

# Ry Cooder, JESSE JAMES (Another Version)

(Neil Morris)

I'll tell you about Jesse and Frank James  
My grandfather was personally acquainted with them  
My grandfather lived in the southern edge of Baxter County, Arkansas  
And they stayed all night with him lots of nights  
And my grandfather told me there was a lot of those robberies that was layed to Jesse and Frank J  
And he knew they didn't do it 'cause they was at his place when it happened  
But you couldn't tell the public that  
When they get their minds made up that somebody's done something  
Why the public's gonna stick to it anyway  
My grandfather, he knew them as boys  
And they could come to his place and go without anybody paying attention 'cause nobody expected  
Down in Arkansas, see, 'cause they was from Missouri  
Now that's the story that my grandfather told me when I was just a boy  
And he said that Frank James, at that World's Fair,  
I think it was 1901 in St. Louis him and Jesse were both there  
My grandfather and Frank James were together there  
And that Frank James offered to bring Jesse there alive  
He said that the man that the Ford boys killed wasn't Jesse James at all  
But the fellow they killed was just about the size of Jesse and he was red headed  
And he wasn't any relation to the Fords  
See, Jesse James was a known cousin to Charles and Bob Ford  
That's what my grandfather said  
He said Jesse and Frank were not even in that part of the country when that fellow was killed  
And the Ford boys, why, they collected a thousand dollars for killing Jesse James!  
Now the song says that the Ford boys killed Jesse  
None of us up here in the mountains believe that, no sir!