

Rebuttal Against Jesse James in Texas?

January 18, 2012

Dear Reader,

By way of introduction my name is Betty Dorsett Duke, author of three books about Jesse James, (*Jesse James Lived & Died In Texas* (1998), *The Truth About Jesse James* (2007) and *Jesse James– The Smoking Gun* (2011). I am also the owner of Jesse James' Death Hoax & Buried Treasures at www.jessejamesintexas.com.

My purpose for this rebuttal is to offer readers findings that refute false allegations made against me and my work by a group hired to harass and cyberstalk me for over a decade. From this point forward I will refer to this group as the Hired Guns. I have always strived to take the high road in dealing with them but they are an organized group intent on maliciously destroying my credibility and published findings. Before beginning the rebuttal the reader needs to know a little about this group.

Eric James is the owner of Stray Leaves, A James Family In America Since 1650: (www.ericjames.org/) and the James Preservation Trust - (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/print.cgi?james::41888.html>). He and his cohorts promote their propaganda on many Internet sites as well as his website <http://www.ericjames.org/JesseJamesinTexas/index.html>.

The hired guns are known for personally attacking those who do not share their beliefs - in fact their attacks resulted in shutting one forum down:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/outlaws/messages/15139.html>.

Another forum posted the following message after a particularly vicious attack on me and my supporters only after I posted a message informing all of them that I would not only sue the hired guns, but the forum as well for allowing the attack to continue and doing nothing. According to one source a member of the group was employed by the forum:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/james/messages/45805.html>

Eric James was the spokesman for the late Judge James R. Ross, the purported great-grandson of Jesse James. The following letter from Judge Ross will give the reader an idea of his opinion of me: <http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/OpenLettertoDuke.jpg>.

Here's my response to Judge Ross: <http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/response.jpg>.

Let's take Eric stepped into Judge Ross' role in the smear campaign against me which is designed and operated like dirty political campaigns politicians use against their opposition.

Kathy Reynard, who is no longer participating in the smear campaign for reasons unknown to me, may have been the first person hired to discredit me, or Judge Ross may have hired Eric James first, but whatever the case may be they have and do resort to desperate measures to suppress evidence showing that Jesse James was my great-grandfather and did not die as history reports. Eric James now hosts a website designed by Kathy Reynard and Linda Snyder...or so they say. Their website is designed specifically to discredit me and my findings.

Let's take another look at Eric James' James Preservation Trust which is one and the same. Instead of relying on qualified experts to authenticate photographs/artifacts acquired and/or submitted, he relies on Bethany, Missouri Disk Jockey Phil Stewart, who was once a historian for the James Farm & Museum in Kearney, Missouri. Mr. Stewart is closely associated with Eric James and Stray Leaves and wrote some of the articles currently presented on the Stray Leaves website. On December 14, 2011, he (Phil Stewart) revealed disturbing information about Eric James in an email to me - excerpts follow:

"I guess you could say I had an "association" with Eric James, but it got to the point that he was falling into the category I mentioned of people who ignored facts in order to prove their point. He still claims a family connection to Jesse James, but still hasn't proven it to my satisfaction. His theory is based on rumors, speculation and the fact that his last name is James. I voiced my opinion and everything was fine, but it got to the point that he wanted me to "indorse" some things that I just wasn't comfortable with and that pretty much ended that. I know he still has me and some of my writing on his web site, which I guess is OK. But I'm just not going to "sell out" to help him or anyone else! Plus, he started getting a little nasty and personal with some of the "discussions" and I just don't think there's any need for that."

"And you're also right about Eric James....in a LOT of ways! He wants to be THE James authority and really doesn't care what he has to do and who he has to screw to get there. He's also not very concerned about accuracy and is very willing to twist things around to fit his theories. Basically, he's a very good salesman!! When he tried to manipulate (and buy) me to say things that just weren't true, or at least in serious doubt, I just told him that was as far as I

was willing to go. Basically, he wanted me to authenticate some things so he could sell them at an inflated price to finance some of his "investigations" and I just wasn't comfortable with that. Not enough evidence to satisfy me.!!!"

Again, false allegations made by Eric James and his hired guns are included in a website first designed by Kathy Reynard and Linda Snyder (this is one of Carol Holmes' aliases although she denies it) and is currently hosted on his Stray Leaves website. The name of their website mimics the name as my website except they added a question mark:

My website: www.jessejamesintexas.com.

Their website: [Jesse James in Texas?](http://www.ericjames.org/JesseJamesinTexas/index.html)

www.ericjames.org/JesseJamesinTexas/index.html

To learn more about Eric James read the following posts as well as the threads:

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=77.1>

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=844.1>

I dubbed Eric James' cohorts as Hired Guns due to the simple fact that they fit the definition: "One hired to fight for or protect another; and one who is proficient at obtaining power for others." However, simply dubbing them hired guns is far different than having actual proof that they were hired, but I do have proof.

On December 17, 2011 a former hired gun, I'll only refer to as J. V., issued a public apology on Delphi's Jesse James Photo Discussion Forum (see link below), and he also revealed that Eric James hired him and others (listed below) to do his dirty deeds. The authorities caught J. V. – he'll reveal why he named them in his post which follows:

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=798.34>

"Cohorts:

Eric James

Gay Mathis

Chuck Rabas

Melvin Graf

Irvin Blankenship

Rollie Taylor

Gibson Moore

Bill Dodd

Sally Goodson

*Fran Bolton
Carol Holmes
Michael Venable*

As a hired hand in response to Matt Hamlin and Dallas Hunt in January of 2010, I was pressured into a seek and smear mission in retaliation to their posts on Genforum. From there it went to various historical discussions and to Delphi going as far as to smear their friends. Little did I know about the consequences of my actions and I apologize for all the trouble I've caused everyone here, especially to that of Betty Duke and Greg Ellison.

*Sincerely, Alias Frank Cole
jv"*

Although the former hired gun said that Eric James hired him and his cohorts to “seek and smear” me, Greg Ellison, Dallas Hunt and others, it was actually much worse than just a smear campaign. Death threats and pornographic material were sent to me and Greg Ellison via email for over a year until the authorities caught him. Pornographic and depraved photographs, along with death threats were also posted on Greg Ellison’s forum on numerous occasions. Not only was my life threatened but the lives of my family, Greg Ellison and his family, Dallas Hunt, members of Greg Ellison’s forum and others. These threats were also made against minors.

