

James-Younger Gang JOURNAL

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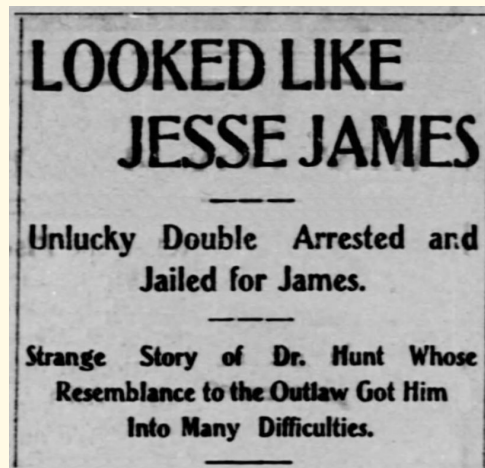
December 2016

Dr. Thomas J. Hunt: Mistaken for Jesse James

By: James A. Bailey & Margaret B. Bailey

Dr. Thomas James Hunt had a striking resemblance to Jesse James, so much so that the newspapers labeled him a Jesse James double. Some newspapers even reported a connection between Hunt and James, and one article reported Hunt was "an intimate friend of Jesse James."¹ Another reported that Hunt was "at one time a member of the Jesse James gang."² However, other than a few newspaper references associating Hunt with James, no other evidence suggests Hunt was ever part of the Jesse James Gang. He was arrested and convicted for a stagecoach robbery; but after he was convicted, it was discovered he had been mistaken for Jesse James. Some considered Hunt somewhat eccentric, maybe even a bit of a nonconformist but almost certainly confrontational at times. Hunt was a colorful character from Kentucky and on quite a few occasions made the news because of his involvement in alleged crimes and community affairs.

Thomas J. Hunt was born in Simpson County, Kentucky October 1, 1845. He was the son of W.A. Hunt and E. Jane Rush. His father was born in Simpson County, Kentucky and his mother was born in Allen County, Kentucky. At a young age, Hunt ran away from home and his family and friends did not hear from him again until 1880. When Hunt did surface in 1880, his family and friends were surprised to learn of his alleged daring misadventure near Mammoth Cave.³



Andy McCoy operated a stagecoach line after the Civil War from Cave City to Mammoth Cave. Mammoth Cave was discovered in the early 1800s and since its discovery had become a tourist attraction because of its splendor and natural beauty. In 1880, an uneventful summer had passed; however, fall was always a busy season for tourists visiting the cave.⁴⁻⁵

On September 3, 1880 a stagecoach left Mammoth Cave, Kentucky at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon headed for Cave City. The distance between the two locations was about nine miles and most of the stagecoach trail was through rocky territory, brushy thickets and in some parts dense woods. Just about 6 o'clock in the evening while traveling along the trail, two men on horses came from the woods and galloped up beside the stagecoach. With revolvers drawn they ordered the stagecoach driver to stop. The driver stopped the stagecoach and the two robbers demanded the passengers exit the coach. There were seven gentlemen and one lady in the coach.

The robbers allowed the lady to remain in the coach. All the men exited.

The passengers included: Judge R. H. Rountree, and his daughter, Miss Lizzie Rountree, from Lebanon, Kentucky; a relative, Phil Rountree from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; J.E. Craig Jr. from Lawrenceville, Georgia; S. W. Sheldon, from Calhoun, Tennessee; S.H. Frohleichstein, from Mobile, Alabama; George M. Paisley and W.G. Welch from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.⁶ One of the robbers held the reins while the other robber dismounted and searched the passengers. The robber took a gold watch and \$55 from Judge Rountree and a diamond ring from his daughter. Craig lost \$670, Sheldon \$50, Frohleichstein \$23, Paisley \$33, and Welch \$5 and a watch. While passengers were exiting the stagecoach, Phil Rountree hid his wallet and gold watch under his seat cushion and although intimidated by the robbery did not lose any personal property.

Rountree was not a judge in the formal sense; it was more of a social title; however, he was most distraught by the loss of his gold watch which was a gift from the Honorable J. Proctor Knott, Congressman. The distinctive watch included a gold key which had Rountree's name engraved on it as well as an inscription. The watch was valued at about \$200 at the time of the robbery.⁷

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The bandits apologized to the travelers for the robbery. They told the passengers that they were not highway robbers but moonshiners and they needed the money to get out of the country because government agents were hot on their pursuit. It was no laughing matter when revolvers were aimed at the passengers; however, such an outlandish explanation must have been comical in the aftermath of the robbery. Also, the bandits asked each of the travelers their name and place of residence. The bandits told the frustrated passengers that one day they would repay them for their losses. The duo then galloped away and the passengers boarded the stagecoach to continue their trip to Cave City.

