cwrkcc.org/>

July 18 – November 19

Civil War Sesquicentennial
Series 2013

All programs held at the Central
Library, 14 @. 10th Street, Kansas City,
MO, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 18 – African-
American Troops in the Civil War

Wednesday, Aug. 21 – Quantrill's
Lawrence Raid & the Guerrilla War

Tuesday, Nov. 19 – Gettysburg:
The Most Important Event of 1863?
A Roundtable Discussion

May 18 (Saturday)

Bus Tour to Bates County

Tour runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
starting from the Blue & Grey Book
Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut, Independence,
and is sponsored by the Civil War
Round Table of Western Missouri. \$30
reservation by May 15, mail to:

CWRTWM
P.O. Box 3019
Independence, MO 64055.

For more information,
call 816-225-7944.

Readers, we want to hear from you.

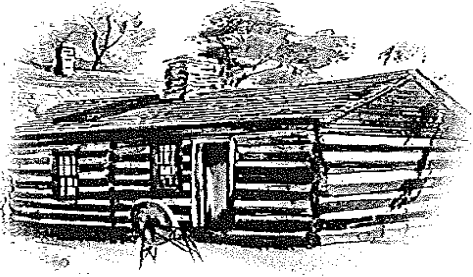
Please send inquiries to the newsletter editors, either to the Web site:
www.jessejames.org, OR by mail to:

Friends of the James Farm
P.O. Box 404
Liberty, Mo. 64069

We will do our best to respond

Friends of the James Farm

P.O. Box 404
Liberty, MO 64069
www.jessejames.org
816.736.8500



James homestead cabin —
Original art by Jim Hamit

Return Service Requested

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join the Friends of the James Farm. I have checked my level of membership in the box at the right and enclosed a check or money order for the amount indicated.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please mail membership form and payment to:
Friends of the James Farm
P.O. Box 404
Liberty, MO 64069

I prefer to receive updates/info via:

USPS

E-mail

Membership Levels

(Mark One)

- Border Ruffian \$20
- Bushwhacker \$30
- Clay County Irregular \$50
- Road Agent.....\$100
- Long Rider..... \$250
- Other \$____

Is this a renewal? Yes No

Outside the continental U.S.,
please add \$5 to your membership
contribution.