

TUSCO TIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TUSCO LONG RIDERS

"The Shooting Makes It Fun, the People Make It Special"

February 2020

Writer/Editor: Baby Doll Blue

February 4th

Another great shoot in the books for Tusco! Thanks to all who came out for our February shoot. Welcome back Billy Badazz. Congratulation to Lucky 13, our Top Overall Shooter, and the Top Ladies Shooter goes to Hey Sugar! Thanks to Life-R with Patriots Castings for your donations to the prize table. Hope to see you all next month!

Top 20

1. Lucky 13
2. Stone Creek Drifter
3. Swiss
4. Buckaroo Bubba
5. Hey Sugar
6. One More Woody
7. Life-R
8. Cheatin Charlie
9. Leadfoot Luke
10. N.A. Custer
11. Moosetracks
12. Skinny Kinny
13. Billy Badazz
14. Trigger Happy
15. Last Gun
16. Laramie Leadslinger
17. Turkey Flat's Jack
18. R.S. Dancer
19. Thunder Creek Kid
20. Lever Action Landon

Clean Shooters

No clean shooters this month

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A Compendium of Useful Information**

Next Shoot: March 7th 2020

Weather permitting



Prairie Dawg's Old West Chronicles

A Compendium of Useful Information – February, 2020

James–Younger Gang -- Overview & Early Years



Jesse and Frank James, 1872

The James–Younger Gang was a notorious 19th-century gang of outlaws, that centered around Jesse James and his brother Frank James. The gang was based in the state of Missouri, the home of most of the members.

Membership fluctuated from robbery to robbery, as the outlaws' raids were usually separated by many months. As well as the notorious James brothers, at various times it included the Younger brothers (Cole, Jim, John, and Bob), John Jarrett (married to the Youngers' sister Josie), Arthur McCoy, George Shepherd, Oliver Shepherd, William McDaniel, Tom McDaniel, Clell Miller, Charlie Pitts, and Bill Chadwell (alias Bill Stiles).

The James–Younger Gang had its origins in a group of Confederate bushwhackers, who participated in the bitter partisan fighting that wracked Missouri during the Civil War.

When the war was over, these were among the men who seemed not to fit into society any longer. They took to robbing banks to support themselves. While they were not very organized at first, they soon became a gang that had grown and learned from their mistakes. The loose association of outlaws did not truly become the "James–Younger Gang" until 1868 at the earliest, when the authorities first named Cole Younger, John Jarrett, Arthur McCoy, George Shepherd and Oliver Shepherd as suspects in the robbery of the Nimrod Long bank in Russellville, Kentucky.

For nearly a decade following the Civil War, the James–Younger Gang was among the most feared, most publicized, and most wanted confederations of outlaws on the American frontier. Though their crimes were reckless and brutal, many members of the gang commanded a notoriety in the public eye that earned the gang significant popular support and sympathy. The gang's activities spanned much of the central part of the country. They are suspected of having robbed banks, trains, and stagecoaches in at least eleven states: Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and West Virginia.

From the beginning of the Civil War, the state of Missouri had chosen not to secede from the Union, but not to fight for or against it either. Missouri's position, as determined by an 1861 constitutional convention, was officially neutral.

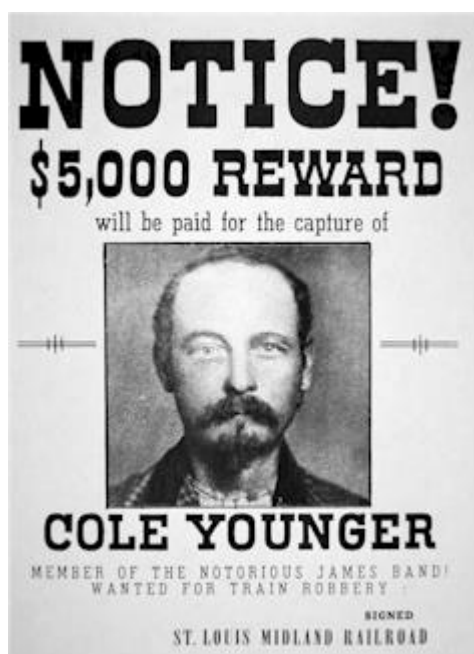
Missouri, however, had been the scene of much of the agitation about slavery leading up to the outbreak of the war, and was home to dedicated partisans from both sides. In the mid-1850s, local Unionists and Secessionists had begun to battle each other throughout the state, and by the end of 1861, guerrilla warfare erupted between Confederate partisans known as "bushwhackers" and the more organized Union forces.

This conflict was fought largely between Missourians themselves, and raged until after the fall of Richmond and the surrender of General Robert E. Lee, costing thousands of lives and devastating broad swathes of the Missouri countryside.

The fighting escalated into a succession of atrocities committed by both sides. Union troops often executed or tortured suspects without trial and burned the homes of suspected guerrillas and those suspected of aiding or harboring them. Bushwhackers, meanwhile, frequently went house to house, executing Unionist farmers.



Bob Younger



The James and Younger brothers belonged to slave-owning families from an area known as "Little Dixie" in western Missouri with strong ties to the South. Zerelda Samuel, the mother of Frank and Jesse James, was an outspoken partisan of the South.