The bandits wore no mask during the robbery and each of the passengers provided a detailed description of the men. In James W. Buel's 1882 book, *The Border Outlaws: An Authentic and Thrilling History of the Most Noted*, he provided the following description of the bandits. "The rider of the black horse, a man about thirty-five years old, with a straggling red mustache and beard, was the leader and spokesman. He was rather small, not appearing to be over five feet six inches in height, and would weigh about 140 pound ...with light blue eyes. His accomplice was about the same age, with black whiskers and mustache rather ragged in trim, and had a pair of black eyes."⁸ Acting Governor J. E. Cantrell offered a \$500 reward on September 27 for the capture and conviction of the outlaws. Several weeks following the robbery, a man named Thomas J. Hunt was arrested in Ohio County, Kentucky for the Mammoth Cave robbery.

Hunt refused to answer any question from the detectives except to say that he was innocent of the charges. Also, Hunt would not produce any information about his



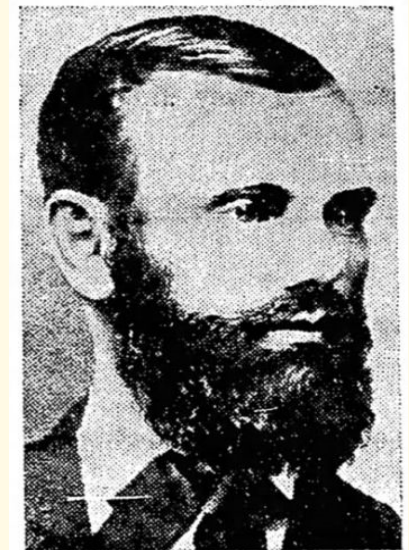
whereabouts on the day of the robbery. Hunt was taken to Barren County to stand trial for the robbery. At the 1881 March term of the Barren Circuit Court, Hunt waived examination and did not challenge the charges against him. The judge indicted Hunt for robbery and continued the case until the 1882 March term. A year later, Hunt protested the charges against him. During the trial, witnesses positively identified Hunt as one of the robbers. The stagecoach driver said Hunt resembled one of the robbers.⁹

Based on Hunt's claim of innocence, his attorneys, W. H. Botts and H.C. Gorin, intended to use alibi witnesses during the trial to account for Hunt's whereabouts on the day of the robbery; however, the attorneys could not find any witnesses in Hunt's neighborhood to testify that he was there. Instead, his neighbors said Hunt was not home on September 3.

Hunt most likely assisted the prosecution in convicting himself during the trial because he would not provide detectives with information about his whereabouts on the day of the robbery. After hearing the evidence, Hunt was convicted on April 2, 1882 by a jury and sentenced to three years in prison. This was in addition to the eighteen months already served pending trial. The day after Hunt's conviction, there was news of Jesse

James' assassination. Among the items on Jesse James' person was Judge Rountree's gold watch.¹⁰ According to a newspaper article, a sworn affidavit was later filed identifying Jesse James and Bill Ryan as the two Mammoth Cave robbers.¹¹ Years after the trial, one reporter wrote, "Where Hunt was on the day of the robbery is as much of a mystery today as it was on the day of his conviction."¹²

Although Hunt resembled Jesse James, it was actually Jesse James who robbed the Mammoth Cave stagecoach, not Hunt. The resemblance between James and Hunt was remarkable. According to one news report, a picture of the dead Jesse James "so closely resembles that of Hunt that no visible difference can be detected, and on two occasions Hunt has been

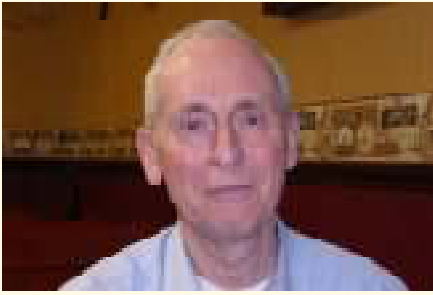


The above photo which was published in the newspaper was claimed to be that of Jesse James.

