

jesse james and the coward

jesse james and the coward is a phrase that often evokes curiosity and intrigue, blending the legendary outlaw Jesse James with a mysterious figure known as "the coward." While Jesse James is widely celebrated as one of America's most infamous outlaws, the story of "the coward" remains shrouded in myth, legend, and debate. This article delves deeply into the intertwined tales of Jesse James and the elusive figure known as the coward, exploring their historical contexts, key events, and the enduring legacy that surrounds them. Whether you're a history buff, a fan of Western lore, or simply curious about these figures, this comprehensive guide aims to shed light on their stories and significance.

Who Was Jesse James?

Jesse James, born in 1847 in Missouri, became one of the most notorious outlaws of the American Old West. His life was marked by a series of daring robberies, violent confrontations, and a complex personal history that has fascinated historians and the public for over a century.

Early Life and Background

- Born in Clay County, Missouri, Jesse James was the son of Robert James and Zerelda Cole.
- Grew up during the tumultuous years of the Civil War, which heavily influenced his worldview.
- His family was known for supporting the Confederate cause, which led Jesse to participate in guerrilla warfare against Union forces.

Rise to Infamy

- Jesse and his brother Frank James initially fought as guerrillas during the Civil War, participating in raids and ambushes.
- After the war, Jesse turned to outlaw activities, including train robberies, bank heists, and stagecoach robberies.
- His daring escapes and charismatic persona made him a Robin Hood-like figure among some communities, although others saw him as a ruthless criminal.

Key Events in Jesse James' Life

1. The First Bank Robbery (1869): Jesse's first known bank robbery in Gallatin, Missouri.
2. The Northfield Raid (1876): A failed attempt to rob a bank in Northfield, Minnesota, which resulted in Jesse being wounded and many gang members killed or captured.
3. The Pinkerton Chase: Law enforcement agencies, especially the Pinkerton Detective Agency, relentlessly pursued Jesse James, leading to numerous confrontations.
4. Death and Legend: Jesse James was shot and killed by Robert Ford in 1882, a betrayal that cemented his legend.

The Myth and Reality of Jesse James

Jesse James's life story is a mixture of fact and fiction, often romanticized in popular culture.

Jesse James as a Robin Hood Figure

Many believed Jesse robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, although historical evidence for this is limited. His reputation was boosted by:

- Propaganda from sympathizers.
- The romanticization of his daring exploits.
- His ability to evade capture for years.

The Reality Behind the Legend

- Jesse was involved in violent crimes that caused suffering and loss of life.
- His criminal activities were driven by personal motives, revenge, and survival.
- The myth of the Robin Hood figure has been challenged by historians who emphasize his brutality.

Legacy of Jesse James

Despite debates over his morality, Jesse James remains a symbol of rebellion, frontier justice, and the American outlaw mythos. His story has been retold in countless books, movies, and folklore, cementing his place in American cultural history.

The Mysterious Figure of the Coward

While Jesse James's exploits are well-documented, the figure known as "the coward" remains less clear. Some historical accounts and legends suggest a character who either betrayed Jesse or was regarded as a fearful traitor.

Who Was "the Coward"?

- Historically, "the coward" is thought to be an alias for a traitor or a cowardly associate within Jesse James's gang.
- Some stories depict "the coward" as a double agent, secretly working with law enforcement.
- Others believe "the coward" was a nickname for a specific individual who betrayed Jesse James leading to his death.

The Role of "the Coward" in Jesse James's Story

- Alleged betrayal by "the coward" led to Jesse James's death at the hands of Robert Ford.
- Ford, himself a member of the James gang, was called "the coward" by Jesse James, who saw him as a treacherous traitor.
- The betrayal exemplifies themes of loyalty, treachery, and the perilous life of outlaws.

Legend vs. History: The Truth About "the Coward"

- The identity of "the coward" remains disputed among historians.
- Some argue "the coward" was a myth or a symbolic figure representing betrayal.
- Others suggest real individuals who played roles in Jesse James's downfall.

The Betrayal and Death of Jesse James

The story of Jesse James's death is one of the most famous betrayals in American outlaw history.

