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LEGENDS OF THE JAMES - YOUNGER GANG'S HIDDEN TREASURE

James A. Bailey and Margaret B. Bailey

Treasure hunters have searched different areas of the United States looking for gold, silver and other valuables that may have been buried or hidden by Jesse James and his brother, Frank, in consort with Bob, Jim and Cole Younger. Some believe the James-Younger Gang may have hidden some of their bounty either individually or as a gang. Since Jesse and Frank were never convicted of any robberies in a court of law, some believe they could have stashed the bounty in hidden locations that they plundered during their wayward career as outlaws.

Unlike the James brothers, Bob, Jim and Cole Younger were captured a few miles from Madelia in Watonwan County, Minnesota on September 21, 1876. The Younger brothers had limited opportunities to hide any treasure because the three were indicted for robbing the First National Bank of Northfield on September 7, 1876. They pled guilty to the indictments on November 20, 1876 and were sentenced to life in Minnesota's state prison at Stillwater. Bob died in 1889 while still in prison. Jim and Cole were paroled in 1901; however, Jim committed suicide in 1902. Strict parole conditions required the Younger brothers to remain in Minnesota but after Jim's death, Cole appealed to the parole board to return to Missouri which was granted. In 1903, Cole was pardoned and he returned to his home in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where he died in 1916. If the Younger brothers hid any bounty, Cole, who allegedly joined the James Gang in 1868, had more opportunity than his two brothers, Jim and Bob, who joined the James Gang about 1873.¹⁻²

Sometimes the James-Younger Gang robberies like the Northfield Raid netted scrip and coins which amounted to paltry sums. Yet, if the Gang committed as many robberies as were alleged, there could have been sufficient valuables and currency for the Gang to stash in secretly hidden hoards. Although the James-Younger Gang was often suspected of the robberies, most of the buried treasure stories have been associated with Jesse James not the Younger brothers or any other Gang members.

The question of who could have buried the treasure prompts another critical question. Which Gang members participated in the robberies and had access

to the earnings from the alleged James-Younger Gang robberies? Western historians have drawn different conclusions in their attempts to answer this question. Since a number of ruffians joined and left the band of robbers from the time the Gang formed, it was a challenge for the public and newspaper reporters to always accurately attribute the robberies to the Gang. For instance, at one time during some robberies, Jim Read, Thompson McDaniels and Jack Kean allegedly were members of the James-Younger Gang but they were not with the Gang during all the robberies. Besides these three seldom recognized Gang members, there were other suspected James-Younger Gang members. So any number of alleged Gang members could have participated in the robberies and had opportunity to bury loot; but, they may not have always been identified or named.³

Consequently, alleged James-Younger Gang robberies could have involved any number of the Gang or perhaps a different outlaw gang altogether. In any event, from August 1873 until September 7, 1876, the James-Younger Gang or members of the Gang were accused of committing twenty robberies. Then, after the Northfield Raid in 1876, the James Gang was accused of committing three additional robberies which would have made a total of twenty-four robberies. Of the twenty-four robberies, eleven were from banks, seven from trains, three from stagecoaches, and one from a steamboat. In addition to currency, their takings consisted of fairground gate receipts and loot from one guerrilla raid. Since it's difficult to determine with certainty the Gang's robberies, some have classified the James-Younger Gang involvement in alleged robberies as unlikely, possible, and probable to near certainty.⁴ Regardless of these distinctions, a Kansas City newspaper reported the Gang was responsible for the twenty-four robberies and the total cash amount for these robberies was calculated to be approximately \$323,800. Yet, this amount could have been inaccurate because during the time of the robberies, it was a "well-known tendency of railroad officials to suppress, as far as possible, the facts in such cases, and to place the losses from one-third to one-half" less than the amount actually stolen.⁵

While the Kansas City newspaper reported cash losses in the robberies to be in the six-digit range, another well-known individual to the Gang placed the value stolen to be substantially higher.

Namely, Henry Spence Miller, also known as ‘Doc’ Miller, who was Clell Miller’s brother, spoke about his personal experiences with the Gang.⁶ Doc estimated the Gang’s career earnings as a million dollars or more. In fact, according to the *Kansas City Daily Journal* in 1896, Doc reported the Gang took a considerably greater amount of money, \$1,038,000. Note, however, when the total amount taken by the Gang was published, the total was miscalculated. The total was \$800 more than the amount. It was actually \$1,038,800. Nevertheless, despite the slight difference in the two totals printed in the newspaper, Doc would have been in a position to provide the more accurate estimate of the Gang’s earnings. Not only did Doc have a family connection with the Gang due to his relationship with Clell Miller but he was known to have a trusted alliance with the entire Gang. It was told that, “The James and Younger gang always found welcome and shelter beneath the Miller roof, where they discussed unreservedly their most secret work, the results of past raids and the details of those to come.”⁷ Below is a chart listing Doc Miller’s calculated earnings for the Gang and the public estimates published in 1896, five years before the Youngers were paroled from Stillwater.⁸

Even though there are discrepancies between specific robberies committed by the James-Younger Gang and the estimated dollar values taken, perhaps without anyone’s knowledge, Jesse James and the Gang buried or hid some of their loot. Since items taken included: gold, silver, watches, rings, other valuable possessions, as well as currency, their unlawfully appropriated personal pieces could have been concealed in secret locations. After all, burying or hiding valuables was a common practice for many people during the latter part of the 19th century. Typically, during that time, sometimes money was hidden in the walls of homes, buried next to the apple tree in the backyard or some other secretive location. In fact, James-Younger Gang treasure may have been hidden or buried at secret locations where the Gang hid from pursuing lawmen.

