

# James Gang Resolution (SC161)

## *Introduction*

This collection contains a resolution passed by the Common Council of the City of Kansas (now known as Kansas City). Following the death of Jesse James, the resolution commends Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden, Kansas City Police Commissioner Henry H. Craig, and Clay County Sheriff James Timberlake “for breaking up and so nearly destroying the notorious Jesse James Band of outlaws.”

## *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: Common Council of the City of Kansas  
Title: James Gang Resolution  
Date: April 28, 1882  
Size: 1.33 linear feet, 2 oversize folders  
Collection Number: SC161

## *Donor Information*

Purchased, 2013, MVR Club.

## *Citation Note*

James Gang Resolution (SC161), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## *Administrative Information*

Access restrictions: Photocopies are available for use. Originals may be viewed by appointment only.

Related Collections: Additional information on Jesse James, the James Gang, and other outlaws may be found in the Missouri Valley Special Collections local history collections.

## *Biographical/Historical Sketch*

Between the late 1860s and the early 1880s, bank and train robberies by gangs of former Civil War guerrilla fighters both captivated and frightened the general public. Missouri was home to many of these outlaws, and the state quickly developed a reputation for lawlessness and banditry. Kansas City Police Commissioner Henry H. Craig and Clay County Sheriff James Timberlake (himself a former guerrilla) led the local efforts in northwest Missouri to track and capture the outlaws.

In 1881, Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden offered a \$10,000 reward for the capture of each of the state’s two notorious outlaws: brothers Frank and Jesse James.

Finally, on April 3, 1882, Jesse James was shot and killed in his home in Liberty, Missouri by fellow gang member Robert Ford. Government officials hailed the event as a major victory against the bandits.

### *Scope and Content Note*

This collection contains a resolution passed by the Common Council of the City of Kansas (now known as Kansas City). Following the death of Jesse James, the resolution commends Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden, Kansas City Police Commissioner Henry H. Craig, and Clay County Sheriff James Timberlake “for breaking up and so nearly destroying the notorious Jesse James Band of outlaws.” The resolution was introduced by city alderman Smith Moses Ford and approved on April 28, 1882.

The resolution was previously framed. The backing of the frame indicates the document at one point belonged to the estate of Antoinette Hardwicke. Her husband, Claude Hardwicke, is listed as a grand-nephew of merchant and naturalist Josiah Gregg. Claude Hardwicke's father, Samuel, was a noted lawyer in Clay County and was closely involved in efforts to capture the James brothers. A note card with a brief explanation of the resolution's text is also included.

### *Collection Inventory*

- f. 1 Resolution, 1882, photocopies
- f. 2 Resolution, 1882

### *Index*

Craig, Henry H.  
 Crittenden, Thomas T.  
 Ford, S. M. (Smith Moses)  
 Gregg, Josiah  
 Hardwicke, Antoinette  
 Hardwicke, Claude  
 Langworthy, H. P. (Hiram P.)  
 Timberlake, James

**Processed by Special Collections Librarian Kate Hill, July 2013.  
 Updated March 2014.**