The Final Confrontation

- Jesse James was shot in 1882 by Robert Ford, a member of his gang who sought fame and reward.
- Ford's act was motivated by a desire for recognition and the promise of a reward offered by the Missouri governor.
- Jesse James's death marked the end of an era but also cemented his legend.

Impact of the Betrayal

- The betrayal by Ford exemplifies the theme of treachery associated with "the coward."
- Jesse's death was widely sensationalized, fueling myths and stories about his life.
- Ford was vilified as a traitor, further blurring the lines between hero and villain.

Legacy of Jesse James's Death

- Jesse James became a martyr figure in some circles.
- His death prompted numerous conspiracy theories and legends about his possible survival.
- The story continues to inspire movies, books, and folklore.

The Cultural Legacy of Jesse James and the Myth of the

Coward

The stories of Jesse James and "the coward" have left a profound mark on American culture.

In Popular Culture

- Numerous films depict Jesse James as a Robin Hood-like hero.
- Literature and folklore have romanticized his outlaw persona.
- The betrayal by "the coward" is often explored as a cautionary tale about loyalty and treachery.

Historical Interpretations

- Historians debate Jesse James's role as a hero or villain.
- The figure of "the coward" remains elusive, symbolizing betrayal and treachery.
- Modern scholarship aims to separate myth from reality, revealing a more nuanced picture.

Why the Story Continues to Fascinate

- The themes of loyalty, betrayal, bravery, and cowardice resonate universally.
- Jesse James embodies the rebellious spirit of the American frontier.
- The story of "the coward" adds an element of mystery and intrigue, keeping audiences captivated.

Conclusion: Jesse James and the Coward — Legends and Lessons

The saga of Jesse James and the mysterious figure of "the coward" encapsulates the complex tapestry of American frontier history. Jesse James's life, marked by daring exploits and tragic betrayal, exemplifies the enduring allure of the outlaw myth. Meanwhile, the figure known as "the coward" serves as a reminder of the destructive power of treachery and fear in the perilous world of outlaws and lawmen.

Understanding their stories offers valuable lessons about loyalty, morality, and the blurred lines between heroism and villainy. As legends continue to evolve through books, movies, and folklore, Jesse James and "the coward" remain symbols of America's wild, tumultuous past.

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- Jesse James
- Jesse James biography
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- Jesse James and Robert Ford
- Outlaws of the American West
- American frontier legends
- Jesse James myths and facts
- Betrayal of Jesse James
- Jesse James folklore
- Western outlaw stories

If you'd like more specific details or a focus on a certain aspect, feel free to ask!

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Jesse James in relation to the story of 'Jesse James and the Coward'?

Jesse James is a legendary outlaw known for his bank and train robberies in the American Old West, often depicted in stories involving themes of bravery and cowardice.

What is the main theme of 'Jesse James and the Coward'?

The story explores themes of courage, betrayal, and redemption, focusing on Jesse James's encounters with a character portrayed as a coward.

Is 'Jesse James and the Coward' based on a true story or is it fictional?

It's a fictional story inspired by the legendary figure of Jesse James, incorporating themes of heroism and cowardice in a dramatized narrative.

Who are the main characters in 'Jesse James and the Coward'?

The main characters include Jesse James, the notorious outlaw, and a character representing cowardice, whose interactions drive the story's conflict.

What lessons can be learned from 'Jesse James and the Coward'?

The story teaches lessons about bravery, the consequences of fear, and the importance of standing up for oneself in difficult situations.

How does the character of the coward influence the plot of 'Jesse James and the Coward'?

The coward's actions and decisions create tension and conflict, ultimately challenging Jesse James's reputation and highlighting themes of courage.

Has 'Jesse James and the Coward' been adapted into any films or plays?

As of now, 'Jesse James and the Coward' remains a popular story in literature and has inspired various adaptations in theater and film.

What is the historical significance of Jesse James depicted in the story?

Jesse James is portrayed as a symbol of the outlaw spirit of the American West, though the story adds fictional elements to explore moral themes.

Are there any modern interpretations or reviews of 'Jesse James and the Coward'?

Yes, contemporary audiences often analyze the story for its moral lessons and its portrayal of heroism versus cowardice in American folklore.

Where can I find 'Jesse James and the Coward' to read or watch?

