



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society: Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater, Minn.) Case Files (Discharged Inmate Files). To request permission for anything beyond personal use, contact MHS.

www.mnhs.org

STATE OF WISCONSIN
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
MADISON

July 28 1924.

RECEIVED

JUL 29 1924

Parole Department
Minnesota State Prison

State Parole Office,
State Penitentiary,
Stillwater, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

I am writing at the suggestion of General Ralph M. Immell, adjutant general of Wisconsin. I am desirous of securing information and data concerning the releasing of Cole Younger. General Immell, whose aide-de-camp I am told me the story of Cole Younger's release and I am anxious to get the information. I am doing a university thesis on guerilla warfare during the civil war and brigandage after the conflict and this information is very valuable.

General Immell spoke of letters on file about Younger's release. I would like to secure copies of these letters and willing to pay for their being copied. If this can be arranged and the cost advised I will return check at once.

This favor would be of great value--

Very respectfully

Robert S. Allen
Robert S. Allen

RECEIVED
JUL 29 1924
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

July 28th, 1924.

R. S. Allan
Adjutant General's Office
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of yours of July 28th regarding the Younger Brothers. I have to say that these men were committed to this prison November 28th, 1876 from Rice County, they pleading guilty there on November 20th to the crime of murder in the first degree.

The offense as you know was a bank robbery which took place the September preceding and in the robbery Mr. Hayward, the cashier of the bank, was shot and killed. There were three of the Younger Brothers, Thomas C. known as Cole and who was the oldest, then James and Robert the youngest. Robert was wounded at the Northfield raid, the other two were wounded when captured some three weeks later. Robert died in this prison on September 16th, 1889. Cole and James were paroled July 14th, 1901. James committed suicide in St. Paul by shooting himself on October 14, 1902. Cole was still on parole at that time and he was finally pardoned by the Board of Pardons on February 4th, 1903. He then removed from Minnesota and went to live at Lee Summit, Missouri, his old home and died there sometime in the summer or fall of 1917.

There is considerable correspondence in the files of these men but I do not feel at liberty to send copies many of them being more or less confidential.

Yours very truly,

faw m.

State Parole Agent.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
MADISON

July 30 1924. RECEIVED

AUG - 1 1924

Minnesota State Prison

Mr. F. A. Whittier,
State Parole Agent,
Stillwater, Minn.

My dear Mr. Whittier:

My very sincere thanks for your very considerate and informative letter. Your information is most valuable and I am very grateful to you for the trouble you incurred in my behalf.

But frankly I am greatly interested in getting copies of a few of the letters pertaining to the case of Cole Younger. You will recall the visit of Adjutant General Ralph Immell of this state when he told you a story of Cole Younger and Senator Elkins. I am writing this story and am desirous of getting some of the correspondence on it. I am in communication with the present Senator Elkins and he has no objection to the yarn being written. In fact considers it a very fine side-light on his illustrious father. My object is simply bringing out the splendiddness of those old warriors and without getting mawky or silly telling a straightforward story. I refer you to General Immell about myself and my intentions. I am sure I need no better commendation. However, Governor Blaine of the state will be glad I know to verify my desires.

What I want is a few of the letters written by the old Senator Elkins concerning Cole Younger's case. I am willing to pay for their being copied or photographed. In fact would consider it a great favor to be permitted to do so. I appreciate your reluctance in issuing this correspondence but after all the principles are gone to their rewards, their activities, their stories are world history and the particular story of Cole Younger and Senator Elkins is neither secret or dismal.

I am sure that if I could have the privilege of seeing you and telling you personally of my wants you would permit me to go through the letters and I am therefor persisting in urging again my request of copies of some of the correspondence in the files pertaining to Cole Younger's case and Senator Elkins effort in his behalf.

Again permit me to thank you for your kindness--

Very respectfully

R. S. Allen

August 1st, 1924.

Robert S. Allan
Adjutant General
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:-

Answering your letter of July 30th I will say that when the Youngers were here all the effort to bring about their release was made through and to the State Board of Pardons whose office is at the Capitol in St. Paul. A bill was finally passed by the legislature allowing the Board of Managers of the prison to parole these men but it was only effective by and with unanimous consent of the Board of Pardons. Prior to the passage of the bill much effort had been made to bring about their release by an act of the Board of Pardons and all the correspondence with that in view, is on file at the office of the Governor in St. Paul.

I do not find any letters here from Senator Elkins and I am sure if such letters were written they are in the Governor's office. I remember very well that Senator Elkins was very active in urging their release as were many others. I have examined the files of both of these men and there is nothing in the files here that would be of any particular interest to you. Most of the letters are relative to employment when released and afterwards.

