

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: JESSE JAMES



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REPRODUCED.



Excelsior Springs, Mo.
Jan. 15, 1931.

RECEIVED

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director of Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.



62-26874
Div. Two
Div. Three
Div. Six
FILE

62 78
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
JAN 28 1932

My Dear Mr. Hoover.

I am enclosing
you herewith the photograph of the
supposed Jesse James, the noted bandit.

No doubt, you have read the re-
cent stories in the newspapers of this
man. I was called in on this case
and was ask if I could identify this
man. They know that I am a finger
print expert, but they tied my hands
right on the start. They will not let
(this man's) finger prints be taken, that

1-23-31
J. Edgar Hoover
1-23-31

62-26874-13498

is, his Chief Council, ~~██████████~~
criminal lawyer here and the city
mayor ~~██████████~~ who is ~~██████████~~
of the Elms Hotel. This man resides
at the Elms Hotel. You know it is
difficult to identify a man without
his finger prints. This man was
supposed to have served a term at the
penitentiary at Chester, Ill. for murder,
but it is my understanding that he was
paroled about the year of 1926, however,
I have no positive proof of this.
It occurs to me that if this man
has a recent criminal record, probably
you will have his finger prints. He
states that he entered the prison under
the name of William Jesse James.
OR 1/21

I am enclosing these photographs because of your experience and knowledge along this line, you will probably render ^{me} your opinion as to the likeness of these photographs. I am aware of the fact tho no one can positively identify a person by photographs for the fact that so many people look alike.

Trusting that I am asking nothing out of the ordinary and that I will hear from you in the near future,

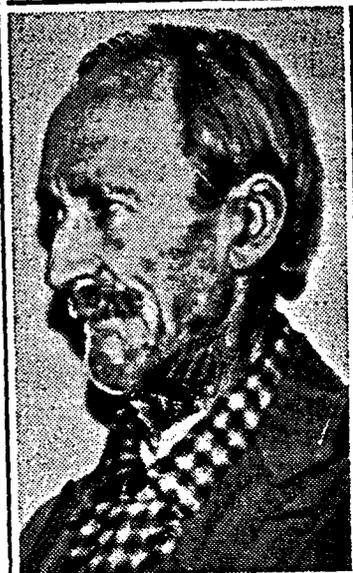
Yours very truly,



b6

Residence 

Excelsior Springs, Mo.

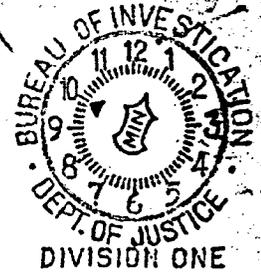


62-26471-1

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.



LCS:EPM

January 22, 1932. JAN 23 1932 AM

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-26471-1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

JAN 28 1932

NATHAN Tolson

Please refer to the letter I have prepared addressed to [redacted] Excelsior Springs, Missouri, concerning the claims of an individual now residing in that city, to the effect that he is the original Jesse James.

Of course, Jesse James' fingerprints never were taken. It follows that any identification would have to be made upon the basis of physical characteristics and photographs. The photograph of the younger person transmitted by [redacted] no doubt is a wood cut of the original Jesse James. After examining this photo, or cut, it is the opinion of [redacted], who has specialized somewhat in Portrait Parle, and the undersigned, that the person now claiming to be Jesse James is an imposter. It is realized, of course, that the wood cut may not have been a perfect likeness. It is realized further that the facial appearance of any individual changes with age, but we base our conclusion upon the following:

There is a marked dis-similarity in the appearance of the ears, particularly in the outer depression. In the case of the original Jesse James, this is very wide at the top, with the result that the inner depression is narrow. In the case of the person claiming to be James, both depressions are elongated. Other dis-similarities are that the original Jesse James seems to have an elevation over the eyes not noticeable in the photographs of the later James; that the nose of the individual claiming to be James is elongated and inclined to be humped, whereas the nose of the original James seems to be somewhat short and uplifted on the end giving a retrousse aspect; that the jaw of the original James is much squarer than that of the present claimant and that the bald spot on the head of the original Jesse James recedes to a point now covered by the hair of the present claimant. It is noticed also, that the claimants eyes are crossed.

Handwritten initials and scribbles

COPIES DESTROYED
270 AUG 10 1964

Director,

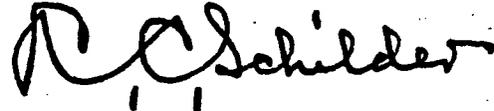
- 2 -

1-22-32.

