

## Chapter 1 : Robert Ford â€“ Jesse Jamesâ€™ Killer â€“ Legends of America

*So on April 3, Jesse James stepped up on a chair to dust a picture, and Robert Ford seized the opportunity and shot James in the back of the head. [8] Jesse James' home in St. Joseph, Missouri, where Ford assassinated James in*

The outlaws used stolen tools to pry up part of the track, pulling it aside with rope as the train rounded a blind curve. After years, Jesse James remains one of the most iconic and romanticized figures in American history, even though he had little regard for the lives of others such as the engineer of the train, who died as a result. Many people even see Jesse James as a type of Robin Hood or folk hero, despite his sometimes murderous ways. His father was a hemp farmer and Baptist minister. He left home when Jesse was very young to minister to gold seekers out West and died of cholera while there. Residing in Missouri, the James family owned slaves and supported the Confederacy. This incident is believed to be the spark that led to Jesse joining the Confederate guerrillas. Before he even became an outlaw, Jesse was shot in the chest on two separate occasions. Once in while trying to steal a saddle from a farmer and once the following year by Union soldiers. Jesse and other guerrillas might have slaughtered and scalped unarmed Union soldiers. Some say yes, some say no. Jesse was a cousin kisser. He reportedly earned the nickname after shooting off the tip of his finger while cleaning a pistol. They were masked, and started in a southerly direction after they had robbed the train, all mounted on fine-blooded horses. There is a hell of an excitement in this part of the country! Despite the Robin Hood image of stealing from the rich and giving to the poor, there is no evidence that Jesse and his gang ever did so. Evidence suggests they kept all of their spoils for themselves. Jesse once almost overdosed on morphine. Most agree that it was accidental, but there is speculation that it was a suicide attempt. He, along with his gang, robbed a stagecoach while on his honeymoon in Austin, TX, Who takes their gang on their honeymoon? Jesse and his brother cost his mother her arm and his half-brother his life. Agents of the Pinkerton Detective Agency on the hunt for Jesse and brother Frank threw an incendiary device into the family home, killing the 4-year-old half-brother and causing the mother to need her right arm amputated. Legend says Jesse jumped a 20 foot gulch on horseback while fleeing a scene, but historians say it probably never happened. Jesse probably went around it. His own pistol was used to kill him while he was tidying up his house. Bob Ford, looking for reward money, shot him in the back of the head while he was turned dusting a picture on the wall on April 3, After the murder, Bob Ford toured with a stage show reenacting the incident. It was not well-received, particularly because of the fact that he shot Jesse while his back was turned. Frank at the James Farm. A man named J. Everyone loves a good conspiracy theory, and some think there is compelling evidence. He had many aliases and identities. Some known aliases included Thomas Howard, John. His son Jesse James, Jr. Historians think he may have had an eye condition that caused chronic inflammation, called blepharitis. During his time with the guerrillas, he dressed as a young girl. From Jesse James, Jr. The mistress sent word at once to the Federal officers in Independence that four new girls would be at her house that night. It was after dark when Jesse James and the other guerrillas rode up to the house, and dismounting, crept up and peered in at the windows. Twelve Federal officers were in there with the women. No guards or sentinels were out. The Federals felt secure. All the company was in one room, five women and twelve men. A cheery fire blazed and crackled on the hearth of the old-fashioned fire place. Jesse James, with five men went to one window. Bill Gregg, with five men, went to another. Each of the nine guerrillas in the darkness outside selected his man. At a signal that had been agreed upon there was the crack of nine revolvers that sounded like the discharge of a single gun. The glass, slivered in a thousand bits, crashed, and nine of the Federal soldiers fell dead at that first volley. The remaining three fell dead an instant later. The guerrillas mounted and rode away. He murdered at least 12 people, and claimed to have murdered Did any of them change your perception of the ever-controversial Jesse James? Let us know in the comments!

