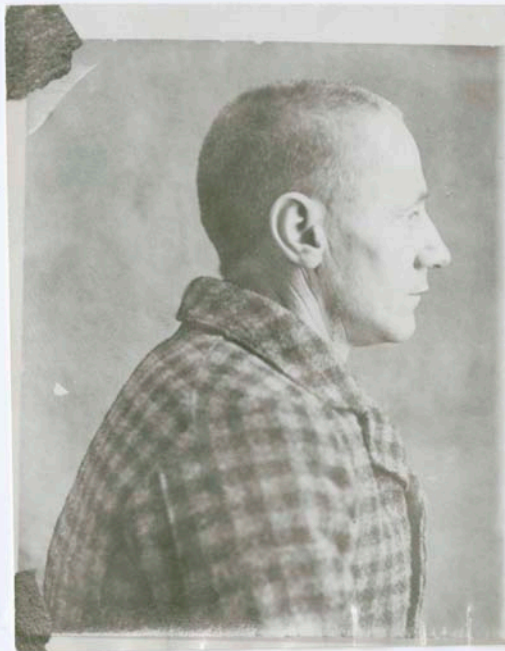




## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Cole Younger      MSP#699

Minnesota State Prison    Sentenced  
for Northfield Bank Robbery



[James Younger #700]



RECEIVED

JUN 15 1909

2

# COLE YOUNGER CALLS LURID TALES VICIOUS

Former Bandit Says Mission Is  
to Combat Effects of "Yellow"  
Narratives.

## UNREAL LIFE PAINTED

Thinks Moving Pictures of  
Outlawry Are Dangerous to  
Impressionable Boys.

Cole Younger, former bandit, is now a man with a mission. "Yellow" novels and lurid moving-picture shows are his particular objects of attack.

Denouncing the "penny dreadful" weeklies and lurid moving-picture representations of outlaw life, declaring his one remaining object is to counteract, as far as lies in his power, their influence upon the young men of America, Younger returned to St. Louis last night after an absence of four years. With his manager, L. A. Von Erichsen, he is stopping for a few days at the Pontiac Hotel, Nineteenth and Market streets, on his way to his home in Lee's Summit, Mo., after attending the Confederate reunion in Memphis.

Mr. Younger is now on the lecture platform. His lecture, "What My Life Has Taught Me," has attracted no little attention because of its strong, personal appeal to young men.

"No one can estimate the harm they have done," he said last night, referring to a certain class of moving-picture shows. "No one but a man who was himself tempted and who has spent the remainder of his life suffering for it."

"Despite the fact I know such tales as 'The James Boys in Missouri' to be false in every detail, having no foundation in fact, I cannot disabuse myself of the idea I am responsible for much of the harm they are doing. Foolish of me, maybe, but it led me to lay aside the natural diffidence a man feels in baring his life before a crowd of strangers and to take to the lecture stage as a means of combating the evil."

"I am getting old now, and perhaps I cannot expect to accomplish much, but as long as God grants me life I shall do what I can in what is now my sole remaining object in life. If the unvarnished story of my life, and of my incarceration for twenty-five years in a prison cell will keep only one boy from suffering as I have suffered, I shall feel I have not labored in vain."

"I am not a preacher. You all know my story. It is most painful for me to recount it, but I do it willingly, even gladly, because I feel it may accomplish good."

"The trouble with these moving-picture and 'penny-dreadful' representations of outlaw life is the glamour they throw about it. No mention is made of the hunted, hounded existence, when every man's hand is turned against you; the nights filled with dread and the days of suffering. No mention is made of the end of it all—a violent death or a prison cell. It all looks so easy and heroic to the impressionistic young fellow down in front. And then comes temptation, as it came to me."

Mr. Younger is very much in earnest over his mission. He declares he intends to keep at it until the end. He is not embittered by his experiences. He has no complaint to make against anyone. He desires but a chance to keep other young men from following in his footsteps and suffering as he suffered.

