



Press Release - For Immediate Release

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**For Immediate Release:
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Pony Express Expert Christopher Corbett To Speak at Patee House Museum During St. Joseph, Mo.'s Sesquicentennial Celebration

St. Joseph, MO. – The Pony Express Historical Association will present noted Pony Express expert Christopher Corbett, author of *Orphans Preferred: The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legends of the Pony Express*, Thursday, April 1, at the Patee House Museum. The event will kick off a three-day celebration of the 150th anniversary of the legendary Pony Express, which began in St. Joseph, Mo. Tickets will be \$20 and will be available at the Patee House Museum, 12th and Penn Streets, or by phone at (816) 232-8206.

Corbett, a former Associated Press writer and editor and currently a professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, has devoted several years to researching the stories along the 1,966-mile Pony Express Trail. He will speak in the circa-1858 Patee House Grand Ballroom, where Pony Express riders danced with local girls while training for their perilous journeys toward California in March, 1860. Formerly a luxury hotel, Pony Express operators Russell, Majors and Waddell selected the Patee House as the mail route's headquarters. It is now St. Joseph's only National Historic Landmark.

The Pony Express Sesquicentennial celebration will continue at the Patee House Museum on Saturday, April 3. The Village Heritage Dancers will perform 1860 dances in period costumes in the Grand Ballroom, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Outside, members of the National Pony Express Association will demonstrate, on horseback, exchanges of the mochila, or mailbag carried by Pony Express Riders. From 1-3 p.m., authority Joe Nardone of California will share stories about his travels over the Pony Express Trail, which he has covered by horseback, foot, car, airplane, motorcycle and bicycle.

On April 2-3, Corbett will autograph copies of his book in the Patee House Museum's Buffalo Saloon, where visitors will enjoy musical entertainment, a bake sale (complete with Pony Express cookies) and refreshments.

Visitors to the Patee House Museum also will note the full-size Concord-style stagecoach in the lobby, signifying the former hotel's distinction as a departure point for the 1861 Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express stage line. Noted travelers included author Mark Twain, who left St. Joseph on June 26, 1861.

April 3 also will be the 128th anniversary of the death of outlaw Jesse James in 1882. The site of his demise, the Jesse James Home, is part of the Patee House Museum complex and will be open throughout the Pony Express celebration weekend. In addition the Missouri Chapter of the National Pony Express Association will pick up mail that departed San Francisco on June 6 at Elwood, Kan., the morning of June 26, and deliver it to the Patee House at approximately 11 a.m.

To find out more about the Pony Express Sesquicentennial celebration, and for information about lodging, dining, shopping and attractions in St. Joseph, please contact the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 785-0360 or visit www.stjomo.org.

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