**Chapter 2 : I Shot Jesse James () - Rotten Tomatoes**

*Robert Newton Ford was an outlaw from Missouri born on January 31, Like many young Missouri men of his time, he grew up admiring the Civil War record and exploits of the famous bandit, Jesse James, a fellow Missouri native.*

The wiry young boy became enamored of the daring exploits of Jesse James and finally got a chance to meet him in He and his older brother, Charles , began to hang on to the outer fringes of the James Gang. By this time, the ranks of the outlaw gang members had been diminished due to deaths, captures, and men simply moving on to other endeavors. So, when the two brothers wanted to join the gang, Jesse let them; however, neither played a very large role. A few months later, in November, , Jesse moved his wife and family to St. Joseph , Missouri, renting a house in the name of J. Acting as a member of the respected community, Jesse had plans of taking up a straight and narrow life. However, he wanted to pull off one last bank robbery of a bank in Platte County, Missouri, in hopes of making enough money to retire and become a gentleman farmer. One day at breakfast, Hite and Liddel began to argue while Ford sat by watching. The dispute soon accelerated with the feuding pair drawing their guns. Falling to the floor, Dick returned the fire, hitting Hite in the arm. Collapsing to the floor, Wood Hite died just a few minutes later. Ford then wrapped the corpse in a blanket, carried it outside and placing it on a mule, took it into the woods, where he buried Hite in a shallow, unmarked grave. Jesse James When word of the shooting reached authorities, Ford was arrested, but when he informed detectives that he had access to the much-wanted Jesse James, he was released. Crittenden, who told him that if he killed the notorious outlaw , he would receive a full pardon for the Hite murder as well as the killing of James, and also receive the reward money. Ford agreed to perform the deed and next met with the Sheriff of Clay County, where the two formulated a plan to get Jesse James. By March of , a number of the James Gang members began to turn themselves in, leaving Jesse with little left to plan a bank robbery with other than Charlie and Bob Ford. Though he instinctively distrusted Robert Ford, he followed through and on the morning of April 3, , he was having breakfast with the Ford brothers in his home. Afterwards, the men went to the parlor, where Jesse outlined his plans for the robbery of the Platte City, Missouri Bank. When Jesse noticed that a framed needlepoint picture, done by his mother, was hanging crookedly on the wall, he stood on a chair to adjust the picture. Suddenly he heard the sound of Bob Ford cocked pistol and turned just slightly. Bob then shot Jesse just below the right ear and Jesse toppled to the floor dead. Jesse was 34 years old. Initially, Ford was charged with murdering both Wood Hite and Jesse James, but true to his word, Governor Crittenden pardoned him while he stood trial for the murder. As to the money, he received only a fraction of the reward. Returning to their hometown of Richmond, Missouri, Bob and Charles were not greeted kindly, as residents found the killing of Jesse James so distasteful that they made life unbearable for the two brothers. For the next two years he ran like a scared rabbit, changing his name several times, until finally he could take it no more and committed suicide in In the meantime, Bob Ford was capitalizing on his betrayal of Jesse James, taking to the stage, appearing in an act entitled Outlaws of Missouri. Night after night, Ford retold his story, carefully omitting that he had shot James in the back. But, this charade was short lived as he was greeted with catcalls, jeers, hoots and challenges. Ford later took off to Las Vegas , New Mexico where he operated a saloon for a time before moving on to Creede, Colorado , Sometime after arriving in Creede, Ford was in a saloon that was providing a boxing fight and betting heavily on the prize fighter who lost, he became extremely angry. In a drunken rage, he decided he would kill the prize fighter and in preparation, he and a man named Joe Palmer, a member of the Soapy Smith gang, began to shoot out windows and street lamps along Main Street. Soapy Smith helped Ford and Palmer escape before they could be arrested. The two men were banned from returning, but with the help of friends and business partners, they were soon allowed to back into Creede. Wasting no time, Bob quickly reopened another saloon just a few days later in a make-shift tent. Ford was buried in Creede, but was later exhumed and reburied in his home town of Richmond, Missouri.

Chapter 3 : Jesse James - Wikipedia

*When Jesse James goes to straighten the picture on his wall, the opening shot shows the picture slanting down to the right. When the camera angle changes, the picture is slanting up to the right. When the film cuts back to the first angle, the picture is slanting down to the right again.*

