

For Immediate Release



### **Journalist Takes Oath: Sworn To Tell The Truth About Jesse James**

St. Joseph, MO - March 6, 2009 -- In an unprecedented proceeding, at 8:25 AM on March 4th, in the 6th Division Court at the Buchanan County Courthouse, a feature writer for American Road Magazine, has sworn under oath to tell the truth about the outlaw Jesse James.

The oath was administered by Court Clerk Lori Schaeffer, presided over by the Honorable Judge Ronald E. Taylor, and witnessed by Marshal Howard Judd.

The clerk solemnly asked, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth regarding the life, times, and treacherous death of Jesse James, so help you God?" With his left hand on the Bible and his right hand raised, author Johnnie V resolutely replied, "I do."

At the invitation of the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau, Johnnie V is visiting St. Joseph researching a feature article on the Jesse James Driving Tour, created by the St. Joseph CVB, which is scheduled for publication in the summer issue of American Road Magazine. American Road is an award winning nationally distributed travel magazine that promotes "Celebrating our two-lane highways of yesteryear...and the joys of driving them today."

"We are so thrilled Johnnie V is here in St. Joseph and we look forward to his truthful interpretation of the Jesse James Driving Tour," said Beth Conway, Communications Director of the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The journalist's unlikely oath was precipitated by a visit with Gary Chilcote, Museum Director at the Patee Museum. In an interview with the Mr. V, Mr. Chilcote advised Mr. V that between 60% and 80% of everything that has ever been written about Jesse James was "...either 'BS' or fakelore." Mr. Chilcote's unvarnished comment alluded to liberties with the facts taken by authors motivated by the desire to shamelessly sell books, stories, magazines, videos, and other forms of media.

Mr. V, responding to a gauntlet thrown down before him, elected to demonstrably raise the standard of journalism associated with Jesse James by submitting himself to a court administered oath. After the proceeding, Mr. V stated that, "I am proud to be the first and only American journalist to take a sworn oath to tell the truth about Jesse James. It is especially meaningful that I took the oath in front of the maybe/possibly/could-have-been/purported-to-be/legendary/as-reported/said-to-have-been bench where the cowardly Ford brothers were indicted and convicted for the murder of Jesse James."

A skeptical bystander commented that if Mr. V confines his writing to the undisputed truth associated with Jesse James, and the celebrated landmarks along the Jesse James Driving Tour, that his expansive feature travel article might be whittled down to less than 35 words.

Mr. V, when asked about this possibility of a severely truncated feature article, replied with the wisdom of a seasoned professional journalist. "You know, it all depends on how you define truth, doesn't it?"

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A high-resolution image for editorial use is available at:  
[http://americanroadmagazine.com/press\\_room/oath.jpg](http://americanroadmagazine.com/press_room/oath.jpg)

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