I am attaching a photostatic copy of the fingerprints and photograph of John James, alias John J. James, alias Jesse James, showing his receipt at the Southern Illinois Penitentiary, at Menard, Illinois, on June 9, 1926, to serve a term of one year to life for the crime of manslaughter. It will be observed that he gave his age as 83, and his birthplace as Missouri.

This memorandum is being sent you merely for completion of the file, and possibly for future reference in connection with this case.

Respectfully,



L. C. Schilder

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32
83
49

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XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(3) Title 28, United States Code, with no segregable material available for release to you. Section 534 and (b)(6)
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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For your information: _____

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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62-26471-1

RECORDED

LCS:EPH

bb

January 23, 1932.

JAN 20 1932

[REDACTED]
Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 15, 1932, concerning an individual claiming to be the so-called original Jesse James.

I am, of course, interested in this matter from an identification standpoint and appreciate your communicating with me relative thereto. I regret, however, that I am unable to furnish you with any advice concerning this case, since, under Congressional legislation the Bureau is restricted, in the exchange of criminal identifying data and information, to cooperation with officially constituted law enforcement officers and agencies only.

Any request from a law enforcement officer for fingerprints or other data in connection with this matter will be given appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

Director,

BUREAU FILES DIVISION
MAILED
JAN 25 1932
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature]
HEA

Black Joe Ky
Feb 23 1935

3/4/W
0

Department Of Justice,
Washington D.C
Gentlemen,

I am writing you to get the picture of Jessie James, are any of his men are gang, I think that I have one of his men spotted he is around 97 years of age and is in hiding here are near here and any information that you might give me regarding him will be appreciated,

thank you very much for this information, I am yours very truly

[Redacted signature]

Black Joe Ky

b6

DIV. of INV.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 25 1935 AM.
M

RECORD

62-26471-2
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 9 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Ans 3/5/35

MAR 12 1935

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

From IDENTIFICATION UNIT

3/4

1935

To: _____ Director
_____ Mr. Nathan
_____ Mr. Tolson
_____ Mr. Clegg
_____ Miss Gandy
* _____ Chief, Unit 1
_____ Chief Clerk
_____ Printing Section
_____ Files
_____ Mr. _____

OSTD. Mr. Berens

No record in Ident Unit

MS

L. C. Schilder.

RECORDED

62-26471-2

AGB:CSH

March 8, 1935

[REDACTED]
Black Joe, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your communication of February 23, 1935, advising that you have information relative to Jessie James or some of his men.

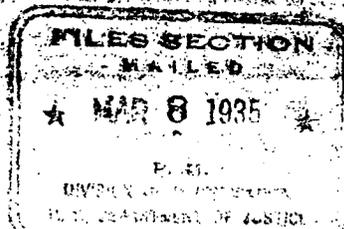
Please be advised that the files of this Bureau contain no information or photographs of this individual or any of his associates, although it is a matter of general knowledge that an outlaw by such name was killed many years ago. I am, accordingly, unable to furnish you with any additional information which might assist you in further identifying the subject of your communication.

I suggest that in the event you have information pertaining to the whereabouts of any criminals you communicate direct with Mr. E. J. Connelley, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, 426 U. S. Custom House and Post Office Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

1 copy



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 29, 1936.

JDR:LCB

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

RES
W
W
W

2254

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

On January 28, 1936, the fingerprints of one Jesse Woodson James were received in the Identification Division from the Dallas, Texas Police Department, which contained the following notation:

"Was brought to this bureau by local business man, claimed to be the original Jesse James, Missouri outlaw; recorded for identification purposes and released."

According to the information appearing on this fingerprint card this individual is at present 88 years old.

Respectfully,

LCS
L. C. Schilder
L. C. Schilder.

NOTE: The record of this individual, in duplicate, as contained in the files of the Identification Division, is attached hereto.

JDR

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

FEB -5 1936

62-26471-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 4 1936 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
JOSEPH
LESTER
TAMM
EDWARDS

FILE

1 copy
K
52
one

R

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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For your information: _____

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62-26471-3

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dallas Texas.

April 2nd 1937

Secret Service Department.
Washington D C

Gentlemen.

We have a man appearing in person around through the country Pictures Shows & Say.s he is the real old time Jassie James & offers \$5.000. Reward to anyone that proves that he is not The out law Off old days.

