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Jesse James- FBI Files part three

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<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/usjusticematls/18>

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson _____ ()
 Mr. Nathan _____ ()
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ ()
 Mr. Clegg _____ ()
 Mr. Coffey _____ ()
 Mr. Crowl _____ ()
 Mr. Egan _____ ()
 Mr. Foxworth _____ ()
 Mr. Glavin _____ ()
 Mr. Harbo _____ ()
 Mr. Lester _____ ()
 Mr. McIntire _____ ()
 Mr. Nichols _____ ()
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____ ()
 Mr. Tracy _____ ()
 Secretary _____ ()
 _____ ()

See Me _____ ()
 Prepare Reply _____ ()
 For Your Information _____ ()
 Note and Return _____ ()
 File _____ ()

Remarks:

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

BMS:JCR

February 24, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

There is attached hereto an alleged authentic likeness in the form of a drawing of Jesse James, together with an article which appeared in the March, 1939 issue of the National Police Gazette, which is the first of a series of articles which deal with this notorious character.

This article relates that Hollywood producers, directors and would-be historians should bow their heads in shame at the production of the current picture "Jesse James".

It is noted that a mimeographed copy of the entire original article can be obtained from the editor of the National Police Gazette for the amount of 25¢. This complete article will be secured from the Police Gazette for inclusion in the Bureau Library at once.

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols

L. B. NICHOLS

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. McIntire	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

RECORDED

62-26471-13

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 8 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
NICHOLS

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

BMS:JC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 5, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Reference is made to the writer's memorandum of February 24, 1939, regarding the obtaining of photostatic copies of the original article on the "Life and Death of Jesse James," which appeared in the National Police Gazette on May 13, 1882.

Copies have been obtained, and one copy is attached hereto enclosed in a Library binder together with the story of Jesse James as it has appeared thus far in installment form in the Police Gazette during March, April and May, 1939. The other copy is attached hereto for the Director.

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols

L. B. Nichols

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. McIntire	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

1 ENCL. T
9 X
RECORDED
&
INDEXED
7/4/39

62-26471-13
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 8 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON
NICHOLS

Sep. 14, 1940.

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,

Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Washington, D. C

✓ Dear Sir:-

Is the old time ^DJessie James still alive? This week there was here in this place a man who claimed to be the original Jessie James. He exhibited himself at a picture show here.

I talked with him at a hotel here for over an hour, and he talked very convincingly that he was the original Jessie James of outlaw fame. He is an old man of 90 odd years old, and he talked like he was telling honest facts within his experience.

RECORDED & INDEXED

I never did dream that I would ever see Jessie James.

I know that you are in touch with all such, and I would be glad to hear from you about this, and thanking you.

SEP 16 1940

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

HENSON

ack 10-40
9-25-40
RCH

[REDACTED]

b6

RECORDED

62-26471-14

BMS:GJ
RCH:MWC

September 24, 1940

[REDACTED]
Piedmont, Alabama

b6

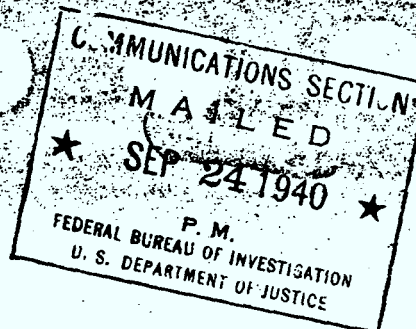
Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 14, 1940, and to advise that while I am unable to verify the information contained in your letter due to the fact the Federal Bureau of Investigation was not founded until 1908, other records indicate that this individual was killed on April 3, 1882.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



man
Root
5

[REDACTED]
Kinsey, Montana
March 10, 1949.

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of investigation
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I would like to know
if Jesse James the daring train
robber of a generation ago was
killed. If he was killed
who killed him. If he is alive
I would like to know his age
and where he is staying. Please
send the information I asked for.