The present secretary of the State Board of Pardons is Miss Bertha Wolff % Governor's office in St. Paul and whether or not the letters and records of that office would be available for your purpose, I am unable to say. I knew the Youngers very well while they were in prison and they were under my care and supervision while on parole. I know much of their characteristics and it might be interesting but we have nothing here in the files that would indicate Senator Elkins activity in their behalf.

Yours very truly,

faw m.

State Parole Agent.

SEP 16 1924
Minnesota State Prison

Chattanooga, T. Va.
Sept. 11th 1924

Warden & penitentiary.
Still state Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

For curiosity I am
writing this letter hoping
you will be kind
enough to answer it.
I would like to know
if the Younger brothers
are still living and if
so are they still in the
penitentiary.

Hoping you
will kindly answer
I am

Yours sincerely
Dewey Litton

Box-61

Sept. 16, 1924

700

Mr. Dewey Litton,
P. O. Box 61,
Charlottesville, W. Va.,

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 11th inst. have to advise that the youngest of the Younger Brothers, Bob or Robert, died in the prison. The other two, James and Cole, were both released from the prison and have since died.

Trusting this gives you the desired information, I am,

Yours very truly,

JJS
jed

Warden

CHICAGO

January 16th, 1925

Warden Minnesota State Prison,
Stillwater, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Will you please favor me with the following information, which you no doubt, can secure from your records.

"The color of eyes and the shade of hair of Cole, Bob and Jim Younger"

I am enclosing herewith self addressed, stamped envelope for reply.

Thanking you for the information, I remain

Very truly,

Helene (Kaiser) Palmer

6918 Dorchester Ave
Chicago, Ill.

RECEIVED
JAN 17 1925
DETROIT

700
Jan. 19, 1925

Miss Helene Palmer,
6918 Dorchester Ave.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Madam:

Replying to yours of the 16th inst. have to advise that
our records show that the Younger Brothers, all of them that were
here, had brown eyes and dark hair.

Yours very truly,

JJS
jed

Warden

L. B. PRICE, PRES. AND TREAS.
PURCHASING OFFICE, GREENWICH, CONN.

THE L. B. PRICE MERCANTILE CO.

CHAIN STORES

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED STORES IN TWENTY-FIVE STATES

FIELD OFFICES
KANSAS CITY, MO.
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

RECEIVED
AUG 10 1925
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON
TOWN Oshkosh, Wis.
DATE 8/8/25

Stillwater Penitentiary
Stillwater, Minn.
Warden

Dear Sir:

I am desirous of obtaining the year, Col. Younger was sentenced to your institution, and that year he was released.

Thanking you in advance for the trouble I have put you to I beg to remain
Yours Respt.

Alvin Lambrecht
292 Main Street

Nov 28-1876
Jul 4 1901

We have been 30 years building up our reputation and expect you to help us maintain it.

August 10 1925

699X

Alvin Lambrecht,

292 Main Street,

Waukesha, Wisc.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of August 8th, wish to inform you that Cole Younger was received at this institution on November 28th, 1876. He was paroled July 4th, 1901 and discharged from parole about one year later. Cole outlived his brothers; he died in 1917 in Missouri.

Yours very truly,

JJS jlf

Warden.

Denver Colo.

Sept 24, 1926.

Warden M. S. Carson:

RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

SEP 27 1926

Missouri State Prison.

I am writing this letter seeking a little information, as I was at a place a short time ago I heard a man talk about the George Brothers. I was a little girl living at Stillwater at the time of their release from the prison and it was my understanding that they had been released due to a law being passed by the State that twenty five years was a life sentence, and they had served twenty-eight they were free. Now I wanted to know if this

2.

is correct and what year they were released. He spoke of Bob Younger shooting himself because his former sweet heart did not remain true to him was this correct? & Lat has he come of Cole Younger is he still living do you know?

Now I am not asking these questions out of curiosity. it is just to settle an argument and not knowing who to write to that you might answer.

Hoping to hear from you &
Am yours respectfully.

Mrs Rose Emerson.

Fort Logan.

Colo.

% Col Shelley.

Robt. Mail Sept 15. 1889

your letter of 14th July 1901, received in
 Paris 14-1901
 Jas Comin 11/19/02

2/07/03
 Parcel 2

Younger is he still living or you know?

out of curiosity it is found to contain
some I am not asking these questions

it also proved that the
remains of the first one.

