

History Channel  
Jesse James' Hidden Treasure  
CHAPTER IV - De-constructed

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00:36:27 ) Narrator: New research suggests jesse james had ties to the knights of the golden circle.

***Yeah... "new research" that's older than anyone on this program.***

00:37:40 There are stories about jesse james being connected to treasure, you know, treasure buried by the knights of the golden circle.

***"There are stories..." I'm counting that # 19.***

00:37:49 Narrator: Now a search for this mythic treasure could reveal bigger clues about james' secret life.

00:37:55 So, we're gonna research the clues and follow the treasure trail and see what we find.

00:38:00 [ Helicopter blades whirring ] Narrator: Ngs is headed for their second search site, a deep canyon surrounded by cliffs.

***Did we ever get an explanation for leaving the first site? Maybe, it's because that site lead nowhere and concluded nothing, so now we have to go to another site.***

00:38:10 Pastore: You walk across what seems to be a flat kansas prairie, and then suddenly come up to this cut in the pasture, and it drops down 40, 50, 60 feet into these canyons with huge rock cliffs on each side.

***"What seems to be..." I knew it. We're not in Kansas anymore. I don't know where the hell we are, and they're not saying. That "what seems to be..." get a #20.***

00:38:24 It's just -- extraordinary view.

00:38:29 Barlow: Snake repellent?

00:38:31 10-4 On that.

00:38:33 [ Laughs ] well, there's lizards up here.

00:38:37 [ Grunts ] hey, we have scorpions, too?

00:38:40 [ Both laugh ] Narrator: To do their job, the team must get their gpr equipment into the canyon.

00:38:48 Pastore: It's gonna swing out.

00:38:49 Barlow: Well, right now, we're throwing about \$40,000 worth of equipment over the cliff.

00:38:54 So we want to be a little tender with it.

00:38:57 Don't get too close over here.

00:38:59 Have radar, will travel.

00:39:00 I don't know how else to say it, you know?

00:39:01 We'll find a way to bring this stuff to the site, and we will find a way to set it up where we can get accurate readings.

***Right now, I don't care. Throw the damn equipment over a cliff, into a hole, wherever. I'm sorry I tuned in. I want out. Snakes, lizards, and scorpions... Take me. I'm yours.***

00:39:07 Narrator: Pastore is interested in this area because of a provocative carving on a rock wall.

***Rock carving? This is where I came in.***

00:39:14 It appears to be a map of the open space at the base of the canyon.

***Map, or whatever, "It appears..." to be #21 !***

00:39:18 Inside the shape is another carving that looks like a turkey footprint -- a shape Pastore's research tells him is KGC code, possibly pointing to treasure.

***Show me that KGC code book, Pastore. Get out the index. Show me the listing that says, Turkey footprint, meaning of.***

00:39:30 Pastore: We've got this kidney shape, and it does look a lot like the little piece of flat ground that we're gonna scan over here.

00:39:38 And with the turkey track in it, that gives us a possible target area where the two creeks meet.

***Is this KGC speak? Because it's not communicating any meaning to me.***

00:39:42 Might be where they're trying to indicate that there's a possible cache there.

***"Might be..." slips into #22 position.***

00:39:47 So, with the radar scan, we'll take a look and see if it does reveal anything.

00:39:53 That's 4 feet.

00:39:55 Narrator: Ground-penetrating radar scans reveal a few minor blips of interest.

00:40:00 They're difficult to identify.

00:40:02 you know, just a little bit.

00:40:05 But, you know, if a tree limb fell or something like that, it's gonna give that kind of impression, too.

00:40:09 But what I would suggest here on our next course of action, get a metal detector down and see if there's something.

00:40:14 Discriminator. yeah. uh-huh.

00:40:19 [ Beep ] ready, honing. 00:40:21 " okay.

00:40:25 [ Slow beeping ] [ steady beep ] Barlow: Okay, what we have is we have a target 5 on the scale, which is right in that iron, zinc, you know, tin area.