In fact, the slain cashier turned out not to be Cox. After the deadly heist, an influential pro-Confederate newspaper editor in Missouri, John Newman Edwards, befriended Jesse and went on to promote the former bushwhacker as a hero and defiant Southern patriot of the Reconstruction era. James himself wrote letters to newspapers in which he defended his actions. Through his articles and editorials, Edwards was responsible for helping to create the image of Jesse James as a Robin Hood figure who robbed the rich to give to the poor, an image that historians say is a myth. James and his cohorts eluded the Pinkertons. Catching the James brothers became a personal mission for Allan Pinkerton, an abolitionist who had aided slaves on the Underground Railroad, uncovered a plot to assassinate President-elect Abraham Lincoln and gathered military intelligence for the federal government during the Civil War. Following the raid, public support for Jesse and Frank increased, and the Missouri state legislature even came close to passing a bill offering the men amnesty. Allan Pinkerton never pursued his hunt for Jesse and Frank any further. His gang was defeated trying to rob a Minnesota bank. The gang targeted the bank after learning that Adelbert Ames, a former Union general and Republican governor of Reconstruction-era Mississippi, had recently moved to Northfield. During the attempted robbery, three members of the gang went inside and demanded the cashier open the safe, but he refused. In the end, the bank cashier was killed by the outlaws as was a passerby, while two bandits were shot to death by townsfolk before the rest of the gang fled. Two weeks later, following a gunfight near Madelia, Minnesota, the Younger brothers were captured and another gang member was killed. Afterward, the Youngers were sentenced to life in prison; Robert Younger died behind bars in , while his siblings were paroled in . The James brothers, who had split off from the Youngers before the Madelia gunfight and were the only gang members not caught or killed following the failed robbery, laid low for the next few years, living in Tennessee under assumed names. However, in , Jesse recruited a new set of criminal associates and embarked on a fresh crime spree. James was murdered at Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, . His wife and two children were in another room at the time. Earlier that year, Bob Ford had arranged with the governor of Missouri to take down Jesse in exchange for a reward. Charley Ford committed suicide in while Bob Ford was shot to death in a Creede, Colorado, saloon. His remains were exhumed. Over the years, several different men claimed to be Jesse James. Olivet Cemetery in Kearney, Missouri; the remains had been transferred there in from the original burial site on the James family farm. After conducting DNA testing, the researchers concluded the exhumed remains were almost certainly those of the 19th century outlaw.

## Chapter 4 : Robert Ford: The Man Who Shot Jesse James – Civil War Saga

*It's a hard thing killing a man, but what about killing a famous man who is idolized even for his misdeeds? That was the fate that awaited Bob Ford after his dispatching of Jesse James. The name.*

This area of Missouri was largely settled by people from the Upper South, especially Kentucky and Tennessee, and became known as Little Dixie for this reason. James had two full siblings: His father, Robert S. James, farmed commercial hemp in Kentucky and was a Baptist minister before coming to Missouri. Robert traveled to California during the Gold Rush to minister to those searching for gold; [3] he died there when James was three years old. Reuben Samuel, who moved into the James family home. Farmers raised the same crops and livestock as in the areas from which they had migrated. They brought slaves with them and purchased more according to their needs. The county counted more slaveholders and more slaves than most other regions of the state; in Missouri as a whole, slaves accounted for only 10 percent of the population, but in Clay County they constituted 25 percent. This influenced how the population acted during and for a period of time after the war. After the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, Clay County became the scene of great turmoil, as the question of whether slavery would be expanded into the neighboring Kansas Territory bred tension and hostility. Many people from Missouri migrated to Kansas to try to influence its future. Much of the dramatic build-up to the Civil War centered on the violence that erupted on the Kansas-Missouri border between pro- and anti-slavery militias. A bitter conflict ensued, resulting in an escalating cycle of atrocities committed by both sides. Confederate guerrillas murdered civilian Unionists, executed prisoners, and scalped the dead. The Union presence enforced martial law with raids on homes, arrests of civilians, summary executions, and banishment of Confederate sympathizers from the state. He fell ill and returned home soon afterward. In 1858, he was identified as a member of a guerrilla squad that operated in Clay County. They tortured Reuben Samuel by briefly hanging him from a tree. According to legend, they lashed young Jesse. It is thought that he took part in the notorious massacre of some two hundred men and boys in Lawrence, Kansas, a center of abolitionists. In the spring he returned in a squad commanded by Fletch Taylor. Jesse suffered a serious wound to the chest that summer. The Clay County provost marshal reported that both Frank and Jesse James took part in the Centralia Massacre in September, in which guerrillas stopped a train carrying unarmed Union soldiers returning home from duty and killed or wounded some 22 of them; the guerrillas scalped and dismembered some of the dead. The guerrillas also ambushed and defeated a pursuing regiment of Major A. Frank later identified Jesse as a member of the band who had fatally shot Major Johnson. Though ordered to move South beyond Union lines, they moved north across the nearby state border into Nebraska Territory. He is known to have returned to Missouri in the spring. The conflict split the population into three bitterly opposed factions: It temporarily excluded former Confederates from voting, serving on juries, becoming corporate officers, or preaching from church pulpits. The atmosphere was volatile, with widespread clashes between individuals and between armed gangs of veterans from both sides of the war. Meanwhile, his former commander Archie Clement kept his bushwhacker gang together and began to harass Republican authorities. The bank was owned by Republican former militia officers. After the James brothers successfully conducted other robberies and became legendary, some observers retroactively credited them with being the leaders of the robbery. No evidence has been found that connects either brother to the crime, nor conclusively rules them out. Local violence continued to increase in the state; Governor Thomas Clement Fletcher had recently ordered a company of militia into Johnson County to suppress guerrilla activity. Shortly afterward, the state militia shot Clement dead. James wrote about this death with bitterness a decade later. While they later tried to justify robbing the banks, most of their targets were small, local banks based on local capital, and the robberies only penalized the locals they claimed to support. The robbery netted little money. Jesse is believed to have shot and killed the cashier, Captain John Sheets, mistakenly believing him to be Samuel P. James claimed he was taking revenge, and the daring escape he and Frank made through the middle of a posse shortly afterward attracted newspaper coverage for the first time. Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives. The brothers denied the charges, saying they were not in Daviess County on December 7, the day the robbery

