

## SPRING GENERAL MEETING

7:30 P.M., Thursday, May 3, 2018

Black Jack Fire Protection District – 5675 North Highway 67

### PROGRAM

Welcome & Announcements-President Ellen Lutzow

Neighborhood Police Officer L. Kidson-Updates/OJ Area

"Walking Where They Walked: Searching for Native Americans in the St Louis Landscape"

Speaker Emily Jaycox, Missouri Historical Society

Citizen of the Year Award to Recognize Posthumously Olga Smith

Business Meeting

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED-BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS!



**Annual Dues:**  
Single — \$10.00  
Family — \$15.00

### LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ELLEN LUTZOW



I am taking this opportunity to give you updates on a few items that have an impact on all Old Jamestown Area residents. As I wrote to you last fall, the OJA believes that an organizing principle is to provide a collective voice to area residents in this unincorporated area of St. Louis County. Generally, any issues that are related to development in the area are of interest to Old Jamestown. When development is within its stated boundaries, it is of particular interest to our association.

Recently the owners of River's Edge Sport Complex on Hwy. 67 initiated a re-zoning proposal for part of this parcel. It was presented to St. Louis County Planning, and after review and a public hearing, at which the OJA voiced opposition, the Planning Commission voted to recommend denial of the proposal.

Report of the St. Louis County Planning Commission, RE: Request for a Change of Zoning from NU to C-8, P.C. 01-18 BCS Holdings, LLC (Rivers Edge Self-Storage), RECOMMENDING DENIAL, as indicated, with respect to a proposed self-storage facility containing 7.01 acres, located on the north side of Lindbergh Blvd. approximately 1,150 feet west of Jamestown Bay Drive.

The Old Jamestown Association Board of Directors supports the St. Louis County Planning Commission's recommendation denying the re-zoning request. We take this position because the change is incompatible with the nature and characteristics of the surrounding area. The Old Jamestown area is defined in large part by its environment. It is made up of single family homes, churches and parks—all typical of what is called Non-Urban zoning and the Karst Preservation District.

The request advanced to the St. Louis County Council for a vote at the end of March. However, as of the date of this writing, the Council has placed a "hold" on any vote at the request of the our District 4 representative. So at this time, there is no action and we are not aware of any pending vote. An expected vote to resolve what the Planning Commission recommended is what the Board seeks. We now understand the owners intend to modify the proposal and we do not know what that means or when we might expect resolution as this continues in a "hold."

We have presented the view of our Board of Directors to the Planning Commission and to the St. Louis County Council. We have done this through letters, phone calls and at public hearings. (All OJA correspondence is available for your review.) The Old Jamestown Association will continue to monitor and to communicate our position to all representatives of our County government. We look forward to a resolution to this issue in the coming months but we continue to maintain that any re-zoning proposal that is inappropriate at this specific location should be denied.

The next steps for Jamestown Mall are much less concrete but we expect that The Old Jamestown Association will have input given the proximity of the mall area to our community boundaries. We monitor the progress and seek the opportunity to give a voice to our community about any plans.

On another topic, the OJA is looking for opportunities to be more engaged with all the residents within our boundaries. We have some ideas and will be more actively soliciting volunteer support from our current membership in an effort to grow the OJA membership.

At this time volunteer support from outside the Board has been very limited. While the Board should provide direction and leadership, we cannot be the only source of volunteers for the tasks we might undertake. We need to work this issue and we ask for input in moving this forward. It is planned that you will hear more about this. We ask for your insight in planning and for your support in implementing.

We are not a subdivision or a homeowner association, but a civic-minded, non-profit organization. Within those constraints we will exercise our role to communicate with government entities on issues where our members have an interest as noted above and where the Karst Preservation District may be harmed.

We ask our Old Jamestown Association members for support in our work and give us feedback. We ask that our residents who are not members consider joining our organization and working to support our efforts where you are able to volunteer. We ask you to communicate with your neighbors and friends about the organization and its mission.



