## AWESOME stories

## Boyhood Home of Jesse James



The James-Samuel farm, as it appeared in 1877, was the boyhood home of Jesse James. It was at this modest-appearing farm that Jesse's father, Robert, ran a commercial hemp business in the 1840s.

Random House tells us more about some of the activities which went on at this farmstead:

Jesse's father, Robert James, ran a commercial hemp operation on this farm in the 1840s, using a team of child slaves in the labor-intensive task of harvesting the crop and preparing its fibers for sale to rope makers, who manufactured baling twine and bagging for the cotton plantations of the Deep South.

Here in Clay County, Missouri, slaveowners were integrated into national markets, particularly Southern markets, reinforcing their cultural identification with Dixie and belying the frontier image that clings to Jesse James.

Click on the image for a better view.

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