Yours very truly
J. H. P.

Wm. T. L. L.

14 1/2

25

20% of the total

700
1015
AUG. 23, 1926

Mrs. Rose Everson,
c/o Col Shelley,
Fort Logan, Colo.

Dear Madam:

I have your letter of the 24th inst. making certain inquiries regarding the Younger Brothers who were formerly inmates of this institution and in reply have to advise as follows:

The Younger Brothers (James and Thomas Coleman) were released on parole July 14, 1901. This was made possible by virtue of a law that was passed which provided that life prisoners might be paroled by the Board of Control, with the unanimous consent of the Board of Pardons, after they had served what would have been a thirty five year sentence less good time, or at the end of about 24 years. The Board of Control, however, did not have the power to grant final discharge and paroled prisoners are considered as still prisoners.

Robert Younger died at this institution on Sept 15, 1889. James and Thomas Coleman were paroled on the above date. James committed suicide by shooting himself on October 19, 1902. Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger was granted a conditional pardon on Feb. 4, 1903 and I understand died some three or four years ago at St. Joseph Mo.

Trusting this may give you the desired information, I am,

Yours very truly,

JJS

Warden

U.S. Submarine Base.
New London Conn.
March 13 1927.

Warden,
State Penitentiary.
Stillwater,, Minn.

Dear Sir,

Will you please send me the address of Cole Younger,
who served thirty-five years less his good time in Stillwater -
Penitentiary.

And if you will favor me thus, I shall greatly appreciate your kindness, With respect, I am,

Very Truly Yours,

Tom. C. Jordan.
Tom. C. Jordan. S.C.I. Class.
U.S. Submarine Base.
New London Conn.

RECEIVED
MAR 16 1927
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

699
March 16, 1927
*See Summit
St. Joseph - Mo*

Mr. Tom C. Jordan,
U.S. Submarine Base,
New London, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of the 13th inst. relative to Cole
Younger, have to advise that Younger died some few years ago and
was buried at St. Joseph, Mo.

Yours very truly,

Warden



RECEIVED

Ft. Logan Colo. May 29-27

JUN 8 1927

Minnesota State Prison.

Mr. J. J. Sullivan, Warden:

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

You so kindly answered my former letter, giving me the information which I asked for in regard to the Younger boys that I am venturing to trouble you again . A friend is writing a story based on the incident of their release, and would like to know something of the particulars of how the information of their good fortune was conveyed to them, how and where they got the news, what, if anything they said on being told, how soon they were released, whether they were given any money, and any little item surrounding the incident which would tend to give an impression of their prison life or help to give a true picture of the affair.

An answer to these questions would be the greatest favor to me, and one which will be appreciated by the lady concerned.

Hoping that you will find time to write soon,

I am yours cordially,

Mrs. Rose Carter Evenson.

Quarters No 21.

Ft Logan.
Colo.

June 9, 1927

Mrs. Rose Carter Evenson,
Quarters No. 21,
Fort Logan, Colo.

Dear Madam:

I have your letter dated the 29th ult. just received, in regard to the Younger Brothers who were formerly inmates of this institution and note your inquiry. Their release, of course, occurred a good many years ago and at that time the officers who were in charge no doubt conveyed the fact of their coming release to them thru the regular channels. I do not myself remember any of the incidents pertaining to this particular phase of the matter and do not remember just what impression this made upon them. We do not now have employed here any officer who was present when the information was given them and am afraid that I cannot just give you the information you seek.

Yours very truly,

JJS
jed

Warden

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

JAMES MORTON CALLAHAN
OLIVER PERRY CHITWOOD
CHARLES HENRY AMBLER
WILSON PORTER SHORTRIDGE
DOROTHY LOUISE MACKAY
JOHN DONALD BARNHART
EVALYN SPURGEON DIXON
CAROLINE LEWIS SHANKS
LYDIA LOTHROP
CARL M. FRASURE

West Virginia University

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

November 26, 1927

RECEIVED
NOV 29 1927
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

Warden
Minnesota Penitentiary
Minnesota

My dear Sir:

May I inquire of the circumstances and the date of the trial of Cole Younger, the date of his conviction and sentence to the Minnesota Penitentiary and the date and circumstances of his release on parole and whether he is still living.

I desire this information in connection with the preparation of a biographical sketch of Senator Stephen B. Elkins who seems to have had some influence in securing the parole of the Younger brothers from the Minnesota Penitentiary.