**OLGA SMITH**  
1933 — 2018

**THE OLD JAMESTOWN ASSOCIATION**  
**2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Olga and her husband Ken Smith moved to the Old Jamestown area in 1963, where they built their home and raised their family of four children on Old Jamestown Lane. Olga was an early proponent of preserving the environment, and was a person who took action for what she believed in. In the early 1970's, she helped facilitate road clean-ups along Old Jamestown Road and Sinks Road, with neighborhood kids in the Ft. Bellefontaine 4H Club, which she led. She was a charter member and active participant in St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, a long time volunteer for the Lumina Program of BJC Hospice, and a member of North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice. She was passionate about her work as an occupational therapist with BJC Hospital for 30 years. Olga served the past three years on the OJA Board of Directors. Early on in the OJA, she served as historian, typist, and editor, and always made their home a welcome place for OJA meetings. She was a loyal and untiring partner to Ken Smith in his efforts to preserve the karst area of Old Jamestown, including making sure he always had a delicious meal! Olga valued the words of Margaret Mead and did her best to put them into action in the OJA community: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



**EMILY JAYCOX**

**MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Emily Jaycox joined the Missouri History Museum library staff in 1989. Prior to that, she worked at the Newberry Library in Chicago and Lake Forest College Library. Her undergraduate degree in History is from Oberlin College and her master's in Library Science is from the University of Chicago. While working among old books and documents, much of her workday is spent planning ways to make more of MHM's collections searchable via the Internet. Her research interests include historic maps, immigration, and the history of etiquette and food.

We are thrilled to have her as our speaker for the Spring Meeting.

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Several years ago, I read an interesting side-note about a book that had been taken off the shelves almost as soon as it was published. The article explained that the book was not favorable to the early fathers of St. Louis and they or their families would be unhappy if it was available. I was intrigued by that fact, plus the story line and the time, writer, Thomas James (1782-1847) - I was trying to prove that he was part of the James Family that were very early settlers in the Old Jamestown Area.

In the spring of 1809 James joined an expedition of the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company. James returned to St. Louis by the end of July 1810.

Two more trips were made by Thomas James, one in 1821 toward Santa Fe and again in 1823 when he reached the North Canadian River near present Oklahoma City, OK.

Despite the challenges and the lack of success he had experienced as a trapper, he chronicled those times in his *Three Years Among the Indians and Mexicans* (1846).

Beverly Girardier

**1916—Preface & Explanation of the Reprinting of "Three Years Among the Indians and Mexicans" (1846)**

Amongst records of personal adventure this book of General James' will hold an assured place. The strange and romantic events which it relates, and the showing it makes of how the Missourians led the way into savage territory, which has become home of peaceful and prosperous commonwealths, combine to give to it great and abiding interest. The here told, thous as far removed from the possibilities of their present day as those of Jason and the Argonauts on their journey for the golden fleece, were of a kind which were not uncommon in the lives of our grandfathers. If the Missourians who went out from home in those days (and there were but few who did not go) to the West, the Northwest and the Southwest, had been skilled in recording their experiences and their observations, they could have made up a body of literature which would have rivalled in interest the collection of Hakluyt. Unfortunately, few of the early Missourians were writers. They mostly combined the qualities of woodsmen and hunters, farmers and fighters, of woodsmen and hunters, farmers and fighters, trappers and traders; they were brave and resourceful, living their lives in the manner which they found the most inviting without much thought beyond the present. Their training was in the hard school of experience and their limitations, as a rule, were narrow. There are many sources from which glimpses of their lives and adventures may be obtained, but connected narratives like the one here printed are few in number.

For most of the details of the expeditions of which he writes, General James is the sole authority, but some side lights upon them have been found, which are referred to in the notes or printed in the appendix.

The book from which this reprint is made has been in the library of the Missouri Historical Society for six or seven years. During that time careful research has been made for other copies without success. But one was heard of, and that one was sold in Philadelphia in 1912; who is its present possessor has not been learned. The reason for the extreme rarity of the book will be suggested later.