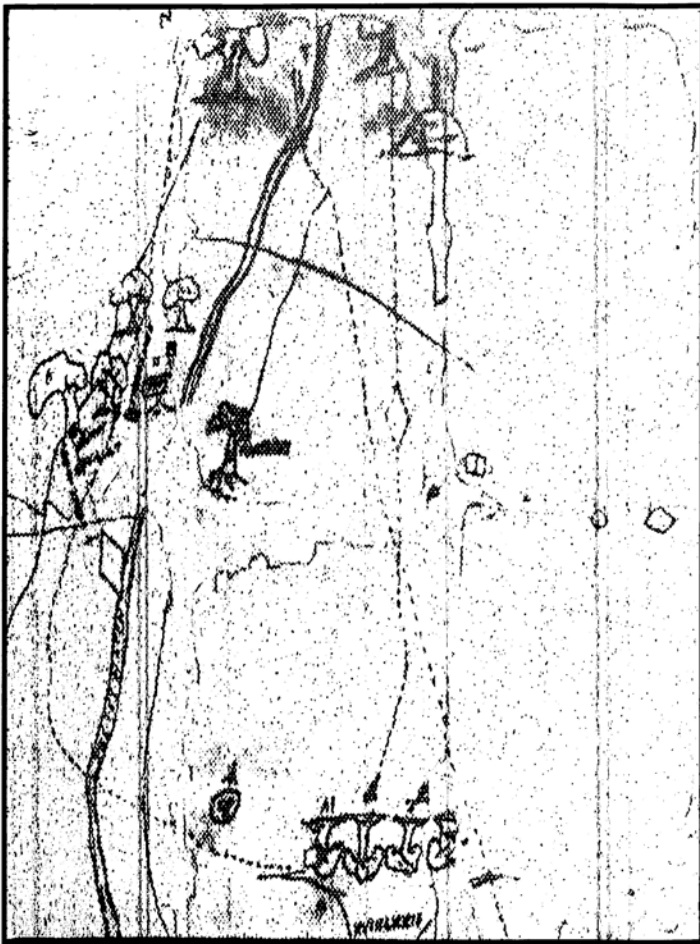
Periodically, there is a resurgence of interest to search for James-Younger or Jesse James treasure. Although some of the claims are rooted more in fiction than fact, the legends are still intriguing. Following are three select legends from an incredible collection

Alleged James-Younger Robberies

Date	Robbery	Public Estimates	Miller's Estimates
August 1863	Plattsburg, Mo., Guerrilla Raid	\$12,000	\$12,000
February 14, 1866	Liberty, Mo., Bank	\$72,000	\$72,000
October 30, 1866	Lexington, Mo., Bank	\$2,000	\$2,000
March 2, 1867	Savannah, Mo., Bank	----	----
May 23, 1867	Richmond, Mo., Bank	\$4,000	\$4,000
May 20, 1868	Russellville, Ky., Bank	\$14,000	\$100,000
December 7, 1869	Gallatin, Mo., Bank	\$700	\$700
June 3, 1871	Corydon, Ia., Bank	\$40,000	\$40,000
April 9, 1872	Mississippi Steamboat	No Record	\$115,000
April 28, 1872	Columbia, Ky., Bank	\$200	\$300
September 26, 1872	Kansas City Fair Grounds	\$10,000	\$10,000
May 27, 1872	Ste. Genevieve, Mo. Bank	\$4,100	\$8,500
July 21, 1873	Adair, Ia., Rock Island Train	\$6,000	\$65,000
January 15, 1874	Hot Springs, Ark., Stagecoach	\$3,000	\$4,000
January 30, 1874	Gads Hill, Mo., Iron Mountain Train	\$12,000	\$50,000
April 7, 1874	Austin, Tex., Stagecoach	\$3,000	\$3,500
December 13, 1874	Muncie, Kansas Pacific Train	\$55,000	\$125,000
September 1, 1875	Huntington, W. Va., Bank	\$10,000	\$40,000
July 7, 1876	Rocky Cut, Missouri Pacific Train	\$17,000	\$150,000
September 7, 1876	Northfield, Minn., Bank	Scrip/Coins	Scrip/Coins
October 7, 1879	Glendale, Mo., Alton Train	\$40,000	\$95,000
September 6, 1880	Mammoth Cave, Ky., Stagecoach	\$1,800	\$1,800
July 15, 1881	Winston, Mo., Rock Island Train	\$2,000	\$55,000
September 1881	Glendale, Mo., Alton Train	\$15,000	\$85,000
Totals:		\$323,800	\$1,038,800

of lore about treasure seekers who pursued the illusive treasure of Jesse James and the James-Younger Gang.

