

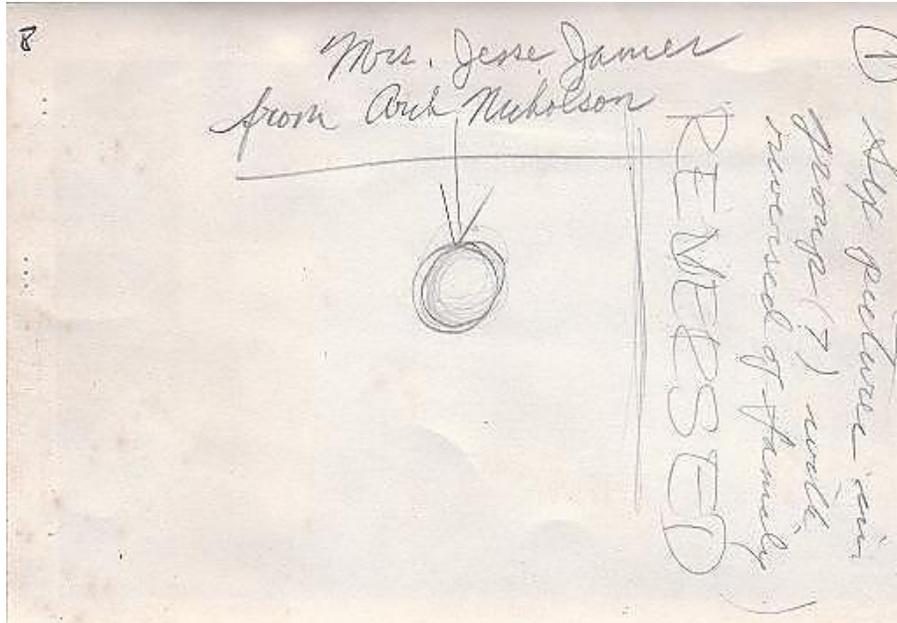
Photographs Capture Jesse James!

© Betty Dorsett Duke 3/10/2014

After fifteen years of trying to prove to the world that Jesse James got away with his own 1882 murder and lived on in Texas as James L. Courtney, a photograph I had the good fortune of winning on eBay in 2010 literally told the story without one word having to be uttered or typed.



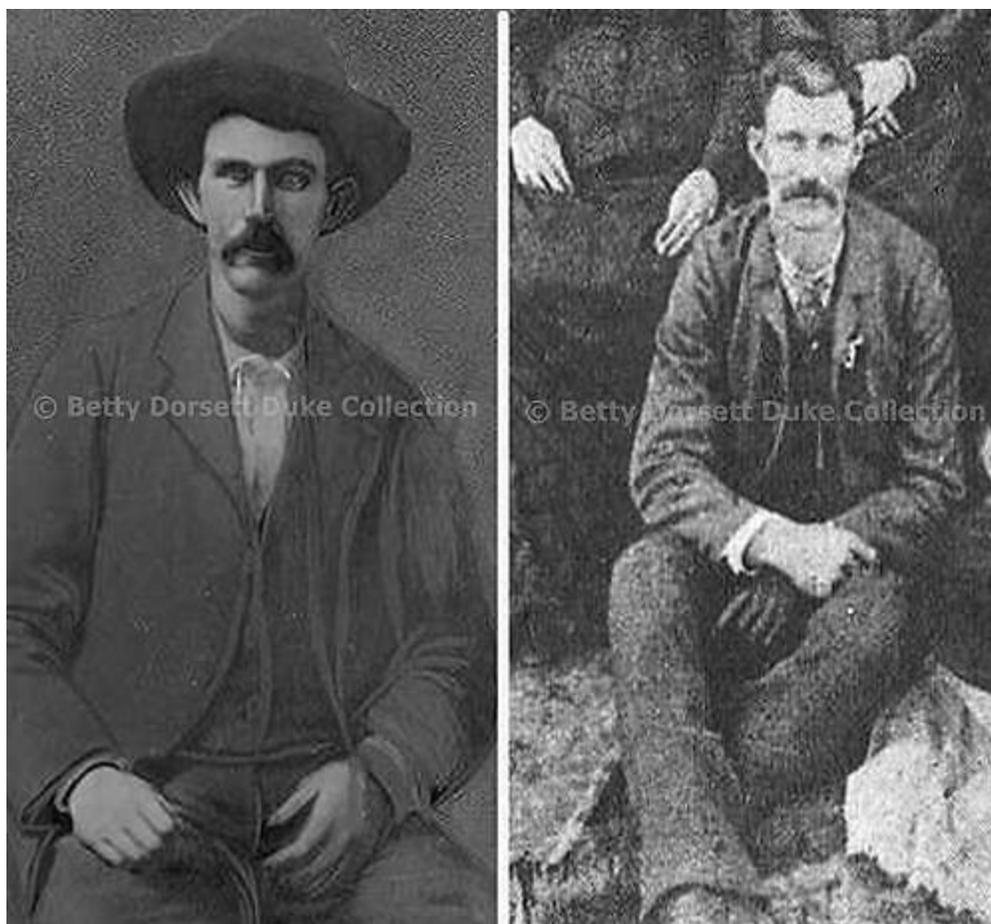
The eBay photo's provenance is excellent. Lee Starnes, a historian and authority on Jesse James, obtained it from Arch Nicholson (Frank and Jesse James' nephew) and when he (Starnes) died his sister inherited it. After her death his collection was put it up for auction. Cathi Basler won it and then put it up for auction on eBay. Then through a stroke of good fortune, Duke won LOT 23 of the collection which included the James family photo.



