



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society: Records of Governor Samuel R. Van Sant, 1901-1905. To request permission for anything beyond personal use, contact MHS.

www.mnhs.org

LA CROSSE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

LA CROSSE, WIS. April 6 190

Capt Van Sant

Governor

My Dear Sir & Bro,
Sent Let the Minnesota
Legislature Pass

the Youngers -

I see the Bill Passed some
Days ago and now is returned
to the House for correction
Think of Verwood & the
Race of 1876 I was sup
on the St Paul and Sioux City
route St Paul & St James

When the Murder
occurred at Northfield
I was on extra to bring the
Prisoners from Medalia
with John Bessette when Capt.
Murphy & Gillispie had caught
them, when we got to the
Hotel at Medalia, Cole
Younger was sitting on

LA CROSSE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

S. R. Van S. 271

LA CROSSE, WIS. _____ 190

the floor in Bar Room, &
M^m Gardner Lundberg. Said that
Cole Younger claimed to be a
Mason. I was G. H. P.
in 1876, & he asked me to
Examine him and see if
he was a Mason. I said
I knew him as a Red Handed
Murderer, & would not.
Frank James shot our
Cousin Westfall at
Winstein when they Robbed
the Rock Island, Ry in
1880. I was running from
Jewett to K. City 1877
to 1884. Now Remember
that the Veterans of the Civil
War don't want the
Rebels Pardoned.

Truly yours
Samuel J. Printess



HENRY WOLFER, Warden
J. S. GLENNON, Deputy Warden.
H. W. DAVIS, Clerk.
WILLIAM SMITHSON, Steward.

Stillwater, Minn.

June 6, 1901.

To the Honorable,
The State Board of Pardons,
Capitol, Saint Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen:-

I have the honor to hand you herewith, original copies of paroles (conditionally granted) by the Prison Managers today, in behalf of James Younger and T. C. Younger.

I desire to say for your information, that no news whatever bearing upon this case has been given to the newspapers, or to any one else.

Respectfully submitted,

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON,
Henry Wolfer
WARDEN

Department of Justice.
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI,

Kansas City, Mo., June 15, 1901.

My dear Governor:-

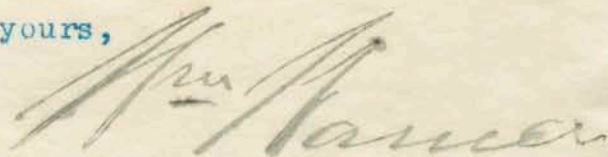
I am advised that under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of your state, providing for the parole of life prisoners, an effort is being made to secure the parole of Coleman Younger and James Younger, now serving a life sentence in the penitentiary of your state.

While in my judgment, no excuse can be offered by a right-thinking man for the crime of which they stand self-convicted, yet, I feel that after the many years they have spent in prison, that their release at this time, on parole, would not be an injury to society or an encouragement to others for the commission of offenses, but would be a wise exercise of executive clemency.

Therefore, I write you, asking favorable action, if you believe such action would be consistent with the faithful and conscientious discharge of your duties as Chief Executive of the great State of Minnesota.

Trusting that if not sooner, I may have the pleasure of meeting you at the National Encampment at Cleveland, I take pleasure in subscribing myself

Fraternally yours,



To Hon. S.R. VanSant,
Governor of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minn.

[July 9, 1901]

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

1,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered, by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

8169.

RECEIVED at

Redwood

18 Collect D.P.R.

Redwood Falls, Minn July 9

James Martin, care Governor's office,
St. Paul, Minn.

wire actions board of pardon regarding
youngers and Lester Collins as soon
as definite action is taken.

Gazette

Q

LA CROSSE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

LA CROSSE, WIS. July 18 1901

Capt S. W. Van Sant.

My Dear Sir & Bro,
Why did you Parole or
Pardon the Younger?
they forfeited their lives
when they or Jessi James
Shot Haywood 1876?
I was in the "Rumpus 1876"
Riding St Paul to St James
on Sioux City Ry. & Run
three Extras to get passes
out & bring in prisoners.
Was G. H. P. of G. C. 1876 & when
we had Cole Younger in the
Hotel at Medalia Furber
wanted me to see if he was
a Masera. I would not &
said he was a Red Handed
Murdere. I went a week
for the Rock Island Ry in Mo
1876 Oct. after the Gross Hopper
Eaten out here, and

LA CROSSE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Gen Von Sant 2nd

LA CROSSE, WIS. _____ 190 _____

Our Pass train was Robbed at
Winster 1881. Frank James
Shot Wm Wetfall our Conductor
just as there as there is a
God in Israel but we
could not prove it. We had
him on trial at Galatin Mo
where he helped Rob Jackson
Banks. Jackson is Gov
of Mo now. A trial in
Ist Frank James doortent
at Springfield in House Rep.
No one can give back.
Life of Hayward or the
two others that the Raiders
killed 1879. What did they
come to Minn for? their
Lives would have been safer
in Mo. Well we cant help it
now but it was a mistake
I never believed that Minnesotians
would let them go. 2,

LA CROSSE CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Gov. Von Sant - 3rd

LA CROSSE, WIS. _____ 190__

Many excuses like they
are old men & c dont
go with me Bank Cashier
Hey man "Might have been")
an. Old Man if they
had let him live.