occurred. As Frank and Jesse failed to appear in court, Smoote won his case against them. The robbery marked the emergence of Jesse James as the most famous survivor of the former Confederate bushwhackers. It was the first time he was publicly labeled an "outlaw"; Missouri Governor Thomas T. Crittenden set a reward for his capture. Edwards, a former Confederate cavalryman, was campaigning to return former secessionists to power in Missouri. Six months after the Gallatin robbery, Edwards published the first of many letters from Jesse James to the public, asserting his innocence. Over time, the letters gradually became more political in tone, as James denounced the Republicans and expressed his pride in his Confederate loyalties. The high tensions in politics accompanied his outlaw career and enhanced his notoriety. With Jesse James as the most public face of the gang though with operational leadership likely shared among the group, the gang carried out a string of robberies from Iowa to Texas, and from Kansas to West Virginia. For this, they wore Ku Klux Klan masks. Former rebels attacked the railroads as symbols of threatening centralization. The gang held up passengers only twice, choosing in all other incidents to take only the contents of the express safe in the baggage car. John Newman Edwards made sure to highlight such techniques when creating an image of James as a kind of Robin Hood. They had two children who survived to adulthood: Jesse Edward James b. The Chicago -based agency worked primarily against urban professional criminals, as well as providing industrial security, such as strike breaking. Because the gang received support by many former Confederate soldiers in Missouri, they eluded the Pinkertons. Two other agents, Captain Louis J. Lull and John Boyle, were sent after the Youngers; Lull was killed by two of the Youngers in a roadside gunfight on March 17, Before he died, Lull fatally shot John Younger. A deputy sheriff named Edwin Daniels also died in the skirmish. He began to work with former Unionists who lived near the James family farm. On the night of January 25, , he staged a raid on the homestead. But biographer Ted Yeatman located a letter by Pinkerton in the Library of Congress in which Pinkerton declared his intention to "burn the house down. The Missouri state legislature narrowly defeated a bill that praised the James and Younger brothers and offered them amnesty. This extended a measure of protection over the Jamesâ€™ Younger gang by minimizing the incentive for attempting to capture them. The governor had offered rewards higher than the new limit only on Frank and Jesse James. They may have suspected Askew of cooperating with the Pinkertons in the January arson of the James house. The robbery quickly went wrong, however, and after the robbery, only Frank and Jesse James remained alive and free. Ames was a stockholder in the bank, but Butler had no direct connection to it. To carry out the robbery, the gang divided into two groups. Three men entered the bank, two guarded the door outside, and three remained near a bridge across an adjacent square. The robbers inside the bank were thwarted when acting cashier Joseph Lee Heywood refused to open the safe, falsely claiming that it was secured by a time lock even as they held a Bowie knife to his throat and cracked his skull with a pistol butt. Assistant cashier Alonzo Enos Bunker was wounded in the shoulder as he fled through the back door of the bank. Meanwhile, the citizens of Northfield grew suspicious of the men guarding the door and raised the alarm. The five bandits outside fired into the air to clear the streets, driving the townspeople to take cover and fire back from protected positions. They shot two bandits dead and wounded the rest in the barrage. Inside, the outlaws turned to flee. As they left, one shot the unarmed cashier Heywood in the head. Historians have speculated about the identity of the shooter but have not reached consensus. The gang barely escaped Northfield, leaving two dead companions behind. A massive manhunt ensued. It is believed that the gang burned 14 Rice County mills shortly after the robbery. The militia soon discovered the Youngers and one other bandit, Charlie Pitts. In a gunfight, Pitts died and the Youngers were taken prisoner. Frank seemed to settle down, but Jesse remained restless. He recruited a new gang in and returned to crime, holding up a train at Glendale, Missouri now part of Independence, [48] on October 8, The robbery was the first in a spree of crimes, including the hold-up of the federal paymaster of a canal project in Killen, Alabama, and two more train robberies. But the new gang was not made up of battle-hardened guerrillas; they soon turned against each other or were captured. James grew suspicious of other members; he scared away one man and some believe that he killed another gang member. A law enforcement posse attacked and killed two of the outlaws but failed to capture the entire gang. Among the deputies was Jefferson B. Snyder, later a long-serving district attorney in northeastern Louisiana. James moved his family to St. Joseph, Missouri in November, not far from where he had been born and reared.