***Oh my God, they've taken us back into the Iron Age.***

00:40:40 And it's kind of where we want, and it's right about at a foot down there.

00:40:44 So, it's within the range of a mason-jar lid, as far as metal goes.

***WARNING! "Mason jar lid." Does this say "setup" to you?***

00:40:48 Correct.

***Thank you.***

00:40:49 It's about a foot down. about a foot down.

00:40:51 And it's the size of a pop can or a mason jar.

00:40:54 Correct.

00:40:56 Narrator: A mason jar.

***A shinny mason jar. Made of glass that's not been clouded by age. A jar that has withstood the ravages of 120 years in pristine condition, though it was buried underground all that time. A jar like this, in such mint condition, would fetch thousands at Christie's or Sothebys. Show's over. Head for the auction house, boys.***

00:40:57 An encouraging sign to pasture, because it's consistent with legends that the knights of the golden circle buried money in mason jars to secretly pay sentinels charged with guarding kgc treasure.

***Who cares? You've got treasure. It's time to cash in. Come on. Let's go.***

00:41:10 Dr. Roush: For each treasure site, they had selected a sentinel -- somebody who was familiar with the area, somebody who was a diehard member of the knights of the golden circle who was sworn under oath to protect this treasure under threat of death if they failed.

***Blah, blah, blah... Come on. That's the most valuable mason jar ever found.***

00:41:29 And they would constantly survey the area to make sure it was not disturbed.

00:41:38 Pastore: Well, if you had a major cache site and there were a sentinel watching it, you'd have to see to it that he had plenty of funding to keep him interested in staying on his post.

00:41:48 So, a mason jar was probably the only reliable, waterproof container that you had in the old days.

00:41:54 And if you cached these around the region with a particular coding system, then you could have them go out and recover it as needed.

***What? You want to look for more mason jars?***

00:42:02 Dr. Roush: These sentinels were also to assign either their son or their grandson or a brother or somebody that they could trust for a lifetime to protect this treasure.

***Huh? I don't know how to break this news to you, but Jesse James Jr. wasn't here. Neither was Jesse's four granddaughters. Why would they sit around here guarding their dead father's mason jars, instead of just emptying the jars and live a retired life off whatever they contained?***

***And no matter what you may think, Frank wasn't here watching after mason jars, either. Frank was too busy trying to eke out a living selling shows, taking theater tickets, and starting horse races.***

00:42:16 Narrator: Pastore believes that if Jesse James was a KGC operative, it's likely he followed these traditions.

***Back to that again. "Pastore believes..." #22. And just because it ain't true, I'm counting "it's likely..." as #23.***

00:42:23 There's other evidence to support the theory that James was familiar with KGC rituals ..

***What evidence? These bozos live in an evidence free zone. I don't even know if there evidence that these individuals are people.***

00:42:30 Especially in this 1879 photograph of James gang members.

00:42:36 It was taken in a barrel-making factory in Nashville, where it's believed the men were working, laying low between crimes.

00:42:44 The photograph was taken at the Lambert Mocker Barrel Factory.

***Get out your red pens, professional historians. It's Mocker Barrel time. Again. You all recall this questionable artifact.***

00:42:48 In that photograph is Jesse James and Frank James, and Frank James is giving the sign of greeting of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

***Can't anyone pull out a KGC code book, look up in the index "secret greeting," and show us the page that demonstrates it, the same as it appears in the photo?***

***If all this has been such a secret, how do these "experts" come by the knowledge, when no one else has?***

00:43:06 Another member of the gang is also giving that greeting.

00:43:10 His name is Lorenzo Merrimon Little.

00:43:13 Little commanded the North Carolina faction of the James gang.