The story can be found in anthologies of Western fiction, online literary archives, or adapted into films and theatrical productions available through various media platforms.

Additional Resources

Jesse James and the Coward: A Deep Dive into Myth, Legacy, and Misconception

The figure of Jesse James has long captivated American folklore, embodying the archetype of the outlaw rebel who defied authority and challenged the status quo in the tumultuous aftermath of the Civil War. Yet, intertwined with his legend is a complex narrative often overshadowed by myths and misconceptions, especially surrounding accusations of cowardice or treachery. The phrase "Jesse James and the coward" evokes a provocative juxtaposition—one that prompts a nuanced exploration into his life, the authenticity of such claims, and what they reveal about American cultural memory.

Understanding Jesse James: The Legend and the Man

The Origins of Jesse James's Infamy

Jesse Woodson James was born in 1847 in Missouri, a region rife with division and violence following the Civil War. His early years were marked by the upheaval of war and the personal loss of his mother, which, coupled with his upbringing in a fiercely divided community, set the stage for his later life as an outlaw.

Jesse and his brother Frank became notorious for their bank and train robberies, which they conducted with a combination of daring and strategic planning. Their operations spanned Kansas, Missouri, and neighboring states, making them the most famous figures of the so-called "Wild West" outlaw era.

The core of Jesse James's legend lies not only in his criminal exploits but also in his symbolic role as a Robin Hood figure to some. Many Southerners viewed him as a hero fighting against Northern oppression, romanticizing his defiance of federal authority.

The Heroic Myth vs. Reality

While popular culture often paints Jesse James as a charismatic rebel, historical records reveal a more complicated picture. He was involved in violent crimes, including murders, and his actions resulted in genuine suffering for victims and their families.

The mythos around Jesse James often glosses over these darker aspects, emphasizing his supposed sense of justice, loyalty to the South, and anti-establishment stance. This romanticized version has persisted through books, movies, and folklore, sometimes overshadowing the more nuanced realities of his life.

The Accusation of Cowardice: Origins and Contexts

Where Does the "Coward" Label Come From?

The term "coward" in relation to Jesse James is not a widely accepted historical attribution but rather a narrative that has appeared in some accounts, possibly as a way to discredit or tarnish his reputation. Several factors contribute to this perception:

- Betrayal and Informers: Jesse James was betrayed by some associates and informers, leading to questions about his loyalty and bravery. Notably, Robert Ford, who assassinated Jesse in 1882, was branded a coward by some contemporaries due to his treachery.

- The Shootout at the Ford Farm: The circumstances surrounding Jesse's death—shot from behind by Robert Ford—highlight themes of betrayal and perceived cowardice, contrasting with his earlier daring robberies.
- Public Perception and Media Narratives: Sensationalist journalism and popular stories sometimes depicted Jesse James as a coward for retreating or acting in ways deemed unheroic, especially in moments of vulnerability.

Analyzing the Evidence: Was Jesse James Truly a Coward?

From a historical standpoint, labeling Jesse James as a coward is problematic and arguably unjustified. It hinges on subjective interpretations of bravery, loyalty, and morality.

Counterarguments include:

- Daring Robberies: Jesse James's willingness to face law enforcement and engage in risky pursuits demonstrates courage.
- Resilience in the Face of Capture: Despite numerous attempts to apprehend him, he repeatedly evaded authorities, showcasing resilience rather than cowardice.
- Complex Motivations: His actions were often driven by political and social motivations rooted in post-war grievances, complicating moral judgments.

Counterpoints that may suggest moments of perceived cowardice:

- Betrayal and the Death of Jesse James: His assassination was orchestrated by Robert Ford, who betrayed Jesse for monetary gain. Some interpret Ford's act as a cowardly act of treachery, not Jesse's own character.
- Retreats and Surrenders: There are instances where Jesse James chose to retreat or surrender, which some might interpret as signs of weakness; however, these can also be understood as strategic choices or responses to overwhelming odds.

The Legacy of Jesse James: Myth, Memory, and Misconception

The Cultural Impact and Mythologization

Jesse James's story has been mythologized extensively, transforming him from a criminal into a Robin Hood-esque hero in American popular culture. Films like *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (2007) explore themes of heroism, betrayal, and myth-making.