Sincerely yours,

Jm Callahan

JMC/msf

For 281876 Life must die
Cable 32 yrs

Pan

RECEIVED
NOV 20 1927
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

November 26, 1927

Warden
Minnesota Penitentiary
Minnesota

My dear Sir:

May I inquire of the circumstances and the date of the trial of Cole Younger, the date of his conviction and sentence to the Minnesota Penitentiary and the date and circumstances of his release on parole and whether he is still living.

I desire this information in connection with the preparation of a biographical sketch of Senator Stephen B. McKinnon who seems to have had some influence in securing the parole of the Younger brothers from the Minnesota Penitentiary.

Sincerely yours,

JMC/mat

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE
JAMES MONTGOMERY CALLEMAN
OLIVER HENRY SHUTTWOOD
CHARLES HENRY SMITH
WILSON PORTER SHUTTWOOD
DONALD LEOHARDT
JOHN DONALD BARNHART
WALTER BRIDGES DIXON
CAROLINE LEWIS SHAW
LYDIA L. OTTUM
CARL M. HARRIS

West Virginia University
MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

November 30th 1927

James M. Callahan, Esq.,
West Virginia University,
Morgantown, W. Va.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of yours of the 26th in regard to one Cole Younger. In reply wish to advise that Thomas Coleman Younger, known as "Cole", and his two brothers, James and Robert, were received here on November 20th 1876 to serve LIFE sentences for the crime of Murder in the first degree. Cole was at that time 32 years of age, James 28, and Robert 22.

Robert died at the prison September 16, 1889. Cole and James were paroled July 14, 1901. James later committed suicide in St. Paul while Cole, who was pardoned on February 4th, 1903, died at Lee's Summit, Missouri, in 1917.

All of these men were good prisoners.

Yours very truly,

JJS jlf

Warden.

Radio Broadcasting Station WMC.

Memphis Commercial Appeal, Inc.

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MORNING AND SUNDAY
LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE SOUTH



MEMPHIS EVENING APPEAL
DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY
SUPREME IN THE AFTERNOON

Memphis, Tenn.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

February 14, 1928.

RECEIVED

FEB 17 1928

My dear Sir:

A subscriber of ours is very anxious to know when Bob and Cole Younger were pardoned or parolled from the state penitentiary.

If you could give me this information, I'd be greatly obliged to you.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Fawcett

Managing Editor,
THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL.

The Warden
Minnesota State Penitentiary
Stillwater, Minn.

TF-ml

699
701

Rob died 9/16/89

Joe + Cole paroled 7/14/01
Joe suicide in St P
Cole pardoned 7/4/03 died '17 Mr

Feb. 18, 1928

Mr. Thomas Fauntleroy,
Managing Editor,
The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your inquiry of the 14th inst. have to advise that Robert Younger died at this institution on Sept. 16, 1889. Thomas Coleman Younger and James Younger were paroled and released on July 14, 1901. Shortly after this James committed suicide in St. Paul, Minnesota. Thomas Coleman, commonly known as Cole, was pardoned on Feb. 4, 1903 and died at Lees Summit, Missouri sometime in 1917.

Trusting this may give you the information desired, I am,

Yours very truly,

JJS
jed

Warden

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
IOWA STATE COLLEGE
AMES, IOWA

July 27, 1928

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1928

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON.

Warden of State Prison,
Stillwater, Minn.

Dear Sir:

I am wondering if you can give me any information regarding the whereabouts of Cole Younger or any of the other members of his gang who might be alive at this time. I understand that he served a term in your prison several years ago, and that you would perhaps know something of his whereabouts if he is still alive.

Sincerely yours,

J. T. Hardwick

Associate Secretary

JTH:W

July 30, 1928

699

Mr. J. T. Hardwick,
Y.M.C.A., Iowa State College,
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 29th inst. in which
you make inquiry regarding the Younger Brothers have to advise that
we had three of the Younger brothers confined here. They have
all died, Coleman died some few years ago at St. Joseph, Mo.

Yours very truly,

JJS
jed

Warden

Minneapolis Minn

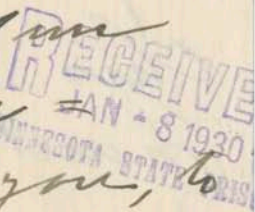
Jan 7-30

Harden St Prison

Stillwater Minn

Dear Mr Harden

I am writing you, to
ask if you will give
me information about
the Younger Bros. Did
Jim Younger die in
prison or was he
pardoned with Cole
Will you please get
me the right information
as it will save an
argument. I asked
my sister Mrs Edward
A Roering of the Knud
and she said the best



way would be to
write direct to you
Hoping you will give
this to me and
Thanking for same
I am Yours Very Truly

Walter B. Deason
Genl

Minneapolis
Min

Inclosed you will
please find stamp

January 8th, 1930

Walter B. Season,
General Delivery,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

I have your inquiry relative to the Younger
Brothers.