Hope to see you at
the Veterans in Jan -

Truly yours

Samuel J. Prentiss
1727 Market St.

Mrs. file

July 27, 1901.

Gov. Samuel R. Van Sant,
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Sir:-

If you have any pride in the state of which you hold the highest gift of the people, I trust you will use your influence, not only as an official but as a good citizen to put a stop to the exhibition of the Younger Bros., that is now going on. It was bad enough to give these men their liberty, but it worse to allow them to become objects of public notice, in other words to permit them to give daily receptions or we may say continuous performances before gaping crowds of curiosity seekers. There are good citizens of Minnesota, who look upon these proceedings as an insult to them. Those who do have the courage to state their convictions upon the matter are free to denounce it as an outrage and it should not be permitted. These men never ought to have been allowed to enter into the employment that has been given. If they had been employed by some firm or corporation that would keep them out of sight of the curiosity seekers and prevent them from gaining so much prominence it would not look so bad upon the face but under the circumstances it sets a bad precedent and it exerts an unwholesome influence among the youth of the country, who look upon these men as heroes and will want to pattern after them.

Yours truly,

J. E. Reynolds.

TRADE MARK G. L. F. PATENTED IN MINNESOTA

A. KNOBLAUCH & SONS,

Established 1857



Fine Shoes

23 & 25 So. Washington
and 239 Nicollet Aves.

Minneapolis, Minn. Jan 4 1902

Hon. S. R. Van Sant,
Governor of Minnesota.

My Dear Sir,

I wish to respectfully request
and urge the granting of
a complete and full
pardon to Thomas Coleman
Younger and his brother James
Younger now on parole
they are deserving of
acquency in my opinion
having been interested
in them for some years
and I do think society
would be benefited by
giving them full pardon

[3]

we can at best only enjoy a little peace
and comfort.

That you may grant us this is the
earnest appeal of

Yours very respectfully
Alice J. Miller

January eighth, Nineteen-two.



[Jan. 8, 1902]

[1]

99 E Central Ave.,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Governor Van Sant,

Please do not regard
this as a formal appeal to the Pardon
Board, but simply as a heart to heart
statement - a woman's prayer for mercy
to one whom she loves.

I know it is within your power to make Jim and myself happy, and feeling that, kind as you have been, your sympathy must go out to us in our great desire to have a home and to live for one another, I cannot resist writing this.

Of course I can hardly expect all others to know James Younger as I do, but to me - and I have lived a longer, fuller life than most women of my age - he stands as the noblest man I have ever met. To be so strong to endure, for the sake of others whom he must protect, a life of ignominy and shame, requires a character of almost superhuman strength and power, and I long for the time when the world will appreciate, and honor, this man as I do.

Gov. Van Sant, please be merciful. You have to deal with another "man of suffering" and in doing for him you may yet find that you have "entertained angels unaware." The truth cannot always remain hidden.

As for myself, I long for health, yes - and life, so that I may brighten what few years he has yet to live. For he is sorely stricken, and I am an invalid, so that



Hotel Hyser

EUROPEAN

GEO. G. HYSER, Proprietor

NEW & ELEGANT & MODERN
Corner Nicollet Avenue and Fourth Street

Minneapolis, Minn., January 10th 1902

Hon. S. R. Vansant, Governor of
Minnesota

My Dear Friend
Enclosed find letter from
The Hon. W. H. Noyes of Barnum,
Minnesota. I did not like one
point of the letter as I feared it
might look as a threat. But as the
letter was written to me I don't
think that construction would be
just to Mr. Noyes. The part referred
to is where he speaks of failure of
your honorable board acting favorably.
He would introduce a bill in the
Legislature. I think he used the
language merely to convince me
he was thereby in earnest in wishing
me success. He told me as much
in St Paul last August. I hope
you will believe me your grateful
friend for past favors. Cole, Younger,

633-634

Des Moines Iowa
~~Apr 3 1902~~
Apr 3 1902

Dear Sirs Gov.

We give you fair
warning, that if you dont
Commute the Younger Boys
& let them go. back home
Safe and Sound by
Apr. 20 1902

You will not be a
live by May 1st 1902

Now we mean just

what we say.

Furthermore we will
burn your residence &
frake up your whole
state

We came to another
town to mail this letter
23 of us all told
turn over

Now you^{do} as we say
or take the consequences

We will send 10 men
of our number to your
City to do the work.

Then if they cant do it
the rest of us will go

We will do just what
we say

Last words^{to}
remember the consequences
to the dates without
fail

Hon S R, Towsant
Governor of Minnesota

Sir - I enclosed please
find a letter to you from Col Elwin,
in whose employ I have been until
his recent retirement from business.
I intended to deliver it personally, but
as the reporters watch me continually,
it might embarrass you as well as
myself for me to come to the Capital.

Respectfully -
Jim Younger.

July-19-1902.

JAMES ELWIN, SUCCESSOR TO

James Elwin Cigar Manfg Co.