His legacy reflects broader themes of American identity—rebellion, individualism, and anti-authoritarianism—often romanticized to serve narratives of rugged independence.

Historical Reassessment

Recent scholarship seeks to demystify Jesse James, emphasizing the violence and moral ambiguity of his life. Historians point out that:

- The romantic image of Jesse James often ignores the suffering of his victims.
- His motivations were complex, blending personal grievances with political sympathies.
- The “coward” accusations lack substantive evidence and are likely projections influenced by his enemies or media narratives.

The Role of Media and Popular Culture

Media representations have played a significant role in shaping Jesse James’s image. Hollywood films, novels, and songs have amplified his legend, often emphasizing his rebellious persona while downplaying the violent realities of his actions.

The portrayal of Robert Ford as a “coward” for killing Jesse has also contributed to a dichotomy, framing Jesse as a hero betrayed by a cowardly betrayer. This narrative complicates moral judgments and feeds into the mythic dimensions of his story.

Conclusion: Reassessing Jesse James and the Notion of Cowardice

The discussion surrounding Jesse James and the coward reveals the importance of critical historical analysis when examining legendary figures. While Jesse James’s daring exploits and resistance to authority are undeniable, the label of cowardice appears more as a product of myth and narrative framing than an objective truth.

His life exemplifies how heroism and villainy are often intertwined, shaped by cultural perceptions and storytelling. Recognizing the complexities of his character encourages a more nuanced understanding of American history, where figures like Jesse James serve as mirrors reflecting societal values, fears, and myths.

In the end, Jesse James remains a symbol—of rebellion, of violence, and of the enduring power of storytelling to elevate or diminish a figure’s legacy. The question of cowardice, therefore, is less about Jesse James himself and more about how societies remember, interpret, and mythologize their past.

In summary:

- Jesse James's legend is rooted in daring criminal acts and symbolic rebellion.
- Accusations of cowardice lack substantial historical evidence and are often based on betrayal or media narratives.
- His death at the hands of Robert Ford highlights themes of treachery rather than cowardice.
- The mythologization of Jesse James continues to influence American cultural narratives, emphasizing heroism while often obscuring the darker truths.
- A balanced historical perspective reveals a complex figure whose legacy is as much about myth-making as it is about reality.

Understanding Jesse James requires disentangling myth from fact, recognizing that perceptions of bravery and cowardice are shaped by storytelling as much as by actions. His story remains a compelling testament to the power of legend in shaping national identity and collective memory.

[Jesse James And The Coward](#)

jesse james and the coward: *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* Ron Hansen, 2013-05-28 A powerful novel of the infamous Western outlaw and his killer: "The best blend of fiction and history I've read in a long while" (John Irving). By age thirty-four, Jesse James was already one of the most notorious and admired men in America. Bank robber, train bandit, gang leader, killer, and beloved son of Missouri—James's many epithets live on in newspapers and novels alike. As his celebrity was reaching its apex, James met Robert Ford, the brother of a James gang member—an awkward, antihero-worshipping twenty-year-old with stars in his eyes. The young man's fascination with the legend borders on jealous obsession: While Ford wants to ride alongside James as his most-trusted confidant, sharing his spotlight is not enough. As a bond forms between the two men, Ford realizes that the only way he'll ever be as powerful as his idol is to become him; he must kill James and take his mantle. In the striking novel that inspired the film of the same name starring Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck, bestselling author Ron Hansen retells a classic Wild West story that has long captured the nation's imagination, and breathes new life into the final days and ignoble death of an iconic American man.

jesse james and the coward: *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* Ron Hansen, 1984-11-01 Portrays the skittish younger brother of a James gang member whose fascination with Jesse James grew to a fierce desire to become the legendary outlaw

jesse james and the coward: **Jesse James** Adam Woog, 2014-01-07 Notorious for his widely publicized bank and train robberies, Jesse James will forever be known as the American outlaw and gang leader. James began his infamous career during the Civil War, as part of a group of Confederate guerrilla fighters in his native state of Missouri. But as the war ended, James turned his life toward crime and soon became a man on the run from the law. Joined by his older brother, Frank, and another set of brothers, James became one of the leaders of the famous James-Younger gang. As a group, these bandits ruled the West, terrorizing banks, stagecoaches, and railroads. Although James was feverishly hunted, he was never taken prisoner by US law enforcement. Instead, his career as an American outlaw was cut short when he was betrayed and murdered by a member of his own gang: Robert Ford. Already a celebrity when he was alive, Jesse James became a legend after his unforeseen death. With exciting text, vivid photos, and historical relics, Jesse James, part of the Wild West for Kids series, teaches kids why this one outlaw still fascinates people more than a

century later!