Robert Younger did at this institution on
September 16th, 1889. James Younger and his
brother, Thomas Cole, were paroled on July 14th,
1901. Shortly after this James committed suicide
in St. Paul, Minnesota. Thomas Coleman, commonly
known as Cole, was pardoned on February 4th, 1903
and died at Lees Summit, Missouri sometime in 1917.

Yours very truly,

JJS jlf

Warden.

OSCAR G. OLANDER,
COMMISSIONER
LIEUT. F. G. ARMSTRONG
SECRET SERVICE DIVISION

STATE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION
LANSING, MICHIGAN

February 11th, 1930

CAPT. IRA H. MARMON
BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION
LIEUT. HUGO E. ERICSON
BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION

Warden J.J.Sullivan,
Minnesota State Prison,
Stillwater, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Kindly favor this bureau with photo's
of the YOUNGER BROTHERS. Understand convicted and
sentenced to your institution some years ago.

A brief history and criminal record in each case,
will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you, we are

Very truly yours,

State Department of Public Safety,
Bureau of Criminal Identification


I.H. Marmon, Supt. of Bureau

IHM/HEE

RECEIVED
FEB 13 1930
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

February 14th, 1930

I. H. Marmon, Supt.,
State Bureau of Identification,
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 11th with reference to the Younger brothers and am enclosing photo of James and Thomas Coleman. We have no photo of the youngest brother, Robert.

X These men were received here on November 28th, 1876 from Rice County to serve LIFE sentences for the crime of Murder 1st degree. The offense, as you probably know, was a bank robbery which took place the September preceding and in the robbery Mr. Hayward, cashier of the bank, was shot and killed. Thomas Coleman, known as Cole, was the oldest, then came James and Robert. Robert was wounded during the raid, the other two were wounded when captured some three weeks later.

Robert died in this prison on September 16th, 1889. Cole and James were paroled July 14th, 1901 and James shot and killed himself on October 14th, 1902 in the City of St. Paul. Cole was still on parole at that time and was finally pardoned by the State Board of Pardons on February 4th, 1903. He immediately removed to his old home at Lee's Summit, Missouri where he died in the early fall of 1917.

Cole Younger always claimed that the robbery was committed in the spirit of revenge. He claimed that troops of General Butler of the Union Forces maimed their aunt, the mother of the James boys, and that they swore to avenge the deed. The gang learned that General Butler had a large interest in the Northfield Bank and they sought to ruin him financially through this robbery.

You understand that Cole's statement is not official but it occurred to me that you might be interested in it.

Yours very truly,

JJS jlf

Warden.

Omaha, 4/16, '30.

Penitentiary Warden
Stilwater, Minn.

Dear Sir, -

Will you please
inform me if Frank James
the "Missouri Outlaw" was
ever an inmate of a pen-
itentiary in Minn.

and to your knowledge was
he ever a convict in any
other state, and oblige,

yours respt,

C. O. Fritchhoff
3323 Seward St.

RECEIVED
APR 19 1930
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

Younger Bros

April 19th, 1930

C. O. Fritchhoff,
3323 Seward St.,
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:-

The James brothers were never confined in this institution. Their partners, Cole, Jim and Robert Younger, known as the Younger Brothers, served sentences here many years ago.

Whether any of the James boys every were committed to a penal institution, I am unable to say.

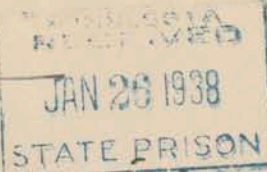
Yours very truly,

JJS jlf

Warden.

Warden
Stillwater Prison

Jan. 24th 1938



Dear Sir - Am writing in regard to one Thomas Coleman Gounger who was admitted to the Minn. State Prison either late in 1876 or ^{the} spring of 1877 for Bank robbery at Northfield Minn. What I wish to know particularly is his marks, height, weight & c, when admitted, and more especially, ~~bullet~~ wounds and scars (if any) and how many. When was he admitted and when released, and is the story true or false that at one time when the Prison was burning was he given a gun to guard the other prisoners. What was his principal duties while he was in Prison. My reasons for asking these questions are that there are so many conflicting stories being printed that I would like to know the Truth so as to be able to refute these stories when, in my opinion, it seems advisable to do so, as they have a tendency, especially with young boys, to glorify and make heroes out of outlaws.

