

NOVEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 1

THE RED-EYED RAVEN GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Author Tim Ritter



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WELCOME!

Finally!

I've wanted to create a newsletter for quite some time.

You know how it is: Life gets in the way and you take a while to circle back to your To-Do list. Do you experience this too from time to time? Lo and behold, I finally planted myself in my chair and got this done.

I expect this newsletter to continue to grow and develop moving forward. I hope to bring you exclusive tidbits in appreciation for your subscribing. By all means, if there's a topic you'd like for me to cover, or if you have a question about anything, please feel free to email me at tritterman@gmail.com.

As always, thank you for your support and encouragement. I hope you enjoy this little journey with me.

Sarah Burning News

For those of you *Sarah Burning* fans, here's something extra-special that I've been waiting to share with my newsletter subscribers...

This is the only known photograph of Sarah at her efficiency apartment on South Street in Springfield. She moved to this apartment after spending a few months under the care of Gertrude Sullivan after release from the university hospital in Columbia.

Sarah is seen in this undated photo standing at the door of her apartment. The grandchild standing with her is currently unidentified.

I was very young when Sarah lived in this apartment although I do have shadows of memories of being inside it. Sarah lived here until sometime in 1970 or early 1971 when she moved to a small house across the street from her oldest son Norman.



THE ORVILLE AND SARAH PREQUEL



As you may be aware, the prequel to *Sarah Burning* is currently under development. The original notion came about when I discovered six letters that Sarah wrote to her twin sons in the months before The Fire in 1959. Full of interesting glimpses into the family, the letters share not only life on Hunter Road, but also hint at the lives of the twin as they pursued their dreams of becoming famous singers.

As I continued to work through the letters and research details to explain everything going on at the time, I kept coming across references to Orville in the correspondence. Sarah referred to him in the letters as "Dad" or "your dad" and offered up loving or humorous comments about him.

Eventually it began to bother me that Orville remained silent in the background with no voice, no solid presence. I decided it was time to change that.

The prequel, which is yet to be titled, will be divided into two parts: Part One will be an exploration of Orville, who he was and who his parents were. Stories of his childhood illnesses, evidence of his work history, and other tales of his life will be featured in a combination of narratives and short stories, richly complimented by photographs. Part Two will be the letters from Sarah and commentary on the content of those letters. Photographs will be included in this section as well, to further support the content of the letters.

Stay tuned for more updates!

***Who was Orville?
We barely got to
know him in Sarah
Burning. What made
this man so special?***

PRESENTATION UPDATE

YEP, I'M STILL DOING THEM!

Covid almost completely shut down the speaking circuit, and it's been slow to return. However I'm still doing them whenever possible. If you or anyone you know belong to a group needing speakers, please spread the word!

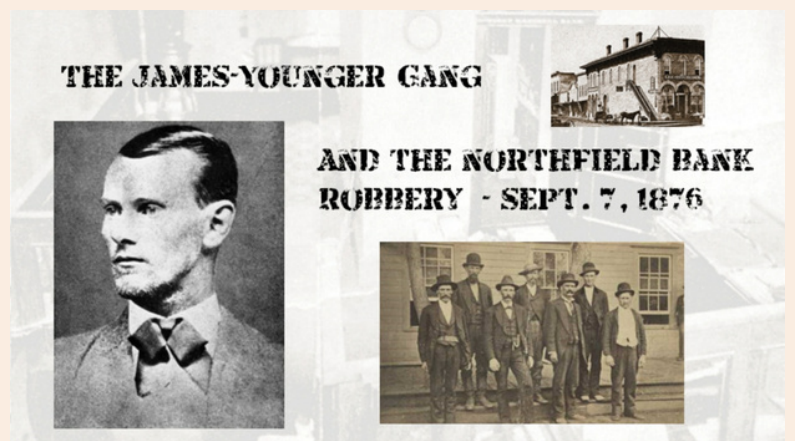


Every month in this section I will highlight one of my current presentations. For this inaugural issue, I'll share one of my newest talks.

September 7, 1876 was a bad day for the James-Younger Gang. I mean a really bad day. At the urging of gang member Clell Miller, Jesse and the boys traveled to Northfield, Minnesota expecting to easily knock off a wealthy bank in an area where no one would expect them to strike. Lawmen were searching all over Missouri for the notorious criminals, but no one was looking for them further north.

In the course of just a few minutes that fateful afternoon, one bank employee and two gang members, including Miller, were dead and several members of the gang wounded. All that for just a handful of dollars.

This presentation, complete with photographs and animated maps, shows step-by-step what happened and how everything went terribly wrong for the criminals.



SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES

March 18, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.
**Republic Branch of the Greene County
Library, Republic, MO**

The Northfield Bank Robbery

Also, my ongoing speaking gig at all three Elfindale Senior Facilities will continue into the new year. I'm there on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.