If anyone doubts the truthfulness of this information J. V. sent Greg Ellison an email stating everything posted on the forum (plus more). Yes, proof exists as well as many witnesses.

Greg Ellison asked J. V. the questions listed below and he (the former hired gun) answered them –his answers follow the questions:

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=798.47>

Greg Ellison wrote: "I asked JV these question and his answers are in the next post:

Jared,

I appreciate your efforts and I have a long list of questions.

- 1. Who hired you?*
- 2. Are you positive Fran Bolton and Sally Anderson Goodson are not aliases for Carol Holmes?*
- 3. Who is Gibson Moore and where is he from?*
- 4. Is the James Farm involved including Marvin Leslie, Scott Cole and Terry Crews or did you use their names?*
- 5. Do you know if there is still a credible threat to my family?*
- 6. Why aren't you signing your post with your real name?*

7. *How were you pressured and who did it?*
8. *Who's the top dog causing all of this.*
9. *Why did you leave LoneJack off of the list?*
10. *How much is Frank Huguelet involved in this. You mention two of his buddies and I know he is their leader?*

I had this figured out a long time ago through some investigating that I had done. I knew how you were involved through your acting career and that they planned all along for you to take the fall and still do.

*Thanks,
Greg Ellison"*

J. V. answers: <http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=798.48>

"No problem, Greg. I'm just glad I can finally get this off my chest. I'm tired of playing their games.

1. Eric James.

2. I believe Carol is Fran. I remember a few posts on Sally's Delphi site when Fran responded to questions made to Carol and then quickly deleted them and then came back on as Carol to leave the final response. She realized what user name she was using at the time. But Carol is definitely not Sally. Sally really had no interest in "Jesse James" matters. She came along to help Rollie with the Jay Longley/William Anderson thing because they are supposedly kin.

3. Gibson Moore as "GibMoore" was a member on Butch's site some years ago. Not sure where he is now but I got some private messages before from him on Delphi to aid in the attacks on you and your friends. He could be Eric James, Michael, or even Frank Huguelet in disguise. He was very pushy.

4. No. I remember Butch even banning Eric James a couple years ago.

5. None. Truth be told I'm not that kind of guy and you're more protected than you know even if there was a credible threat. But I will tell you this. Eric James spun a web of crap and I thought it was this big game. Frank Huguelet was and still is his side man. AlexNelson is an alias of his. He paraded around as various user names and made those threats on your forum. He was hysterical about it. But there is no threat to you or your family.

6. I sign it either jv or just J.

7. I was doing research on the old west and Jesse James as a class assignment. I got to know

Eric James through his site and that's when he went on about you and Betty and everyone else months after getting to know him. He was pissed that Butch banned him from Delphi and he claimed you were after him and he needed a little help fighting back. He offered money and credentials to my school if I went along with it. Venable, Graf, Moore, Dodd, Blankenship, Mathis, Goodson, Fran/Carol and Rollie all went along with it saying they could get me good marks and build my rep. And since I knew too much about their plan to smear you guys they threatened to smear my name and mess things up for me academically if any of that got out. It was a really weird situation. And as odd as it was, they tried to be "nice" about threatening me. Little did they know that the FBI saw it all.

8. Eric James. But Frank Huguelet is his "behind the curtain" go to guy. They're both pulling the strings.

9. He didn't get involved. He actually liked you. At least before your falling out. It's obvious he's been swayed by those crooks too.

10. You got it right. Up until the FBI got involved he backed away. But he's still out there ready to pounce when the time comes. He insulted me pretty good and threatened to kick my ass when I told the FBI everything and told Eric James off. Well, that and when I told them that I wanted nothing to do with their crap anymore. They didn't take that very well.

Like you said, I think a lot of this was obvious. But I'm not pursuing an acting career. I did some theater in college and high school but I worked in media for a time, too. I did some independent stuff on the side but nothing anymore. I recently fell on some hard economic times and "career" really isn't in the equation anymore. It sucks.

*I won't take the fall anymore. They know it and so does the FBI. Those s*** of b***** are being watched now.*

Anything else let me know."

Now that the reader has become acquainted with Eric James and his hired guns tactics my rebuttal against false allegations made by them will begin. Actually most of their allegations can be answered by simply viewing the photographic evidence that proves my great-grandfather was Jesse James, so if my answers aren't satisfactory please click on the following links because the pictures speak for themselves.

http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/Ebay_Press_Release.pdf

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/e-front.JPG>

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/e-back.JPG>

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/tintypejpg.jpg>

http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/Grandpa_Quantrell_Reunion.jpg

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/index.htm>

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/Statement.JPG>

My rebuttal begins:

1. Despite Eric James and his hired guns claim that Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney's YDNA matches the YDNA of the real James L. Courtney AKA James Haun's YDNA, which, according to them, proves my great-grandfather was not Jesse James but the real James L. Courtney, here's an excerpt from *The Truth About Jesse James (2007)*, my second book, that tells the fact of the matter:

"Dr. Salih (a DNA expert in San Antonio, Texas) issued the following statement regarding the Hired Guns' false report:

"With regard to the question about the basis for exclusion in forensic case-work (such as this case) a difference at any single locus is considered the base for exclusion. Exclusion in this case is the lack of relationship between two families. Unproven mutations can not be used to justify the exclusion as has been suggested in this case. They have to show that other members of these families have a similar mutation as was found in this case."

Proof now exists that the 1995 DNA results highly touted as proving Jesse James died and is buried as history reports are actually fraudulent, yet Eric James and his hired guns disregard this information: http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/2Fraudulent_DNAMedia.pdf.

The Hired Guns are very aware that there was a real James L. Courtney. They are also aware of the entire evidence presented showing that my great-grandfather was NOT the real James L. Courtney. He was only using this name as his alias as evidenced by the photographic evidence pictured on my website and Greg Ellison's Delphi Forum Jesse James Discussion Site: <http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages>.

Even though Eric James and his hired guns have been exposed they continue to "seek and smear"...and no telling what else. I believe they do this for the following reasons:

- To confuse those unfamiliar with my story ;
- To make it appear that my family was lying and that I am lying;
- To disrupt and discredit my continued research/writing; and
- To prevent book sales or movies deals based on my books by giving extremely negative reviews and convincing the media I am a liar.