forced to submit to arrest by Missouri officers who mistook him for Jesse James."¹³

A petition for Hunt's pardon was submitted to Governor Blackburn and the governor immediately pardoned Hunt for the Mammoth

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President's Message

I want to offer my congratulations and thanks to Posie Roth and Tom Nall for organizing a most successful and interesting 2016 annual conference in Springfield, IL. I am so pleased to have visited the "Land of Lincoln," a place I have heard so much about since childhood but never previously visited. The Lincoln Museum is very impressive, especially with its holographic projection capability, where the characters really seem to come to life, and its full-size reproductions of the Lincoln log cabin and the entrance to the White House with realistic and appropriately costumed mannequins. We also visited New Salem Village, where it is believed Lincoln read the law and decided to become a lawyer, and we toured the Lincoln home and Lincoln's tomb. Perhaps most memorable was the surprise visit of Fritz Klein portraying Abraham Lincoln and Pam Brown portraying Mary Todd Lincoln on Friday evening. Both of them were magnificent, convincing actors who brought the Lincolns to life for us. Being surrounded by the wonderful story of our great 16th President was especially important to me this fall, given the unpleasant and divisive nature of the 2016 presidential election campaign that was in high gear this fall.

During our 2016 banquet and annual meeting, the membership voted to hold our 2017 annual meeting in the Blue Grass region of Lexington, KY and counties to the west. The attractions include Georgetown (site of Georgetown College, where Robert James was a student), Stamping Ground (near Zerelda Cole's birthplace), Great Crossing (site of grand bison migration across the Elkhorn), the Forks of Elkhorn Creek (Pence ancestors), Versailles (Guerrilla raid including Sue Mundy), Midway, the Black Horse Tavern (Richard Cole), and the cabin where Zerelda and Robert James lived their first year of married life. The area has deep roots for the Cole, Lindsay, and Pence families and a rich Civil War guerrilla history. For those interested in genealogical research, Frankfort is the home of the Kentucky Historical Society and State Archives. The University of Kentucky Wildcats have a home football game vs Eastern Michigan University on Saturday, September 30, 2017, so we will seek a conference site some distance from the Lexington campus. Stay tuned for further details.

~Dan Pence



By Thomas Kincade



Luke 2:10-13 *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God..*

Happy Holidays



Reminder



Member dues are due on January 1, 2017

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Cave robbery. Following his pardon, Hunt moved to Franklin, Kentucky where he became a detective. After becoming established in this new profession, Hunt's actions in one investigation angered some of the local citizens. In this case, Hunt forced a confession out of an elderly gentleman in a barn burning case. The citizens were so enraged by Hunt's tactics he was "forced to leave town to escape being lynched."¹⁴ Hunt moved to Allen County, Kentucky where he soon made headline news again.

In late November 1892, Hunt entered into an altercation with an Allen County, Kentucky citizen. Ac-

ording to Hunt, he met David R. Laycock on the road returning from a hunting trip. Both men were on horseback. Hunt said Laycock pulled a gun and in the process, Hunt grabbed the gun and struck Laycock on the head, knocking him to the ground. While Laycock was on the ground Hunt dismounted and struck him several times. The elderly Laycock died from head injuries.¹⁵

Hunt pled self-defense. Yet, the Coroner's jury did not believe it was a case of self-defense and returned a charge of malicious murder. A warrant was issued for Hunt's arrest; however, the Allen County authorities would not serve the arrest warrant. Hunt was described as a desperate and dangerous man. A