***If he did, it was a delusional self appointment. Sort of like how these guys present themselves as experts without portfolio. That is, without evidence.***

***By the way, who are the other North Carolina members of the Jesse James gang that Little commanded? What's the history of the group? How come they never appeared in the West.***

***I'm getting the sense Col. Sanders had when someone popped his chicken franchise in the eye.***

00:43:18 .. 00:43:19 Years after the civil war -- the date is 1879 -- and frank james and merrimon little are giving the sign of greeting of the knights of the golden circle.

00:43:32 So they're saying hello to their fraternal brothers out there.

00:43:37 They're saying, "you boys keep plowing.

***Plowing for what? Mason jars? I don't get it.***

00:43:40 " Narrator: More evidence of jesse james' familiarity with kgc rituals and traditions may lie in references to his childhood home in missouri.

***"May lie..." becomes # 24. I'd let it pass if may lie was interpreted as "is a lie."***

00:43:52 Ganis In the knights of the golden circle, the local chapters were called castles.

***Yeah, my home is my castle. Does that make me a Knight of the Golden Circle? Must be, according to the "historian" Ralph Ganis.***

***Anybody ever notice all the KGC people as they riverboat the Rhine, the Danube, the Minsk, or any of those old castles in Europe. Europe must be a veritable cemetery of mason jars filled with treasure.***

00:43:57 That's very interesting, because there are early histories that mention that the james farm " so there is a possibility that the reference to castle james means that the james farm was a kgc safe haven.

***"There is a possibility..." Equals bogus evidence #25.***

00:44:13 [ Helicopter blades whirring ] [ slow beeping ] so far, it's not been able to tell me a depth, really.

00:44:27 There's something there, though.

00:44:29 There is something there. okay.

***Anybody feel a commercial coming on?***

00:44:32 Pastore's manual metal-detector scan of this canyon floor in central kansas reveals an encouraging pattern that seems to correlate with the kgc-like writing on the nearby sandstone wall.

***It must be a turkey foot buried in a mason jar.***

00:44:46 So, we're in the center of the turkey track, and we have two hits 7 feet apart.

***You talking doobies? That could explain everything.***

00:44:50 Pastore: And this is consistent with what showed up on the radar.

00:44:54 It's been about eight years in the making in total, you know, from we first got on to this mystery to learning about the sites and, you know, a couple of years ago, finding them and finding the glyphs and then starting to figure out what they meant.

***You mean you boys been smoking' for 8 years? What's been "in the making" for 8 years. This TV show?***

00:45:08 [ Beeping ] Man: Yeah, we got something right there, I think.

00:45:12 5B at 6. 00:45:13 5B?

00:45:14 Exact size and depth undetermined.

00:45:17 Could be some silver dollars?

00:45:19 Could be.

00:45:20 12 Inches.

00:45:22 And it's showing right here.

00:45:23 It's about the size of a pop can. okay.

***You keep saying these things are about the size of a pop can. So how come no pop cans?***

00:45:26 So we've got three hits in a row, 7 feet apart, roughly about a foot down, and it's on that center leg of the turkey track we had over here that's in the shape of this piece of land.

***They've got me woozy again with all this mumbo jumbo. Acid was never like this. But it is beginning to resemble my audition for "Dancing with the Stars."***

00:45:38 [ Beeping ] 5b at 2 inches.

00:45:46 Okay, so now I'm getting a little excited, all right?

00:45:49 [ Both laughing ] Narrator: But instead of digging, the team continues with their plan.

***NO! NO! NO! Not digging interruptus again.***

00:45:54 They want to mark all three locations.

***Now you're going to take a pee?***

00:45:57 And there's still one more site to investigate -- a site with signs so compelling, the team spontaneously breaks ground.

00:46:05 What they find may cause historians to rethink the story of jesse james' life.

00:46:11 [ Gunshot ] and his death.

***"May cause..." We're at the half way mark in the show with 26 instances of seriously mental fantasy without a single instance of factual evidence. I wish that gunshot had put an end to this show. This show is going to get funnier and funnier as we go along.***