The first legend involved George Dovel, a Jesse James treasure map and Dovel’s death. A crudely drawn treasure map was discovered in Dovel’s pocket after his death on December 11, 1929. The 67-year-old farmer died at his home in Newton, Illinois from a gunshot wound to the head. What’s more, following Dovel’s death, investigators discovered mysterious explosives dangerously primed for instant detonation in his home. Since there were suspicious circumstances in this case, a coroner’s inquest was conducted. However, initially, the coroner’s inquest could not determine if the death was murder or



Treasure map published in the *Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio. The map was drawn on buffalo hide. (Authors' Collection)

suicide. Therefore, the jury returned an open verdict leaving the case pending.

In April 1930, the coroner's inquest reconvened and according to testimony during the inquest, Dovel allegedly received a treasure map from an adventurer who was introduced to him by a friend. The map purportedly identified the location of gold that Jesse James buried but never returned to reclaim. "The treasure referred to in this map is believed to be the same that has been sought by adventurers from all over the United States since Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo. in 1882. Whether or not the James Gang had a great amount of loot to bury is a debated question among old-timers. Those who have faith in the buried treasure emphasize that the gang made some enormous 'hauls' for its day...."⁹

Testimony during the inquest also revealed that prior to prohibition George Dovel operated a lucrative licensed distillery near St. Marie in Jasper County, Illinois where he lived most of his life. He was reported to have a net worth of \$100,000 in the 1920s

which given the inflation rate would be over a million dollars today.¹⁰ Since the distillery most likely was the source of Dovel's prosperity and wealth, he continued to illegally operate the distillery after the passage of the Volstead Act and was subsequently arrested by James Eaton, a federal prohibition enforcement agent. After his arrest, Dovel swore if Eaton ever came to his house again, he would blow it up with Eaton inside. Some believed the dynamite charge the authorities discovered in the cellar of Dovel's home with the detonator connected to a switch in the living room could have stemmed from his threat to harm Eaton. In addition to the arrest for prohibition violation, additional arrests, court costs and lawyer fees, Dovel's wealth was greatly reduced. To make matters worse, while Dovel was in debt, the sheriff foreclosed on his farm implements and livestock to satisfy a lien. When hard times befell Dovel, a treasure map leading to Jesse James' hidden treasure seemingly would have been his ticket to financial recovery.¹¹

Despite the hard times that ensued following his personal and legal dilemmas, Dovel continued to routinely engage in customary social practices among his friends. He enjoyed having parties and friends at his secluded farm house which was ten miles from town and located two and a half miles down an unpaved road. He didn't expect any trouble, but sometimes he had to intervene when fights broke out at his gatherings which may have fostered some hostility between him and his guests. Also, witnesses testified during the inquest that he maintained connections with disreputable friends.¹²

One of these friends was Hal Cornwell. In the fall of 1929, Dovel visited Cornwell, who was serving time on a prison farm in Vandalia, Ohio. Cornwell introduced Dovel to Harry Johnson, a fellow inmate at the prison. Johnson was serving time for passing worthless checks. He was originally from Des Moines, Iowa but often relocated. Temporally, he lived in Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois and other states. "Johnson confided in Dovel that he knew where a treasure of \$5,000 was buried under a stone on a lonely road near Lonejack [*sic*], Mo. and suggested that Dovel go after it and they share the money. Dovel agreed."¹³ So Johnson provided Dovel with a crude map to the treasure alleged to belong to James. This same map was discovered in Dovel's pocket the night he was shot.

In October, approximately two months before his death, Dovel traveled to Lone Jack, Missouri to

search for the treasure. According to the map, it was believed to be buried in the woods or hills south of the John Hutt farm located east of Kansas City just off Highway 50. Frustrated, Dovel did not find the treasure on that trip and returned home.¹⁴

After the unsuccessful October search for the James treasure, Dovel returned to the prison farm. Since Johnson would be released soon, Dovel gave him an undisclosed amount of money to fund the search. On November 1, 1929, Johnson was released and a few days before Thanksgiving he arrived at Dovel's home driving a new Ford sedan. Johnson told Dovel he found the treasure and deposited the money in a Peoria, Illinois bank. To repay Dovel some of the expense money, Johnson gave him a check for \$200. To Dovel's dismay, the check was returned in a few days due to insufficient funds.¹⁵

Other than details about the treasure map given during the coroner's inquest, particulars of the events on the evening Dovel was shot continued to unfold. Sheriff McKinney testified that he arrived at the Dovel farm to serve a warrant on Johnson for passing a worthless check. He went to Dovel's farm because he believed Johnson and Dovel knew each other and Johnson may be staying at Dovel's farm. The victim, Ray Murphy, had taken out a warrant for Johnson and was with the sheriff.¹⁶

