

00:00:01 Jesse James.

00:00:02 Pastore: You know, I'd say that I've got A PhD IN JESSE JAMES At this point, after reading hundreds of books on the topic and following his trail out in the wilderness and across the prairies.

Hundreds of books have not been written about Jesse James. But Ron Pastore has published two pamphlets that he sold in his Jesse James Museum (now defunct) in Wichita, Kansas. "Jesse James Faked His Death" was one. Another was cryptically titled "The Evidence & Science, A Critical Review of the Facts," about the 1995 exhumation of Jesse James. Independent producer, and former journalist, Bill Kurtis produced another program for the History Channel about Pastore in 2003, when Pastore dug up one Jeremiah James to prove the long buried Jeremiah James was the outlaw Jesse James. After nothing was proved, Pastore closed his Jesse James Museum in Wichita. Before then, Pastore had publicly stated he hoped to land a Hollywood contract. Clearly Pastore comes to this new program about Jesse James from another angle with a similar attitude for self promotion, and probably the same old purpose.

00:00:12 Ready to roll?

00:00:13 Ready to roll.

00:00:14 Check.

00:00:18 Narrator: This treasure hunt is the culmination of pastore's 10-year mission to unravel what he believes is a great historical ..

00:00:28 ...The truth about who Jesse James really was, why he chose to live outside the law, and where he hid the vast sums of wealth he stole.

00:00:38 [Coins jingle] Pastore: 5 million that they accumulated back then -- a lot of it in gold -- that would be \$50 million to \$60 million today.

Historians only account no more than \$250,000 stolen by the James gang.

See: <http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/History/jamesgangrobberies.htm>

From: <http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/History/jamesgang.htm>

Liberty, Missouri - bank, February 14, 1866 Clay County Savings Bank. \$60,000 taken.

Lexington, Missouri - bank, October 30, 1866 Alexander Mitchell and Company. \$2011 taken.

Savannah, Missouri - bank, March 2, 1867 Private bank of Judge John McClain. No money taken.

Richmond, Missouri - bank, May 23, 1867 Hughes and Wasson Bank. \$3500 taken.

[Russellville, Kentucky](#) - bank, March 1868 Nimrod & Co. Bank. About \$12,000 was taken.

Gallatin, Missouri - bank, December 7, 1869 Bank president John W. Sheets killed, clerk William McDowell shot.

Corydon, Iowa - bank, June 3, 1871 \$40,000 taken. Clell Miller tried and acquitted.

Columbia, Kentucky, April 29, 1872 - bank Cashier R. A. C. Martin killed. \$15,000 taken

Kansas City Fair - box office, September 26, 1872 \$978 taken, little girl injured

[St. Genevieve, Missouri](#) - bank, May 27, 1873 \$4000 taken

Adair County, Iowa - Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific train, July 21, 1873 Train overturned killing engineer John Rafferty, fireman Dennis Foley injured. \$3000 taken

Hot Springs, Arkansas, stagecoach - January 15, 1874 About \$2000 in cash and jewelry taken

Gad's Hill, Missouri - train, February 1874 \$2000 to \$3000 taken

Murder of Pinkerton agent John W. Whicher, March 10, 1874

Killing of two Pinkerton agents, W. J. Allen, aka Lull and Ed Daniels, March 16, 1874 John Younger was killed in this confrontation

San Antonio Stage, April 7, 1874

Lexington, Missouri, two omnibuses, August 30, 1874 Two robberies twenty-five miles apart (second between Waverly and Carrollton)

Corinth, Mississippi, bank, December 7, 1874 Tishimingo Saving Bank. \$5000 taken plus \$5000 worth of jewelry

Muncie, Kansas - train, December 8, 1874 \$30,000 taken. Bud McDaniels arrested--killed after escaping

Huntington, West Virginia - bank, September 1, 1875 \$10,000 taken. Robber Thompson McDaniel killed, Tom Webb arrested, tried and convicted, sentenced to 12 years in prison

Otterville, Missouri - train, July 7, 1876 Missouri Pacific Railroad train, over \$15,000 taken

[Northfield, Minnesota](#) - bank, September 7, 1876 No money taken. Two townspeople killed.

Glendale, Missouri - train, October 7, 1879

Mussell Shoals, Alabama, March 1881, \$5200 taken. Frank James tried and acquitted.

Winston - train, July 5, 1881 Frank James was tried and acquitted.

Blue Cut, Missouri - train, September 7, 1881

00:00:48 Where is it?

You told us! Pastore believes Jesse hid the money. This show could end right here.

00:00:50 You know, history portrays jesse james as a common thief who robbed banks and trains for his own gain.

00:00:58 But I think as we delve deeper into that story, we find that it's much more complicated

and much more involved than anyone could possibly suspect.