Wholesale
Tobacconists



and
Manufacturers of
CIGARS.

Telephone Lists Co. Minneapolis

REMOVED FROM
No. 418 Hennepin Ave.

TO 107 WASHINGTON AVE. S.

Minneapolis, Minn. July 14th 1902

Hon S R Vansant

Gov of Minn

Dear Gov

Mr Younger has just left my employment owing to my selling out my business, and he did not desire to work for my successor.

During our business relations it enabled me to

Bill Perkins

JAMES ELWIN, SUCCESSOR TO

James Elwin Cigar Manfg Co.

Wholesale
TobacconistsSole
Manufacturers
of

ALL STOCK AND NO STYLE

CIGARS

and
Manufacturers of
CIGARS.

Copyright 1888 by James Elwin

No. 418 ^{REMOVED FROM} Hennepin Ave.

TO 107 WASHINGTON AVE. S.

Minneapolis, Minn.

become quite close to him, and learn, and become acquainted with his many standard qualities, which demonstrates to me that the State of Minnesota would do a kind and christian act, to give him his entire liberty.

Yours Most Respectfully
James Elwin

River Falls Jan 25, 1903,

Hon. Gov. S. R. Van Sant,

Dear Sir;—

After my brief and pleasant talk with you at the Capitol I have thought that upon the day that my esteemed friend Senator C. Durant casts his vote and his colleagues for the release of Cole Younger from the state as a free man I would like to speak for two minutes in Younger's behalf if agreeable to you. — Respectfully
John C. Foster!

Col. Younger

Mexico Mo Feb 20th 1903

Hon J R Vanosant Gov Minn

Dear Sir

Please find enclosed letter
from Cole Younger how is that
in conformity to the conditions of his
parole is he using Haywards
money to make up a show to travel
over our country in company with
another such a character as him
self Frank James how would it
sound if it were announced
that they would pitch their tent
in Northfield Minn where he slayed
your Honored Citizen Mr Hayward

It looks like outraging all the
people. God forbid that such a curse
shall be allowed to pass over our
country

Respectfully
Chas J. B. B. B. B.
Mayor - Mexico Mo

Macon, Macon Co. Mo.

Feb. 21st 1903

To the Secretary of the
State of Minnesota

Dear Sir

I would like
to get a copy of the
pardon of Cole Younger
as printed in some of
the newspapers in your
state to settle a dispute
I have

Very Respectfully
William Greer

Clinton, Mo., May 11, 1903
Private Secretary to Governor, Van Sant,

St. Paul, Minn.]

My dear Sir;-

Will you kindly look through the papers to the Pardoning Board and send me all the letters and petitions of various kinds both from Missouri and Minnesota, touching upon the pardon of the Younger Brothers. I filed quite a lot of letters from both states in 1889, 1897 and 1901. I am very anxious to possess all these letters, as they will be some benefit to me in the future.

I had the pleasure of meeting and talking with you in July 1901 at the time the Youngers were parolled. I presume you will remember me. I worked for twenty years to bring about their pardon, and if you will kindly look up these papers and letters from both states and forward them to me, you will confer a great favor upon me.

Very truly, etc.

W. C. Bronough

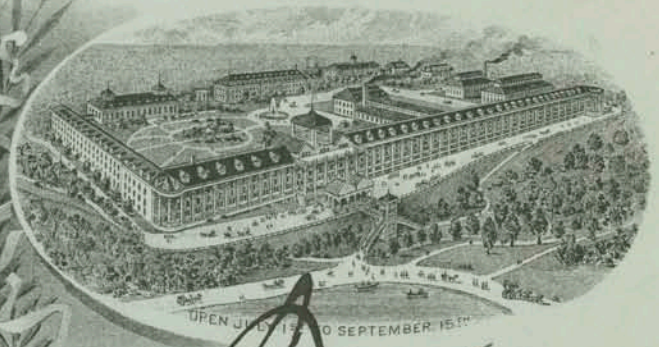
Clinton, Mo.

PLANTERS HOTEL,
ST. LOUIS, U.S.A.

HENRY WEAVER,
GENERAL OFFICE
ST. LOUIS, U.S.A.

CABLE ADDRESS
"PLANTERS"

GRAND HOTEL,
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH.



ABSOLUTELY FIRE-PROOF.

July 13th 1904
Hon. Saml. C. Van Hook
Governor of Minnesota,

Sir, I understand that an application has been made to have a full pardon granted to Coleman Younger, believing so I do that no good purpose is being served by restricting his freedom. I sincerely hope you may see your way clear to grant the request made in behalf of Mr. Younger.

Very respectfully,
Harvey L. Salmon
Clinton Mo.

[post. Feb. 23, 1904]

Macon Macon, Co.
Mo.
Hon. S. R. Vansant.
Governor of
Minnesota
St Paul Minn

Dear Sir

Yours of date

Feb. 23, received but on
account of sickness could
not answer sooner.

I would like to have
the part in Cole Younger
Pardon where it says he
shall not exhibit himself
or put himself on exhibition
if you can give me

The exact words used
that but I shall be
very much obliged

Yours very
Respectfully

William Greig