### Chapter 5 : 25 little-known facts about the outlaw Jesse James

*Check out The Man Who Shot Jesse James by The Northern Rebels on Amazon Music. Stream ad-free or purchase CD's and MP3s now on [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com)*

That was the fate that awaited Bob Ford after his dispatching of Jesse James. The name Jesse James is synonymous with the term outlaw, considered an American Robin Hood who robbed banks, stagecoaches and really anything else he could think of, in reality Jesse gave the money only to himself and his gang. Jesse was left to try and find some new compatriots to renew his life of crime. Enter Charles and Robert Ford. Charles Ford supposedly took part in the very last train robbery staged by Jesse and his gang at the Blue Cut in Missouri. His menial tasks were a tough pill to swallow for someone who idolized Jesse James and who ended up basically playing second fiddle. Guns were soon drawn and shots exchanged with Lidell being struck in the leg and Hite in the arm. Bob Ford had just killed the cousin of the man he idolized, what would Jesse do when he found out? On April 3, after having breakfast with Charles and Robert Ford, Jesse noticed a needlepoint picture on the wall that was hanging askew. Both he and his brother were hated for killing Jesse James, a scourge on their reputations that would plague both men until the end of their days. The Ford brothers took their fame on the road, reenacting the shooting of Jesse James, but neither was warmly received. Both were heckled mercilessly on stage at every performance. Charles suffered from tuberculosis and a morphine addiction, not to mention the rumor that Frank James was coming to hunt the Ford brothers down. On May 6, Charles Ford shot himself. A few days later Robert Ford opened up a bar in a makeshift tent. No one will ever know for sure. He was later pardoned after ten years, but could not stay out of trouble and was shot and killed by a police officer in Oklahoma City in 1882. Robert Ford to this day is looked upon as the coward who killed Jesse James, but was he really any different than so many others trying to survive in the murky morality of the old west? John Wesley Hardin was shot from behind and there have been many who have questioned how Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid. Was Robert Ford so much different, or was it because he killed someone who despite his crimes was beloved especially on his own turf? One thing for sure is that the death of Jesse James hung around the neck of Robert Ford until his unfortunate run in with a double load of buckshot in Creede, Colorado.

**Chapter 6 : The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford () - IMDb**

*The Man Who Shot the Man Who Shot the Man Who Shot Jessie James. Discussion in 'Post Civil War History, The Reconstruction Period' started by Pat Young, Jun 12,*

The lengthy title of the film tells all or at least the official version of the story. But was that accepted version the real story? For the first time the Ford brothers, Robert and Charley, get their due. As played by Casey Affleck, Robert Ford was a most complex character indeed. Ford is shown for what he was, a moonstruck kid who was brought up on those dime novels and idolized the legendary bandit. The fact that Charley was already riding with the James gang got him into the group. After the last job the James gang pulled and the only Ford was ever in on, the Fords kind of attached themselves to Jesse James. Of course the idol is no hero. Brad Pitt plays a most unheroic Jesse. Power was showing signs of it, but we see Pitt as Jesse do some really brutal and cruel things. As good as Pitt is I think the acting honors go to Casey Affleck. His gradual disillusion with his idol is really something to see on the screen. We also get to see the Fords sorry aftermath. Things did not go so well for them. Bob Ford did not quite get the acclaim he would have liked as Jesse James became bigger after death than in life. Frank James as played briefly in the beginning is an odd peripheral character in this film. Frank is played by Sam Shepard who has an encounter with young Bob Ford at the beginning of the film and announces to one and all, the kid creeps him out. But Jesse likes having the kid follow him around like a puppy dog to his ultimate regret. The location shooting was done in western Canada and looks a whole lot more like Missouri then than Missouri does now. Was this review helpful to you?