2. Kathy Reynard wrote:

“On page 131 of Mrs. Duke's book we see a page of figures that look like slender, lazy figure eights, lying on their side, with different markings on each one. The caption says "A page from J. L. Courtney's diary shows the code he often used. On the page he inadvertently signed his name `J James'."

My editor did insert a caption in my first book, *Jesse James Lived & Died In Texas (1998)*, which says the marks were treasure markers. But the fact is that cattle brands were used as treasure markers and some of the marks are just treasure marks. A number of my great-grandfather's treasure caches, which he documented their location by encoded treasure maps with Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC) symbols, have been recovered.

3. Kathy Reynard also stated:

“One of the cornerstones of Mrs. Duke's book is her claim that there was a strong connection between the James/Samuel and Courtney families without distinguishing between the Clay County Courtneys and the Johnson County Courtneys, sixty miles away and across the Missouri River. Linda Snyder (an alias for Carol Holmes) and I independently studied these families before we became aware of each other's research and neither of us found any connection.”

Answer: Again, Linda Snyder is one of Carol Holmes' (one of Eric's hired guns) aliases. But as Carol Holmes she wrote the following article supporting my claim and stating why she believes the Clay County, Missouri Courtney's are connected to the Johnson County, Missouri Courtney's. (Again, this claim as well as the others is redundant now due to the photographic evidence which proves my great-grandfather was Jesse James. However, they continue posting these claims in an effort to suppress the truth about Jesse James. I have given them the correct answers numerous times to no avail.)

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/HistoryOfTheMystery.pdf>

4. Kathy Reynard quoted me as saying “Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney used code when making entries in his diaries and drawing his treasure maps.”

She attempts to discredit my statement by writing: *"JLC did use a very basic code at times. The five vowels a, e, i, o and u are replaced by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; the numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9 are assigned to consonants, but different consonants in each message. It is so basic, I don't know why he even bothered."*

Ha! Code only seems simple once it's broken...and the Hired Guns sure didn't break it.

Jesse James was reportedly the treasurer of the Knights of the Golden Circle and they did in fact use code. Please read the following excerpt from my second book, *The Truth About Jesse James* (2007):

"A small booklet describing the rituals of the secret order known as The Knights of Labor, also known as the Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor, was found in my great-grandfather's personal belongings. This organization is said to have been the KGC reorganized under a different name. (See photo of the booklet in Chapter Thirteen.)"

5. Kathy Reynard wrote the following: *"George Roming of El Paso personally saw at least 30 bars of gold, weighing 15 to 20 pounds each, stacked on a shelf in Grandpa's barn. Now I ask you, folks, would a man this paranoid leave all that gold in the barn, unguarded?"*

<http://www.ericjames.org/JesseJamesinTexas/facts.html>.

Here's the real fact of the matter. See George Roming's sworn affidavit about the gold he saw:

http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/george_roming_affadavit.jpg

Yes, ma'am Kathy Reynard, you can bet your boots that Jesse James could do whatever he wanted to do, including leaving that gold unguarded - the people in his community were not stupid.

6. Kathy Reynard wrote: *"Yet another of Mrs. Duke's overstatements is the claim that all of her photographs of the Courtneys have been positively matched to photos of the James family. This will be fully discussed in the Photographs section."*

Kathy Reynard couldn't be more wrong. Visionics Corporation is a leading provider of fingerprinting, identification and information systems for law enforcement. Visionics is also recognized as the leader in Face Recognition Technology. In June of 2002, Visionics Corporation was merged with Identix Incorporated. The merged company continues to lead its industry in the area law enforcement and identification technology including facial, fingerprint and biometric identification. The company is particularly known for their Face Recognition Technology which has become so important and prominently featured in the media post September 11, 2001. The team from Visionics Corporation (now Identix) examined the photographic evidence in June of 1998 and issued the following statement from their Research & Development offices in Jersey City, NJ:

Statement of Recognition

"Dr. Joseph J. Atick and Megan G. Tormey from Visionics Corporation examined the photographs through computerized matching, analytical as well as visual inspection techniques. They concluded with reasonable confidence that the faces in question matched each other and belonged to the same individual."

- Dr. Joseph J. Atick

Megan G. Tormey

Visionics Corporation

(1998)

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/images/VisionicsStatementp1.jpg>

Statement from William McCann:

<http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/images/mccann.htm>

Statement of Recognition

"After visually inspecting both sets of photographs (Dukes and historically accepted photos of the James family), the Austin Police Department Forensic Science Multi-Media Lab determined, with a high degree of certainty, that the faces in question match."

**- William S. McCann
Forensic Science Multi-Media Lab Supervisor
Austin Police Department
(1999)**

7. The Hired Guns claim that a postcard mailed to my great-grandfather signed "Mother" and mailed from Morris County, Kansas proves he was the real James L. Courtney.

It will interest them to know, if they don't already know, that Jesse James' mother, Zerelda James Samuel, is also said to have lived there. Sure enough Jesse James' name is mentioned in

both Courtney and Haun family stories. (The real James L. Courtney, along with his parents and siblings, changed their surnames to Haun after the father was imprisoned for being considered disloyal during the Civil War and also for consorting with Quantrill. Jesse James assumed the name of James L. Courtney when he (Courtney) assumed the alias of James Haun.) The following email dated 8-7-99 was sent to Dr. David Hegdpath from Harold Haun's aunt, Derexa Seth (written verbatim):

*"David,
...After reading your post this morning, my husband Laryl and I were discussing the Courtney/Haun story. He reminded me that local family members have told the story of hearing about Jesse James, his brother, and his mother staying here for a period of time. They stayed in a house east of Parkerville, Morris County, Kansas where my sister-in-law now lives. What connection they had to the family, if any, I don't know. However, it would make one think they might have been doing more than just 'passing through'. Could they have known the Courtney's/Hauns? Also, people with the surname of Black reportedly owned most of the land east of Parkerville to the small town of Kelso, which is several miles, in the early days. Harriett married a Black, right? My sister-in-law's farm probably was owned by the Blacks at one time. Then again, maybe there is no connection."*

Again, Jesse James' mother and other family members are rumored to have stayed in Morris County, Kansas after he left for Texas.