jesse james and the coward: *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* Andrew Dominik, 2005

jesse james and the coward: Jesse James Jeff Burlingame, 2010-03-01 Discusses the life of Jesse James, including his childhood, the James-Younger gang, the many robberies he committed, his murder, and his legacy in American history--Provided by publisher.

jesse james and the coward: *Jesse James and the Movies* Johnny D. Boggs, 2014-01-10 This illustrated filmography analyzes the plots and players of the more than forty motion pictures about the legendary Missouri outlaw Jesse James (1847-1882), from the silent era to the 21st century. Among the films and actors covered are Jesse James (1939) with Tyrone Power, Kansas Raiders (1950) with Audie Murphy, The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid (1972) with Robert Duvall, and The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) with Brad Pitt. Each evaluation compares Hollywood's version of history to the hard facts. A brief biography of the outlaw provides an overview of his life and career. Also examined are European films, made-for-television movies and continuing TV series that have featured episodes involving Jesse James.

jesse james and the coward: *Jesse James* Tim Cooke, 2015-12-15 Jesse James's rise as a notorious outlaw was concurrent with the upheaval the West experienced before, during, and after the American Civil War. In fact, Jesse and his brother Frank became heroes to many who viewed them as Confederates battling the Union more than murderers and thieves. This thought-provoking volume tells the story of Jesse, from childhood to violent death, as well as relates valuable information about events in the United States that cultivated outlaws like the James brothers, including Bleeding Kansas and Reconstruction. The infamous man comes to life through photographs, illustrations, and an exciting narrative.

jesse james and the coward: The American West on Film Johnny D. Boggs, 2019-11-15 More than a history of Western movies, The American West on Film intertwines film history, the history of the American West, and American social history into one unique volume. The American West on Film chronicles 12 Hollywood motion pictures that are set in the post-Civil War American West, including The Ox-Bow Incident, Red River, High Noon, The Searchers, The Magnificent Seven, Little Big Man, and Tombstone. Each film overview summarizes the movie's plot, details how the film came to be made, the critical and box-office reactions upon its release, and the history of the time period or actual event. This is followed by a comparison and contrast of the filmmakers' version of history with the facts, as well as an analysis of the film's significance, then and now. Relying on contemporary accounts and historical analysis as well as perspectives from filmmakers, historians, and critics, the author describes what it took to get each movie made and how close to the historical truth the movie actually got. Readers will come away with a better understanding of how movies often reflect the time in which they were made, and how Westerns can offer provocative social commentary hidden beneath old-fashioned shoot-em-ups.

jesse james and the coward: *Long Steel Rail* Norm Cohen, 2000 Impeccable scholarship and lavish illustration mark this landmark study of American railroad folksong. Norm Cohen provides a sweeping discussion of the human aspects of railroad history, railroad folklore, and the evolution of the American folksong. The heart of the book is a detailed analysis of eighty-five songs, from John Henry and The Wabash Cannonball to Hell-Bound Train and Casey Jones, with their music, sources, history, variations, and discographies. A substantial new introduction updates this edition.

jesse james and the coward: *Is Harpo Free?* Matthew Cipa, 2024-04-01 Examines how philosophical concepts like free will, personal identity, and goodness are given an artistic life in films and television programs. Is Harpo Free? is a lively appreciation of film and television's ability to artistically explore concepts typical of philosophical metaphysics, such as free will, causality, and personal identity. Rather than using films and television programs as vehicles for philosophical arguments, the book instead celebrates the artistic ways in which they give life to various metaphysical concepts and how the artistic expression of these concepts and ideas helps us understand ourselves, the world, and our place within it. Through close analysis of a varied selection

of works and their use of narrative, form, and style, *Is Harpo Free?* exemplifies a novel approach to appreciating the philosophical substance of films and television programs. Films and television programs discussed include *A Night at the Opera*; *Run, Lola, Run*; *Shane*; *Harvey*; *Three Colours: Blue*; *The Americans*; *Dark*; and *Fargo*.