RECORDED - 121

62-26471-15
194-5-34469

F B I
MAR 25 1949

Yours Truly,
[REDACTED]

Kinsey, Montana

RECORDED - 121

62-26471-15

INDEXED - 121

March 16, 1949

[REDACTED] b6
Kinsey, Montana

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 10, 1949, has been received. In response to your inquiry, the Encyclopaedia Britannica indicates that Jesse Woodson James, the notorious American outlaw, was born on September 5, 1847, in Clay County, Missouri. He became the leader of the "James band" of bank and train robbers in 1867, and as the result of a \$10,000 reward offered by Governor Crittenden of Missouri for his capture dead or alive, two members of his own band turned traitors and shot and instantly killed him in his home at St. Joseph, Missouri, April 3, 1882.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

DE-INDEXED
DATE: 1-4-57
13

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 7

MAR 14 1949 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 APR 5 1949

RECEIVED
MAR 16 6 07 PM '49
FBI
S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Court Decides 'Jessie' Ought To Be Ashamed

UNION, Mo., March 10 (AP).
A Missouri circuit judge today dismissed J. Frank Dalton's request to be known as Jesse Woodson James—the notorious outlaw of 70 years ago.

In ending a one-day hearing, Judge Ransom A. Breuer gave a crowded courtroom a brief oral sermon in home state pride. He said for 25 years in the last century the James gang went unapprehended and Missouri had become known as a place—

"Where criminals run at large and go unapprehended."

Judge's Advice

He said if the 102-year-old Dalton really is Jesse James let him "retreat to his rendezvous and ask his good God to forgive him."

If Dalton is not James, Judge Breuer added, he is "trying to perpetrate a fraud."

But, the 80-year-old judge said, "there is nothing for this court to pass on here."

Judge Breuer noted that Dalton's petition asked that his name be "changed" to Jesse Woodson James. But, the judge pointed out:

"If Dalton was James in the old days and has never had his name legally changed, it's impossible to change his name back to what he already had."

Several Support Claim

The white-haired old man feeble but cantankerous, claimed in court he was the real Jesse James. They brought him in on a stretcher.

History records that James was killed by a member of his own gang back in 1882.

Dalton asked the court to restore what he contends is his real name—Jesse Woodson James.

He had several old-timers to back him up, and one after another testified that he was Jesse, a man they personally knew back when he led a band of bank and train robbers.

Dalton broke his hip two years ago. That's why he was on a stretcher.

Jesse E. James of Los Angeles, who says he is the son of the outlaw, opposed Dalton's claim on the grounds that it was not made "in good faith and was prompted for the sole purpose of eliciting publicity for financial gain."

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

file

162-26471-A
NOT RECORDED
83 APR 20 1950

Page

Times-Herald B-35

Wash. Post _____

Wash. News _____

Wash. Star _____

N.Y. Mirror _____

58 APR 21 1950

Date: MAR 11 1950

Tolson ☒
 Ladd ☒
 Clegg ☒
 Glavin ☒
 Nichols ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Tracy ☒
 Harbo ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Nease ☒
 Gandy ☒

Court Rejects Name Plea of Jesse James

St. Louis, Mo., March 10 (AP)—A
 Missouri circuit judge dismissed
 today J. Frank Dalton's request to
 be known as Jesse Watson James,
 the notorious outlaw of 70 years
 ago.

Judge Ransom A. Breuer said
 for 25 years he has been calling the
 James gang men apprehended
 and Missouri became known as a
 place "where criminals run at
 large and go unapprehended."

He said if the 102-year-old Dal-
 ton really is Jesse James let him
 retreat to his rendezvous and ask
 his good God to forgive him. If
 Dalton is not James, Judge Breuer
 added, he is "trying to perpetrate a
 fraud." But the 80-year-old judge
 said, "there is nothing for this
 court to pass on here."

If Dalton was James in the old
 days and has never had his name
 legally changed, it's impossible to
 change his name back to what he
 already had, he said.

Three aged witnesses testified
 Dalton really was Jesse James.
 Jesse E. James, Los Angeles, as-
 perjured son of the outlaw, contested
 the action "to protect his name."
 He charged Dalton sought pub-
 licity for a camera where he is a
 tourist attraction.