Back of the eBay photo. Arch Nicholson identified Jesse James' wife by drawing a circle on the back of the photo where her head is on the front of the photo. Mrs. Jesse James is my paternal great-grandmother, known as Mary Ellen Barron Courtney in Texas. She was married to Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney.

A family photo of Mary Ellen Barron "Courtney" is pictured on the left. Mrs. Jesse James (cropped from the eBay photo) is pictured on the right. Mrs. Jesse James is seated on the middle row second from the left directly behind Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney.





Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney is pictured in both images above. The 1875 image on the right was cropped from the eBay photograph of the James family and enlarged. The image on the left, believed to have been taken in 1870 or 1871, is a tintype from my family collection. Several groups of facial identification experts, one of which are the world-leaders, issued Statements of Recognition stating that the faces of Jesse James and his family match the faces of the man known in Texas as James L. Courtney and his family.

The eBay photograph of the James family is believed to have been taken in 1875 in the yard of Jesse James' Blevins, Texas home to commemorate Frank James and Annie Ralston's wedding day. Both the front and back of the photograph clearly state it is reversed. Beginning with the front row left to right the people pictured are Frank James (wearing the light-colored suit and seated on the ground far left), Annie Ralston James (Frank's wife wearing his hat with Jesse's hat in her lap), and Jesse James ("the tall man with the dark moustache" seated on the ground far right). Middle row left to right: Sara Jackson, Susan James Parmer (Frank and Jesse James' sister), Zerelda James Samuel (wife of Reuben Samuel and Frank, Jesse, and Susan James' mother, possibly Mary Jane Shelton Barron (Mary Ellen Barron's mother), Mary Ellen Barron (Mrs. Jesse James), and Harriett Amanda "Mandy" Austin Jackson (Mrs. J. Z. Jackson). Back

row left to right: Dr. Reuben Samuel (Frank, Jesse, and Susan James' step-father), James "Jim" Floyd Jackson (J. Z. Jackson's brother), possibly Julie Jackson (J. Z. Jackson's sister-in-law) or her sister Francis or the outlaw Belle Starr, Solomon Andrew Jackson (J. Z. Jackson's brother), and J. Z. Jackson.

The postcard pictured below (front and back) courtesy of Patrick Marquis, is extremely significant because not only does it show the unreversed image of the eBay photograph of the James family - the back of it correctly identifies them as "the James gang with family, friends, and possibly other outlaws."

However, the person that identified the James family on the back of the postcard, and it was probably the now deceased, Lee Starnes, mistakenly identified Frank James and Jesse James according to the *reversed* image of the eBay photograph of the James family instead of the *unreversed* image pictured on the postcard. Likewise, when identifying Jesse James' position in the reversed photograph of the James family, Lee Starnes forgot to consider the photograph was reversed. This is obviously the case due to the following reasons:

1. Lee Starnes typed around the front border of the eBay photograph that it was *reversed* and clearly identified Jesse James as being the "tall man with the dark moustache". However, he mistakenly positioned Jesse James as being "*seated [on] her left*" in the reversed image when he is actually seated on her right.
2. Mr. Starnes thought the woman seated next to Frank was Frank and Jesse's sister, Susan James Parmer, but she is actually Frank's wife, Annie Ralston James. In the *reversed* image, Zerelda James Samuel, Frank and Jesse James' mother, is seated on the *middle row third from the left* instead of being seated *fourth from the left* as the postcard correctly positions her. Her missing arm and facial features positively identify her.

(Please continue to the next page.)



The James gang, notorious for their bold daylight robberies of banks and trains, are pictured here with family, friends, and possibly fellow outlaws. Bottom row, left to right: Frank James, Jesse James. Middle row, left to right: Fourth person over, Mrs. Zerelda Samuels, Frank and Jesse James' mother. Information on the identity of the remainder is welcome.