Both Mr. Younger and Mr. Von Erichsen will remain several days in St. Louis. The next lecture tour of Mr. Younger will be through Colorado and California and the Alaska-Yukon Exposition.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

700 Rec

Mankato, Minn. Free Press  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1924

## The Sentimental Sobbels

The Fairmont Sentinel says: "A lot of noble men and women united in a campaign to give Cole Younger his freedom even going to the extent of getting a special bill through the legislature to permit a special kind of pardon. The board of pardons insisted upon this before they would act."

That is true—men and women, but not many of them—asked for the pardon of Cole Younger. These same people would repeat the sickening spectacle; but they would not shed a tear at the bier of a victim of merciless bandits like the Youngers, and those of later days, who are even bolder, and more blood-thirsty than the James and Younger gang ever dared to be.

There is a sentimental aggregation—always pleading in behalf of the law-violator, and caring not one whit about those who suffer at the hands of the scoundrels who rob, plunder and murder the innocent. No good reason was ever advanced for the pardon of the Youngers—Cole and James. Those who were responsible for the liberation of the criminals committed a crime against society. They encouraged law-violations by placing a halo over the heads of a couple of desperadoes.

The special law to which The Sentinel refers is still on the statute books and can be brought to bear in the case of convicts serving life sentences in the Minnesota state's prison. It is up to the sob sisters to get into action and insist on the liberation of all the fiends from hell that are in the state's penitentiary.

What Might Have Been

St. Paul Pioneer Press



## Pollock's Clipping Bureau

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

AND THE

CONSOLIDATED  
BUREAUS

CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
NORTHWEST DIVISION

Austin, Minn., Herald  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1936

### *Tearing Down of Old Prison to Cost Stillwater Old Relics*

Stillwater, Minn., May 20 (P)—Some of the last vestiges of the Younger gang and other outlaws who did time in the old Stillwater prison will disappear from Stillwater when cell blocks of the old prison and Atwood museum and gymnasium are torn down.

The limestone walls of the old prison will be used for rip-rapping along the Mississippi river, according to Otto Mueller of La Crosse, who is to undertake the work.

Included among the rare items in the Atwood museum is the gun which was taken from Cole Younger when

he was captured after the Northfield bank raid in 1876. Cole himself identified it when he was acting as prison librarian.

A razor, made surreptitiously by a prisoner who almost decapitated a guard with it, is another penitentiary relic. Other relics include a dirk, made from an old file with which another prisoner stabbed a guard; bunches of keys made secretly by convicts.

Several other two-barrel, three-barrel and four-barrel guns are among the novelties in the collection of weapons. One of the four-barreled guns

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

AND THE

CONSOLIDATED  
BUREAUS

CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
NORTHWEST DIVISION

Virginia, Minn., Enterprise  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1936

### *Historic Sections Of State's Prison To Be Dismantled*

Stillwater, Minn., May 20—(P)—Some of the last vestiges of the younger gang and other outlaws who did time in the old Stillwater prison will disappear from Stillwater when cell blocks of the old prison and Atwood museum and gymnasium are torn down.

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A razor, made surreptitiously by a prisoner who almost decapitated a guard with it, is another penitentiary relic. Other relics include a dirk, made from an old file with which another prisoner stabbed a guard; bunches of keys made secretly by convicts.

Several other two-barrel, three-barrel and four-barrel guns are among the novelties in the collection of weapons. One of the four-barreled guns was taken from Lord Gordon, who was killed in a Canadian rebellion. The collection also includes Turkish scimitars,

Spanish blunderbusses, flintlocks and long rifles used by early Kentucky Indian fighters.

In the same group is a genuine Irish shillelagh which President Theodore Roosevelt once carried about with him when he inspected his greatest Northwest collection and which Jack Dempsey, former world's heavyweight champion boxer once pronounced as the only genuine Irish shillelagh he had ever seen.

Mr. Mueller plans to set up the museum on an island near La Crosse, where he plans to conduct an amusement park.



## Pollock's Clipping Bureau

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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CONSOLIDATED  
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CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
NORTHWEST DIVISION

Hibbing, Minn., Tribune  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1936

## Prison Museum to New Location

Interesting Collection of Relics  
Now At Still-  
water.

(By The Associated Press.)