Cole Younger's initial decision to fight as a bushwhacker is usually attributed to the death of his father at the hands of Union forces in July 1862. He and Frank James fought under one of the most famous Confederate bushwhackers, William Clarke Quantrill, though Cole eventually joined the regular Confederate Army. Jesse James began his guerrilla career in 1864, at the age of sixteen, fighting alongside Frank, under the leadership of Archie Clement and "Bloody Bill" Anderson.

At the war's end, Frank James surrendered in Kentucky. Jesse James attempted to surrender to Union militia, but was shot through the lung outside of Lexington, Missouri. He was nursed back to health by his cousin, Zerelda "Zee" Mimms, whom he eventually married. When Cole Younger returned from a mission to California, he learned that Quantrill and Anderson had both been killed. The James brothers, however, continued to associate with their old guerrilla

comrades, who remained together under the leadership of Archie Clement. It was likely Clement who, amid the tumult of Reconstruction in Missouri, turned the guerrillas into outlaws.

Jesse James Farm in Kearney, Missouri. The original farmhouse is on the left and an addition on the right was expanded after Jesse James died. James' original grave was on the property but he was later moved to a cemetery in Kearney. The original footstone is still outside although the family has replaced the headstone.



Early years: 1866 to 1870

On February 12, 1866, a group of gunmen carried out one of the first daylight, peacetime, armed bank robberies in U.S. history, when they held up the Clay County Savings Association in Liberty, Missouri. The outlaws stole some \$60,000 in cash and bonds and killed a bystander on the street outside the bank. State authorities suspected Archie Clement of leading the raid, and promptly issued a reward for his capture.

Four months later, on June 13, 1866, two members of Quantrill's Raiders were freed from prison in Independence, Missouri, and the jailer, Henry Bugler, was killed. The James brothers are believed to have been involved. Then began a string of robberies, many of which were linked to Clement's group of bushwhackers. The hold-up most clearly linked to the group was of Alexander Mitchell and Company in Lexington, Missouri, on October 30, 1866, netting the robbers \$2,011.50. Clement was also linked to violence and intimidation against officials of the Republican government that now held power in the state. On election day, Clement led his men into Lexington, where they drove Republican voters away from the polls, thereby securing a Republican defeat. A detachment of state militiamen convinced the bushwhackers to disperse, and attempted to capture Clement, who still had a price on his head. Clement refused to surrender, and was shot down in a wild gunfight on the streets of Lexington.

Despite the death of Clement, his old followers remained together, and robbed a bank across the Missouri River from Lexington in Richmond, Missouri, on May 22, 1867, killing the town's mayor and two lawmen. This was followed on March 20, 1868, by a raid on the Nimrod Long bank in Russellville, Kentucky. In the aftermath of the two raids, however, the more senior bushwhackers were killed, captured, or simply left the group. The James and Younger brothers emerged as leaders, and the old crew became the James–Younger Gang. On December 7, 1869, Frank and Jesse James are believed to have robbed the Daviess County Savings Association in

Gallatin, Missouri. Jesse is suspected of having shot down the cashier, John W. Sheets, in the mistaken belief that he was Samuel P. Cox, the Union militia officer who had ambushed and killed "Bloody Bill" Anderson during the Civil War.

1871 to 1873

On June 3, 1871, the gang robbed a bank in Corydon, Iowa. The bank contacted the Pinkerton National Detective Agency in Chicago, bringing about the first involvement of the famous agency in the pursuit of the James–Younger Gang. Agency founder Allan Pinkerton dispatched his son, Robert Pinkerton, who joined a county sheriff in tracking the gang to a farm in Civil Bend, Missouri. A short gunfight ended indecisively as the gang escaped. On June 24, Jesse James wrote a letter to the Kansas City Times, claiming Republicans were persecuting him for his Confederate loyalties by accusing him and Frank of carrying out the robberies. "But I don't care what the degraded Radical party thinks about me," he wrote, "I would just as soon they would think I was a robber as not."



Bob, Jim and Cole Younger,
with their sister Henrietta

On April 29, 1872, the gang robbed a bank in Columbia, Kentucky. One of the outlaws shot the cashier, R.A.C. Martin, who had refused to open the safe. On September 23, 1872, three men, identified by former bushwhacker Jim Chiles as Jesse James and Cole and John Younger, robbed a ticket booth of the Second Annual Kansas City Industrial Exposition, amid thousands of people. They took some \$900, and accidentally shot a little girl in the ensuing struggle with the ticket-seller. Apart from Chiles' testimony, there is no other evidence that this crime was committed by the James or Younger brothers, and Jesse later wrote a letter denying his or the Youngers' involvement. Cole was furious over this, because neither he nor his brother John had been linked to the crime before the letter.

The crime was praised by Kansas City Times editor John Newman Edwards in a famous editorial entitled, "**The Chivalry of Crime.**" Edwards soon published an anonymous letter from one of the outlaws, believed to be Jesse, that referred to the approaching presidential election: "Just let a party of men commit a bold robbery, and the cry is hang them. But President Ulysses S. Grant and his party can steal millions and it is all right," the outlaw wrote. "They rob the poor and rich, and we rob the rich and give to the poor."