WRITE PLAINLY, IN UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
 N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Form V. S. 1-50m-10-23-25		COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY	
1 PLACE OF DEATH		State Board of Health	
County <u>Jordan</u>		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	
		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
File No. <u>9833</u>		Registered No. <u>94</u>	
Vot. Pot.		Registration District No. <u>1417</u>	
Inc. Town <u>Bowling Green</u>		Primary Registration District No. <u>2150</u>	
City		(No. St. Ward)	
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)			
2 FULL NAME <u>Dr. Thomas James Hunt</u>			
(a) Residence, No. <u>1128 Park St.</u>		St. Ward.	
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and State)			
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>male</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>white</u>	5 Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> or Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> (Write the word)	10 DATE OF DEATH <u>April 27th, 1927</u>
5a If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of <u>Amanda E. Hunt</u> (or) WIFE of			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>April 23rd, 1927</u> to <u>April 27th, 1927</u> that I last saw him alive on <u>April 27th, 1927</u> and that death occurred on the date stated above at <u>8:07</u> m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Oct 1, 1845</u>	7 AGE <u>81</u> yrs. <u>6</u> mos. <u>26</u> ds.	IF LESS than 1 day hrs or min?	<u>Heart Lesion.</u>
8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <u>Physician</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)			(Duration) yrs. mos. <u>2</u> ds.
9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Simpson Co</u> (State or country) <u>Kentucky</u>			Contributory (Secondary)
PARENTS	10 NAME OF FATHER <u>W. A. Hunt</u>	18 WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED	
	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) <u>Simpson County</u> (State or country)	If not at place of death?	
	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>E. Jane Rush</u>	Did an operation precede death? <u>x</u> Date of	
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) <u>Allen Co</u> (State or country)	Was there an autopsy? <u>hs</u>		
14 (Informant) <u>Burdette Hunt</u> (Address) <u>Bowling Green Ky.</u>	What test confirmed diagnosis?		
15 Filed <u>May 6 1927</u> <u>Geo. Gray</u> Registrar	(Signed) <u>Chas. E. Francis, M.D.</u> <u>April 27, 1927</u> (Address) <u>Bowling Green Ky.</u>		
16 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>St. Lukes</u>		DATE OF BURIAL <u>Apr 28, 1927</u>	
20 UNDERTAKER <u>Duffy & Son</u>		ADDRESS	

Death certificate of Dr. Thomas J. Hunt

news article said the “Allen County people are justly indignant over the murder and feel mortified that the perpetrator of such a crime should be allowed to go free and unrestrained.”¹⁶ Since residing in Allen County, one reporter described Hunt as a man who “poses as a doctor, lawyer, and orator. He is finely educated and is attractive in his social intercourse, but is like a wild beast when infuriated, and is now a terror to the good citizens of Allen County.”¹⁷

Although Allen County authorities were reluctant to confront and arrest Hunt at that instant, he did not escape punishment for his crime. He was finally arrested, convicted and imprisoned for the murder of Laycock. Details of his imprisonment are not known.

On October 10, 1907 Tom Hunt was involved in another altercation with Charlie Reynolds near Scottsville.¹⁸ In this case, the circumstances surrounding the disagreement were not reported in the news; however, Reynolds used force before Hunt reacted. Reynolds stabbed Hunt and the injury was believed to be fatal but Hunt survived to live another 20 years. Hunt may have learned a lasting lesson after the Reynolds affair because no further exploits involving Hunt have been found.

Hunt died in Bowling Green, Kentucky of a heart attack on April 27, 1927 at the age of 81 years, 6 months and 26 days. He is buried at Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky.¹⁹

Notes:

¹ “Hunt-James Look Alike,” *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky) 30 January 1913, p. 6.

² “Killed an Old Man,” *Cincinnati Post* (Cincinnati, Ohio) 23 November 1892, p. 1.

³ “A Murderer Defies Arrest: “Navy” Tom Hunt Kills David R. Laycock in Allen County,” *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky) 23 November 1892, p. 2.

⁴ D. T. Brownfield. “The Old Stage Coach Days,” *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee) 24 March 1901, p. 28.

⁵ John E. Kleber, editor. *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992) p. 216.

⁶ Authors’ Note: According to Berry Craig in his *Hidden History of Western Kentucky*, (Charleston SC: The History Press, 2011) pp 66-67., Rutherford Harrison Rountree was a bank president, lawyer and former county clerk from Lebanon, the county seat of Marian, Kentucky. He was referred to as Judge Rountree out of respect.

⁷ James William Buel. *The Border Outlaws: An Authentic and Thrilling History of the Most Noted* (St Louis, MO: Historical Publishing Company, 1881) pp. 395-396.

⁸ Buel, *op. cit.* p. 394.

⁹ “Looked Like Jesse James: For that Reason Dr. Hunt was Four Times Arrested, Once Imprisoned,” *The Morning News* (Wilmington, Delaware) 5 March 1904, p. 8.