I would like to know if he is or not.

Awaiting your Reply.

Yours Very Truly.

[Redacted signature]

b6

Jessie James

RECORDED
&
INDEXED.

62-26471-4	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 6 1937 A. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TWO	FILE

4/12/37 - Reks, cc-Dallas
WAC

RECORDED

WAC:LL
62-26471-4

April 12, 1937

[Redacted]

Dallas, Texas.

b6
2/2/5

Dear [Redacted]

b6

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 2, 1937, requesting information concerning a person named Jessie James.

Please be advised that the files of this Bureau do not contain any information relative to the "real old time Jessie James" and, therefore, I am unable to furnish you with the information requested.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
APR 12 1937
cc - Dallas
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JK

AC

Magazine Ark.

July 3th 1937

62-26471-5

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 6 1937 P.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Dear Sir: I am writing

you in regards to an affair that
 come to Paris Ark. some time
 ago and my Brother was in
 from Little Rock Ark. and
 he said the same affair was
 there. it is this a Party of
 three I believe with a sleeping
 trailer to their car seem to be
 touring the State of ark claiming
 to be Jessie James and
 cause quite a confusion while
 in town and people put me
 up a hot argument about it
 when I told them that it was
 not the Original Jessie James so
 please let me hear from you

Yours Truly,

[Redacted signature]

Justice of the Peace

Dear James

b6



Mr. Edgar J. Hoover
Dept. of Investigation
Washington D.C.

UNBELIEVABLE

..... BUT TRUE!

JESSE JAMES

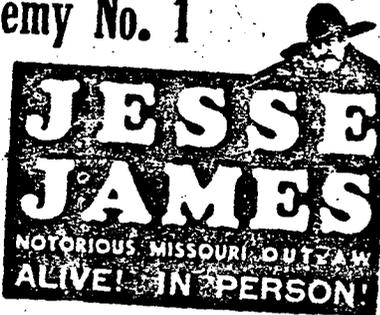
NOTORIOUS MISSOURI OUTLAW

IS ALIVE!

Jesse James, the noted Clay County, Missouri, bandit, supposedly shot by Bob Ford on April 3, 1882, (for \$10,000 reward), has re-appeared after 51 years of hiding and is rapidly establishing his identity to a disbelieving world.

America's Original Public Enemy No. 1

Returns to tell the True
Story of his Early Life
of Banditry!



Hear Jesse James tell the hair-raising story of how he and Bob Ford planned his own murder. Hear how Jesse changed clothes with the slain Charles Bigelow (also a wanted man) and made his escape only to return the next day to attend his own funeral and act as one of his own pall-bearers. Hear Jesse James tell how he helped bury himself outside his own mother's window! Hear him tell many other thrilling tales of his own exploits as America's Original Public Enemy No. 1.

\$5000⁰⁰

REWARD!

JESSE JAMES WILL PAY
\$5000 REWARD TO ANY
Man, woman or child who can



prove that is not the original Missouri Outlaw. He has been positively indentified by hundreds of early settlers everywhere, and cordially invites all old-time residents to meet him personally and discuss old times.

EXTRA!!
ON OUR STAGE
HANK FARRIS
Former Double for
KEN
MAYNARD
IN PERSON

and
Ann Alexander

Cowgirl Screen Star

in
The Most Sensational
Australian Whip-Cracking
and Fancy Roping Per-
formance Ever Seen on the
American Stage.

COMEDY! THRILLS!

**THE OLD WEST BLENDS
WITH THE NEW WEST
AS THE MISSOURI BAD
MAN MATCHES YARNS
WITH THE HOLLYWOOD
DAREDEVIL.**



JESSE JAMES
As He Appears Today
Age 89
To See Him is to Believe Him!

PLUS: EPISODE No. 10, "THE LOST CITY" and NEWS
In Addition to Regular Screen Program!

July 10, 1937.

62-26471-5
HES:YAN

RECORDED

[REDACTED]

Magazine, Arkansas.

b6

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter together with enclosures regarding an individual named Jesse James.

Please be informed that the files of this Bureau do not contain any information relative to the original Jesse James. Therefore, I am unable to furnish you with the information requested.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC LITTLE ROCK

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Downey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 12 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
JUL 12 1937

[Handwritten signature]
e
[Handwritten initials]

al

August 10 1937

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear sirs;-

Several days ago an aged man was in this locality who said that he was Jessie James. He said that he had recently reported to one of the U.S. law enforcement agencies and had been given a full pardon.