On May 27, 1873, the James–Younger Gang robbed the Ste. Genevieve Savings Association in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. As they rode off they fired in the air and shouted, "**Hurrah for Hildebrand!**" Samuel S. Hildebrand was a famous Confederate bushwhacker from the area who had recently been shot dead in Illinois. Arthur McCoy once lived in this area and knew it quite well, so he was likely involved, and may have been the planner and leader.

On July 21, 1873, the gang carried out what was arguably the first train robbery west of the Mississippi River, derailing a locomotive of the Rock Island Railroad near Adair, Iowa. Engineer John Rafferty died in the crash. The outlaws took \$2,337 from the express safe in the baggage car, having narrowly missed a transcontinental express shipment of a large amount of cash.

On November 24, John Newman Edwards published a lengthy glorification of the James brothers, Cole and John Younger, and Arthur McCoy, in a twenty-page special supplement to his newspaper, the St. Louis Dispatch.

Edwards had moved from the Kansas City Times to the Dispatch in 1873. Most of the supplement, entitled "**A Terrible Quintet**," was devoted to Jesse James, the gang's public face, and the article stressed their Confederate loyalties.



Coming next month:

1874 - 1876 -- The Northfield, Minnesota Raid & end of the James - Younger Gang

News & Notes

Six Stages

We shoot six stages at Tusco. A few people have told us that they drive a good distance to shoot at Tusco and would like to shoot as much as possible.

Obviously we only have room for five shooting bays. So what we do is shoot the first stage you start on twice.

Consider it a warm up stage. Only five stages will be scored. You can take your best time on your first stage. If you don't want to shoot it twice you do not have to.

This would provide more shooting for our shooters.

New SASS Magazine

With the new release of the SASS Quarterly Cowboy Chronicle, I once again would like to start collecting any unwanted issues of the magazine. We

will use these for our promotional events, like our Tusco Long Riders' Day at Kames Sports. Please either black out or cut off your name and address or I will do it before they are passed out.

Thank you!

Facebook Page

When you make a post about Tusco or share pictures on Facebook, include #TuscoLongRiders. Let everyone see what we are all about.

New Shooters Shoot for Free at Tusco

The Tusco Long Riders will be offering FREE SHOOTS to ALL FIRST TIME SHOOTERS AT TUSCO. This is ONLY for a shooter's first ever shoot at Tusco. (*this is only for monthly matches, excluding High Noon 3-day Shoot in October, and the Charity Shoot in November.)

Cowboy Swap Meet at Monthly Shoots

As a reminder, feel free to bring your old Cowboy Gear, Guns and Equipment to sell at our monthly shoots. It's a good opportunity to sell some of your unwanted stuff to your fellow shooters. Your items are your responsibility.

Pre-Paid Shoots

Looking for that perfect Gift for your Cowboy Friends and Family? How about a Pre-paid Shoot to a Tusco Monthly Match. They cost \$10.00 each at a shoot or they can be mailed for \$10.50. Contact Buckaroo Bubba at pittfandwr@aol.com or 330-348-5637 if you would like to purchase them.

Help Wanted at Tusco

If you are available to help set up target stands/props before our shoots it would be greatly appreciated.

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Supporting Clubs

Big Irons

Middletown, Ohio
www.bigirons.com

Blackhand Raiders

Nashpost, Ohio
www.blackhandraiders.com/home.html

Brown Township Regulators

Malvern, Ohio
www.browntownshipregulators.com

Firelands Peacemakers

Rochester, Ohio
www.firelandspeacemakers.com

Greene County Cowboys

Xenia, Ohio
www.gcfng.com/gccowboys/index.html

Henderson Wild Justice League

Williamstown, WV
<http://hendersonwilds.com/>

Logan's Ferry Regulators

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
www.logansferrysportsmens.com

Miami Valley Cowboys

Piqua, Ohio
www.miamivalleycowboys.org/

Ohio Valley Vigilantes

Mount Vernon, Ohio
www.ohiovv.com/

Sandusky County Regulators

Gibsonburg, Ohio
<http://scsclub.org/events/cowboy-action/>

Scioto Territory Desperados

Chillicothe, Ohio
www.sciotodesperados.com

Shenango River Rats

Masury, Ohio
www.brookfieldconservation.com/Cowboy.html

Wild West Point

West Point, Ohio
www.affox.com/casscores/westpoint.html

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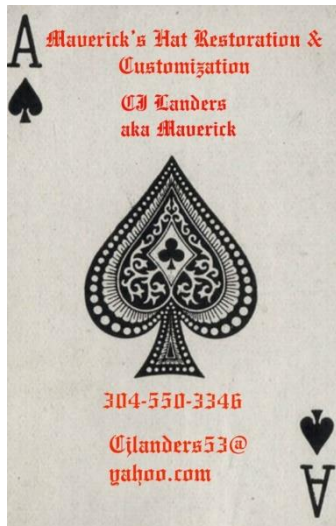


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