Another item of interest that may connect the Courtney aka Haun family to the James Gang regards the Wilkerson's. The 1880 census for Morris County, Kansas lists James and E. Wilkinson/Wilkerson as wards of the Courtney's aka Haun's John Courtney aka John Haun married E. Wilkerson second. Knowing my family story and also knowing that something appears to have made the Courtney's run from the law, I wouldn't doubt for a second that the Wilkerson's living with them were related to the James and Bill Wilkerson who rode with Jesse James. In fact I think that at the very least the Courtney's aka Haun's provided a hideout for the James Gang.

Jesse James AKA James Courtney's personal diaries mention the following known members of the James Gang: Bud Singleton, Bill Wilkerson, Thompson "Tom" McDaniels, and Jim Cummings aka Jim Clark. Bill Wilkerson sat with the family at Thomas Hudson Barron's death bed. Mr. Barron was Jesse James' father-in-law.

8. My late Aunt Irene Dorsett Short King told her "Courtney" cousins about their grandfather being Jesse James. She wrote the following to Herschel "H. C." Shelton on February 22, 1973 (Carol Holmes said he paid some of them to discredit me.):

"...Mama always said something about Grandpa (the man known in Texas as James L. Courtney) knowing something about Jesse James - when I see you I will tell you more about this -- as it might have been a family secret."

I am only privy to the following portion of the letter Mae wrote in response to a letter she received from Aunt Irene (written verbatim):

“You have asked some questions that I will attempt to answer. You asked about the Haun’s. Max Courtney found out that Grandpa Courtney’s family came to Oklahoma Territory and changed their names to “Haun” because of some criminal charge against them (see note below). In those days Oklahoma was fairly safe for fugitives because it was not a state. That is why all of them “clam up” when someone mentions their past. You know Grandpa never talked of his family. So the rumor was that our grandfather had changed his name, but it was not he but his brothers who did it.”

Now about what Mae said – *“Grandpa never talked about his family.”* Ha! Photographic evidence shows that the James family was his family – *he is pictured with them* – see bottom row far right. <http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/EbayPic8.jpg>

View a known photo of my great-grandfather and judge for yourself if they are the same man: <http://www.jessejamesintexas.com/tintypejpg.jpg>

9. Eric James and his hired guns picture a letter on their website with the following heading in their ongoing effort to discredit my family story and my findings <http://www.ericjames.org/JesseJamesinTexas/docs.html>:

G. P. Whitsett J. R. Whitsett
OFFICE OF Whitsett & Andruss
PROPRIETORS OF Lamar Livery, Sale & Feed Stable
On Broadway, half block north of Square.
Lamar, MO., January 11, 1887

I emailed the following photo to Ron Wall, (his wife is related to Sim Whitsett, a noted Quantrill guerrilla) to see if he thought the man standing next to my great-grandfather is Sim Whitsett and this was his reply: "After using some simple photo software to overlay the photo of the face in your picture on one regarded as an authentic picture of Sim as an old man, the two faces seem to match to an incredible degree. I then reversed the photos, overlaying the known Sim Whitsett photo on your photo with the same striking result. I certainly do not qualify as an expert, but my experiment seems to indicate that the two pictures are of the same man."



Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney (left) and James Simeon "Sim" Whitsett (right).

On August 25, 2009 I was delighted to receive an email from my cousin Eldon Courtney, not only because I had never had the pleasure of meeting him before, but because of what he had to say. Please read the following excerpt from his message: "Hi Betty, my name is Eldon Courtney, eldest brother to Max Courtney, but I agree with you wholly as does most of my family."

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages/?msg=468.1>

In the following posts I, using the username Jeszsgrl, explain to Eldon Courtney why the hired guns' allegations are wrong about our great-grandfather being the real James L. Courtney: <http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=477.92> (Greg Ellison's Jesse James Photo Discussion Forum):

From: [Jeszsgrl](#) Jan-7 3:38 pm
To: [EldonC](#) (92 of 124)

[477.92](#) in reply to [477.87](#)

One of the things that I take as absolute fact is our great-grandfather's own written words: "When stemm and tryst James L. Courtney is my heist." He himself said he stole James L. Courtney's name.

[Strong circumstantial evidence has been presented showing that Stephen Courtney became Andrew Jackson Haun and](#)

that his wife, Dianah, and sons, including James L. Courtney, all kept their given names but changed their surnames to Haun when Stephen did. Harriett, their daughter didn't have to change her name to Haun because she married a Mr. Black. You should also search for how and when James Haun died. This is why I believe you are running into a dead end - the real James L. Courtney became James Haun and at that point the name of James L. Courtney became officially (yet unrecorded) dead and would have remained dead if Jesse James hadn't taken it for his own.

Have you ever tried to find how and when Stephen Courtney, Dianah Courtney, Theodore Courtney, and his Courtney brothers died? **It's my guess that you won't find them and will run in to another dead end. Why? Because they all became Haun's.** What was the last year you found the Courtney family - the parents and their children - on a census record? Some claim they changed their surnames to Haun after 1865 and before 1870.

Right now I, as well as many others, feel that we have all the proof we need to prove that Jesse James was known in Texas as James L. Courtney due to the photographic evidence - those pictures don't lie. They're not fraudulent like the 1995 DNA results. Like that old saying goes, "Money talks". It's really bad that our true heritage goes to the highest bidder...but they didn't ever think they would get caught in their own game.

I would still like to exhume our great-grandfather's grave for DNA comparison testing against Sue Laura Hale's DNA. I absolutely won't trust any DNA sample or sequence that has anything to do with Professor Starrs, Clay County, Missouri, or the Hired Guns. What's scary is that even though J. V. named Eric James as his boss it stands to reason that someone with deeper pockets is funding the "seek and smear" campaign.

The explanation to Eldon Courtney continues in the following posts:

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/Zeke1/messages?msg=477.93>

Eldon, your questions remind me of questions I once asked until answers were found. Here's an excerpt that I really hope you'll read from *The Truth About Jesse James* (2007) because I believe

it may help answer your question:

Tracing one's genealogy can be difficult at times, especially when dealing with aliases and outlaws because they were very good at covering their tracks. As stated earlier, I think I know what happened to Jesse James but what happened to the real James L. Courtney? In attempting to solve this mystery I viewed so many rolls of microfilm that thousands of names rolled before my eyes as I slept -- it was a real nightmare. And just when I thought I had it all figured out, I would prove myself wrong.