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

AND THE

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CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
NORTHWEST DIVISION

Faribault, Minn., News  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1936

## Last Vestiges Of Younger Gang To Disappear With Cell-Block Wrecking

Stillwater, Minn., May 20 (AP)—Some of the last vestiges of the Younger gang and other outlaws who did time in the old Stillwater prison will disappear from Stillwater when cell blocks of the old prison and Atwood museum and gymnasium are torn down.

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# Relics of Younger Brothers Days Will Disappear as Cell Blocks Are Removed

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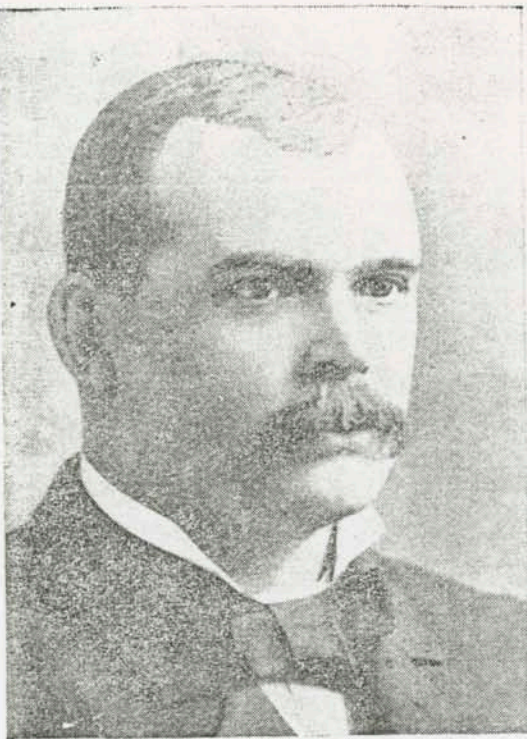
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# How Northfield Blasted



By **LAWRENCE BOARDMAN**  
Staff Writer

**T**HIS WEEK will mark the seventieth anniversary of a notable event in the never-ending crusade against crime—it was on Sept. 7, 1876, that a handful of outraged Minnesota citizens took to arms and smashed one of the most notorious outlaw bands that ever roamed the land.

The occasion was the historic Northfield bank raid by the James brothers gang. As usual with the James boys' forays, the raid had been carefully planned. Ten days before the robbery attempt two members of the band had made a thorough survey of the town. Through careful inquiries, they had ascertained that the First National bank there was a juicy plum—and, they surmised, ripe for the plucking.

That being established, the outlaws started moving into Minnesota from their Missouri lair. They traveled in small groups over different routes. Their destination was a point in the woods five miles west of Northfield, where they finally assembled early on the day of the raid.

Ready to pounce on their prize were eight of the most dangerous desperadoes of their own or any other day. According to authorities they were led by the James brothers, Frank and Jesse. This has been questioned by some sources, but is generally accepted as a fact.

Others were the three Younger brothers, Cole, Bob and Jim, top ranking bandits in their own right; Charlie Pitts, alias George Wells; William Stiles, alias Bill Chadwell, and Clel Miller.

Wearing linen dusters to conceal their weapons, the members of the band trickled into the town by twos and threes, attracting little attention. By 2 p. m. the stage was set for the holdup.

Jesse James, Bob Younger and Pitts were seated on

boxes in front of the Lee & Hitchcock store, around the corner from the bank, which fronted on Division st. Frank James, Jim Younger and Stiles were lounging a short distance away. Cole Younger and Clel Miller ambled up on their horses and dismounted, Younger pretending to adjust his saddle.

At this point Jesse James, Bob Younger and Pitts rose in a leisurely way and walked into the bank. Then Miller closed the bank door. Everything was going according to plan. Then came the first break in the campaign—a bad break for the outlaws.

J. S. Allen, a hardware merchant, attempted to enter the bank. Miller seized him and ordered him to stand back. Instantly suspicious, Allen tore himself from the desperado's grasp.

"Get your guns, boys!" he yelled. "They're robbing the bank!"

Young H. M. Wheeler, a medical student home on vacation from the University of Michigan, was sitting in front of his father's drug store. He saw what was happening to Allen and took up the cry.

"Robbery! Robbery!" he shouted.