Yours Truly - Frank Dalton
Route 1 - O Odams Store
Gladewater Texas

Robert - died at old Prison
James
Cole - Died Leidenham, Mo

- OVER -

In 1936 we had a Centennial Celebration here in Texas and a fellow showed up claiming to be Jesse James and wanting to exhibit himself. I sent to St Joseph Mo. and got a copy of the coroners inquest over jess, and also notified the Hon. Huston Brittenden of Kansas City, and we stopped the fellow from showing. Huston Brittenden is a son of T-T-Brittenden who was Governor of Mo. when Jesse James was killed on Apr. 3rd 1882.

Please give me any other information that you have that would be of use, both about Cole and his two Brothers, James and Robert. I am going to try to stop these false stories, as they can result in nothing but harm.

F.D.

Younger Brothers

January 27th 1938

Frank Dalton
R.1 % Adams Store
Gladewater, Texas

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 24th, it is not customary to give information concerning prisoners to other than law enforcing officers, but for your information will say that Robert Younger died in prison; James committed suicide in St. Paul, Minnesota and Cole Younger died in Lee Summit, Missouri after his release from prison.

I have never heard the story that any of these men were ever given a gun with which to guard other prisoners in the old prison and doubt very much its veracity.

Yours truly,

LFU:LJ

Warden

September 6, 1938

Warden, Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

Sir:

I am taking the liberty of asking you a few questions and hope you will be kind enough to answer them. They are:

1. On what date was the Youngers, Thomas, Coleman, James, and Robert, admitted to the Minnesota Prison?
2. When did Robert die and from what cause?
3. When was Thomas, Coleman, and James paroled?
4. When were they granted a pardon?

My reason for asking the above questions is that I am, as far as is known, the last living one of the men who fought with Quantrell, and I want to leave a truthful record of our activities during and after the Civil War. Thanking you in advance,
I am

Yours truly,

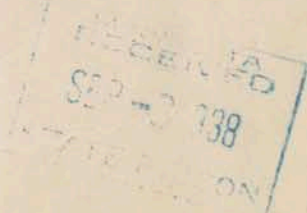
Frank Dalton

Frank Dalton

Route one, Box 422 A
Gladewater, Texas

P.S. I would like also to know the date of the death of James Younger if you can tell me.

F. D.



October 8, 1938

Mr. Frank Dalton
R. # 1 Box 422A
Gladewater, Texas

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago you wrote me inquiring about the Younger Brothers, and for your information, I wish to advise that they were received here on Nov. 20th, 1876.

Robert died in prison on September 16th, 1889. James and Cole were paroled on July 14th, 1901.

James committed suicide by shooting himself on October 19th, 1902 in St. Paul; and Cole was discharged from parole on February 4th, 1903 after which he returned to Lee Summit, Mo., where I am informed he died in 1917.

Trusting this gives you the information you desire, I am

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

Jan, 14, 1939

The Warden
Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater Minn.



Dear Sir:

My father, Geo. W. Bolles as a boy and a private citizen about sixty years ago was a blacksmith in the prison and he used to tell me that on the floor above where he worked Cole Younger was logging pulleys and he and most everyone else in the State at that time knew all more or less, about the Northfield raid.

In the course of his and my lives we have had many arguments with different people as to whether or not the James boys were participants in the robbery.

The story my father told and which is often disputed is that the James and Young-

SEATTLE, WASH.

er brothers raided this bank and killed a
person or two and in the ensuing chase Bob
younger was badly wounded. The James
wanted to finish killing ^{Bob} to expedite the
get away but the younger wouldn't have that
and ^{was} ~~was~~ behind to take care of the boy
even caught and the James outfit got away.

Is this in the main correct? I'd like
very much, to have this information
from an authoritative source

Yours very truly
W. L. Bolles

4712-11th NE.

Seattle Wash.

P.S.

My father lives in Montana and I am
probably wrong about some of the details as he
tells them. The controversial issue is tho, was
the James boys at Northfield?

My uncle Dr. H. L. Bolles of Long
Beach Cal, was a hospital steward in

your hospital in 1878 or thereabout and
I've heard them talk about the place so
much that I've never forgiven myself
for not going down there when I was at Rochester
a few years ago.