Stephen and Dianah Andruss Courtney are claimed to have been the real James L. Courtney's parents, but I wasn't convinced of that. He was supposed to be their oldest child yet he isn't listed as living in their household in the 1850 census record:

Courtney, Stephen, Age 27

Courtney, Dianna D., Age 28

Courtney, Harriet E., Age: 1

Litrell/Lutrell?, Sarah, Age: 30

I find it odd that someone would list their youngest child completely forgetting their first born. I now realize that maybe the census taker simply didn't list him or whatever. Thinking maybe James L. Courtney was staying with his grandparents or other relatives I checked census records and still couldn't find him. I even checked the neighbors looking for him, but by a stroke of luck I found my answer in some old letters in the possession of a relative of the Courtney family. Dianah Andruss Courtney wrote a letter addressed to "**William O'Brient** at, Globe Post Office, Missouri." At the bottom of the page her daughter Harriet added the following note (written verbatim): "...Layette and Theodore is grate big boys..." The real James Courtney's middle name was Lafayette and apparently Harriett misspelled it.

The 1860 census for Johnson County, Missouri lists the persons residing in the Stephen Courtney household as follows: ^[2] (This is the family of the real James L. Courtney, not our great-grandfather.)

Name: Stephen Courtney

Age in 1860: 38

Birth Year: abt 1822

Birthplace:

Home in 1860: Post Oak,

Post Office: Globe

Household Members: Name and Age

Stephen Courtney 38

Dianah D Courtney 39

James L Courtney 14

Harriet E Courtney 12

Theodore N Courtney 10

Robert W Courtney

John A Courtney

According to another of Dianah's letters the Courtney family traveled by boat from TN to MO in 1852, settling in Johnson County until 1864. Some cite the following unproved claim as fact: "During the Civil War Dianah and the children fled to Johnson Co., when they were in danger from raiders. Stephen's son, James Courtney, served in the Union Army at age 18, but when the war ended he was put on mop up duty and deserted. I don't buy it but some claim this desertion is said to have caused the family so much shame that they changed their name to Haun and moved to the interior of Kansas. Haun Creek in Morris Co. was named for them." [3]

The story goes that before moving to Morris County, KS they lived in Miami County, KS -- **the last place they were known as the Courtney's**. Stephen Courtney reportedly changed his entire name to Andrew Jackson Haun. The rest of the family only changed their surnames, with the exception of Harriet who by that time had married Peter Black.

The 1870 census for Morris County, Kansas shows the following persons living in the Andrew Haun household:

Andrew Haun: Age 48

Dianah Haun: Age 49

James Haun: Age 23

Theodore Haun: Age 21

Robert Haun: Age 16

John Haun: Age 14

Eldon, note the given names and ages of the Courtney's and Haun's listed above - this pretty much proves they were the same family which also proves that James L. Courtney became James

Haun.

In 1864 the family moved from Johnson County, Missouri to Miami County, Kansas, which was about 55 miles from the old James farm. The 1865 Kansas State Census for lists the family under the name of Courtney. Some claim they may have stayed a while in, which was about 40 miles from the old James farm.

In the mid-1860's the family moved near Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas, about 8 miles north of the Santa Fe Road. At this time the Courtney surname was changed to Haun. This is the same county and place Bloody Bill Anderson lived in. Everyone in the Courtney family kept his or her first name except Stephen who became Andrew Jackson Haun.

The distance to the old James farm from was about 110 miles, but conveniently located along a major travel route. This would be a great hide-away at a safe distance from the normal residence of Frank and Jesse. Within a few months after the Haun's settled in Morris County, Kansas, Frank and Jesse conducted their first bank robbery.

In two years the family relocated 2-3 times. These moves may have been due to the war conditions of the time or may have been necessary to protect Stephen's true identity.

10. The hired guns are desperately trying to prove that my great-grandfather was not Jesse James but was instead the real James L. Courtney AKA James Haun. The real James L. Courtney had a brother named Theodore Courtney AKA Theodore Haun. I offered proof from my great-grandfather's diaries written by his own hand in his own words that he was not the real James L. Courtney - he wrote that he "rote a letter to cosin Theodore." The real James L. Courtney and Theodore Courtney (both of whom assumed the surname alias of Haun) were in fact Jesse James' cousins.

"Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney wrote in his diary, *"January 28, 1872 -- Sunday morning at Barron's and remained there all day & rote to letters one to Rat and the other to cosin Theodore & Miley was here."*

Rat was the uncle of real James L. Courtney and his brother Theodore. Knowing this it stands to reason that Jesse James was writing to Theodore Courtney.

The hired guns are currently attempting to prove that Jesse James was writing to another Theodore whose last name was Heaton, but they have not been able to prove that this Theodore was still alive in 1872. They offer the following information as proof when it is evident it isn't because neither they, nor I, have been able to determine when Theodore Heaton died and where he is buried:

Elizabeth Andruss Heaton 20 Dec 1822, TN – ca. 1858, Jefferson Co, TN, married William C. Heaton. Children: Mary Dorthulla; John Harvey Levi; Harriet Josephine; Sarah Elizabeth; Theodore born about 1850; John Roten; and William Chew.

<http://www.andruss.net/SHEETS/F660.HTM>

Besides Eric James and his cohorts being involved in this smear campaign so is Scott Cole, the vice-president of the Friends of the James Farm, an organization closely related to the James Farm & Museum in Kearney, Missouri (Friends of the James Farm: <http://www.jessejames.org/home>; http://www.jessejames.org/officers_and_directors.) Although J. V. confirmed that Scott Cole is involved in another email to me I already had proof that he is in the form of a counterclaim (pictured below) that he filed with Youtube against my complaint against his copyright infringing video about me and my published books. He used the email address jokerbegins@aol.com to file the counterclaim which was also used in some of the threatening emails sent to me.

Upon entering jokerbegins@aol.com in a service I purchased that discloses the owners of email addresses, a page from Photo Bucket came up with the enhanced image of Jesse James along with Terry Crews' name. (Although the photograph has been removed the Document Tree remains showing pertinent information: <http://feed770.photobucket.com/albums/xx341/terrycrews/account.rss>.)

Scott Cole, Terry Crews and perhaps others appear to share the jokerbegins@aol.com email address. The fact is that both men post on Marvin Leslie's Friends of the James Farm's Jesse James Discussion Board – a board prohibiting any posts regarding Jesse James living after April 3, 1882, and both of them also posted to me on Greg Ellison's Jesse James Photo Discussion Forum The Ellison Collection: <http://theellisoncollection.com/gallery.php?gid=123>.)