Then bedlam broke loose. The five outlaws outside the bank charged up and down the street on their horses, firing indiscriminately in every direction. Citizens ran for cover and began a mad search for firearms. In a matter of moments they were back, armed with a variety of weapons and fighting mad. From then on, a real battle raged.

The first casualty was Nicholas Gustavson, a Swede. Unable to understand English, he failed to obey when the outlaws ordered him away. They trained their guns on him and he fell mortally wounded, in the street.

Within the bank, the three bandits who entered found three employees, Joseph L. Heywood, bookkeeper; F. J. Wilcox, assistant bookkeeper; and A. E. Bunker, teller. Leaping over the counter, the robbers covered the trio with their guns.

"We're going to rob this bank!" snapped one of the outlaws. "Don't any of you holler."

Another leveled his pistol at Heywood.

"Open that safe damn quick," he ordered, "or I'll blow your head off!"

"I can't," Heywood replied. "It has a time lock."

He then made a lunge for the door of the vault, which he tried to close. "Murder, murder!" he screamed. An outlaw slugged him on the head with a gun and he fell to the floor.

Pitts leaned down and fired his pistol beside Heywood's head, but even this failed to break the man's iron will.

The bandits then turned on Bunker and Wilcox, who had been forced to kneel under the counter and were guarded by Bob Younger, but they also insisted the safe could not be unlocked.

As a matter of fact they were telling the truth—because the safe already was unlocked! The door was shut, the bolts in place, but the dial had not been turned. But this the robbers never knew.

Seizing an opportunity when Bob Younger's attention was momentarily diverted Bunker slipped from under the counter and made a dash for freedom. Pitts fired at him twice, one bullet crashing into the teller's right shoulder, but Bunker made good his escape through the rear of the building.

## MINNESOTA RAID BROKE BANDIT GANG!

**I**T WAS A SORRY DAY for the James and Younger brothers when they decided to invade southern Minnesota. The gunfire of peaceful citizens finished them as bank and train robbers. The battles of Northfield and Madelia, detailed on these pages, took the lives of three of their staunchest followers, Stiles, Miller and Pitts.