### Chapter 7 : Jesse James shot in the back - HISTORY

*Jesse James, one of America's most notorious outlaws, is shot to death by Robert Ford, a member of his gang who hoped to collect the bounty on Jesse's head. In February , year-old Jesse.*

As a young man, Robert became an admirer of Jesse James for his Civil War record and criminal exploits. In , at the age of 18, he finally met James. Joseph, Missouri and intended to give up crime. The James gang had been greatly reduced in numbers by that time; some had fled the gang in fear of prosecution, and many of the original members were either dead or in prison after a botched bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota. The Fords resided in St. Joseph with the James family, where Jesse went by the alias Thomas Howard. Crittenden promised Ford a full pardon if he would kill James, who was by then the most wanted criminal in the USA. They were nervous and bored, looking for opportunity, and feeling restless. Joseph, Missouri, where Ford assassinated James in On April 3, , after eating breakfast, the Fords and James went into the living room before traveling to Platte City. According to Robert Ford, it became clear to him that James had realized they were there to betray him. However, instead of scolding the Fords, James walked across the living room to lay his revolvers on a sofa. He turned around and noticed a dusty picture above the mantel, and stood on a chair in order to clean it. Robert Ford drew his weapon and shot the unarmed James in the back of the head. They surrendered themselves to legal authorities but were dismayed to be charged with first degree murder. In one day, the Ford brothers were indicted, pleaded guilty, and sentenced to death by hanging , but two hours later, Crittenden granted them a full pardon. This sentiment warred with the opinion that it had been time for James to be stopped. For a period, Bob earned money by posing for photographs as "the man who killed Jesse James" in dime museums. Charles, terminally ill with tuberculosis and addicted to morphine , committed suicide on May 4, Ford lost the contest and left town. When silver was found in Creede, Ford closed his saloon and opened one there. Ford opened a tent saloon until he could rebuild. Ford was buried in Creede. His remains were later moved and reinterred at Richmond Cemetery in his native Richmond in Ray County, Missouri ; "The man who shot Jesse James" was inscribed on his grave marker.

**Chapter 8 : Robert Ford - Historic Missourians - The State Historical Society of Missouri**

*Robert Ford - Jesse James' Killer Robert "Bob" Ford Best known as the "dirty little coward" that killed Jesse James, Robert Newton Ford, was born January 31, in Ray County, Missouri, one of seven children of James Thomas Ford and Mary Ann Bruin.*