Scott Cole, using the username, "svcolt1882", also posted the same type of videos on a website called WittySparks: "The James L. Courtney Theory Debunked Video: WittySparks videos.wittysparks.com/id/2135110108 Jun 3, 2010, Originally posted on YouTube by svcolt1882." (<http://connect.in.com/james-courtney/profile-129801.html>.)

Instead of openly contacting me to discuss their opinions Scott Cole and Terry Crews instead childishly resort to disturbing and illegal tactics. I don't expect everyone to agree with me; in fact I often agree to disagree with others while remaining on friendly terms. However, the lengths some people go to never ceases to amaze me. Why would Scott Cole, described as being "a member of the Friends of the James Farm's board of directors, a Jesse James enthusiast, and Jesse's first cousin four times removed", feel the need to stoop to this level?

(*True West, Friends of the James Farm Bash - Not your typical family reunion, by Johnny Boggs, May 24, 2011: <http://www.truewestmagazine.com/jcontent/travel/travel/boggs-unleashed/4040-friends-of-the-james-farm-bash>.)*

Scott Cole's Youtube Counterclaim:

In a message dated 5/27/2010 8:05:09 P.M. Central Daylight Time, copyright@youtube.com writes:

Hi there,

We received the attached counter-notification in response to a complaint you filed with us. As described in the United States Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) 17 U.S.C. 512, by this email, we're providing you with the counter-notification and await your notice (in not more than 10 days) that you've filed an action seeking a court order to restrain the counter-notifier's llegendly infringing activity. Such notice should be submitted by replying to this email. If we don't receive notice from you, e will reinstate the material to YouTube.

If you have any questions, please contact copyright@youtube.com.

Sincerely,

The YouTube Team

Original Message Follows:

From: jokerbegins@aol.com
 Subject: YouTube Support

Video URLs:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBvfqN3dDJA>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNZ7W0fSID4>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yq6Twqiu3g>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg7niLvFa8g>

Username:
 svcolt1882

I have a good faith belief that the material was disabled as a result of a mistake or misidentification, and that I am not intentionally abusing this dispute process.

Address:
 Scott Cole
 P.O. Box 404
 Liberty Missouri, 64069
 None

"I consent to the jurisdiction of the Federal District Court for the district in which my address is located, or if my address is outside of the United States, the judicial district in which YouTube is located, and will accept service of process from the claimant."

"I swear, under penalty of perjury, that I have a good faith belief the material was removed due to a mistake or misidentification of the material to be removed or disabled."

Scott Cole

After nearly seventeen years of researching my family story to either prove or disprove it, I found it to be true. My great-grandfather portrayed himself as James L. Courtney, an ex-Union Soldier who came to Texas after the Civil War and became an ordinary black land farmer. But ordinary he was not:

- In 1874 he paid “Eight–hundred (gold) dollars” for a 160 acre tract of land that he purchased from Thomas Hudson Barron; ¹
- My father, his siblings, and my great-grandfather’s old neighbors said he was extremely cautious. When someone would ride up to his house after dark, he would blow out all the coal-oil lanterns and lie down across the doorway with his pistols cocked. He was never further than arm’s reach from a gun;
- He had gold and silver buried in different locations, and drew maps with Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC) symbols on them with encoded messages documenting their location. Jesse James is said to have been the treasurer of the KGC; ²
- George Roming of El Paso, Texas saw around twenty ingots of gold weighing fifteen to twenty pounds each stacked on a shelf in his barn; ³
- My great-grandfather and a group of men buried 680 ingots of gold; ⁴
- He had five-gallon buckets of silver dollars sitting around his house;
- Money was stored in the outhouse; ⁵
- He had more than \$50,000 in "greenbacks" stored in one of his trunks that he made his son B. C. Courtney Sr. count each and every day; ⁶
- He had thirteen five-gallon-lard-cans full of gold coins; ⁷

¹ Falls County Courthouse, Marlin, Texas. Deed of sale from T. H. Barron to James L. Courtney, recorded March 19, 1874.

² Floyd Mann’s Knights Of The Golden Circle BOOKS Page: <http://www.knightsofthegoldencircle-kgc.com/index.html>.

³ George Roming personally knew my great-grandfather and related this story in a notarized affidavit.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ My Aunt Opal Dorsett Franz, personally saw the buckets of money. Aunt Violet Dorsett said her husband, Howard “Boy” Dorsett, personally saw buckets of money in the outhouse.

⁶ Elmo and Mae Courtney Thompson.

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- When any new piece of farming equipment appeared on the market he purchased it;
 - He and his associates “sailed through the Great Depression” because they had plenty of money;⁸
 - He purchased large farms for each of his eight children when they were married;
 - Later on in his life he owned Ford’s, and when any minor thing would go wrong with one of them he got a new one;⁹
 - His shooting prowess was legendary -- he could shoot the head off of a chicken while riding his horse at a dead run;¹⁰
 - Facial identification experts have determined that historically accepted photographs of Jesse James and his family, match family photographs of my great-grandfather and his family;¹¹
 - His physical description does not match the physical description recorded on the real James L. Courtney’s military records. Jesse James rode with Quantrill during the Civil War and they are known to have posed as Union soldiers;¹²
 - He told his family that he fought for the South during the Civil War;¹³
 - My Aunt Irene Dorsett King Short wrote a letter to our cousin Hershel C. Shelton saying, “Grandpa Courtney lied about his age so he could join the Army in the War Between the North and the South – he fought for the South.”¹⁴

⁷ Family story documented by a letter Lilly Courtney Yarbrough wrote to the Federal Government asking for them to make Ollie Nelson Courtney, my great-grandfather’s widow, give the 13 buckets back to them. Department Of Veterans Affairs, Regional Office, 6900 Almedia Road, Houston, Texas 77030-4200. This letter is stamped “Copied From Veteran’s C-File, VARO/Houston, TX.”

⁸ Told to this author by George Roming.

⁹ Family story told by Elmo Thompson, husband of Mae Courtney Thompson.

¹⁰ Family story personally witnessed by some.

¹¹ Department of Public Safety Forensic Artist who wishes to remain anonymous; Dr. Joseph Atick and Megan Tormey of Visionics; and McCann, formerly of the Austin, Texas Police Dept.

¹² Those who knew my great-grandfather best said he had sandy colored hair, blue eyes and was a tall well-built man. The real James L. Courtney’s Certified of War Service records for the Union Army.