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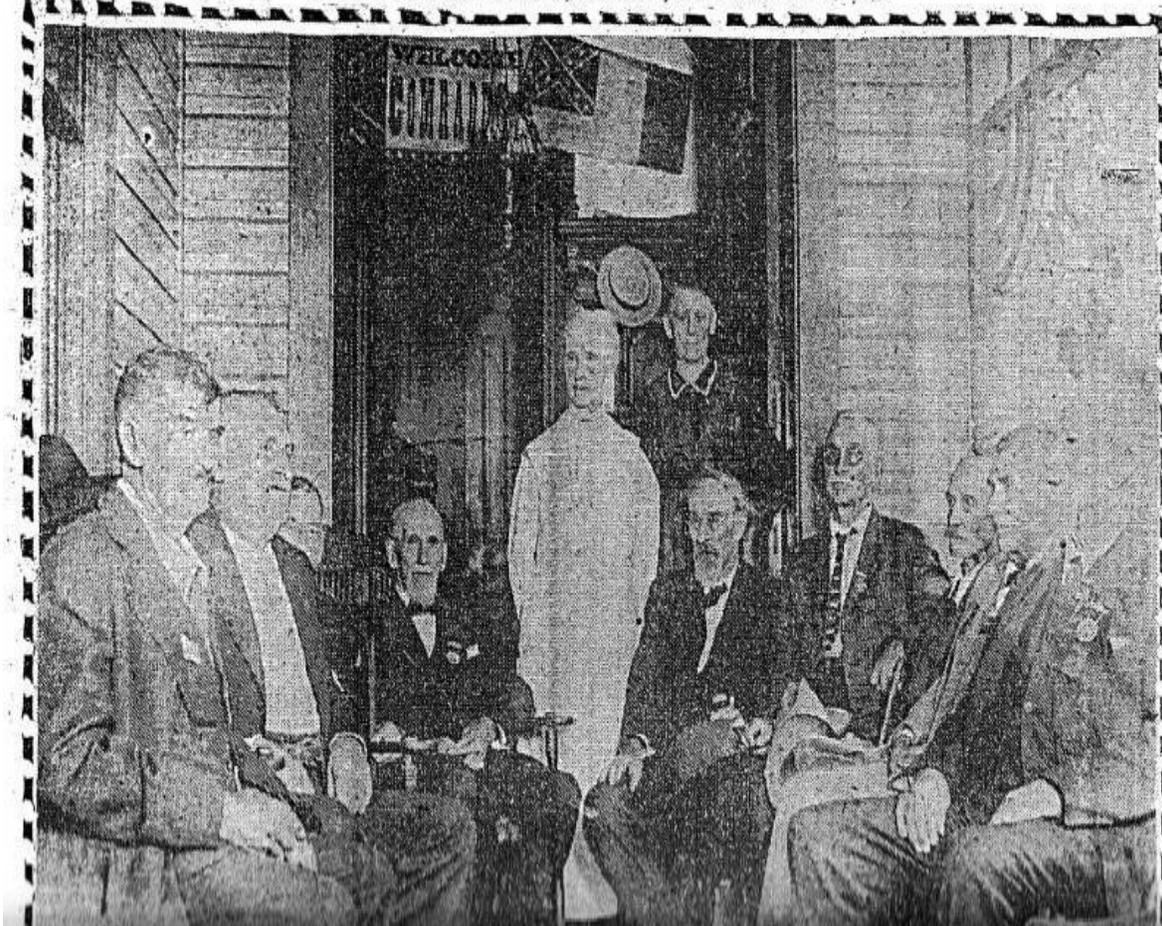
POSTCARD

Place
Stamp Here

FOR LARGER PHOTOGRAPHS OF THIS POSTCARD SEND MONEY ORDER TO
 10347 W. 10TH STREET, SEASIDE, CALIF. 94134

This side for the Address only.

THE KANSAS CITY POST, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1921



On October 27, 2010 Texan Dallas Hunt posted the photograph pictured above on Greg Ellison's Jesse James Photo Discussion Site. This image is extremely significant because it proves the man posing as James L. Courtney in Texas was actually one Quantrill's Confederate Partisan Rangers (commonly referred to as guerrillas). Jesse James also served the Confederacy under Quantrill, and the real James L. Courtney was a Union bugler. Dallas included the following in his post: "This photo is located in The William Clarke Quantrill Man Reunions compiled by Don Hale. It was a newspaper photo of a Quantrill Reunion that appeared in the Kansas City Post in 1921. James Courtney is clearly visible in the photo between two Quantrill veterans. Miss Lizzie Wallace who held the reunions for over twenty years is the woman in the back. Jesse James AKA James Courtney appears to be wearing the same coat as he is pictured wearing in three photos in Betty's First Book "Jesse James Lived and Died in Texas." This proves he was none other than the legendary Jesse James! For those not familiar James Courtney is the large man on the left with the dark open coat. Take note of how everyone is looking directly at him as if they know they are in the presence of a so called "dead man". - Dallas Hunt.



Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney is the second man from the front left in the large photo which was cropped from the Quantrill Reunion photo pictured on the previous page . He's also pictured in the three small inset family photos. If he had really been James L. Courtney, a Union soldier – I don't believe he would have been welcomed on Miss Lizzie Wallace's front porch with other Quantrill veterans.

Read more on this subject and view more photos at <http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/> and <http://jessewjames.wordpress.com/>

Thanks for your interest.

Betty Dorsett Duke

banditoutlaw13@aol.com