W. L. Baller.

STATE PRINTING COMPANY

E. N. DISNEY

724 NINETEENTH

PHONE, GA 0194-R

DENVER, COLORADO

January 25, 1939

Dear Sir:

Will you please advise me as to the statement that Jesse James, the one time desperado served time in your prison and if he was not pardoned when an old man with grey hair, after having been there for some 25 years. Or was it Frank James or other of the gang that rifled the Northfield Minneapots bank? in the early 80s. I am a former Minnesota Agricultural School man and I think you had there at one time a guard or employee of my class of 1896, by name of Frank Crippen.

Respectfully,

E. N. Disney

3565 West 44th
Denver, Colo.

700

January 31, 1939

W. L. Bolles
4712 - 11th N. E.
Seattle, Washington

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter, I wish to inform you that the records were not very complete at the time the Younger Brothers were committed here.

However, according to what information we do have, it would seem that both the Younger Brothers and the James Brothers were involved in the Northfield Bank Robbery. One of the Younger brothers was wounded, and as the Younger brothers did not wish to leave him, were captured, but the James Brothers escaped.

Trusting this information will be of some help to you, I am

Yours very truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

700

January 31, 1939

E. N. Disney
3565 West 44th
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 25th inquiring about Jesse James, and for your information, I wish to advise that Jesse James nor any of his brothers ever served a term at this institution.

History tells us that the James' boys, in company with the Younger Brothers held up the Bank at Northfield, but that one of the Younger Brothers was wounded. The Younger brothers refused to go on and leave their brother to die, and were thus captured, but the James boys escaped.

Robert, Cole, and James Younger served time in this institution, one of them died at the end of 9 months of his sentence, and the other two were released on conditional pardons in the year 1902.

Trusting this gives you some of the information you desire, I am

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

Thomas Coleman Younger

Bred 11/20/76

Activity Missouri

Age - 32

Hgt 5'11 1/4"

Paroled July-14-1901

James Younger

Missouri

Age 28

Hgt 5'-9"

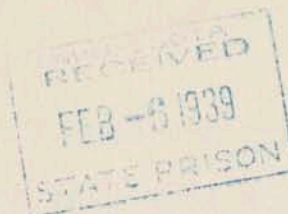
Paroled 7-14-1901

Robert Younger

Age 22

Hgt 6'

4 Gun shot wounds on body
7 on on right elbow
Died Sept 6-1889



Florida Theatre Bldg.,
Sarasota, Fla.
Feb. 3, 1939

Warden, Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I am making a very unusual request of you, but if you do not have the time to answer, will you please give this letter to one of the office force or guards who was acquainted with my late husband, Charles R. Wolfer, youngest son of former Warden Wolfer. I am sure one of them will answer it.

The now popular screen version of the life of Jesse James is playing in our theatre soon and I should like very much to have a letter from you stating some of the authentic facts concerning that

(2)

gang. Just how many were captured, their names, how long they served and something about what eventually became of them. I have heard Charles tell the story many times but I have forgotten. Will frame your letter and place it in our theatre lobby along with some relics I have from the old prison.

Since losing our dear friend and former Warden, John Sullivan, I have lost close contact with Stillwater, so have no way of knowing who took his place.

Am addressing this letter just to the warden, for which I hope you will forgive me.

Sincerely Yours,

Mrs. Charles R Wolfew.

1200 - Linwood Blvd.,
Kansas City, Mo.

Feb. 6, 1939

Record Clerk,
Stillwater Prison,
Stillwater, Minn.

In Ref: Case History of: Cole Younger
Bob ..
Jim ..

18 - - 1901 (July 14)

Dear Sir: -

In order to settle an argument
and to obtain some proof or disproof of the
following statements, I am writing direct to
you, since the parties in question were at one time
confined to your institution.

Did or did not Jim Younger commit
suicide in 1902 after Pardon Boards refusal to
let him marry? He & Cole were Pardoned on July 14, 1901.

Trusting that your Records may be
of assistance to me in this matter, I am,

Yours for Results,
Capt. Chas. B. Mayers, F.P.E.,
S. D. A. Apr. No. 36,
1200 - Linwood Blvd.,
Kansas City, Mo.

W.B. -

Please state
if all three of the
Younger Brothers were in Prison at the
same time & were Pardoned same date?

C.B.Y.

Feb. 6. '39

MRS. C. D. BUCK
5007 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas

FEB 10 1939
PRISON

To Supt. of Penitentiary
Bayport, Minnesota
Dear Sir:-

Will you be so kind as to
give me some information?

The screen play "Jesse James"
has been showing here in Houston
and controversy has come up
regarding his life.