¹³ Besides my grandmother, father, aunts and uncles saying that my great-grandfather fought for the South, Max Courtney, a descendant of James William “Willie” Courtney, wrote an article, *The Great Mystery, The Story of the Courtney Name*, that proves other “Courtney’s” heard the same thing: “...I first heard the rumor in 1968 at a family gathering. James A. Courtney said that, in fact, James L. Courtney had served in the Confederate army during the Civil War.”

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- George Roming was raised in Blevins near my great-grandfather and personally knew him. He said, “Your great - grandfather and a man named Adams had heated arguments that came to blows when they would meet by chance in the Litteral General Store in Blevins. Adams fought for the North and your great-grandfather fought for the South. It was like the Civil War being fought all over again. They were banned from ever being in the store at the same time;”¹⁵
 - My great- grandfather’s personal diaries offer clues that he was *not* James L. Courtney the Union soldier: He named two of his horses “John” and “Reb”. “Johnny Reb” is a term used to describe a Confederate soldier; He named another horse “Copperhead.” Copperhead was a term used to identify members of the KGC.¹⁶ Many claim the James Gang was the military arm of the KGC;¹⁷
 - The Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC) was a pre–Civil War, pro-Southern secret society founded in Ohio in 1854 by George W. L. Bickley, a Virginian, who soon moved the KGC to the South. Members were known as Copperheads;”¹⁸
 - A small booklet describing the rituals of the secret order known as The Knights of Labor, also known as the Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor, was found in my great-grandfather’s personal belongings. This organization is said to have been the KGC reorganized under a different name. (See photo of booklet in chapter thirteen.);
 - His diaries show that he consorted with known members of the James Gang including Bud Singleton, Bill Wilkerson, Thompson “Tom” McDaniels, and Jim Cummings aka Jim Clark;¹⁹
 - Diary entries also show that he was on a stagecoach in Shreveport, Louisiana on January 8, 1874 with Jim Clark, a known alias of James Gang member Jim Cummings. The fact is that a Louisiana stagecoach was robbed on January 8, 1874 in the same vicinity that is credited to the James Gang;²⁰
 - He purchased his 1871-72 diaries in Decatur, Wise County, Texas -- a favorite camp site of Frank and Jesse James marked by a Texas Historical Marker;

¹⁴ Letter written by my aunt Irene Short to H. C. Shelton, dated Feb. 22, 1973.

¹⁵ Roming, George. Mr. Roming knew my great-grandfather personally.

¹⁶ Encyclopedia.com: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/K/KnightsG1.asp>.

¹⁷ Floyd Mann’s Knights Of The Golden Circle BOOKS Page: <http://www.knightsofthegoldencircle-kgc.com/index.html>.

¹⁸ Answers.com: Knights of the Golden Circle: <http://www.answers.com/topic/knights-of-the-golden-circle>

¹⁹ My great-grandfather’s diaries – 1871-1876.

²⁰ Brant, Marley, *Wild West* magazine, December, 1998.

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- Frank and Jesse also camped at another location in Wise County: “Allison is a farm community on a spur of U.S. Highway 380 two miles west of the Denton County line in eastern Wise County. The site was originally owned by cattleman Daniel Waggoner and his son, William Thomas Waggoner. In the 1870s outlaws Jesse and Frank James and Texas bandit Sam Bass hid from the law near the site.”²¹ Daniel Waggoner is mentioned in Jesse James AKA James L. Courtney’s diaries;
 - “Cournal Pickit” (my great-grandfather spelled phonetically) was Colonel George Bible Pickett, head of the Confederate Army camp near Decatur, Texas. He’s also mentioned in my great-grandfather’s diary. His son, Tom Pickett, rode with Billy the Kid.²² Jesse and Billy reportedly met each other.
 - He signed his diary J. James and J W J;
 - My great-grandfather wrote the following rhyme in his diary: “When stemm and tryst James L. Courtney is my heist;” The definitions of the key words are: Stemm [stem] – a line of descendants from a particular ancestor; Tryst – a place of meeting, a prearranged meeting (variant pronunciation is with a long sound, which would rhyme with heist); and Heist – a robbery. My great-grandfather stole the name of his relative James L. Courtney at a secret prearranged meeting;
 - It is said that outlaws often chose aliases from names they were familiar with. Jesse James was very familiar with the Courtney’s. Three families of Courtney’s lived near the James farm in Clay County, Missouri;
 - Frank James borrowed a plow from his Courtney neighbors;²³
 - Rev. Robert James baptized and married Courtney’s;²⁴
 - A. C. Courtney tutored Frank James and Jesse James;²⁵
 - Joseph Courtney and his wife joined New Hope Baptist church under Rev. James and said, “There is no better man than Robert James;”²⁶

²¹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. " ", <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/AA/hra25.html> (accessed November 12, 2007).

²² Awbrey, Betty Dooley and Claude Dooley and the Texas Historical Commission, *Why Stop? A Guide to Texas Historical Markers*, Gulf Publishing, 1998.

²³ Miller, Wilrena Calvert, *The Courtney’s of Clay County*, Pioneer Times, Vol. 10. NO. 1, January 1986.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Rev. James’ probate papers:

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- Jesse James' two half-sisters had Courtney connections. Sarah Louisa Samuel married William A. Nicholson, and Fannie Quantrill Samuel married Joe Hall. William Nicholson's paternal grandmother was Lucinda Courtney, and Joe Hall's mother-in-law was Rebecca Ann Courtney;²⁷
 - Jesse R. Cole, Frank and Jesse James' maternal uncle, married Louisa E. Maret and they had a daughter named Bettie. Bettie Cole married James Courtney in Clay Co., Missouri. After James died she married Elias Albright.²⁸ Louisa's brother, John M. Maret, married Annie Jane Lucinda Courtney;²⁹
 - Thomas Edward "Bud" Pence and Alexander Doniphan "Donnie" Pence of Clay Co., Missouri rode with the James Gang. Their sister, America Lorena Pence, married James C. Courtney in Clay Co., Missouri;³⁰
 - A neighboring Courtney complimented Zerelda James Samuel's embroidery work saying, "Our family said that Jesse James' mother could do beautiful embroidery despite the loss of part of her arm, lost in the tragedy (bomb) at the time Jesse's little brother (Archie Samuel) was killed, 26 Jan. 1875. I was told she would place the fabric over the stub to do her stitches;"³¹
 - W.J. Courtney was a sheriff and attorney of Clay County, Missouri during Frank and Jesse's outlaw years. He was also in the same Home Guard unit as Frank James along with many other Courtney's.³² During the Civil War he was with General Joseph O. Shelby's Brigade³³ (Quantrill and his men often aligned themselves with Shelby's Brigade). W. J. Courtney owned/operated the Arthur House in Liberty, Missouri where Pinkerton Detective John W. Whicher was served his last meal on earth before being

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Miller, Wilrena Calvert, *The Courtney's of Clay County*, Pioneer Times, Vol. 10. NO. 1, January 1986.