Sheriff McKinney discovered Johnson had been at Dovel's farm that week but had packed and left December 9. Johnson had not been heard from since his departure and did not leave a forwarding address. Instead of finding Johnson, the sheriff found William Davis and George Williams visiting at the Doves. Although Dovel told Sheriff McKinney he was not feeling well, Dovel asked the sheriff to stay, visit for a while and have dinner. Sheriff McKinney, Ray Murphy, Davis, and Williams stayed at Dovel's house and about 7 p.m. had dinner. After dinner all the guests, except Fannie Dovel, George Dovel's wife, went outside to talk and smoke.¹⁷

Fannie was Dovel's second wife. His first wife, Elizabeth Olive "Lizzie" Lambird, born in Jasper County, died September 25, 1912 at age 48. Dovel was 50 when Lizzie died. The same year Lizzie died, he married 28-year-old Fannie Elizabeth Hughes from Danville, Illinois.¹⁸⁻²² Fannie and Dovel had been married seventeen years when he died.²³

According to testimony Fannie presented at the inquest, Fannie, knew about the treasure map. But when the guests gathered at Dovel's home, it was

unknown whether they knew or had any interest in the treasure map that Dovel had concealed in his pocket. After dinner Dovel left Fannie with the guests and went into the bedroom adjoining the dining room. At about 8 p.m., some of them heard two gunshots and Dovel was found lying on his left side with a gunshot wound to the head behind his right ear.²⁴⁻²⁵

During the inquest, some witnesses testified that the bed was against the west side of the room near a window. They also said Dovel's hands were crossed and two .32 caliber revolvers were found on the bed next to his hands. It was reported that one of the bullets entered the baseboard on the opposite side of the room. The suspicious circumstances surrounding Dovel's death and his possession of the treasure map provoked questions.²⁶

First, was this a case of suicide or murder? Why were two shots fired? Did Dovel fire into the baseboard? Did someone fire the first shot at Dovel and miss? Dovel was also known to be extremely jealous of Fannie who was about twenty years younger than him. Could jealousy have been a motive in his death? Did someone outside shoot Dovel through the window? Curiously, did the James treasure map have anything to do with Dovel's death since he was carrying the treasure map in his pocket when he was shot? Some believed he committed suicide while others believed somebody shot him. The inquest continued.

Fannie Dovel testified that she went to a neighbor's house and telephoned Dr. J. C. Hutton who resided on the outskirts of Newton. Dr. Hutton arrived about midnight and examined Dovel. He dressed the wound and said nothing more could be done for him. As was customary for country doctors back then, Dr. Hutton stayed the night but left the next morning. Dr. Hutton returned in the afternoon, stayed by Dovel's bed side and was present when he died. As payment for medical services, Fannie gave one of the revolvers to Dr. Hutton.²⁷

The second revolver was entered into evidence and presented to the coroner during the inquest. At that time, it was determined the revolver given to Coroner Roy McCormick could not have chambered the type of empty cartridges collected at the crime scene. Then, Dr. Hutton produced the revolver Fannie gave to him. Upon examination of the weapon Fannie gave to Dr. Hutton, it was concluded that revolver could have fired the spent cartridges.²⁸ At that time, the State's attorney, Hommer Kasserman, considered sending the

revolver in question to a ballistics expert to determine if the fatal bullet removed from Dovel at the autopsy could have been fired from the weapon in Dr. Hutton's possession.²⁹ If Kasserman sent the revolver and bullet to a forensic laboratory for analysis, unfortunately, it was not reported.

Much of the testimony given by each witness at the inquest conflicted with the testimony of other witnesses. With the exception of Fannie, all of the witnesses testified they were outside the house when the shots were fired. To the contrary, Fannie testified after hearing the shots that William Davis was with her and went with her to the bedroom where Dovel was found. Davis testified that he was outside with the others. Some witnesses testified that Sheriff Steve McKinney was at the residence when the shooting occurred. Yet, Sheriff McKinney testified Murphy and he left the residence before any shots were fired. Although the witnesses sometimes presented conflicting testimony in the suspicious case, the coroner's jury ruled the death as murder. Soon after her husband was buried, Fannie auctioned all of the Dovel household goods and moved back to her childhood home in Danville, Illinois. She died three years later on May 19, 1933.³⁰

Whether Dovel's possession of the map to James treasure contributed to his death was not proven. But testimony about the treasure map was presented at the inquest. Fannie testified that she overheard her husband and Harry Johnson, the previous owner of the map, quarreling about the treasure.³¹ Dovel's hometown newspaper, *The Decatur Herald*, published a copy of the roughly sketched treasure map.

The second legend involved a 1949 treasure hunt. Four treasure hunters: Orvus Lee Howk, John Trammel, Roscoe James, and James Cooper searched for buried James treasure in the hills of Muskingum County near Zanesville, Ohio. Howk, a private investigator, was spokesman for the team of treasure hunters. Trammel, who was 109 in 1949, alleged he helped Jesse James bury some treasure and according to Trammel, James hid \$1,500,000 in 1880 near Zanesville.³² The third treasure hunter in the group, Roscoe James, alleged Jesse James was his uncle.³³ Finally, the fourth fortune hunter, Cooper, was a student of James lore. The four men used a map which was drawn on a buffalo hide to chart their search for the James treasure.³⁴⁻³⁵

Using the buffalo hide map, Trammel led the men to a secret site in the abandoned Old Black Log

Cemetery and they began digging. After removing several feet of earth, they discovered a rusty box and Trammel exclaimed, "That's it. That's Jesse's box...."³⁶⁻³⁷ However, when the four treasure hunters opened the box, it was empty. Trammel was "disappointed but not discouraged at finding only an empty box."³⁸⁻³⁹ According to Trammel, "Either Jesse got scared and moved the money, or he needed some and got it up. But he didn't take it all. That's the gang's money."⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ Even though there was no treasure, unearthing the empty box did not discourage the four men from pursuing the hunt for James treasure.

Next, the searchers employed an innovative technology for the time, a mine detector. After World War II, mine detectors were sometimes used by treasure hunters as metal detectors. However, the four treasure hunters' mine detector malfunctioned the second day they used it.⁴²

Frank Dalton from Austin, Texas was 101 years old in 1949 and knew Orvus Howk. From the beginning of their venture, he ridiculed Howk and his companions in their pursuit of James treasure. Dalton told reporters, the "Zanesville, Ohio treasure hunters were wasting their time." Dalton said, "it's not a million and a half...it's about 52 thousand dollars. I'm not worried about any one finding it. Howk just knows enough to think he knows, but he doesn't."⁴³⁻⁴⁴ Interestingly, Dalton who was an opinionated outspoken authority on James and James treasure claimed he was the real Jesse James. Ironically, Dalton declared the person Bob Ford killed in 1882 was an imposter. In 1949, Dalton who spoke with such authority could not easily be disputed.⁴⁵ Like Dalton, there have been other Jesse James imposters throughout the years but DNA confirmed the exhumed remains in James' grave to be Jesse James.⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸

Even though Dalton publicly criticized Howk at the onset of the dig, the team was not disheartened. Howk's team continued to search. When the site did not yield a treasure after a week of searching, on March 17, 1949, Howk, Trammel, James, and Cooper decided to terminate their treasure hunt near Zanesville. Ingeniously, with a futuristic explanation, Trammel explained why the treasure could not be found with the mine detector in Zanesville. According to Trammel, James told his Gang that one day there would be a device that could find buried treasure but his treasure would be hidden so no device would ever find it. When the March 1949 expedition failed, Howk announced they would continue their search for

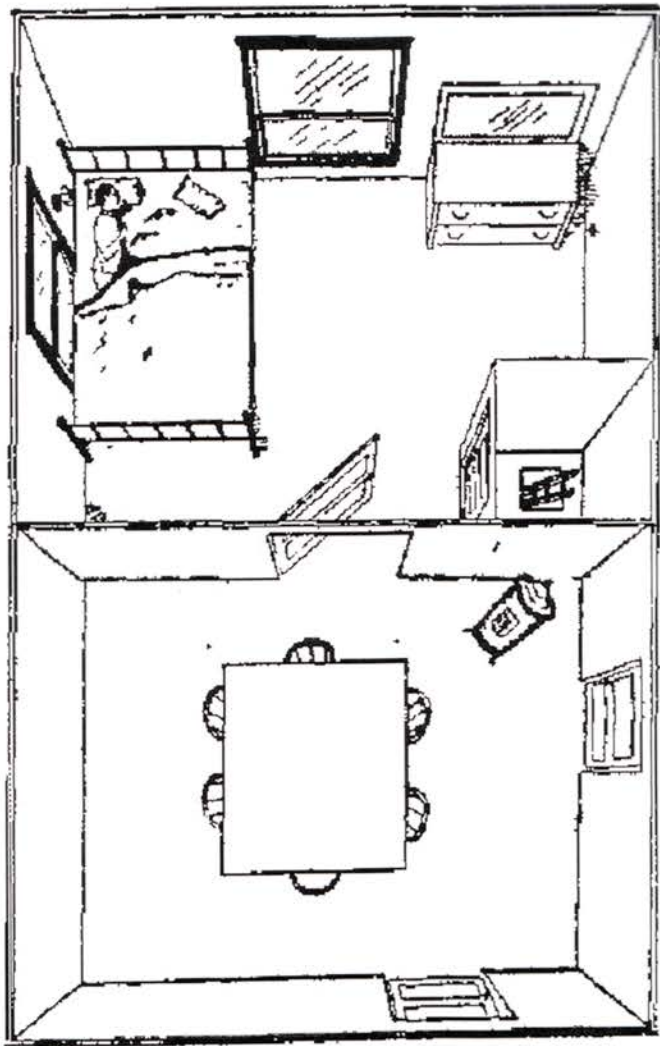
treasure at an undisclosed location in Indiana.⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰

The last of the three James treasure legends told here are about two groups of treasure hunters from Arkansas seeking the same James treasure, one venture in 1926 and another in 1953. According to treasure hunters, James and his gang tossed a chest filled with gold and silver from a Missouri bank robbery into the Black River while fleeing from a posse that was in close pursuit. When the James Gang returned to the river to retrieve the chest, it had sunken in quicksand and they were unable to recover the chest and valuable contents.⁵¹⁻⁵²

In an attempt to recover the chest in 1926, L.C. Sells; Mose Crawford and Tom Crawford, Mose's son; Jim Dobbins, another treasure hunter; along with nine other men consulted with two fortune tellers in Arkansas to identify the search location. They reportedly believed they located James' treasure chest thirty feet from the river bank in an area of quicksand and nearly had it in their grasp when it slipped from their hands and fell back into the quicksand. Using a six-foot pole, they could touch it but like James, they too were unable to retrieve it because the chest sank deeper in the quicksand. As if the sinking chest was not frustrating enough, the treasure hunters made another discovery that troubled them. A fortune teller told them that two men in the group planned to kill the other eleven in order to keep the treasure. Therefore, because of unstable riverbank conditions and fear of the murder plot, the 1926 treasure hunters finally abandoned their search effort.⁵³

However, the search did not end there. Twenty-seven years later, a second group of treasure seekers believed the same legend the 1926 treasure hunters believed. It sounded plausible to them that James discarded a chest filled with gold and silver because a posse was after him. So in 1953 they started their own search. It included seven farmers from Paragould, Arkansas who decided to take up the abandoned 1926 search for the James treasure. Two men in the group, Floyd Sells, son of L. C. Sells from the 1926 expedition and Pleas Beckham invested \$1,000 to finance the venture and lead the search. They leased eighty acres of the sandy river bank along the Black River for one year to pursue the venture. The treasure site was identified as approximately three miles east of Corning, Arkansas near the 1926 dig site.⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵

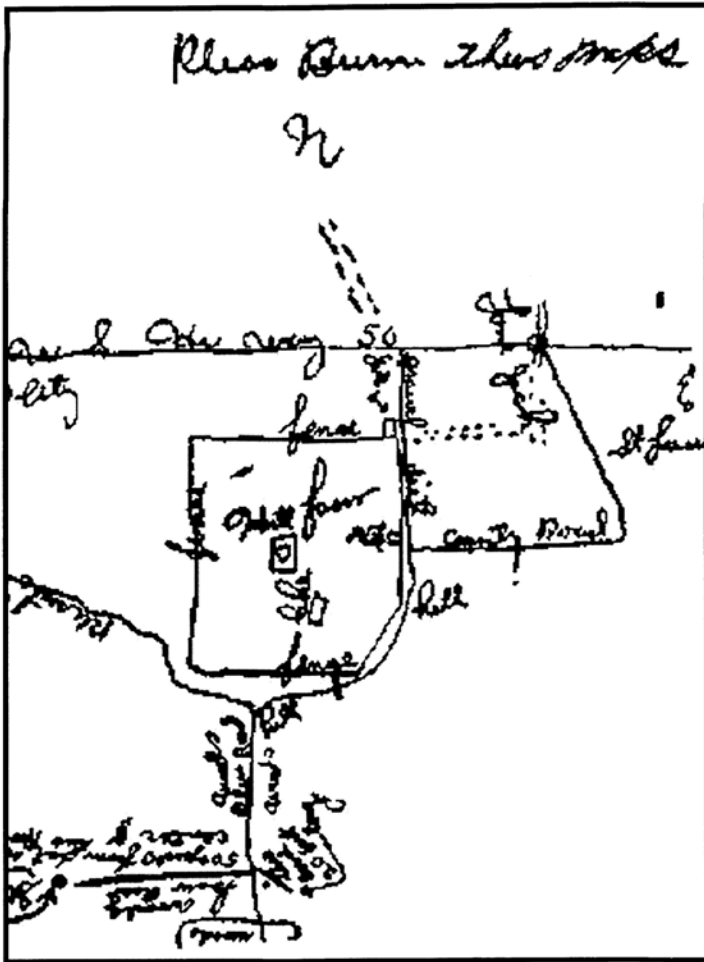
Like the 1926 treasure hunters, the 1953 team also chose an unconventional method in selecting their dig site. The location was based on instructions



Sketch of dining room adjoining George Dovel's bedroom on the first floor of his farm home, *Decatur Herald*, Decatur, Illinois, 1930. (Authors' Collection)

from George Emerson of Popular Bluff, Missouri. Emerson said he located the dig site along the river by using his divining rod. He believed the treasure was approximately thirty feet under the sand near the river's bank on the west bank of the Black River approximately thirty feet from the water's edge.⁵⁶

On October 12, 1953, heeding Emerson's site recommendation, the second group of treasure hunters' expedition got underway. By October 26, the group dug a ten-foot square hole about twenty-five feet deep. However, shifting sand and a constant flow of water kept hindering their progress. So a pump was installed to aid in removing the water that was entering the dig site. The dig was an extraordinary operation that attracted a lot of spectators who provided the treasure hunters with an additional opportunity to profit from their venture. Besides the anticipated proceeds from



Treasure map published in newspapers at the time. Due to reproduction values, the details are difficult to pinpoint. (Authors' Collection)

the dig, the treasure hunters charged the sightseers \$1 a day to watch them dig.⁵⁷

In late November, the group used a steel rod to probe the search area. After passing the rod through five feet of water and another five feet of sand, the rod struck against something metal. Astonishingly, this was the precise location George Emerson designated as the dig site. However, three days later the group had to abandon the search without reaching the metal object. A tunnel they dug at the site collapsed and the treasure seekers were without sufficient funds to continue the search. Despite the mishap, the group attempted to acquire financial backing from the public so they could continue the hunt. In an effort to sweeten the appeal of the investment, a share of the treasure believed to be valued at approximately \$100,000 was offered, but at first, no interested investors stepped forward.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰

In order to finish the project, the group estimated it would take an investment of roughly \$450. Herb

Lipps, a wealthy Oklahoman and cattleman, heard about the treasure hunters and decided to join the project. He wired the group \$500 for a 15% share of the loot, if any was found. Lipps qualified himself for the gamble by stating, "I've always been interested in this sort of thing and am thinking of hunting for gold in Texas and silver in New Mexico."⁶¹

In less than a month, Lipps and the treasure hunters met head on with disappointment in the outcome of the Black River venture. On December 23, 1953, the group uncovered the hull of an oil boiler in the bottom of the pit. Disillusioned, the treasure hunters, like the 1926 treasure hunters, suspended their search for the James fortune on the banks of the Black River in Arkansas.⁶²⁻⁶³

Three search locations for Jesse James treasure led to three disappointing adventures, one of which was tragic. If Doc Miller's estimate was correct, perhaps Jesse James hid treasure in obscure places like the unidentified hoard containing 1,427 gold coins that a couple recently discovered in California. In fact, some believed Jesse James hid those coins with the intentions of returning someday to retrieve them and finance a second Civil War. However, this notion was soon refuted because James was killed twelve years before the last of the coins found in California were minted.⁶⁴ Whereas the couple's discovery of treasure was accidental, the treasure hunters in the three legends deliberately searched and toiled without discovering any hidden fortunes. Even though the treasure hunters failed in their attempts to find the Gang's fortune, the legend continues to entice some to search for the James-Younger Gang's hidden treasure. •

NOTES

- 1 "The Wounded Prisoners Admit They Are the Younger Brothers – The Thrilling Story in Full," *Minneapolis Tribune* (Minneapolis, MN) September 22, 1876, 1.
- 2 "Imprisoned for Life. The Last Scene in the Case of the Younger Brothers - All Plead Guilty of Murder in the First Degree, And Are Sentenced to Imprisonment for the Remainder of Their Natural Lives," *Daily Inter Ocean* (Chicago, IL) November 21, 1876, 5.
- 3 "Western Banditti: Remarkable Career of the James and Younger Brothers, The Band Broken Up After Fourteen Years of Crime," *Wheeling Daily Register* (Wheeling, WV) October 1, 1876, 3.
- 4 D. H. Rule, "James-Younger Gang: Outlaws," *Civil War St. Louis*, <http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/History/jamesgangoutlaws.htm> (Accessed 6-4-2014).
- 5 "More than a Million - Proceeds of the James and Younger Boys Robberies as Given by "Doc" Miller: There Were Twenty-four Robberies in Nineteen Years," *Kansas City Daily Journal*,

- (Kansas City, MO) September 5, 1896, 1.
- 6 Ruth Coder Fitzgerald, Clell and Ed Miller – Members of the James Gang (Fredericksburg, VA: Self Published. 1987), 2
- 7 “More than a Million.”
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 “Hidden Treasure Object of Hunt: Mysterious Death Renews Interest in Story of Jesse James’s Gold,” *The Idaho Statesman* (Boise, ID) May 22, 1930, 2.
- 10 Authors’ Note: Economists estimated the annual inflation rate from 1920 to 2014 to be 2.71 percent. Based on this rate, \$100,000 in 1920 would be equal to \$1,233,063.49 in 2014.
- 11 “James S. Patton, Strange Death of George Dovel Puzzles Jurors: Suicide or Murder? Is Question Brought up by Clues Revealed in Two Months’ Investigation,” *Decatur Herald* (Decatur, IL) February 9, 1930, 7.
12. Ibid.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 “Hidden Treasure Object of Hunt.”
- 15 Patton.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 “Cook County, Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index,” Cook County Clerk’s Office, Chicago, Illinois (1912).
- 19 *United States Census of 1880*, s. v. “Elizabeth Lambird,” North Muddy Township, Jasper County, Illinois, June 14, 1880, p 16, Enumeration District 160.
- 20 Elizabeth O. Dovel, Grave Marker, Texler/Kedron Cemetery, Jasper County, Illinois (2011).
- 21 *United States Census of 1920*, s. v. “Fanny E. Dovel,” North Muddy Township, Jasper County, Illinois, January 6-7, 1920, p 2A, Enumeration District 105.
- 22 *United States Census of 1900*, s v. “Fanny Hughes,” Blount Township, Vermilion, Illinois, June 20, 1900, p. 6, Enumeration District 56.
- 23 Patton.
- 24 “Widow, Five Guests Held in Mysterious Death of Wealthy Newton Farmer,” *Decatur Evening Herald* (Decatur, IL) January 9, 1930, 1.
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- 26 Ibid.
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- 28 “Widow, Five Guests Held.”
- 29 “Gun Expert May Trace Slayer of Robinson Farmer,” *Decatur Evening Herald* (Decatur, Illinois) January 14, 1930, 1.
- 30 “Cook County, Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index,” Cook County Clerk’s Office, Chicago, Illinois (1933).
- 31 Patton.
- 32 “Jesse James’ Box Empty When Dug up at Zanesville,” *The Canton Repository* (Canton, OH) March 13, 1949, 8.
- 33 “Jesse James Loot Object of Search,” *Omaha World Herald* (Omaha, NE), March 13, 1949, 12.
- 34 “Hunt Jesse James’ Treasure in Ohio Hills,” *The Canton Repository* (Canton OH) March 16, 1949, 9.
- 35 “James’ Money Hunt Ended,” *Trenton Evening Times* (Trenton, NJ) March 17, 1949, 11.
- 36 “Jesse James’ Box Empty.”
- 37 “Jesse James Loot Object of Search.”
- 38 “Jesse James’ Box Empty.”
- 39 “Jesse James Loot Object of Search.”
- 40 “Jesse James’ Box Empty.”
- 41 “Jesse James Loot Object of Search.”
- 42 “Hunt Jesse James’ Treasure in Ohio Hills.”
- 43 “Real Jesse James Scoffs at Ohio Treasure Hunters,” *Morning World-Herald* (Omaha, NE) March 14, 1949, 4.
- 44 Authors’ Note: Dalton’s relatives were named in Dalton’s August 21, 1951 obituary published in the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, Tucson, Arizona. (Orvus) Lee Howk of Texas City was listed as J. Frank Dalton’s great-grandson. However, in 1948 the *Advocate*, a newspaper published in Baton Rouge, LA, identified Orvus Lee Howk as Dalton’s friend.
- 45 Authors’ Note: Dalton’s 1949 claim to be Jesse James and his expertise on James’ buried treasure was disproved when a team of forensic scientists exhumed Jesse W. James in 1995. The scientists collected DNA samples from bone fragments and hair removed from the gravesite. The DNA from the bone fragments and hair was compared to James family DNA. Without any doubt, the DNA analysis confirmed the identity of the person in the gravesite was Jesse Woodson James. Dalton, in fact, was a twentieth century Jesse James imposter and his claim to be James was finally quelled.
- 46 “DNA Indicates Remains Are Jesse James,” *Marietta Journal* (Marietta, GA) September 23, 1995, 7A.
- 47 Fred Tasker, “The Latest Scientific Frontier Is In Sleuthing Old Mysteries,” *Augusta Chronicle* (Augusta, GA) October 5, 1995, 3B.
- 48 “State Prepares for Jesse James Third Funeral,” *Marietta Journal* (Marietta, GA) October 28, 1995, 4A.
- 49 “Treasure Seekers to Shift Hunt Scene,” *Morning World-Herald* (Omaha, NE) March 17, 1949, 13.
- 50 “James’ Money Hunt Ended,” *Trenton Evening Times* (Trenton, NJ) March, 17, 1949, 11.
- 51 “Farmers Charge Public to Watch Digging for Gold,” *Morning Advocate* (Baton Rouge, LA) October 26, 1953, 2B.
- 52 “Seven Farmers Believe They Are Only Five Feet from Gold Lost by Jesse James,” *The Greensboro Record* (Greensboro, NC) October 27, 1953, A2.
- 53 “Seek Treasure Reportedly Left by Jesse James,” *Morning Advocate* (Baton Rouge LA) October 28, 1953, 11.
- 54 “Farmers Charge Public to Watch Digging for Gold.”
- 55 Seven Farmers Believe.”
- 56 “Hunters Report Striking Cache of Jesse James,” *Greensboro Daily News*, (Greensboro NC) November 21, 1953, 2.
- 57 “Farmers Charge Public to Watch Digging for Gold.”
- 58 “Hunters Report Striking Cache.”
- 59 “Jesse James Loot Found: Treasure Hunters Hit Something,” *Morning World-Herald*, (Omaha, NE) November 21, 1953, 5.
- 60 “James Treasure Hunt Abandoned,” *Morning World-Herald*, (Omaha, NE) November 24, 1953, 8.
- 61 “Gives Funds for Treasure Hunt,” *Morning Advocate* (Baton Rouge, LA) December 5, 1953, 17B.
- 62 “Press Hunt for Treasure Chest,” *Morning Advocate* (Baton Rouge, LA) December 24, 1953, 1.
- 63 “Treasure Hunt Suspended Again,” *Morning Advocate* (Baton Rouge, LA) January 5, 1954, 6A.
- 64 John Rogers. “Digging for the Truth in Coin Discovery: Who Buried Coins Now Worth Millions Found By A Northern California Couple?” *Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, CA) March 9, 2014, A 27.