

JESSE JAMES

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first two staves contain the main melody with guitar tablature above the notes. The third staff is labeled 'REFRAIN:' and contains the refrain melody with tablature. The fourth staff continues the main melody with tablature. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Jesse James was born in 1847 in Clay County, Missouri. During the Civil War he joined Quantrill's Raiders, then much of the group turned outlaw after the war, robbing two symbols of federal authority: banks and railroads. The gang were cold-blooded, daring thieves, much feared, yet grudgingly admired. They were brought to trial several times, but never convicted. Finally a member of James' own gang, Robert Ford, shot him (as he lived in St. Joseph under the alias Thomas Howard) to claim the \$10,000 reward. He was 35.

Jesse James was a lad, who killed many a man,
 He robbed the Glendale train,
 And the people they did say, for many miles away,
 It was robbed by Frank and Jesse James.

REFRAIN: Oh, Jesse had a wife who mourned for his life,
 Three children, they were brave;
 But that dirty little coward, who shot Mr. Howard,
 Has laid poor Jesse in his grave.

It was on a Saturday night, as I remember right,
 They robbed the Glendale train,
 It was one of the Younger boys, who gathered in the spoils,
 And carried Jesse's money away.

Oh, Jesse was a man, a friend of the poor,
 He'd never rob a mother or a child.
 He took from the rich and he gave to the poor,
 So they shot poor Jesse on the sly.

It was Robert Ford, that dirty little coward,
 I wonder how does it feel?
 For he ate of Jesse's bread and he slept in Jesse's bed,
 And he laid poor Jesse in his grave.

The people held their breath, when they heard of Jesse's death,
 And wondered how he ever came to fall,
 Robert Ford it is a fact, shot Jesse in the back,
 While Jesse hung a picture on the wall.