162-26471-A
 NOT RECORDED

83 APR 20 1950

Page

Times-Herald _____
 Wash. Post 13 B
 Wash. News _____
 Wash. Star _____
 N.Y. Mirror _____
 Date: _____

56 APR 21 1950

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

Confidential

January 30, 1950

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

Re: J. Frank Dalton

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The enclosed petition was filed in the circuit court of Franklin County Missouri and Jesse E. James of Los Angeles, son of the historical Jesse, has retained me to represent him in the case.

Your department issued a news release about two years ago, as I recall, in which you stated that Jesse Woodson James had been found to be dead. Would you kindly advise me as to the basis upon which your findings were made. If you have any photostatic copies of any information of value, I shall be grateful for your assistance.

The Pinkerton Detective Agency handled the case in 1882 and I would like to locate their files. Can you render any assistance or give me any suggestions? I should also like to have any historical data upon J. Frank Dalton, the Oklahoma outlaw.

You will remember me as [REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

nlb
cc: Mrs. Jesse E. James

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/15/85 BY 9145 CE/MD

STATE OF MISSOURI }
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN }

SS.:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN AND
FOR SAID COUNTY OF FRANKLIN.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF
NAME OF J. FRANK DALTON

Case No. 1095

FILED
JAN. 9, 1950
9:00 A. M.
Edgar Barlag,
Circuit Clerk

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Comes now J. Frank Dalton and states to the Court that he desires that his name be changed to JESSE WOODSON JAMES and for grounds of this petition, states the following to wit:

My name is J. Frank Dalton and my residence is at Meramec Taverns, County of Franklin, State of Missouri.

During the course of my life, I have assumed various names, including that of J. Frank Dalton, by which I was known for over sixty years. My christened name, however, is Jesse Woodson James, and it is that name which I now petition this Honorable Court to leave to resume.

I am a citizen of the United States of America, having been born the son of Robert James, a Baptist minister, and Caroline, his wife, at Centerville, now Kearney, in the County of Clay, State of Missouri, on or about the 5th day of September, 1847. Thus, the weight of more than a century of years presses in upon me, a great and constant reminder that I have long passed my biblical quota of years. Death, however, cannot kill or destroy my name; that, at least, remains as man's intangible monument and epitaph.

Indeed, it often comprises the sum total of that which he leaves behind to mark the wake of a turbulent life.

Now, in my declining years, it is my purpose by this petition legally to resume the name of Jesse Woodson James, and by so doing, to prepare to leave this world under the same name with which I was christened at the time of my birth.

Of equal importance with the above stated purpose is my urgent desire to refute the claims in and to my property and estate which heretofore have been made by innumerable people who have wrongfully held themselves forth as my lawful heirs -- some of whom claim a bond through the mere accident of geographical proximity to me

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED 2-26471-16
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/15/85 BY 9445 csl/rus ch 253074

during the earlier years. By resuming my rightful name, I shall be able to protect and to defend my genuine descendants and to expose those persons who have made capital of my disappearance and have deprived my kin of their just rights and privileges.

Petitioner appreciates that this is not the occasion for a detailed presentation of facts in support and corroboration of my assertion that I am the original Jesse Woodson James. Natural incredulity to the assertion, however, requires a brief statement of the circumstances which led to my disappearance in the year 1882 and my life subsequent to that date.

History is incorrect in its reports that I died at St. Joseph, Missouri, on the 3rd day of April, 1882, at the gun of Rob Ford. The unfortunate victim of the shooting on that date was a man named Charlie Bigelow, who physically resembled me in many respects.

However, I took no steps to correct the general assumption indulged in by the public that the murdered man was I; and at that time I

ceased to be known and to hold myself forth as Jesse Woodson James, adopting instead the name of J. Frank Dalton.

Thereafter, I travelled extensively throughout the United States and South America. Many years later, I returned to this country and spent a considerable length of time in the State of Texas.

Far more than one year I have been living in the State of Missouri. I have become known again by my original name, Jesse Woodson James. My friends, associates and neighbors, and the people in the community where I now reside know me and identify me by the name of Jesse Woodson James. This application, therefore, is intended to defraud no one and will, in fact, deceive no one. Indeed, many of my acquaintances and associates of former years, such men as Colonel James R. Davis, formerly a Government Scout and intelligence agent in the Union Army of General George Crook; Mr. DeWitt Travis, of Longview, Texas, related to the famed Captain Travis, defender of the Alamo; Mr. Robert E. Lee, formerly associated with William F.