¹⁰ Authors’ Note: The gold watch was returned to Judge Rountree and at his death the watch was bequeathed to his grandson, R. Harry Ray, of Owensboro. At first, Ray carried the watch and used it as a timepiece according to “Missouri Brothers and Double of Jesse James,” *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky), 29 March 1914, p. 38. Then, in 1916, Harry Ray loaned the watch to Hardwick’s Jewelry store for display according to the “Time Piece: Said to Have Been Worn by Jesse James, the Outlaw,” *Hopkinsville Kentuckian* (Hopkinsville, Kentucky) 9 December 1916, p. 1. In 1964 Rountree descendants donated the gold watch to the Louisville, Kentucky Filson Historical Society. According to Berry Craig in *Hidden History of Western Kentucky*, (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011) p. 67, three years later, the watch disappeared in a burglary and has not been seen since.

¹¹ Steve Logan. “A Most Remarkable Instance of Mistaken Identity,” *Arkansas Democrat* (Little Rock, Arkansas) 20 February 1949, p. 5. Authors’ Note: Despite the misidentification, Hunt never released where he was on the day of the robbery.

¹² “Had a Close Call: Man Who was Once Convicted as Jesse James,” *Sedalia Weekly Democrat* (Sedalia, Missouri) 28 March 1902, p. 12.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ “A Murderer Defies Arrest” *op. cit.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ “Tom Hunt: Noted Allen County Man Hurt,” *Lexington Leader* (Lexington, Kentucky) 20 October 1907, p. 18.

¹⁹ Authors’ Note: The cause of death listed on Hunt’s death certification was heart lesion; however, according to Dr. David D. de Haas, a board certified emergency physician, Hunt likely died of cardiac arrest.

2016 Conference

Our 23rd Annual Conference in Springfield, IL, will be remembered, by all who attended, as one of our best; even though Mother Nature wasn't being cooperative. When we arrived on Thursday the weather in Springfield was cool and raining. In fact, the weather didn't improve until Sunday morning, when we all headed for home.

Thursday evening we congregated in the Comfort Inn's meeting room and chatted with our long lost friends while we ate sandwiches and cookies. After dinner Dan Pence began to talk about our itinerary for the next two days when, "Hail to the Chief" started playing, quite loudly. At that moment, I walked President Abe Lincoln¹ and his wife Mary². The Lincoln's spent an hour regaling us with amusing stories.



Abe & Mary Lincoln

Friday morning we headed to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Our first stop was an exhibit called "Ghosts of the Library", a Holavision 3D theater. We took our seats in the theater. The stage before us was set as an old library adorned with antiques which included Mary Lincoln's music box. A gentleman entered the stage and began telling us about the importance of historical documents and books. It was all very interesting to hear but then the show became a visual spectacle

when an old book was opened a huge plume of dust filled the air. A feather quill pen appeared in the storytellers hand then flew from his hands, across the table and landed in an inkwell. As the gentleman told us of people long gone, ghostly figures of soldiers suddenly appeared then slowly faded away. As the show came to an end the narrator came to the front of the stage and as he ended his dialogue his body began to disappear, starting from his feet and slowly working up to his head, until he had completely vanished. It truly was a fantastic sight to see. This amazing show, including the gentleman, was a hologram.

The next stop was in another theater across the hall where we watched a short film on the life of President Lincoln. We then split into groups to wander through the exhibits in the museum. When we regrouped for lunch we were shocked to hear that Al Roth had experienced a health issue and had been

taken to the hospital. I'm happy to report that after a few hours in the hospital Al returned to the hotel and was feeling better the next day.

Friday afternoon we visited the Old State Capital and toured the Lincoln's family home. The Lincoln home is situated on a corner lot and both streets have been closed off to traffic. The neighbouring homes have plaques in their front yards telling who was living in each house at the time Abraham and family were residing there. The interior of the house is beautifully decorated.



Some of the furnishings were owned by the Lincoln family, including a dresser which was given to Mary by her father.



Saturday morning was still drizzly but that didn't dampen our

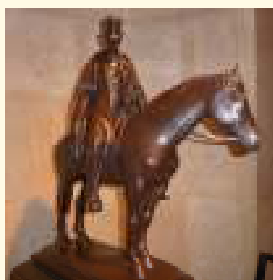
spirits, we donned our rain coats and were off to New Salem. The historic village is a 30 minute drive north of Springfield. Lincoln spent his early adulthood in this quaint little town and this is where he met, and may have been smitten with, a young girl named Ann Rutledge. Abe worked in a variety of occupations while in New Salem and spent his spare time reading. This is also where his interest in politics began.