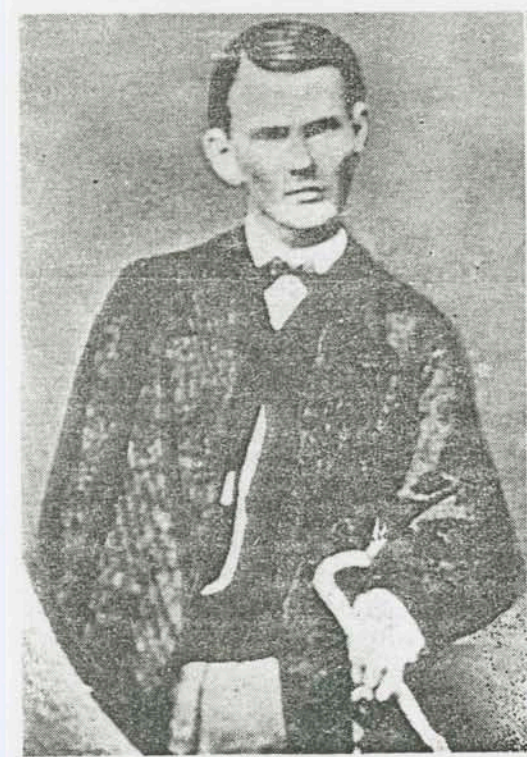
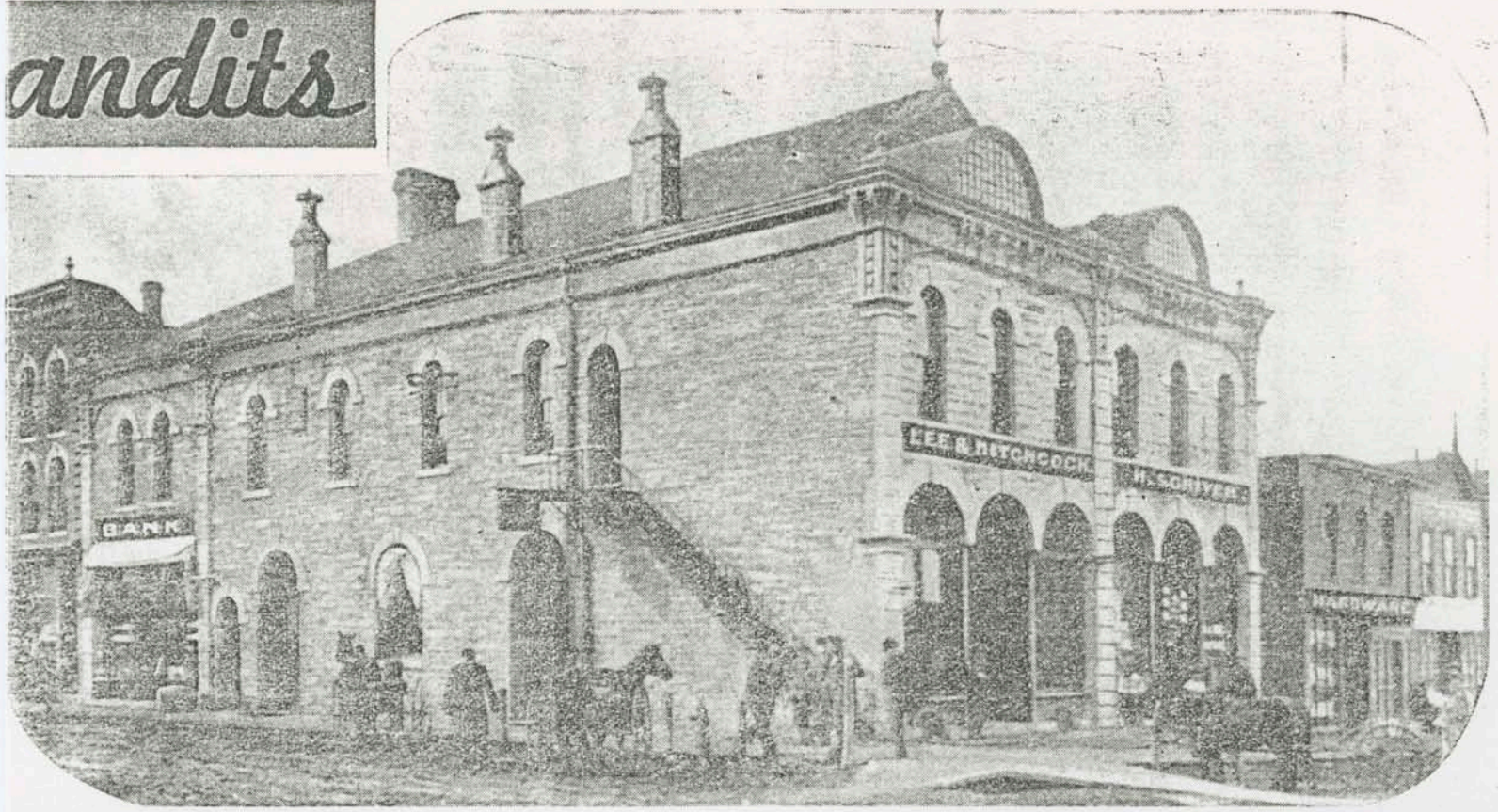
The three Youngers were given life sentences in Stillwater prison where Bob Younger died in 1889. Cole and Jim were paroled in 1901 but never returned to their careers of crime. Still on parole, Jim committed suicide in the old Reardon hotel in St. Paul. Cole went back to Missouri and organized a Wild West show. He died in 1916.

Though the James brothers escaped, they were through as top-flight desperadoes. After staying briefly at their Clay county home, they lived for a time in retirement in Tennessee. They then returned to Missouri, where Jesse was betrayed and murdered in 1882 by two members of his band, Charles and Robert Ford.

Frank surrendered to Missouri authorities that same year, was tried for a series of crimes and eventually released. He then bought a farm near Excelsior, Mo., where he lived quietly until his death in 1915.