("Buffalo Bill") Cody -- and a host of others whose genuine and legendary exploits and careers are now a part of this nation's history, are still living, know me and have visited me since the establishment of my residence in the County of Franklin, State of Missouri, and address me as Jesse Woodson James.

Despite the fact that I realize full well that the disclosures which are made in this petition may place me in jeopardy, the dictates of my conscience are so strong that I am obliged to throw discretion to the four winds and to pray respectfully that this Court grant my petition and authorize me to resume the name of Jesse Woodson James.

The change of name herein prayed for will be proper and will not in any manner be detrimental to the interests of any other person or persons.

WHEREFORE, petitioner respectfully prays that this petition be granted in all respects, and that petitioner's name be changed from J. Frank Dalton to Jesse Woodson James.

Frank W. Jenny
Attorney for Petitioner
Union, Missouri

/s/ J. Frank Dalton

/s/ Jesse Woodson James
J. Frank Dalton

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

ss

J. Frank Dalton, being first duly sworn upon his oath states that the facts set forth in the above and foregoing petition are true in substance and in fact.

/s/ Althea Eldredge

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of January, 1950.
My Commission expires July 31, 1953.

(SEAL)

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSOURI }
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN } ss

I, Edgar Barlage, Clerk of the Circuit Court, within and for the County aforesaid, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true, full and complete copy of the Petition in the above entitled cause, as fully as the same appears on file in my office.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Circuit Court, at office in the City of Union, this 17th day of January, 1950.

/s/ Edgar Barlage
Circuit Clerk



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

PERSONAL

RECORDED

62-26471-16

February 6, 1950

INDEXED

Central Trust Building
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear [redacted]

Your letter dated January 30, 1950, with enclosure, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, you are advised that the FBI has not released a statement substantiating the date and place of the death of Jesse Woodson James. I also thought you would like to know that, since this Bureau was not founded until 1908, our files do not include contemporary data reported concerning Jesse Woodson James. For your further information, the FBI has no data available for distribution concerning J. Frank Dalton.

Frankly, I am unable to recommend sources of information to which you might refer for the desired data. It is suggested, however, that you may wish to consult historical reference works, and you may also wish to communicate directly with the headquarters of the detective agency which you mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 4
FEB 7 1950
COMM - FBI

NOTE: File 62-38875 and 62-26471 contain information concerning Jesse James and inquiries relative to his death. There is no record of a Bureau news release regarding the death of the oldtime outlaw.

ARA:mh:pg

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

53 FEB 27 1950 DATE 2/15/88 BY 9445 csl

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
FBI
JAN 31 1950

OFFICE OF

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

CLAYTON, MO.

8 Lemay 23, Mo.
April 21, 1950

(Please reply to my home address)

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover

Thank you very much for your fine letter of April 19, last, relative to [REDACTED]. This [REDACTED] was sentenced to Missouri State Prison in 1917 for bank robbery at Neosho, Mo., I believe it was, together with [REDACTED] and others. I was hoping that I would be able to match up this J. Frank Dalton, who claims to be the real Jesse James, with this man. However, it could not be as [REDACTED] was killed. Then I thought it might be [REDACTED] but that is neither here or there right now.

I am greatly interested in the notation of Jesse James, alias J. Frank Dalton. Is your record on the man now living at Stanton, Mo. or on another Jesse James, alias J. Frank Dalton? It is possible there were two Jesse James's? The Jesse Woodson James of Quantrill and Civil War fame was killed at St. Joseph in 1882, and this J. Frank Dalton at Stanton claims this was a frame-up, and that he is actually the Jesse James born in 1847, Sept. 5, at Kearney, Clay County, Mo. I find that your letter stated the Jesse James you refer to was born in Goliad, Texas. I am sorry I did not write you on out letterhead at the time of my first inquiry, as it would have prevented this delay. I have been a student of the James legend for many years, and am anxious to learn who this J. Frank Dalton at Stanton, Mo. really is. I certainly will appreciate it if you will allow me the benefits of your records on Jesse James, alias J. Frank Dalton, and also a set of prints and a photo, if at all possible.