Saturday, after lunch, we drove to Lincoln's tomb which is located in Oak Ridge Cemetery, just outside of Springfield. The monument is an impressive obelisk



lisk with a military statue on each of the four corners of the base of the obelisk. Each statue depicts a division of the military (army, navy, cavalry and infantry) that Lincoln commanded during the Civil War. Sixteen cannons were melted down to create these statues. Inside the rotunda of the tomb sits a miniature version of the Lincoln Memorial statue set in bronze. The walls and floor of the rotunda are marble from Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Belgium and Spain. There are two hallways leading to the tomb, at each end of the hallways are bronze statues of Lincoln. The tomb is a semi-circular room with Lincoln's marble headstone in the center surrounded by flags. Lincoln is buried 10 feet below the floor in a concrete crypt. Mary and three of the children are interred in the wall facing the President's final resting place. Robert, the eldest child, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.



The building of the tomb took six months to complete. In the meantime, Lincoln's remains were held in a vault at the bottom of the hill behind the tomb.



We left the cemetery and headed back to the hotel where we once again met in the hotel's meeting room. Here we listened to our very own storyteller, Paul Nelson, speak of the foiled attempt to steal Lincoln's body, in 1876, and hold it for ransom.³

Saturday evening we gathered at the Chesapeake Seafood House for our annual banquet and general meeting. The house was built in the late 1850's and had been surrounded by a peach tree orchard. It was a perfect setting for our last meal together which everyone enjoyed thoroughly.

After dinner we were entertained by guest speaker Christian McWhirter. Christian received his Master's degree and Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama. He now works at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and is the author of "Battle Hymns: The Power and Popularity of Music in the Civil War".

Christian talked about "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" which was written to the tune of "John Brown's Body". "John Brown's Body" was originally written about a Scottish soldier in the 2nd Massachusetts battalion. His fellow soldiers would poke fun at him because he shared his name with the radical abolitionist. The song was played while the battalion marched through New York, on their way south. At that time the song stopped being about John Brown, the soldier, and started being associated with the abolitionist.



Christian McWhirter

We learned that "Dixie" was a minstrel written by a northerner from Ohio and was first popular in the north; it wasn't considered a southern song until it was played two years later at the inauguration of Jeff Davis.

We heard about song writer Stephen Foster who wrote "Camptown Races", "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Oh Susannah". We also learned that when Foster died the song "Beautiful Dreamer" was found in his pocket and was published posthumously in 1864.

Our thanks to Christian for a most enjoyable and informative talk and to his mother, Marie McWhirter, who contacted me to let me know of Christian's offer to speak at the conference.

Our conference concluded with our annual general meeting. President Dan Pence awarded this year's Perry Award to Robert J. Wybrow for his book, "Jesse James, Prince of Robbers". We also voted on the location for our 2017 conference, the winner was Scott County, Kentucky.

Thank you to Posie and Al Roth, Tom Nall, Danny Urban and Paul Nelson for their work in setting up this year's conference.

Notes:

- 1 – President Lincoln was played by Fritz Klein, www.lincolninstitute.com
- 2 – Mary Todd Lincoln was played by Pamela Brown, www.livingmarylincoln.com
- 3 – A version of this story, along with photographs of the grave robbers, can be found at: <http://rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln47.html>

~ Lorna Mitchell



2016 Conference Photos



James-Younger Gang 2016 Annual Meeting

The program was presented by Christian McWhirter on the Civil War Music.

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Pence at 8:30PM.

A motion was made by Lorna Smith-Mitchell to approve the 2015 minutes that were printed in the December 2015 JYG Journal, and seconded by Miki Thiewes.

A motion was made by Mary Pence to accept the Financial Report that was printed in the December 2015 JYG Journal, and seconded by Ron Mitchell.

President Dan Pence presented the 2016 Milton F. Perry Award to Robert J. Wybrow for his book, "Jesse James, Prince of Robbers."

Three new nominations were recommended by the Board of Directors for board members. They were Ron Mitchell, Blaine Breault, and Paul Nelson. A motion by Miki Thiewes to approve the nominations and seconded by Lorna Smith-Mitchell.

President Dan Pence presented the four possible locations for the 2017 James-Younger Gang Conference.

Scott County, KY

Creede, CO

Tombstone, AZ

Paso Robles, CA

A vote was taken by a show of hands, with Scott County, KY winning.