Now I have no personal interest in this case except that this man says he is getting theatre booking thru this territory, and I believe that he is a full-fledged liar as to his identity. Some friends have asked me to write you and see if you could give us some information as to whether this man is on the level.

Yours truly

[Redacted signature block]

Earlington, Ky.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-26471-5X

~~62-38875-6~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 13 1937
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO

ack. (cc Louisville) 8-18-37 N.E.S.

James O. Johnson

W.S.

J

P

b6

RECORDED
HES:ERM
~~62-38875-6~~

62-26471-5X

August 18, 1937.

[Redacted]

66
Earlington, Kentucky.

Dear Mrs. Cox:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 10, 1937, in which you request information as to whether an individual named Jessie James referred to in your letter is "on the level."

Kindly be informed that the files of this Bureau contain no information relative to the original Jesse James and, accordingly, I am unable to furnish you with the information requested.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC Louisville

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Dawsey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 18 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten initials: J. J. and H. W.

[REDACTED]

Oct. 27 1937.

b6.

Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir.

Will you please ~~write~~
inform me about Jesse James
whether he is dead or alive. In
one of our ~~Moving~~ Moving Picture
houses. It was advertised "The
famous Jesse James here in
person" I am a school girl
11 years old and know what you
write me will be true

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-26471-6	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 1 1937 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
RECEIVED	FILE

Yours Truly

[REDACTED]

asked 11-27-37
LBW

b6.

IBN:JDIF:JC
62-26471-6

RECORDED

November 8, 1937.

[Redacted]

b6

Johnson City, Tennessee.

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of October 27, 1937, requesting information as to whether Jesse James is presently alive. It is also noted that a motion picture theatre in your community has advertised that "The Famous Jesse James Here In Person." It has always been my understanding that the infamous bandit, Jesse James, has long been dead.

As a matter of interest I am enclosing a copy of the booklet entitled "The Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
NOV 8 - 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

mm
M

ag
x

b6



a

Belmont, N.C.

November 23, 1937

Criminal Identification 62-26471-6X

Federal Bureau of Investigation 62-38875-7

United States Dept. of Justice NOV 23 1937 P.M.

Dear Sir:

RECORDED
INDEXED
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I would like to write you in regard of the well known outlaw Jesse James. I heard show several weeks ago there was an old man who said he was Jesse James. He had papers signed by witnesses and in the present of a notary public. He claimed he had a pardon from the Governor of Missouri.

Act (w. Charlotte) 14-13-37 E.J.V.

He claims that he received this
pardon 4 years ago. I would like
to know if this is true and
whether he is the real Jesse
James.

He has appeared in North
Carolina at Belmont.



b6

EJC:KRM

~~62-38875-7~~

62-26471-6X

RECORDED

December 13, 1937.

[REDACTED]
Spilmont, North Carolina. b6

Dear [REDACTED]

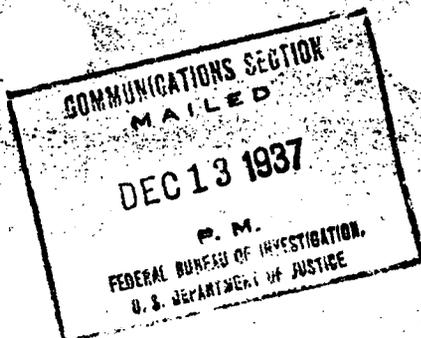
This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 23, 1937, in which you state that a certain individual claims to be Jesse James, the outlaw. You request advice as to whether or not this claim is true.

Please be advised that the information which you desire is not available in the files of this Bureau for distribution.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC Charlotte



Bureau of Identification
Washington

4/4/38

H. C.



Cordell, Georgia

P. Dear Sir:

Please find inclosed
a advertisement of a very
noted character, which I
& my friend Mr Bennett
believe to be false. As we
do not wish to be in doubt
on such notorious subjects,
We wish you would clear
up the doubts in our minds
if it is possible for you to do so.
Do the photo on the inclosed
folder the real Jessie James,
or are we correct in our belief

that it is all Bull

62-26471-7

ENCLOSURE
Hoping an answer

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 11 1938
MAIL ROOM

Thanking you in
sincerely
H. C.

IDENTIFICATION
DIVISION
APR 11 1938