00:01:06 Narrator: Pastore heads a team called national geomantic survey, or ngs.

This name sent me to the dictionary. Geomancy: divination by means of lines and figures or by geographic features. Research, however, produced no National Geomantic Survey organization. Very strange if, in fact as the program says, the survey is "national."

00:01:12 Backed by anonymous investors, this group thinks they know where jesse james' hidden treasure could be.

So why do Pastore's investors need to remain anonymous? What are they hiding, or hiding from?

00:01:18 Pastore: My confidence is extremely high that it's still out there, and in large quantities, over a great deal of area.

00:01:25 So we're gonna search the high-probability targets, and I'm very sure that we're gonna find something.

Pastore has been at this for more than a decade. He's always sure he's going to find something.

00:01:34 Narrator: Pastore thinks there are a number of reasons treasure could be nearby.

Here we go... "Pastore thinks..."

00:01:40 The james gang roamed throughout central kansas.

00:01:43 Local lore holds james used this area as a retreat and possible hideout.

"Local lore..." Where's local? All of Kansas?

00:01:49 Historic records indicate that jesse james' sister, susan, married into a family who owned property nearby.

00:01:57 .. 00:02:00 ..

00:02:06 ...Including this telling inscription, which spells out his mother's name, zerelda.

Zerelda also was Jesse's wife's name. But Pastore has tagged the name to Jesse's mother. Or was Jesse's mother Zerelda part of the gang that was hiding the money? How does Pastore come by this stuff?

00:02:14 Pastore: You can barely make it out, even though the letters are almost a foot tall.

00:02:17 But you can only see it under the right light.

But Pastore can see it clear as day. Pastore offers no explanation of who put the name there that he sees. Isn't it possible that someone else knew a Zerelda and put it there? Not in Pastore's fantasy. In his fantasy no one other than the James gang put it there. It is kind of touching, though, that Pastore thinks Jesse was carving his mother's name wherever he went.

00:02:20 Narrator: There are other clues, as well, LIKE THESE J's, WHICH PASTORE BELIEVES Are the carved initials of jesse james.

Here we go a second time... "Pastore believes...."

00:02:28 I've been in so many caves, and I've found these block-letter double J's Everywhere.

You mean Jesse has been in all the caves Pastore has been in and no one else has?

00:02:32 And eventually, you get familiar with it, and you recognize his hand.

Ok. But Pastore has not established it is Jesse's handiwork. Let's stay with the narrator who says "Pastore believes..." and leave it at that. No proof here.

00:02:37 " it might have been right there.

Oops, now Pastore says it. "It might have been ..." Definitely, Pastore is not offering any proof. Just his speculation.

00:02:40 Yeah.

00:02:41 Narrator: While there's no way to prove with total certainty that James carved these himself, the fact that they're in an area where James had ties gives Pastore reason to hope they might lead him to treasure.

Ahhh, some relief. "While there's no way to prove with total certainty..." the narrator states. Regrettably, it's only a moment of sanity. If Jesse carved this because he has ties in the area, it likely stands to reason his same graffiti exists in a dozen other states, too. In Pastore's mind, clearly Jesse was a tagger.

00:02:53 Pastore: Just a few feet to my right, THERE'S A SET OF BLOCK-LETTER JJ's That are Jesse James' sign.

In Pastore's fantasy JJ can only stand for Jesse James. Not for Jim Jones. Not for Jerry Jarrett. Not for any other possible combinations of words or names that begin with the letter J. - Only for Jesse James. - Pastore's obsession clearly blocks him from exercising any reason.

00:02:59 He left these throughout the state.

Has Pastore checked other states?

00:03:01 And generally, I believe they're indicative of a treasure cache site.

Here it is again..."I believe..." That's # 4. A reasonable person might deduce that the initials JJ carved in a rock is indicative of nothing else, other than the initials JJ carved in a rock. How does Pastore make the leap of reason to link JJ carved in a rock to a "treasure cache"?

00:03:05 " Narrator: It's taken several years of negotiations with local landowners to earn the right to search here.

Any evidence of these negotiations? Who are the landowners? What were the disagreements and agreements? Did the owner's get paid to allow their land to be dug up for a television show?

00:03:21 They fear what could happen if the general public believes gold is buried nearby.

Historians, archeologists, geologists, oil explorers, gold and diamond miners have combed exploration sites worldwide, producing less fear or concern in property owners than Pastore and company have created in the landowners they dealt with.

00:03:26 Pastore: We want to be good land stewards for the landowners so that no one comes in here and trespasses and damages the site or tries to high-grade it and, you know, recover something on their own.

My mind remains stuck on the final image in this program, where Pastore and company abandon the field they tore up. Some good stewards of the land they turned out to be.