A motion was made by Miki Thiewes to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Tom Nall.

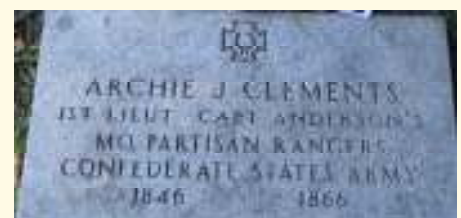
Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectively Submitted

Danny Urban



December 13, 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Archie Clement. Archie was two weeks shy of his 21st birthday when he was gunned down in Lexington, MO. After Archie's death Major Montgomery stated, "I've never met better 'grit' on the face of the earth."



2016 James-Younger Gang Financial Report

Beginning Balance 12/01/15 \$7,519.83

Income

Memberships \$1,505.00
 Memberships (2017) \$ 210.00
 2016 JYG Conference Registrations \$1,484.00
 Total Income \$3,199.00

Expenses

JYG Journal Printing \$ 213.40
 Postage \$ 205.17
 Website \$ 173.55
 Check Printing \$ 37.89
 Bank Charges \$ 12.11

2016 JYG Conference
 Adjustment for Unspecified Prior Years Conference Expense \$ 280.77
 Cub Foods - drinks \$ 15.13
 Flying J – Ice for drinks \$ 2.66
 Subway \$ 190.96
 Fritz Klein – Lincoln \$ 600.00
 Pam Brown – Mary Todd Lincoln \$ 175.00
 Lincoln Museum \$ 112.00
 Old State Capitol Foundation \$ 50.00
 Chesapeake Seafood House - \$ 394.70
 Danny Urban – Parking \$ 20.00
 Total Expenses \$2,483.34

Ending Balance 11/30/2016 \$8,235.49

Respectively Submitted

Danny Urban

**Notes from the Farm**

Oct. 25th 1927—Allen Parmer, 79, widower of Susan James (Jesse & Frank's sister), died at a friend's home in Wichita Falls, TX. He became a Confederate guerrilla at 14, rode with Quantrill to Lawrence, was with Bloody Bill Anderson at Centralia in 1864 & at the end of the war accompanied Quantrill on his last campaign in Kentucky. He married Susan James in 1870 & they settled & prospered in TX.

After Susan's death in 1889, Parmer married his former housekeeper. In the 1860s, he was implicated in various robberies associated with the James gang but released for lack of evidence. Allen & his 2nd wife, who raised Susan's children, become very close to Frank's widow, Anna after Frank's death.



Happy New Year
2017



If you have a theory (crackpot or otherwise) we would love to hear from you. We're constantly in search of things that will interest our readers and maybe even make them feel strongly enough one way or the other to write. Please note the contact information below

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Or

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James-Younger Gang JOURNAL

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Editor: Lorna Smith—Mitchell

The Mission: 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 Historical Society, Patee House Museum, Bushwhacker Museum, Milton F. Perry Research Library and all other historic sites and institutions preserving James-Younger era history. Members will enjoy receiving news about research, member projects, field trips, and museums through the quarterly James-Younger Gang Journal.

The Gang sponsors an annual conference 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 the 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 \$30 per year for U.S. residents, \$35 elsewhere. Family memberships are \$40 and \$45 dollars respectively.

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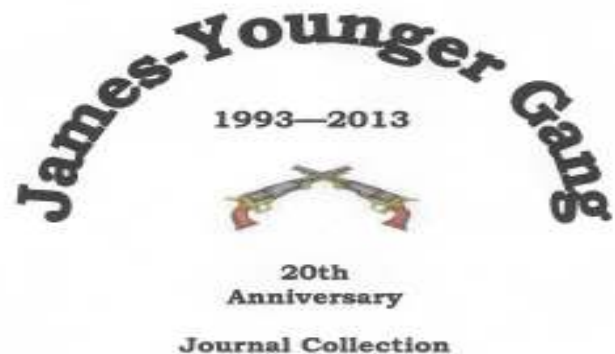
To

All New Members.

Please send us a little information about yourself and why you joined the James-Younger Gang. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

E-mail Lorna at: editor@nationaljamesyoungergang.org
or

Post: Danny Urban
805 Forest Avenue #319
Northfield, MN 55057



James—Younger Gang 20th Year Anniversary The Complete Set of Journals Available on DVD

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