# andits



**THE PICTURES:** Scene of the historic Northfield bandit raid is at upper right; note the bank sign at left. Heroes of the fight are shown at upper left: Dr. H. M. Wheeler, then a medical student; Joseph L. Heywood, slain cashier, and A. R. Manning, left to right. The bandits, below, left to right: Jim, Bob and Cole Younger, Jesse James, Frank James, Charlie Pitts, William Stiles and Clel Miller.

The bandits in the bank then heard one of their companions shout from outside:  
 "The game is up! Better get out, boys! They're killing our men!"  
 The trio dashed out the front door. But as they left, one of them shot the gallant Heywood through the head, killing him instantly.

• • •

Rushing into Division street, the three bandits found the battle there at its height.  
 After giving the first alarm, Allen had raced to his hardware store and distributed the guns he had in stock. Elias Stacy was armed with a shotgun, as were Ross C. Phillips, J. B. Hyde and James Gregg.  
 A. R. Manning, the other hardware merchant, and young Wheeler had rifles. Capt. H. S. French, the postmaster, Justice Streater and Elias Hobbs, unable to find firearms, were throwing rocks!

First blood for the citizens was drawn by Stacy, who fired at Clel Miller's head as the latter was

mounting his horse. The charge struck the robber in the face, but the shot was too light to inflict serious injury.  
 It was the rifle fire of Manning and Wheeler which turned the tide.  
 Stepping out into the street, Manning killed a horse behind which Cole Younger was taking cover. Then he fired again, wounding Younger. His third shot drilled Stiles through the head and the outlaw fell dead from his saddle.  
 Firing from a second story window, Wheeler shot Miller through the body, severing an artery and killing him instantly. Then the young medico saw Bob Younger, pistol in hand, running toward Manning. Wheeler fired again, shattering the outlaw's right elbow.  
 At this point, the bandits took to flight. One horse shy, they galloped out of town with Bob Younger mounted behind his brother, Cole.  
 They left two of their number dead in the street. At least three others were seriously wounded, Frank

James having suffered a bad leg injury. And they had not obtained one penny of loot!  
 The plight of the fleeing outlaws was not a happy one. They were hunted and hounded through southern Minnesota by posses which at times numbered 1,000 men. They hid in woods and swamps and barns. They were sighted on various occasions and at least once, in a ravine near Shieldsville, exchanged long range shots with pursuers.  
 They finally abandoned their own half-starved horses, continuing their flight sometimes on foot, sometimes on stolen mounts.

• • •

Near Mankato the bandit party split. Two of them, presumably the James brothers, sneaked through a picket line at night, stole a pair of horses and made their way to South Dakota, where they kidnaped a physician and forced him to treat Frank James' injured leg. Eventually, they reached their old home in Clay county, Mo.  
 But the remaining quartet did not fare so well. Hope for their capture had been abandoned. Many days had passed since the bank robbery attempt and it was believed they had left the state. The possemen had returned to their homes. Then two of the outlaws were spotted by A. O. Sorbel, a 17-year-old Norwegian lad, as he was horseback riding near Madelia.  
 The youth rode rapidly into town and gave the alarm. A new posse was quickly organized by Capt. W. W. Murphy and Sheriff James Glispén of Watonwan county and set out on the trail of the badmen. They were sighted making their way on foot across Hanska slough and soon surrounded in a stretch of land covered with thick bushes and undergrowth along the Watonwan river.  
 Capt. Murphy called for volunteers to go in after them and six men answered his call—Sheriff Glispén, Col. Thomas L. Vought, Benjamin M. Rice, George A. Bradford, Charles C. Pomeroy and James Severson.  
 The fight which followed was brief but fierce. Due to the density of the foliage, both possemen and outlaws held their fire until they were about 30 feet apart. Then both sides cut loose.  
 Capt. Murphy was struck in the side, but the bullet glanced off a briar pipe in his pocket and lodged in his pistol belt. Bullets grazed Bradford and Severson.  
 But the bandits were almost shot to bits. Pitts was struck five times and died in his tracks. Cole Younger suffered eleven wounds, Jim Younger five. Bob Younger, with a gaping bullet hole in his chest, finally shouted: "I surrender! They're all down but me!"  
 The date was Sept. 21, just two weeks after the ill-starred raid.