jesse james and the coward: *Hear My Sad Story* Richard Polenberg, 2015-12-07 In 2015, Bob Dylan said, I learned lyrics and how to write them from listening to folk songs. And I played them, and I met other people that played them, back when nobody was doing it. Sang nothing but these folk songs, and they gave me the code for everything that's fair game, that everything belongs to everyone. In *Hear My Sad Story*, Richard Polenberg describes the historical events that led to the writing of many famous American folk songs that served as touchstones for generations of American musicians, lyricists, and folklorists. Those events, which took place from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries, often involved tragic occurrences: murders, sometimes resulting from love affairs gone wrong; desperate acts borne out of poverty and unbearable working conditions; and calamities such as railroad crashes, shipwrecks, and natural disasters. All of Polenberg's account of the songs in the book are grounded in historical fact and illuminate the social history of the times. Reading these tales of sorrow, misfortune, and regret puts us in touch with the dark but terribly familiar side of American history. On Christmas 1895 in St. Louis, an African American man named Lee Shelton, whose nickname was Stack Lee, shot and killed William Lyons in a dispute over seventy-five cents and a hat. Shelton was sent to prison until 1911, committed another murder upon his release, and died in a prison hospital in 1912. Even during his lifetime, songs were being written about Shelton, and eventually 450 versions of his story would be recorded. As the song—you may know Shelton as Stagolee or Stagger Lee—was shared and adapted, the emotions of the time were preserved, but the fact that the songs described real people, real lives, often fell by the wayside. Polenberg returns us to the men and women who, in song, became legends. The lyrics serve as valuable historical sources, providing important information about what had happened, why, and what it all meant. More important, they reflect the character of American life and the pathos elicited by the musical memory of these common and troubled lives.

jesse james and the coward: *The A to Z of Westerns in Cinema* Paul Varner, 2009-09-28 When the earliest filmgoers watched *The Great Train Robbery* in 1903, many of them shrieked in terror at the very last clip when one of the outlaws turns directly toward the camera and fires a gun, seemingly, directly at the audience. The puff of smoke was sudden and it was hand colored so that it looked real. Today, we can look back at that primitive movie and see all the elements of what would evolve into the Western genre. Perhaps it is the Western's early origins—*The Great Train Robbery* was the first narrative, commercial movie—or its formulaic yet entertaining structure that has made the Western so popular. Whatever the case may be, with the recent success of films like *3:10 to Yuma* and *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, the Western appears to be in no danger of disappearing. The story of the western is told in *The A to Z of Westerns in Cinema* through a chronology, a bibliography, and an introductory essay. However, it is the hundreds of cross-referenced dictionary entries on cinematographers; composers; producers; films like *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *Dances With Wolves*, *The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly*, *High Noon*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *The Searchers*, *Tombstone*, and *Unforgiven*; such actors as Gene Autry, Kirk Douglas, Clint Eastwood, Henry Fonda, James Stewart, and John Wayne; and directors like John Ford and Sergio Leone that will have you reaching for this book again and again.

jesse james and the coward: *Jesse's Lineage* Jennifer L. Koosed, Robert Seesengood, 2013-05-09 *Jesse's Lineage* explores the interconnections between David, Jesus, and Jesse James. All three of these figures evoked complicated and conflicted reactions from their contemporaries - considered criminals by some, saviors by others. David lives the life of a bandit while on the run from Saul; Jesus dies the death of a bandit alongside other bandits; Jesse James is the paragon of the bandit in the American West and yet his life and death is also understood in biblical terms. Iron Age Judah, Roman Galilee, and Reconstruction era Missouri alike invoke the context of colonial territories and areas of resistance. Such contexts give birth to bandits, the heroes of the subaltern.