Believe me, I appreciate your fine cooperation in this matter.

Kindest regards.

RECORDED - 14

INDEXED - 14

EX-1462-26471-17
Sincerely yours, [REDACTED] 1950

St. Louis Co., Mo.

6-
13-1

b6

5/2/50
One
AT

May 2, 1950

RECORDED - 14

EX-124

May 23, Missouri

Dear [REDACTED]

In compliance with your request of April 21, 1950, I am enclosing a copy of the fingerprints of Jesse James with alias, J. Frank Milton, who was born September 5, 1847, in Colind, Texas, and whose residence is indicated as Lawton, Oklahoma. These fingerprints were submitted by the Police Department, Lawton, Oklahoma, on May 21, 1948.

Our files contain no further information concerning the above mentioned person, and no photograph is available.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

PH:eg (mlp)

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Nease
- Gandy

RECEIVED

MAILED 17
MAY 3 1950
COMM - FBI

44
52 MAY 22 1950

RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
MAY 3 10 59 AM '50

Wm

W

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

San Bernardino, California
August 18th, 1964

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I don't want to take up too much of your time, so I will come right to the point. I would like to know two answers to two questions. If you could help me out in any way Mr. Hoover, in answering them.

The first question is: Was "Pretty Boy" Flord killed back in 1934? Since I have heard to sides to this story about "Pretty Boy" Flord, one was that he was kill by FBI's, the another that he lived and died in 1960, which is the true way in which "Pretty Boy" Flord died?

The another question is: Was J. Frank Dalton, the man claiming to be Jesse James in 1948, Jesse James? I have hear that the Lawton police reacted quickly to the story which came out in May, 1948. And that they sent his fingerprints and birth record to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington. I would like to know what the Federal Bureau of Investigation found out about this man, if it isn't too much to asked.

I have had people tell me that the Federal Bureau of Investigation don't give out that kind of information, but I told them that it wouldn't hunt to try to find out, those two questions. So this is why I have wrote to you Mr. Hoover. Hoping you can help in any way that you can. May God Bless and keep you always.

Yours truly,

San Bernardino, Calif. 66
Zip Code # 92408.

62 26471-
NOT RECORDED
145 SEP 1 1964

4 AUG 31 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

ack 8-26-64
nmcl
ET 7/56/64

ORIGINAL FILED IN

62-26471

August 27, 1964

San Bernardino, California 92408

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of August 18th has been received.

With respect to your first question, on October 22, 1964, "Pretty Boy" Floyd was located on a farm by Special Agents of the FBI and officers of the East Liverpool, Ohio, Police Department. Floyd elected to shoot it out and was mortally wounded while resisting Federal arrest.

In connection with your other inquiry, I would like to point out that our Identification Division operates by specific Congressional enactment and is a repository for identification data transmitted to it by law enforcement agencies. The FBI serves merely as a custodian of such data, and the records contained therein are considered to be the property of the agency which transmits the information. Consequently, this Bureau has no material available for distribution relative to the J. Frank Dalton you mentioned. You may be interested in knowing that encyclopedia references report that Jesse Woodson James was killed at St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1882.

Enclosed is some literature regarding our activities I hope you will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Enclosures (5)
EFT:jf (3)

See page 2.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI
REC'D-READING ROOM

AUG 27 10 26 AM '64

60 SEP 4 1964

62-26471

166
Mr. [REDACTED]

Enc.

The Story of the FBI

Know your... FBI

Cooperation--The Backbone of Effective Law Enforcement

Fingerprints--The Infallible Means of Personal Identification

The FBI Laboratory

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with correspondent.