Like many young Missouri men of his time, he grew up admiring the Civil War record and exploits of the famous bandit, Jesse James, a fellow Missouri native. Robert, who went by the nickname Bob, and his older brother Charles, finally got the chance to meet Jesse when they befriended him while he was recruiting new members for his gang. The James-Younger gang had disbanded in after a botched robbery and James was in need of new recruits. Although he allowed Charles and Robert to join, neither brother played a large role in the gang. Charles did help Jesse rob a train in Glendale in September of but there are no records of Robert participating in any robberies. The men took shots at each before Ford stepped in and shot Hite in the head, killing him instantly. Fearing James would kill him and Liddil for murdering his cousin, Ford buried him in a shallow grave in the woods. Greedy and desperate to avoid prison, Ford agreed. I told him he lied; he said he could prove it his accusation by Mrs. Bolton, and I wanted him to prove it. He then denied ever saying anything of the kind. I told him he did say it, and we both commenced drawing our pistols. We fired about the same time. He shot me through the right leg between the knee and the hip, and I shot him through the right arm. He fired four times at me and I five times at him, and then I snapped another barrel at him. I drew my other pistol when he commenced falling. Bob Ford fired one shot at him. I did not know this until afterward, when he Bob exhibited the empty chamber. The wound that killed Hite was through the head. It struck him about two inches above the right eye and came out in front of and a little above the left ear. Bob claimed that his shot was the fatal one. Hite lived 15 or 20 minutes, but did not speak. We carried him upstairs, and that night of Dec. My leg was too sore to help. They claimed to have come from Nebraska. I declined to go. I mistrusted Jesse wanted to kill me and so left. This was on Saturday night, December 31, This was the last time I ever saw him, and I have never seen Charlie Ford since. After the raid on Mrs. Charles Ford Knowing what a quick draw James was, the Ford brothers knew they had to wait for a moment when James took his gun belt off in order to shoot him. This moment came when James sat down to read the paper the morning of April 3, at his home in St. Although James never said so, the Ford brothers worried that James was suspicious of them for not reporting the murder or arrest to him and decided it was time to act. This is proven by the fact that after breakfast that morning father took off his belt and revolvers and threw them upon the bed and threw his coat over them. He did this because it was a very warm morning, and the belt and revolvers were tiresome to carry. Another reason was that it was necessary to have the doors and windows open, and father thought that people passing the house might be suspicious if they saw him armed. After my father put the revolvers upon the bed he noticed that a picture on the wall was hanging awry. He placed a chair beneath the picture and stood upon it to straighten it and then he started to brush the dust from it. Standing thus, his back was turned to the Ford boys, who were in the room. This was the opportunity the Fords had been waiting for. It was the very first time they had seen him unarmed since they knew him. Father heard the click of the hammer and made a movement as if to turn around. But before he could do so Ford pulled the trigger and father fell backward dead. The Fords ran out and across the back yard fence, and went down town and surrendered to the authorities, telling that they had shot and killed Jesse James. Years afterward the Fords, who found themselves despised of all men because of this murder, denied that they shot my father for the reward, but that they learned that Jesse James suspected them of treachery and meant to kill them, and they shot him for self protection. That this story was absolutely false is proven by the fact that immediately after the murder Charlie Ford sent the following telegram to the Governor of Missouri: That conversation was held under the following circumstances: Nearly three years after the murder, when I was nine years old, I was in Kansas City with my grandmother. We were walking up Main street. Suddenly I saw and recognized Charlie Ford coming down the street toward us. I knew him the instant I saw him, and I was very much excited. I said to my grandmother: The sight of him made her weak and she sat down on a box in front of a shoe store. Ford saw her and went to

walk past with his head turned the other way, but she called to him: He threw up both his hands in front of his face and answered: Samuels, I have been in the blackest hell of remorse ever since it was done. You ate bread under my roof with blackest murder in your heart, and murder for money, too. There will come a day of terrible reckoning for you. Joseph, and then Bob told him if he did not consent to it, he would kill him along with Jesse. Ford repeated over and over again, that he was suffering the worst agonies of remorse. The perspiration streamed down his face and there were tears in his eyes. He begged my grandmother to forgive him and she said: Samuels, before God, we never got but a few hundred dollars of that reward. I was only nine years old but I understood it all. I said nothing until he had gone on down the street. Then I said to my grandmother: James, Died April 3, , Aged 34 years, 6 months, 28 days, Murdered by a traitor and a coward whose name is not worthy to appear here. Several newspapers applauded the Ford brothers for their actions while others criticized them for the manner in which they killed James. Yet other newspapers, such as Rolla New Era, dismissed the uproar about the way he was killed and celebrated his death with a headline that read: On October 26, he was tried and acquitted. Charles Ford committed suicide in In , a man attempted to kill Robert Ford at a casino in Kansas City. Ford described the event to the New York Times: He referred in an insulting manner to the Jesse James affair, but I took no notice of him, preferring to escape a row if I could. He continued to abuse me all the evening and I continued to take no notice of him. After I had been sitting at the table all night, I felt cramped and uncomfortable and leaned back in my chair. As I did so I threw my head back, and at that instant my abuser drew a knife from his pocket, held my head back by my hair, and was about to draw the knife across my throat when my friend warded off the blow. The knife cut through the collar my collar and grazed my neck, inflicting a slight wound. I was unarmed, or I would have shot him on the spot. As it was he took to his heels and escaped. His headstone, which accidentally lists his birthday as , reads: The Death of Jesse James:

### Chapter 9 : 7 Things You May Not Know About Jesse James - HISTORY

*James' assassin, who shot him in the back of the head, was Bob Ford, a new recruit into his gang. Also in on the shooting was Bob's older brother Charley, a James gang member.*