I am a Minnesotan and in
1896 (am not quite sure of date but
about that time) I visited the
state prison with Mr. Whittier
who was, I think, the parole
officer. Before we entered the
library, he told me that the
man in charge of library

#

MRS. C. D. BUCK
5007 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas

was Jesse James, I've always thought it was he but history says he died or was shot in 1882. I'm sure whatever Mr. Whittier said was right and I must be mistaken. Could it have been Bob Younger? Cole Younger was in the prison at that time.

I have always thought that Jesse James was captured at the Northfield Bank robbery and spent many years in our states prison. Please put me ^{right} ~~written~~ - I shall greatly appreciate it.

Very truly yours
Margaret W. Buck

700

February 7, 1939

Mrs. Charles R. Wolfer
Florida Theatre Bldg.
Sarasota, Florida

My dear Mrs. Wolfer:

Your letter of February 3rd has been turned over to the writer with reference to the James Brothers. The writer has been at this Institution for thirty-nine years and was well acquainted with your husband and worked here for many years under Warden Wolfer, your husband's father.

Neither Jesse or Frank James were ever inmates of this Institution. However, the James brothers and Younger brothers were supposed to have been, and were without question, members of one gang. This gang robbed one of the banks at Northfield, Minnesota and three members of the gang were captured, namely the three Younger brothers commonly known as Cole, Jim, and Bob. They were all committed for Murder in the First Degree, as there was someone killed during the raid at Northfield.

The three were natives of Missouri and were received into prison on November 20, 1876. Thomas Coleman Younger was 32 years of age, height 5' 11-1/4", and James Younger, age 28, height 5' 9". While in the prison Cole Younger was in charge of the prison library and Jim Younger was editor of the prison paper. They were both conditionally paroled on July 14, 1901, the condition being that they leave the state and not return. Shortly after being released, Jim Younger committed suicide and Cole Younger has since died. Robert Younger was received on the same date as his brothers, age 22, height 6'. When received he had four gun shot wounds on the body and one on the right elbow, and he died September 6, 1889.

To the writer's knowledge, these were the only members of the gang who were apprehended in this state.

Very truly yours,

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

MCM:ES

Superintendent of Industries

700
February 9, 1939

Capt. Otis B. Meyers, F. P. E.
1200 - Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 6th relative to the Younger Brothers, I wish to advise that Robert, James, and Cole were all received here for the crime of Murder, which was the actual shooting and killing of the cashier of the Northfield Bank. The Younger Brothers were received at this institution on November 20th, 1876.

Robert died in prison on September 16th, 1889. James and Cole were Parole on July 14th, 1901. James Younger killed himself in the Ryan Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota, by shooting on October 19th, 1902, the reason for this act was unknown to us. Cole was pardoned on February 4th, 1903 and later on returned to Lee Summit, Missouri, where he died in 1917.

Trusting this information will be of some value to you, I am

Yours very truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

700

February 9, 1939

Mrs. C. D. Buck
5007 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas

Dear Madam:

In reply to your letter dated February 6th, I wish to inform you that the James Brothers never served a term at this institution.

Robert, James, and Cole Younger all were received here on November 20th, 1876 for the crime of killing the cashier of the Northfield Bank. Robert died in prison in 1889, but James and Cole were Paroled in 1901.

Trusting the above information will be of some value to you, I am

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

163 South Oxford Street-

Brooklyn N.Y. 23 Mar 39.

Dear Sir

During the early 80's of the
last century I practiced dentistry in
Saint Paul, Minn, and, one summer,
I think it was 83, I took charge of
the office of a fellow practitioner, Dr Knapp,
in Stillwater. During my stay
there I was called to make some
adjustments for an apparatus in
the mouth of the famous bandit
Jesse James who was an inmate
of your institution at the time.

From

Dr Chas. W. Cowan,
163 So. Oxford Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My object in writing this letter is
to get official data as to the time
and subsequent disposal of the
said Jesse James which no doubt
the archives of your jurisdiction will
show. You may find records of
the visits of Dr Knapp and possibly
my own, though I was only his
representative. I require these
facts with dates from an official
source as I am engaged in writing
my memoirs. I will be much
obliged if you will help me in this
matter - Yours most sincerely
Dr Chas. W. Cowan

700

March 30, 1939

Dr. Chas. W. Corran
163 So. Oxford St.
Brooklyn, N. York

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of recent date regarding Jesse James, and wish to advise that he was never an inmate at this institution. The Younger Brothers, who assisted the James Brothers during the Northfield Bank Robbery, were incarcerated here, however.

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK