

JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE

for Students

Jesse James Birthplace

Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Find and name the objects by following the clues.

In the Museum

1. It helped Zerelda make blankets and clothing for the family.
2. Jesse used this to wipe his nose. Hint: It's in a place for safe keeping.
3. You wear these on your feet for the purpose of directing your horse to move.
4. 3 handles that are all the same.
5. Something for cleaning. Hint: especially a certain picture frame.
6. Something worn by a prisoner.
7. A piece of something that exploded.
8. A stone with 3 letters on it.

In the House

1. The late-night potty.
2. A degree. Hint: Belonged to Robert, son of Frank.
3. Fancy decoration for clothing, made of thread by Frank's wife.
4. Photo of someone missing a limb.
5. A place to write letters.
6. Photo of Frank's favorite friend. Hint: He had 4 legs and stood about 15 hands.
7. Jesse's favorite 4-legged friend.
8. Keeps food cold, but it's not a refrigerator.
9. Photo of a girl alone in a corner.

Outside

1. Where Jesse's body once lay.
2. The water source closest to the house.
3. The old bathroom

(Answers – page 12.)

And Now for a History Lesson

Childhood Days

Frank James was born at his grandmother's house in 1843. Shortly after he was born, his parents, Zerelda and Robert James, bought this farm which had a log cabin on it. Jesse was born here in 1847, and two years later their sister Susan was born.

Their father was a Baptist preacher at New Hope church just a few miles north of the farm and he was a founding member of William Jewell College. In 1850, he left his family for the gold mines in California. He felt a calling to preach to the miners, but he got sick and died shortly after his arrival in California.

Frank was seven and Jesse only three when their father died. They probably didn't remember much about him, but he taught Frank to read. Their father left them a large collection of books. Frank loved to read Shakespeare. Jesse enjoyed reading the Bible and went to church every Sunday. His strong faith was probably influenced by his father.

When they were young boys, a distant cousin, called "Wild Bill Thomason", taught Frank and Jesse how to ride horses and shoot guns. Both boys went to school until they finished the eighth grade. Frank continued to learn through his love of reading. As an adult, he was thought to be well-educated and was known for quoting Shakespeare.

Zerelda remarried a man named Reuben Samuel. He was a doctor and a farmer and was known to be a quiet and gentle man. Frank, Jesse and Susan all loved him like a father and called him Pappy. The three James children also had four half brothers and sisters – Sallie, John, Fanny and Archie.

Civil War Days

Like many residents of Clay County, the James family supported the Southern, pro-slavery, Confederate states during the war because many of their relatives still lived in those states.

Kansas supported the Northern Unionists who wanted to abolish slavery, and Missouri was a divided state. A large portion of Missouri supported the Southern Confederates who wanted to keep slavery legal. Missouri shares its western border with Kansas. There was a lot of fighting between towns along the border of both states. This was known as the Kansas and Missouri "Border Wars." Jayhawkers from Kansas would sneak into Missouri to raid and burn towns and Bushwhackers from Missouri would sneak into Kansas to do the same. Today, the Border War continues through college sports team rivalries.

Frank James rode with a local Confederate group at the beginning of the war. He was caught by the Unionists and forced to take an oath. He promised not to fight against the Union. Later, when local Union troops found out that Frank had been spotted in a battle they knew he had broken his oath. A group of militiamen went to the family farm hoping to find out where Frank and the raiders were camped. They beat Jesse and tortured Dr. Samuel, who suffered brain damage as a result.

When he was old enough, Jesse joined Bloody Bill Anderson's guerillas. When Bloody Bill and his men would raid a town, they robbed the banks and used the money for food, supplies and uniforms. At the end of the war, Jesse was shot in the chest. He recuperated at his aunt and uncle's house in Kansas City, where his cousin, Zee, took care of him. Her real name was Zerelda. She was named after Jesse's mother. Later, Zee and Jesse were married.

After The War

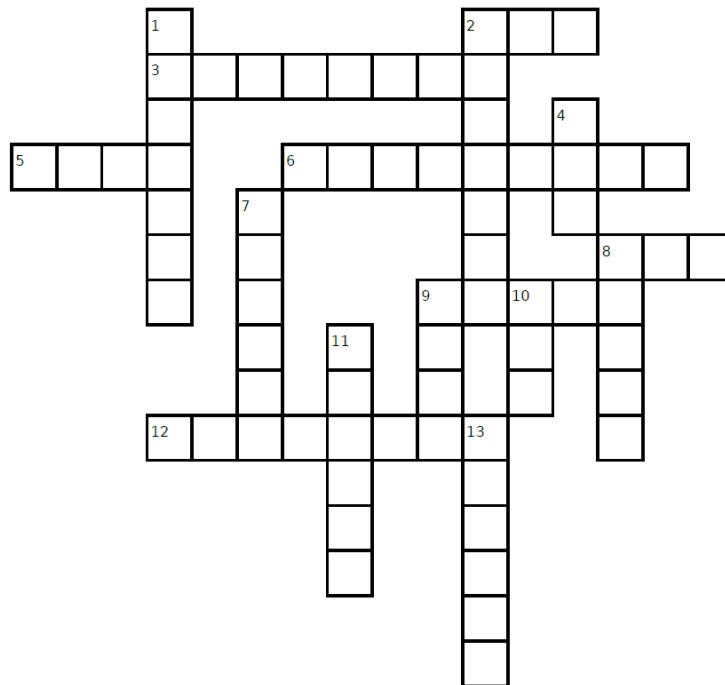
Many of the men that fought with Bloody Bill Anderson and William Quantrill, including Frank and Jesse and some of their friends, began robbing banks and trains after the war. Supporters of the Confederate side were bitter about losing the war. Banks and railroads were often run by companies in the northern or Unionist states. The people that robbed them believed that they were getting back at the Unionists.

It wasn't just the robbers that believed this. Some of the townsfolk believed it too. Newspaper stories compared Frank and Jesse to Robin Hood even though there was no proof they ever gave money to the needy. Today there are still many legends about Frank and Jesse.

Jesse and his gang robbed banks and trains for years, but after a while Frank grew tired of it and moved away to escape the outlaw lifestyle. On April 3rd, 1882, Bob Ford, a new member of Jesse's gang, shot Jesse while he was dusting a picture on the wall at his home in St. Joseph, Missouri. His wife Zee, and children, Jesse Jr. and Mary, were in the kitchen at the time. Bob struck a deal with the Governor of Missouri. He was to collect the reward when he delivered Jesse to the Governor, but Bob killed Jesse instead. He received only a small portion of the reward.

Jesse's mother, Zerelda, buried her son in the yard near the house. Because Jesse was a famous outlaw, she was afraid that people would rob his grave. By burying him in the yard she could watch over the grave and make sure that no one disturbed it. After his wife, Zee, died in 1900, Jesse's body was moved to Mt. Olivet cemetery in Kearney so that he could be buried beside his wife.

Jesse James Birthplace Crossword



Down:

1. Jesse's middle name
2. Frank & Jesse's mother
4. Frank's favorite horse
7. Boy killed in Pinkerton raid
8. Frank's wife
9. The Younger that Frank toured the country with
10. The Ford that shot Jesse
11. Jesse's step-father's profession
13. The James Gang _____ banks & trains.

Across:

2. Jesse's wife
3. 1800s bathroom
5. Place where Zerelda buried Jesse.
6. Jesse's favorite horse
8. Zerelda's _____ was injured by the Pinkerton bomb.
9. The house was once a log _____.
12. Jesse's father's profession

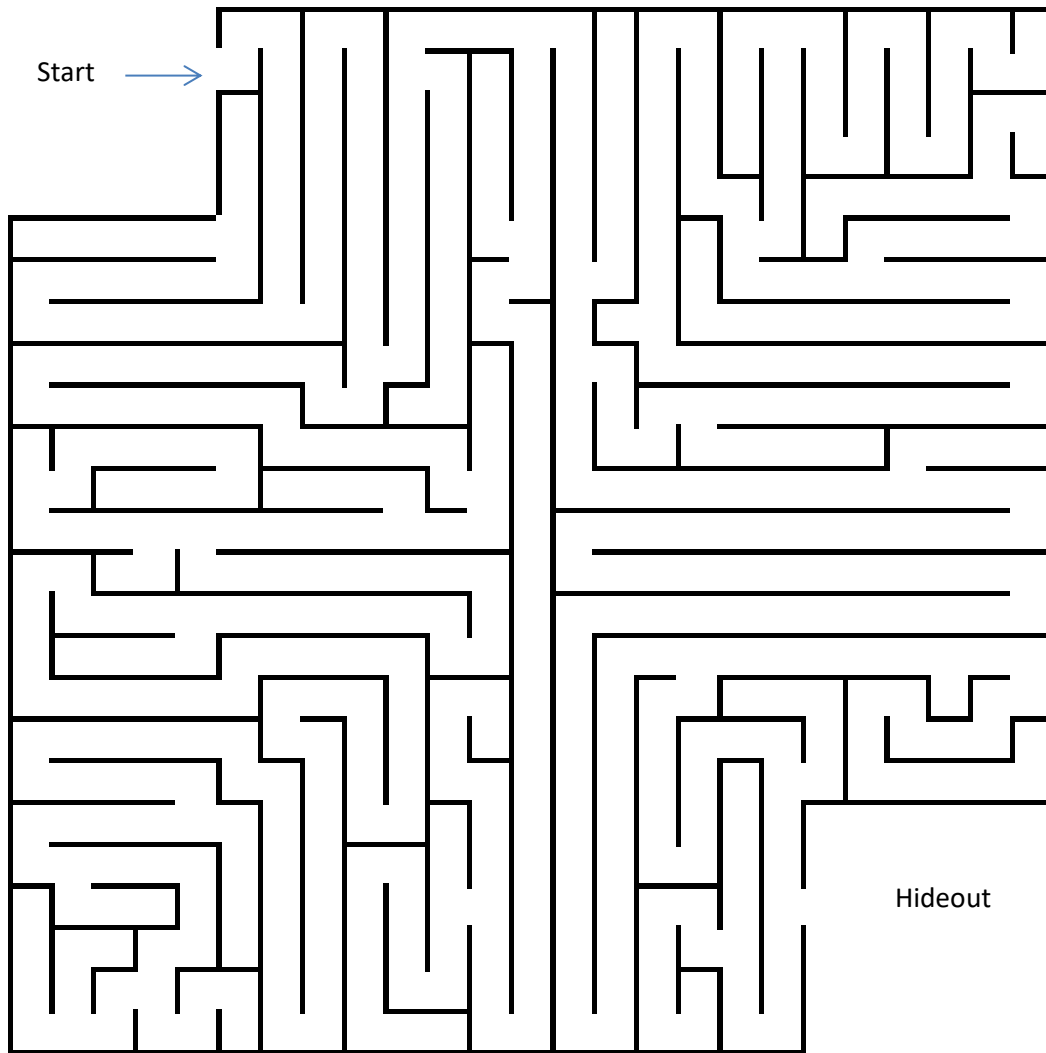
Jesse James Birthplace Word Search

S H C T H B K S D X W T P P R
R O O K Z M T W R P Y I K W F
O L N L C O R B A E N U Y Q J
Y D F A V B S Z W K H F L D E
M U E A L L A W E N O T S A S
A P D F R M T R R S F R O O S
V J E C G C T L P R E I O R E
B A R N V O H U L B T W V L B
Z A A H N O R I B O F F L I C
S G T S R S B O E Q T R T A M
Y U E S Z E R E L D A S A R V
M K E H W P W A L T U O I N R
R S N B S A D D L E C H P P K
A B T A G I X L T L U A V R S
Y B G G B W W F G P S P O J R

ARCHIE	BANK	BOMB	BROTHERS
CONFEDERATE	FRANK	GANG	HOLDUP
HORSES	JESSE	OUTLAW	PINKERTONS
PISTOL	RAILROAD	REWARD	ROBBERS
SADDLE	SPURS	STONEWALL	VAULT
ZERELDA			

**Hint: hidden words are sometimes backward, upside-down or diagonal*

Jesse James - Hideout









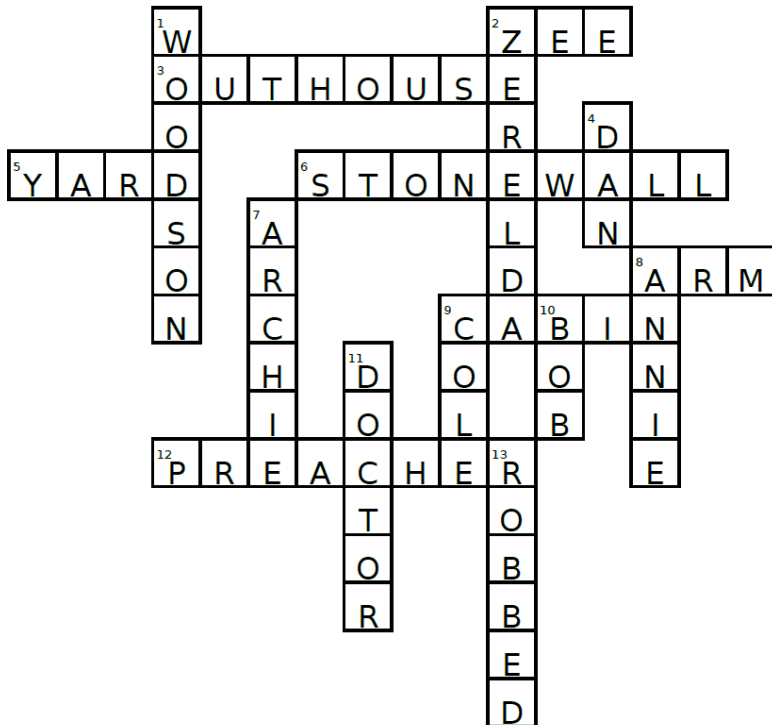
Answers - page 1

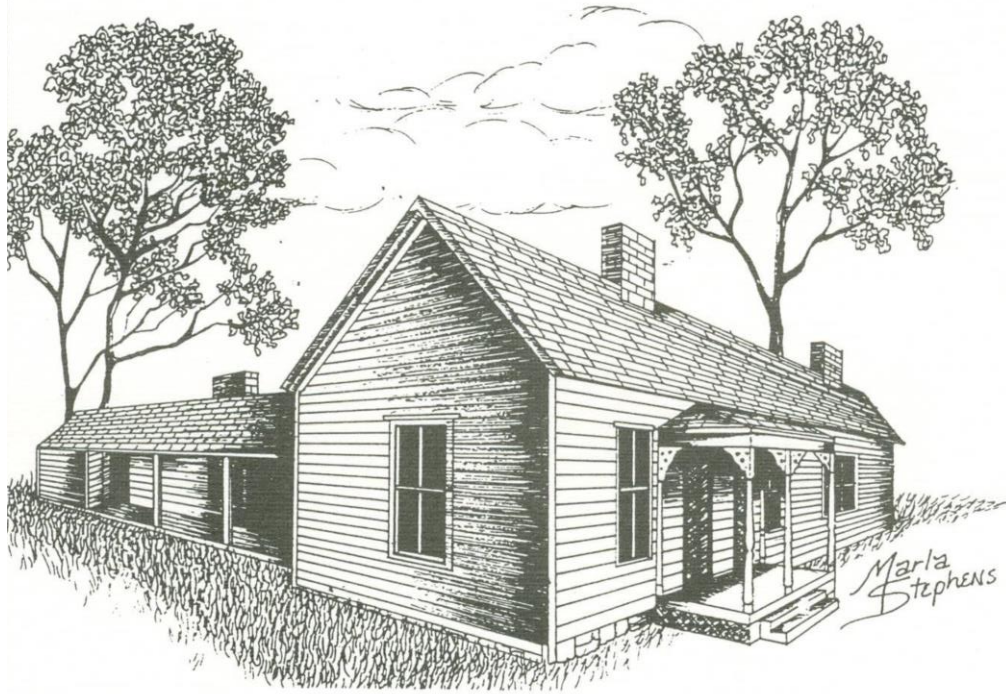
Museum: 1. Zerelda's sewing machine 2. Jesse's handkerchief 3. Spurs 4. Casket or coffin handles 5. Feather duster 6. Handcuffs 7. Pinkerton bomb 8. Dan's headstone or gravestone.

House: 1. A chamber pot 2. Robert James(Bob's) diploma 3. Annie's tatted lace 4. Photo of Zerelda 5. Writing desk 6. Dan the horse 7. Stonewall the horse 8. Ice box 9. Sally Samuel, Jesse and Frank's half-sister.

Outside: 1. Gravesite 12. Water pump or well 3. Outhouse

Answers - page 5 Crossword Puzzle





Other Clay County Historic Sites to learn and explore:

<p>Jesse James Birthplace The Jesse James Birthplace 21216 James Farm Rd. Kearney, Missouri 64060 816-736-8500</p>	<p>Jesse James Bank Museum 103 N. Water Liberty, MO 64068 816-736-8510</p>
<p>Mt. Gilead Church & School 15918 Plattsburg Rd. Kearney, Missouri 64060 816-736-8500</p>	<p>Historic Pharis Farm 20611 EE Highway Liberty, Missouri 64068 816-736-8500</p>