The author, Thomas James, of Welsh descent, was born in Maryland in 1782. His

father, Joseph Austin James, and his mother, Elizabeth Hosten, with their family left Maryland in 1803 to look for a new home in the West. They stopped for a time in Kentucky and again in Illinois, reaching Missouri in 1807, where they established themselves near Florissant. At the time when he enlisted for the voyage up the Missouri, Thomas James was about twenty-seven years old. In Chapter III of his book James tells of his employments after his return from the upper Missouri.

After his expedition to the Southwest, he engaged in milling, having bought and rebuilt upon what was known as Kinney's Mill on a spring branch a short distance southwest of the village of New Design in Monroe County, Illinois. This place was for a time known as James' Mill and later as Monroe City. In 1825 he was elected a general in the Illinois militia, and about the same time to membership in the Illinois legislature, in which he served during the years 1826-1828. In 1827 he was appointed postmaster at James' Mills, which position he held for many years. In the Black Hawk war he served as a Major, having under his command a "spy battalion," composed of three companies, led respectively by Captains Daniel Price and Peter Warren of Shelby County and Thomas Harrison of Monroe. In orders signed by Albert Sidney Johnston he is designated as Colonel James, from which it may be inferred that he held an independent command. At the close of the war he returned to his former employments, and died at Monroe City in December, 1847.

The literary quality of James' book is of a higher grade than would be expected in the production of a man whose opportunities for school training were as scanty as his. The recognition of this fact prompted a letter of inquiry to Dr. John Francis Snyder, whose active brain is a storehouse of information as to the history of southern Illinois, and of southern Missouri as well, and from his reply the following is quoted: "Though I saw General Thomas James on several occasions, and remember him well, I know nothing of his history or personality. He was quite an ordinary looking man, six feet tall, muscular, and of the pioneer or coon hunter type. But I do know something of his book. It was

written in Belleville from his dictation to Judge, or Colonel, Nathaniel Niles. Niles was a New Yorker who came to Belleville in 1839 or 1840, a young penniless lawyer. For a while he taught school. I was one of his pupils about the time he acted as amanuensis for General James. Niles in time married and raised a family; he was captain in Bissel's regiment at Buena Vista in 1847, and was elected to the legislature, then County Judge, and was colonel of the Fiftieth (I think) regiment of Illinois volunteers in the Civil war. He died at Belleville about six years ago. The book had barely been issued from the press when it was severely attacked by several newspapers—and I think I think the old Missouri Republican was one of them. Niles immediately suppressed it, gathered all the copies he could secure and destroyed them. For a long time it was a delicate subject to mention to him, but in years later when it was mentioned, he did not swear so much but regarded it as a good joke."

The reason for the suppression of the book is not far to seek. General James was evidently a man of bitter prejudices and an unbridled tongue. His statements regarding the gentlemen connected with the Fur Company and regarding Colonel Glenn, even had they been true, were, to say the least, ill advised. But the Chouteaus, Lisa, Labbadie and the others composing the Fur Company were men of high character, ranking among the best citizens of St. Louis, concerning whom James' accusations were entitled to and could obtain no credence whatsoever. Colonel Glenn is not so well known, but the mention made of him by others is always in terms of respect; the charges here made against him should be considered as introduced for dramatic effect only. And the Missionaries, whom James pictures as such undesirable citizens, are, in a default judgement of other evidence, entitled to at the least a suspension of judgement. Colonel Glenn was dead when the book was published, but in St. Louis there were many persons who would have been quick to resent such statements as James there made about their kinsmen, and it is not surprising that the book was promptly withdrawn from circulation.

Whether or not these statements should preclude the reprinting of the book, even at this late date, has been much debated, but it has been decided that the lapse of years has deprived James' ill-natured accusations of all

power to offend; and that the merits of the book are such to ensure its vitality.

James' attitude towards the Indians, from whom he suffered so much, is in surprising contrast to that which he takes towards the whites. Of the latter, John McKnight is the only one of whom he speaks in terms of affection.