After their deaths, David, Jesus, and Jesse James live on through equally complicated and conflicted textual, ritual, and cultural memories. Their stories intertwine through reference and allusion as Jesus' mission is understood in terms of David's promise, and Jesse's death is understood in terms of Jesus' betrayal. The biography of each figure is further complicated by the processes of folk memory and oral transmission.

jesse james and the coward: Music in the Western Kathryn Kalinak, 2012-05-22 *Music in the Western: Notes from the Frontier* presents essays from both film studies scholars and musicologists on core issues in western film scores: their history, their generic conventions, their operation as part of a narrative system, their functioning within individual filmic texts and their ideological import, especially in terms of the western's construction of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity. The Hollywood western is marked as uniquely American by its geographic setting, prototypical male protagonist and core American values. *Music in the Western* examines these conventions and the scores that have shaped them. But the western also had a resounding international impact, from Europe to Asia, and this volume distinguishes itself by its careful consideration of music in non-Hollywood westerns, such as *Ravenous* and *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* and in the "easterns" which influenced them, such as *Yojimbo*. Other films discussed include *Wagon Master*, *High Noon*, *Calamity Jane*, *The Big Country*, *The Unforgiven*, *Dead Man*, *Wild Bill*, *There Will Be Blood* and *No Country for Old Men*. Contributors Ross Care Corey K. Creekmur Yuna de Lannoy K. J. Donnelly Caryl Flinn Claudia Gorbman Kathryn Kalinak Charles Leinberger Matthew McDonald Peter Stanfield Mariana Whitmer Ben Winters *The Routledge Music and Screen Media Series* offers edited collections of original essays on music in particular genres of cinema, television, video games and new media. These edited essay collections are written for an interdisciplinary audience of students and scholars of music and film and media studies.

jesse james and the coward: Pop Culture Places Gladys L. Knight, 2014-08-11 This three-volume reference set explores the history, relevance, and significance of pop culture locations in the United States—places that have captured the imagination of the American people and reflect the diversity of the nation. *Pop Culture Places: An Encyclopedia of Places in American Popular Culture* serves as a resource for high school and college students as well as adult readers that contains more than 350 entries on a broad assortment of popular places in America. Covering places from Ellis Island to Fisherman's Wharf, the entries reflect the tremendous variety of sites, historical and modern, emphasizing the immense diversity and historical development of our nation. Readers will gain an appreciation of the historical, social, and cultural impact of each location and better understand how America has come to be a nation and evolved culturally through the lens of popular places. Approximately 200 sidebars serve to highlight interesting facts while images throughout the book depict the places described in the text. Each entry supplies a brief bibliography that directs students to print and electronic sources of additional information.

jesse james and the coward: American Stories Paul Aron, 2020-08-01 *American Stories* follows the evolution of our founding stories and myths and how they spread far and wide throughout our history. The story of the cherry tree, for example, tells us nothing about George Washington's actual childhood, but surely it tells us something about what Americans wanted in the father of their country—an incorruptible leader of the people. Along the same lines, the story of Betsy Ross's flag tells us nothing about how the Stars and Stripes came to be, but does tell us something about what Americans wanted in a founding mother—it is no coincidence that the Ross story, featuring a traditional woman's role of sewing at home, was first told in 1870, one year after Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony challenged these roles by founding the National Woman Suffrage Association. There's another reason these stories spread, and that provides another reason to follow their evolution. From *Dodge City* to *Deadwood*, and from Bunker Hill to San Juan Hill and beyond, these stories all have one thing in common: they are all a lot of fun to read.

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novels of the early 20th century, through the serials of the silent era and the mid-century classics of John Ford and John Wayne, to the recent award-winning revisionist works, like *Unforgiven* and *No Country for Old Men*, that provide a more complex and nuanced take on history of the West. Perhaps more than any other pop culture genre, the Western allows us to view how Americans have seen themselves over the last 150 years. Build a foundational understanding of the genre with 5 introductory essays, exploring the development of the Western Mythos in the traditional Western, the heyday of the traditional Western in the post-WWII period, revisionist Westerns and the counterculture, race and identity, and the Western outside of the USA. Close to 100 encyclopedia entries examine one or more movies or television programs and show how their creation and plots demonstrate the overall evolution of the genre. Easily compare films and TV programs – from early genre favorites such as *Gunsmoke* to more recent releases like *Django Unchained* – with essential facts boxes accompanying each entry, with information on the director, studio, key actors, and box office receipts.

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