00:03:38 Narrator: What can be said about this area is it's not your typical Kansas prairie.

Actually, the site doesn't even resemble the Kansas prairie. It's more like areas of Oklahoma or Texas. I don't recall trees like that anywhere in Kansas where I've been.

00:03:44 Hidden under canopies of old growth is a series of naturally occurring cuts in the landscape, where canyons, caves, and bluffs have formed, creating an ideal location for covert activity.

00:03:57 Pastore believes Jesse James used these geologic anomalies as reference points for treasure sites.

We have arrived at geomancy fantasia. And once more we hear "Pastore believes..." That's #5. Isn't it about time for the program to show some proof and evidence why Pastore believes?

00:04:04 Pastore: It's a huge territory, but we have a localized phenomenon with the cave.

00:04:08 And you wouldn't necessarily bury anything in a cave.

Oh, those Native American peoples who occupied the American land for so many millennia didn't know Pastore's dictum, that you don't bury anything in a cave. I'm beginning to grasp the Pastore hubris.

00:04:11 You would use it as a landmark -- you know, somewhere out around it.

00:04:14 Narrator: The cryptic codes etched into these sandstone walls are markers Pastore believes James used to identify the locations of his hidden treasures.

Ho hum... "Pastore believes..." That's #6. I'm getting a little woozey with this mantra.

00:04:25 Pastore: Here we have a doorway with an "x" in it.

00:04:30 And, you know, I mean, it sounds cheesy, but to say, "x" marks the spot, I mean, it does come up.

Whatever!

00:04:40 Narrator: To an uninformed eye, these shapes mean nothing.

00:04:45 But to Pastore, they are keys to a mystery of epic historic proportions.

“But to Pastore...” Is that #7? I’m woozy. I’ll let it slip.

00:04:52 After a decade of research THROUGH OBSCURE, 19th-CENTURY ARCHIVES, He's uncovered information about a shadowy secret society called the knights of the golden circle, or kgc -- a group of confederate sympathizers operating at the time of the civil war.

00:05:10 Pastore: The kgc was real.

00:05:12 It's a genuine part of history that's available in the national archives if anyone wants to go do the research, which we have.

Yeah, I googled KGC. Except for one reference to Kendall Gay Consulting, there’s nothing obscure about it. What’s obscure is Pastore’s thinking that his google research has given him historical bone fides.

00:05:18 Narrator: Some of the records pastore refers to relate to secret kgc codes -- codes similar to the ones he sees on these walls.

Wait a minute. Pastore said nothing about secret codes. He talked about “Zerelda,” “JJ,” and “x.” Now he says these are KGC codes. If that’s true, all the histories ever written that include a Zerelda, JJ, and an x are KGC encoded. OMG!

00:05:27 Pastore: I could spend a hundred years, probably, studying this stuff before I knew what it was.

With this kind of reasoning, I sympathize with Pastore. Imagine all the books that have Zerelda, JJ, and an x in them. He’s better off not going there. History doesn’t need 100 more years of this nonsense.

00:05:31 Whereas the fellas that did this grew up in it.

00:05:34 You know, they may have been masons tied in with templar legends.

Yep, and in the bible, too. And don’t forget Jesse Christ who was buried in a cave. But if those who had hidden Jesus in a cave had known Pastore, they’d know that hiding Jesus in a cave was a no-no. They needed to have Pastore’s KGC codes.

00:05:38 You know, they had a lot of history behind them.

00:05:40 So they were taught this stuff by other parties.

00:05:43 Narrator: If these are kgc markings, their proximity to jesse james' initials could mean something astonishing.

00:05:51 Jesse james, long considered a self-interested bandit, may have been something else -- a secret operative with a hidden political agenda.

How did we get to Jesse being a “secret operative with a political agenda”? I thought we were talking rocks, carvings, KGC, and secret codes. The program mentioned nothing about politics and Jesse. Thank God for the time stamps on this transcript. I was beginning to think my TIVO fritzed.

00:06:02 Stiles: Jesse james tried to live underground for his entire adult life, so our knowledge of what he actually did and thought and said is very limited.

00:06:11 There is a lot more to be learned about jesse james.

00:06:14 Yes, we know about the bank robberies.

00:06:16 But what was his political leanings during that time period?

Yeah. Democrat, or Republican?

00:06:21 What was jesse doing, besides just robbing banks?

I'm betting Jesse James was a tea bagger.

00:06:25 That's where we need to go.

Great! Now we're off to the races! Because that's what Jesse did wih his money. He bought and raced thoroughbreds. Read William Mangum's book "My Kingdom For a Horse." Can't wait for the next chapter of the program. I love thoroughbreds.

#####