The information concerning the death of "Pretty Boy" Floyd was taken from the notes in "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead. The information concerning the claim of J. Frank Dalton to be Jesse James is contained in Bufile 62-26471. This file indicates that Dalton filed a petition in January, 1950, in the State of Missouri to change his name to Jesse Woodson James, claiming he was the real Jesse James, the notorious outlaw. This case was dismissed by a Missouri circuit court judge on the grounds that if Dalton was James in the old days and had never had his name legally changed, it was impossible to change his name back to the one he had already had. The outlaw's son contested Dalton's action, charged that Dalton sought publicity as a tourist attraction. The fingerprints of Jesse James, with alias, J. Frank Dalton, were submitted by the Lawton, Oklahoma, Police Department on 5-21-48. This fingerprint card showed that Dalton was born September 5, 1847, at Goliad, Texas.

Encyclopedia references show that Jesse Woodson James was born at Centerville, (now Kearney) Missouri, in 1847, and that he died at St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1882.

Mr. Hoover

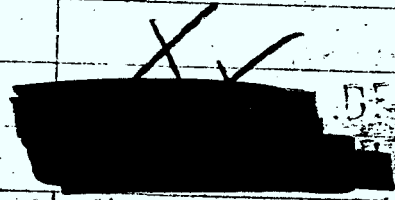
C
ph
oc
st.

We are the boys that have a
lot to say. You have heard of ^{JESSIE} ~~James~~
James the bandit and outlaw of
the old days. We are sure we know
of his present home. He is a very
important person. If we are right
we worry we wish you would not
say anything if we were saying we mean
be the biggest fools in America. If you
are interested put in the Personal
section of the morning paper of Jackson
Florida. Put me at the U.S.P. of Justice
office Hoover

P.S.

We are sure we are right
Please keep quiet

b7c



DEC 17 1935

NOV 20 1935

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-38875-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 18 1935 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JOSEPH <i>My</i>	FILE

COPIES DESTROYED
20 OCT 6 1964

no him missing

My

11-20-35

17/12/35
J. R. *My*

Hum

RT:TD

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

62-58878- /

December 12, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
John D. Rockefeller, Victim;
EXTORTION.

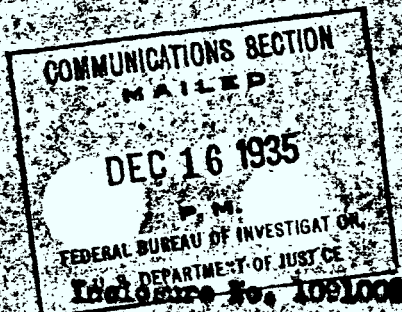
Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copies of two undated anonymous communications addressed to Mr. Rockefeller, postmarked October 23, 1935 and November 1935 which are self-explanatory. There is also enclosed herewith a photostatic copy of an undated communication addressed to the Director with the typewritten signatures of [redacted] in which the name of Jesse James appears, as in the letters received by Mr. Rockefeller. b7c

It is believed that [redacted] are responsible for the two letters addressed to Mr. Rockefeller and it is desired that you immediately ascertain whether, in fact, such named persons reside in Jacksonville, Florida. If so, they should be interviewed and an effort made to secure their admissions that they are responsible for the writing of these letters and, in addition thereto, they should be instructed in the event they write similar letters in the future, legal steps will be taken against them.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



cc-New York

Eugene
RECEIVED
DEC 15 1935

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Room 1403
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

RW:PS
9-156

December 9, 1935.

10
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER - Victim
Extortion

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith copies of letter dated December 5, 1935, addressed to me by [REDACTED] Room 5600 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. [REDACTED] Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. I am also enclosing the two original letters and envelopes and photostatic copies of same, which accompanied [REDACTED] communication.

[REDACTED] advises that these letters were addressed to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Sr., at Ormond Beach, Florida, and same were forwarded from there to the office of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in New York. At the time of my telephone conversation with [REDACTED] concerning these letters, I advised him that they did not appear to constitute a Federal violation within the jurisdiction of this Bureau.

The letters have been handled by numerous persons.

I will maintain contact with [REDACTED] for the purpose of ascertaining whether any further letters are received, but no further action will be taken by the New York Office in connection with this particular matter in the absence of instructions.

Very truly yours,

R. WHITLEY
Special Agent in Charge

DEC 20 1935

RECORDED & INDEXED

cc: Jacksonville (with encl.)

62-37875-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 11 1935 P.M.
EDWARDS
LABORATORY
ONE