Genealogy.com: James Family Genealogy Forum: Some interesting new info on the Courtney issue

Posted by: mv (ID *****9962) Date: October 03, 2008 at 12:36:43, Posting # 42112.

²⁸ Marriage Date: 05 Sep 1872; Name: James Courtney; Spouse: Bettie Cole; Officiator: Asa Bird; M. G. Date: 05 Dec 1872; Marriage Records of Clay County, Missouri, 1852-1900; Three Volumes, Volume II.

²⁹ RootsWeb's World Connect Project: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:3187753&id=I26112>, posted by Linda Kaye Cope Lanier.

³⁰ RootsWeb's World Connect Project: Entries: 30671 Updated: 2008-09-17 07:01:35 UTC (Wed) Contact: Laura: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=andercestry&id=P2611534640>

³¹ Miller, Wilrena Calvert, *The Courtney's of Clay County*, Pioneer Times, Vol. 10. NO. 1, January 1986.

³² Genealogy.com: James Family Forum: Frank & home guard Posted by: Bobby Date: December 10, 2003 at 15:17:16: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/james/messages/31877.html>.

³³ Lankford, Rose Mary, *The Encyclopedia of Quantrill's Guerrillas*

found dead the next morning on the road to the James Farm.³⁴ The James boys were accused of his murder;

- A document referred to as “A True Bill” regarding the Pinkerton bombing at the James/Samuel farm shows that W. J. Courtney was one of the witnesses: “B W Nowlin (signed) - Foreman of the Grand Jury; Horatio F. Simrall (signed) - prosecuting Attorney. WITNESSES: Samuel Hardwick; Silas Woodson; Theodore Reynolds; Daniel Askew; Reuben Samuels; Mrs. Adaline Askew; Mrs. Zarilda [Zerelda] Samuels; A. P. Cutter; Dr. Wm. J Yates; John Rucker; Dr. James V Scrugs; Wm J Courtney; Joel T. Allbright Esq.; Robert Harris; Abrams, ?; James Hall; Newton Emery; Baum; and Oscar Thomason;”³⁵
- Census records show that the real James L. Courtney lived in Johnson County, Missouri in 1860. Both the Clay County and Johnson County, Missouri Courtney’s are related to the James/Samuel family;³⁶
- On July 6, 1863 A. C. Courtney signed an affidavit along with two other neighbors, Mr. Larkin and Alvah Maret, and gave it to the Provost Marshal in Liberty, Missouri in an effort to obtain Dr. Samuel’s release from military prison;
- There are at least ten tombstones bearing the Courtney name in Kearney, Missouri’s Mt. Olivet Cemetery. One tombstone bears the name of James Courtney; and
- In a notarized affidavit Howard Smith Farmer said that he heard his Grandmother Vesta Farmer, born 1879, tell her brother John Miles that Jesse James was buried in Blevins Cemetery under the name of James L. Courtney;³⁷ and

Vesta Farmer was closely related to newspaper editor Garland R. Farmer, owner of the *Henderson Times* in Henderson, Texas. Garland Farmer’s aunt and uncle taught school at

³⁴ *Good Bye Jesse James*, A compilation of six major news articles that first appeared in the Kansas City Journal, 1882. Reprinted by Jack Wymore, owner of the Jesse James Bank in Liberty, Missouri, 1967.

³⁵ Courtesy of Carol Holmes.

³⁶ Vorwaller, Mildred Ames of Brigham City, Utah 84302, provided this information to Julia Ellen McGinnis Wilson from the Stafford Will and Parish records; Thomas Barbee's will date 8 Nov 1748; State Archives; Overwharton Parish Records by GeoSanford Harrison King; Fauquier Co Marriages for Barbee; Barbee Crossroads verifies Sarah Elizabeth Mason married 1. Andrew Barbee 2. Thomas James. It is through the Andrew Barbee line that James L Courtney family came out of and Thomas James line that Jesse Woodson James family came out of: <http://members.aol.com/BarbeeJK/>. Courtesy of Carol Holmes. Barbee Crossroads verifies Sarah Elizabeth Mason married 1. Andrew Barbee 2. Thomas James. It is through the Andrew Barbee line that James L Courtney family came out of and Thomas James line that Jesse Woodson James family came out of.

³⁷ June 1, 1999, Michelle Archie, Notary Public, State of Texas, Commission expires 10/15/2002. Affidavit may be viewed at www.jessejamesintexas.com.

James Madison Bedichek's famed Eddy Institute in Eddy, Texas. James M. Bedichek rode with Quantrill at the Lawrence Raid in Lawrence, Kansas.³⁸

All of the above information plus much more provides ample evidence that my great-grandfather was Jesse James instead of James L. Courtney, the name he lived and died by from 1871 through 1943 in Blevins, Texas.

Obviously others besides my family knew Jesse James was not shot dead by Bob Ford on April 3, 1882 and lived to be an old man in Texas before dying of natural causes on April 14, 1943. He lies at rest in Blevins Cemetery at Blevins Texas.

Thanks for your time and attention to this unpleasant matter. I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions please contact me at banditoutlaw13@aol.com.

Respectfully,

Betty Dorsett Duke

³⁸ U. S. Outlaws Forum: Re: The Signal's Listening Post....Floyd Chaplin.. March 26,1949 Posted by: Bob James (ID *****9749) Date: November 14, 2004 at 14:24:57 In Reply to: The Signal's Listening Post....Floyd Chaplin.. March 26,1949 by Linda McManus: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Eddy,Texas::outlaws::2119.html>

Thanks for your time and attention to this unpleasant matter. I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions please contact me at banditoutlaw13@aol.com.

Respectfully,

Betty Dorsett Duke