

James Farm Journal

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

Web-site: JesseJames.org

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Annual Dues Payable by January 1

Border Ruffian - \$20	Road Agent - \$100
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Betty Barr with "gr-gr-grandfather" in front of New Hope Baptist Church. James Farm Reunion 2009

Reunion Report

Laura James received the John Newman Edwards Award for her book *The Love Pirate and the Bandit's Son*. Elizabeth "Liz" Murphy received the James Farm Award for her many contributions to Jesse James research. James Muhlenberger won the Jesse James Writing Contest for his article *Wallace Electrifies the Court During the Blue-Cut Trial* which is featured in this issue.

The *Jesse James Was My Neighbor Tour* was well attended and enjoyed by participants and was marred only by a brief breakdown of our horseless carriage and more to see than time allowed.

Special Presentation: Black History Month NEGROES TO HIRE:

A documentary on slavery in Missouri
by Gary Jenkins.

2:00 p.m. February 7, 201

Peter's Theater

William Jewell College Campus

Co-sponsored by FOJF and Clay County Historical Society.

SEE MORE DETAILS INSIDE

Time To Renew:

Friends of the James Farm
membership.

Presidents message:

by Christie Kennard:

Regarding Perry Samuel

At 2:00 p.m., Feb. 7, 2010 Gary Jenkins will show his film, "Negroes to Hire: Slavery in Missouri," at the Peter's Theatre at William Jewell. The documentary film features excerpts from the WPA narratives that were collected in 1936 - 1938 throughout America from people who had survived slavery. The genealogy branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence contains three volumes of slave narratives that relate only to Missouri.

As incomprehensible as the life of slavery is to us in the 21st century, through primary sources like the slave narratives we can still get glimpses of how it was practiced - from the big cotton plantations in the Deep South, or on smaller farms in Missouri that harvested hemp, tobacco, wheat and corn.

The James Farm was typical of most Clay County farms in 1842 which produced hemp. Robert and Zerelda James moved onto the homestead in that year and in 1846 they purchase 180 acres. They farmed 100 acres and rented out 80 acres. Besides hemp, which yielded approximately \$70 a year, they also grew corn, raised hogs and sold wool from their sheep. They did this with the help of six slaves, one of whom, Charlotte, age 30 in 1850, accompanied Zerelda from Kentucky.

By 1845 Reverend Robert James had raised enough money to build a new brick church for the New Hope congregation. To do this, he donated the labor of two of his slaves.

According to the 1850 census, Robert James had acquired five slaves, all of them children Nancy, age 11, Alexander, age 9, who was sold in 1851, Maria, age 8, Mason, age 6, and Hannah, age 2.

The 1860 census shows Charlotte, age 40, Maria, now 18, a 16 year-old girl, a 13 year-old boy, an 8 year-old girl, and a boy (Ambrose) and a boy just 1 year of age.

In 1868, when Perry was born, Charlotte was 48 years old. Maria was now 26 and the 16 year-old slave girl was 24. One of the younger women fled the farm, leaving the child in Charlotte's care. It has been surmised that Reuben Samuel was Perry Samuel's father, but Perry could also have been fathered by Frank, age 25, or Jesse, age 21.

Although Emancipation had been declared in

1863, it was not that uncommon for former slaves to remain working on the farms on which they had grown up. Perry was trained to serve the Samuel family, alongside Ambrose, a former slave, eleven years older than Perry. In the 1880n census Ambrose was listed as a worker on the farm and the 11-year-old Perry was given the occupation of "servant," race, "mulatto."

During the Pinkerton raid on the farm on Jan. 25, 1874, the "servants" who slept that night in the kitchen and witnessed the devastation of the bomb were Charlotte, 54, Ambrose, 18, and Perry, 6.

Perry married twice, first to Little Harris of Holt, Missouri on June 14, 1893. Presumably they lived at another location. Little died in the late 1890s and Perry returned to the farm. He served as Zerelda's housekeeper for a while. Stella James recalled that he "managed her home very smoothly for her. He was farm-hand, cook, houseboy and maid for her, and drove for her whenever she needed to leave the farm." Everything changed when he married Susie Willis of Liberty on August 2, 1900. According to the 1900 census, Perry listed his mother's place of birth as Kentucky and his father's place of birth as Missouri. Dr. Reuben Samuel, like Zerelda, had been born in Kentucky. Both Frank and Jesse James were born in Missouri.

Shortly after his marriage, Perry and Susie moved to Omaha. In 1920 they were living in the Wilmott Addition of Liberty with their two daughters, Dora and Allie.

Zerelda died in 1911; but Perry's ties to the farm and the James family remained strong. Robert Hall recalled he had "many meals at the same table with Perry." He continued to visit the James farm to hunt groundhogs with Jesse Hall, his half nephew. Perry worked as a teamster for a flour mill in Liberty. He also made his movie debut in 1920, playing himself in "Under the Black Flag" an unforgettably bad movie made by Jesse Edwards James for Mescos Pictures. Perry died in 1936 and is buried at Fairview Cemetery in Liberty.



**DOCUMENTARY ON SLAVERY IN MISSOURI
BY LOCAL INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER TO
SCREEN FEB. 7 AT PETER'S THEATER,
WILLIAM JEWELL CAMPUS, FOR BLACK
HISTORY MONTH**

"Negroes to Hire," a documentary on slavery in Missouri by Gary Jenkins, Kansas City filmmaker, will be shown at Peter's Theatre, William Jewell campus, Liberty, Mo., at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010. The event is free and is made available by a grant from the Missouri Humanities Council, It is being co-sponsored by the Friends of the James Farm and the Clay County Historical Society.

The title of the film is taken from a 19th century advertisement in the Liberty Tribune. Jenkins based the film on the American Slave Narratives that were gathered by writers and journalists from 1936 to 1938 across Missouri. Jenkins' film also features commentaries by several educators who have published extensively on slavery: Dr. Jimmy Johnson (retired, K.U.), Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke (UMKC), Dr. Antonio Holland (Lincoln University) and Dr. Harriet Frazier (retired, CMSU).

Jenkins grew up on a large farm in Clinton County, Mo. "Our family had farmhands who always lived in houses on the land and worked for us," he said. "I realized it must have been somewhat similar to how slaves worked closely with the owners during the nineteenth century on small Missouri farms. There were no large plantations here. I wanted to know more about slavery as it was practiced in Missouri, not the myth of slavery."

Following the film Marla Renee Smith will discuss her great-grandfather, Perry Samuel, the last slave to live on the James Farm and who attended Jesse's mother until her death in 1911. Dr. Jimmy Johnson will discuss his great grandfather's experience as a slave on the Miller Farm in Platte County and as a volunteer in the First Kansas Colored Regiment under Jim Lane.

There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation.

Subsequent showings:

The Watkins Foundation and the Bruce Watkins Cultural Heritage Center are sponsoring a screening on Feb. 12, at 6:00 p.m.

The Community Christian Church is sponsoring a screening on Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. The church will host a potluck dinner before the screening at 6:00 p.m.

To see a trailer, go to www.lifedocumentaries.com. Call 816-931-3535 or e-mail jenkslaw@yahoo.com for more information.

A Poem

I can picture long ago
Wide open spaces
No barbed wire fences
No electrical places
When the water was clean
And the game was plenty
Jesse James riding hard
And riding fast
So close to home, so close at last
A place to hide, a place to rest
With those he trusted
And loved the best
So misunderstood was
This man's fight
He was done wrong and
Had to make it right
Even though he's gone
The legend of him still lives on

By Tammy Cox

Well Known Jesse James Author Dies

Trezevant "Ted" Yeatman. Author of the well known book *Frank and Jesse James: The Story Behind the Legend*, died November 1, 2009, at Tacoma Park, Maryland. He was aged 57 years young.

Yeatman was a graduate of Peabody College. He was a contributor to several outlaw and lawman periodicals over the years. He appeared as a Confederate soldier in the film, *Gettysburg*.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the James Farm, 21216 Jesse James Farm Road, Kearney, Mo., 64060 On-line condolences may be made at Legacy.com

Jesse James Writing Contest winner...

Wallace Electrifies the Court During the Blue Cut Trial

By James P. Muehlberger

William Wallace is well known to those interested in the James Gang for his successful prosecution of Bill Ryan in Independence, Missouri in September 1881 and his failed prosecution of Frank James in Gallatin, Missouri in September 1883. But it is not well known that Wallace was the prosecutor in yet a third trial of an alleged James Gang member in April 1882. Sandwiched between the sensational Bill Ryan and Frank James trials, it is perhaps understandable that this notable chapter in Missouri legal history has been overlooked by historians. But Wallace's prosecution of John Bugler for the Blue Cut train robbery is, in many ways, just as significant to Missouri's history as the Ryan and James trials.

Just six months after the Ryan trial, in late March 1882, Wallace was the prosecutor against six young men charged with assisting the James brothers in the Blue Cut, Missouri train robbery of September 7, 1881. The men had been seen peering into the express car as the train stopped at Glendale, a short distance from Blue Cut. A few nights later, the train was robbed at Blue Cut. The boys were arrested and lodged in the Jackson County jail.¹

Wallace placed a detective named Gorham in the jail cell with John Land, one of the accused, in order, if Land was guilty, to get a confession out of him and maybe get some information on the James boys. Unknown to Wallace, Detective Gorham took the newspapers giving the train passengers' accounts of the robbery into the cell and shared them with Land, who put together the smoothest story of perjury ever concocted. Land agreed to be a witness for the State, in exchange for full immunity.²

The trial took place in Independence, Missouri and the courtroom was "crowded to overflowing with people from all portions of the county." Land's testimony was so well told that the experienced criminal lawyer defending John Bugler, the first of the other men who was being tried, and against whom Land was testifying, failed to shake Land during his cross-examination.³

Wallace, who had not known that the detective had shown the newspaper accounts to Land until hearing Gorham's cross-examination at trial, became suspicious of Land's testimony. Since Dick Liddell had just turned himself into Sheriff Timberlake, Wallace asked the judge on the afternoon of April 1, 1882, to postpone the trial until Wallace could interview Liddell about the train robbery. Liddell gave Wallace a detailed account of the Blue Cut robbery, told Wallace that he didn't know the six young men accused of assisting in the robbery, that they had not been involved, and that Frank and Jesse would have never taken such raw youngsters into a robbery with them. Liddell said that "John Land don't know one of the old party [gang] anymore than you [a newspaper reporter] do and he is just lying like hell about it."⁴

Wallace then traveled to Jefferson City to the state penitentiary to interview Clarence Hite, who had also participated in the robbery, who gave Wallace precisely the same facts. Finally, Wallace traveled to St. Joseph to interview Charlie Ford, who also participated in the robbery and who told exactly the same story.⁵ Wallace now had three men, each not knowing that Wallace had talked with the others, telling precisely the same story as to all of the details of the robbery. All three said the young man Wallace was trying was not involved in the robbery.⁶

On Wednesday, April 5, 1882, Wallace went in back into court and, in the presence of the judge and jury, electrified the court as well as the spectators by relating the facts told him by Liddell, Hite, and Ford, and dismissing the case against John Bugler. The judge granted Wallace's requested dismissal, but he delivered a lecture to Bugler about the evil of carrying concealed weapons and emulating outlaws. One of the jurors told Wallace afterwards that Bugler was "beyond all question guilty" and that Wallace

had made the mistake of his life. The press raised a ruckus about the dismissal of the case and Wallace's dismissal "became the subject of animated conversation all over town."⁷

Wallace was in a tight place, as the public clamored for a conviction, but he steadfastly stated that he was convinced Bugler was innocent and that he could do nothing else as a sworn officer of the court but dismiss the case. A reporter then interviewed Land, who finally confirmed that Land's story was false, and that neither he nor the other boys were in the robbery. Land explained that he had gotten into a fight with Matt Chapman, another one of the men falsely accused and charged, who told Land that he was going to "swear me into the penitentiary for the Blue Cut train robbery." About the same time Land received a message from John Bugler leading Land to believe that Bugler was also going to falsely accuse Land of involvement in the train robbery. Land said "this made me mad and, as I was sure we would all be sent up anyway, I saw Tucker Basham get out of the Glendale robbery by squealing on Bill Ryan and I was determined to make a confession." Land told the reporter that he was able to testify as to so many of the actual details of the robbery because he had read the newspapers and incorporated all of those details into his confession, which he "studied every day so that I knew it all by heart and when my time came to testify I knew it all as well as I knew my own name."⁸

John Bugler and the other men charged with the robbery were innocent. And yet Wallace could have easily convicted them. Wallace's dismissal of the charges took guts and courage. Fast forward to today. How many busy prosecutors would, in the middle of a criminal jury trial, request that the court postpone the case to allow them time to conduct an additional investigation into the truthfulness of a witness's testimony?

In order to arrive at the truth, the American system of justice imposes on prosecutors the "duty to serve justice, not just win the case."⁹ "A lie is a lie, no matter what the subject, and if it is in any way relevant to the case, the district attorney has the responsibility and duty to correct what he knows to be false and elicit the truth."¹⁰ Unfortunately, a very small minority of prosecutors may sometimes forget this basic premise. And yet it is one of the cornerstones of our American criminal justice system.

Wallace never forgot Land's perjury. Shortly thereafter, Land burglarized the stable of a neighbor and stole a saddle. Wallace convicted Land of theft and sent him to the penitentiary "largely as a punishment for his perjury in the Bugler case, and I told him so."¹¹

¹ September 9, 1881 *Kansas City Journal*; Wallace, William H. *Speeches and Writings of: William H. Wallace, with Autobiography*. Kansas City, Mo., Western Baptist Publishing Co., 1914, 280-81 ("Wallace").

² *Id.*, 281.

³ April 2, 1882 *St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*; Wallace, 281. Bugler was the son of former Jackson County Sheriff Henry Bugler, who was killed in 1867 while defending the Independence jail against a lynching party. September 9, 1881, *Kansas City Journal*.

⁴ April 4, 1882, *Evening Star*.

⁵ Wallace says in his 1914 autobiography only that, "I went to St. Joseph and interviewed Charlie Ford, who told exactly the same story." Wallace doesn't say when this interview occurred, but he says it was after he had interviewed Liddell and Hite, and so it most likely occurred on April 4, 1882, the day after Robert Ford had murdered Jesse James and both he and Charlie were incarcerated in the St. Joseph jail. Wallace, 281; April 4, 1882, *Evening Star*.

⁶ Wallace, 281.

⁷ Wallace, 281-82; April 6, 1882, *Kansas City Journal*

⁸ April 6, 1882, *Kansas City Journal*.

⁹ *Berger v. United States*, 290 U.S. 78, 88 (1935).

¹⁰ *Napue v. Illinois*, 360 U.S. 264, 269-270 (1959).

¹¹ Wallace, 282.

FRIENDS OF THE JAMES FARM
2010
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Membership year runs January through December

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

BORDER RUFFIAN \$20 _____

You will receive the newsletters, an invitation to the annual reunion and one free admission to the Farm Museum with each visit.

BUSHWHACKER \$30 _____

You will receive the newsletter, an invitation to the annual reunion, 2 free admissions to the Farm Museum with each visit, and a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased at the Farm Museum gift shop.

ROAD AGENT \$100 _____

You will receive the newsletter, an invitation to the annual reunion, 4 free admissions to the Farm Museum with each visit, a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased at the Farm Museum gift shop and a Friends of the James Farm T-Shirt. Please indicate size: _____

LONG RIDER \$250.00 _____

You will receive the newsletter, an invitation to the annual reunion, 4 free admissions to the Farm Museum with each visit, a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased at the Farm Museum gift shop, and a print of Jesse James or the Farm by George Warfel.

Remit to:

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