For the Indians, whether he looks upon them as "Chiefs with the dignity of Real Princes, and the eloquence of real orators, and Braves with the valor of the ancient Spartans," or as "simple children of the mountains and prairies," he shows kindness, liking and admiration. While their faults are not to be overlooked, they are mostly attributed to the evil influences of the whites.

The Waterloo "War Eagle" at the office of which James' book was printed, was a weekly newspaper, edited, published, and most likely printed by Elam Rust at Waterloo, Illinois. Rust issued his first newspaper at Waterloo in the spring of 1843 under the name of "The Independent Democrat." In 1845, he changed its name to the "War Eagle," but the Eagle was not long lived, and the publication of the paper ceased about the year 1847.

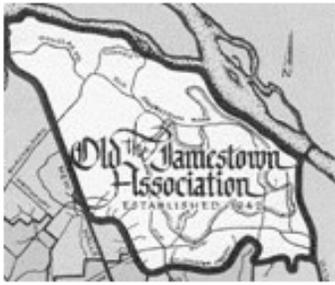
W. B. D.\*

Spot (Name of the Douglas Home in Florissant, MO)

23 September, 1916

\* William B. Douglas

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Old Jamestown Association Newsletter  
P.O. Box 2223  
Florissant, Missouri 63032

**Editor: Barb Doner**

**Writers: Beverly Girardier and Chan Mahanta**

### **“Valley of Flowers Celebrates the Muny’s 100TH” in 2018**

This three-day weekend Festival truly has activities for everyone. Carnival games and exciting rides are featured at the Knights of Columbus Fairgrounds. From a flower and plant sale to culturally diverse musical performances, baseball games, craft and flea market sales, and children’s activities you can find a little of everything at the Eagan Center. Good food abounds at all Festival locations. The official “Big Parade” beginning at the Eagan Center highlights the weekend.

The Festival culminates on Sunday with the crowning of the Valley of Flowers Queen and her Court at the Knights of Columbus Pavilion following the grand parade. (May 4th, 5th & 6th)

## **BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS**

As with any organization, The Old Jamestown Association is always looking to increase its membership. We are hoping you will help us increase ours by inviting a neighbor or interested party to attend our Spring General Membership Meeting with you. Our keynote speaker's subject promises to be an interesting one and we are already expecting a strong turnout. If you have a friend or neighbor who you think may enjoy hearing updates from our Neighborhood Policing officer, history of the unique area in which they live, and events that affect Old Jamestown, please invite them to join you at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 3rd at the Black Jack Fire Department on Hwy 67. They don't know what they are missing!

*Barb Doner*

**Soroptimist International of Greater St. Louis St. Louis**

### **Grace Zykan Memorial Golf Tournament**

Friday May 18, 2018

11:00 Registration & Lunch ♦ 12:00pm Shotgun ♦ 5:00pm Dinner & Awards

At Eagle Springs Golf Course, 2575 Redman Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63136

Register Early: \$100.00/adult & \$80/youth—after May 8, 2018 add \$5

Registration includes: 18 Holes w/ Cart, Lunch, Dinner, 3 Drink Tickets, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Prizes & Goodie Bags

Additional Fun: Mulligans, 50/50 Raffle, & Silent Auctions

Questions? Call or Text 314/398-3940 or Email [info@soroptimistlouis.com](mailto:info@soroptimistlouis.com)

### **Interesting review of *Three Years Among the Indians and the Mexicans***

By Thomas James

A lively, descriptive and exciting narrative of Thomas James' adventures up the Missouri River in 1809-1810 and to Sante Fe in the years 1821-1823. His writing abilities are brilliant and the reader will find himself anxiously flipping through the pages to see what happens next. In 1809 James joined the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company and relates the experiences of his crew being mistreated by Manuel Lisa, then joining up with John Colter, along with several other personal accounts of the day to day activities and survival strategies they encountered. He was one of the first to describe and take part in the trade business from St. Louis to Sante Fe and it is absorbing to read of his confrontations with the Comanches and the Spanish during these years. This is a must read for early American West enthusiasts.

The book itself may be difficult to find, but it is certainly well worth the effort.