



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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www.mnhs.org

E. J. STROM

ESTABLISHED 1903

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

LAKE LILLIAN, MINN.

March, 30th. 1939

State Prison
Still Water, Minn.

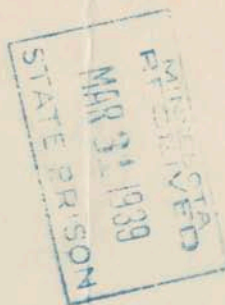
Dear Sirs;-

Have you still got the book about the history of Younger Bros and Jesse James? if so I would like to purchase one from you I got one from you many years ago but I lost it.

Will appreciate very much to hear from you,

Yours very truly

E. J. Strom
E. J. Strom



700

April 4, 1939

E. J. Strom
General Merchandise
Lake Lillian, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of March 30th
relative to a book containing the history of the Younger
Brothers and Jesse James, and wish to advise that we do
not publish such a book here.

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK



CITY OF VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

VIRGINIA, MINN.

October 4, 1939

Warden Utecht,
Minnesota State Penitentiary,
Stillwater, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

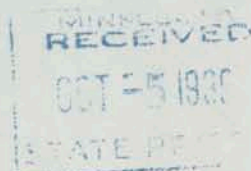
A good friend of mine came to me for some information in regard to the Younger brothers, which I was unable to give him, and I wonder if you would tell me which of the Younger brothers were inmates at Stillwater, and if possible, what jobs were assigned to them while they were inmates. Also the name of the one who was shot during the robbery at Northfield.

I know this seems like a peculiar request, but I would consider it a personal favor if you could give me what information is available at your convenience.

Thanking you, I am

Yours very truly,

Shaw A. Cronberg
CHIEF OF POLICE



700

October 5, 1939

Chas. A. Gronberg
Chief of Police
Virginia, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 4th with reference to the Younger Brothers, and in reply wish to advise that Robert, James, and Cole Younger served at this institution. As these men were received here in November, 1876, and as our records were not very complete at that date, I am unable to give you the name of the one who was shot during the robbery at Northfield. We are also unable to inform you where these men were employed while inmates of this Prison.

For your further information, Robert died in Prison, Sept. 16th, 1889; James and Cole were Parole July 14th, 1901. James, in October, 1902, killed himself in the Ryan Hotel, St. Paul, by shooting. Cole was Pardoned on February 4th, 1903, and late died in 1917 at Lee Summit, Mo.

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

Yours very truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

DR. G. C. REDFIELD
RAPID CITY, S. DAK.

October 26, 1939

Warden, State Penitentiary
Stillwater, Minnesota

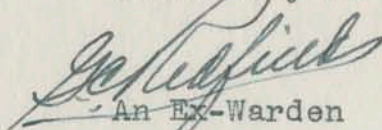
Dear Warden:

I have gotten out of touch entirely with your institution. As a member of the State Board in South Dakota for several years and as Warden of the Penitentiary at Sioux Falls I visited your institution on many occasions. I was well acquainted with many of the members of the Board -- with Henry Wolfer, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Sullivan.

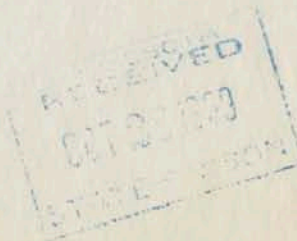
A friend of mine was in my office yesterday and asked me if I knew anything about the Younger brothers; Cole, Jim, and Bob. I told her that I had seen Cole Younger at the Stillwater Penitentiary. I also told her that I would write to you and request the information -- when they were sentenced to the penitentiary, how long they served, when they were discharged, where they went to if it was known, and all information possible in connection with them.

Might I request this information; that is, all that you have available on your records at the institution?

Yours very sincerely,


An Ex-Warden

GCR:ms



760
October 28, 1939

Dr. G. C. Redfield
Rapid City, So. Dakota

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of recent date with reference to the Younger Brothers; and wish to advise that Robert, James, and Cole were all received here from Rice County, November 20th, 1876, for the crime of Murder 1st Degree, which was the actual shooting and killing of the cashier of the Northfield Bank, one Mr. Maywood.

Robert died in Prison, September 16th, 1889, James and Cole were Parole July 14th, 1901. James, later in October, 1902, killed himself in the Ryan Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota, by shooting.

Cole was Pardoned on February 4th, 1903, and returned to Lee Summit, Mo., where he died in 1917.

Trusting this is the information you desired, I am

Yours very truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

DR. J. A. GRAHAM
6 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO

December 21, 1939

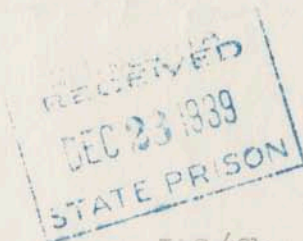
The Warden
Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Recently, the question came up during a visit to Minneapolis, as to whether or not Frank James, a brother of the notorious Jesse James, was ever an inmate of Stillwater prison.

A reply from you will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly,



JAG/fb

700
December 26, 1939

Dr. J. A. Graham
6 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I have your recent letter with regard to whether or not Frank James, a brother of Jesse James, was ever an inmate at this institution. In reply thereto I wish to advise that none of the James Brothers ever served a term here.

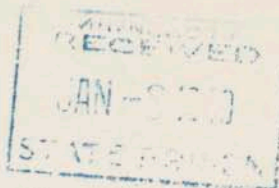
However, James, Robert, and Cole Younger all served a term here for participating in the Northfield Bank Robbery with the James Brothers.

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

DR. J. A. GRAHAM
6 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO



January 6th, 1940

L. T. Utecht - Warden
Box #55
Stillwater, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your reply of December 26th,
referring to the James Brothers.

Could I burden you again by asking you where, if at all,
were Frank and Jesse James incarcerated following the
Northfield Bank Robbery?

Thank you again -

Very truly,

JAG/fb

700
January 6, 1940

Dr. J. A. Graham
6 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 6th
relative to the James Brothers, I wish to advise that
as far as I know they were never apprehended. However,
we have no definite information here as to what happened
to Frank and Jesse James.

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

Warden State Penitentiary.
Stillwater, Minn.
My Dear Sir:-----

Orion, Ills.
Dec. 2nd. '40.

Having traveled most of my life, now, that I have settled down, I am trying to write a book on "Persons I have met."

I met COLE YOUNGER several times and my wife and I taked with him a short time before he died, in Missouri. What I askoof you, is the dates I would like to have in order to make things authentic.

Can you givè me the following information ?

On what date and year were the Younger Bros. pardoned for freedom of the State of Minn.?

On what day and year were they given freedom of the United States ?

I believe Bob Younger shot himself in St. Paul because the State refused to let him marry. At this time, he, Bob Younger was running a cigar counter in one of the Hotels.

Can you give me the data on this ?-- as to what date he killed himself ?

I am a native of Minn. having been born in Sauk Center on Dec. 25th. '82.

I will deeply appreciate any and all information you can give me from your records on the Youngers. I assure you, I am interested only as to the exact dates etc.

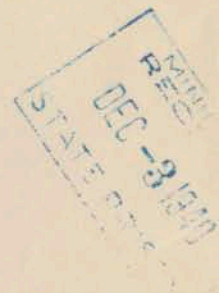
Wishing you the Season's greetings and continued success, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Geo. Harris.

Box. 222.

Orion, Illinois.



700

December 4, 1940

George Harris
Box 222
Orion, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd with reference to the Younger Brothers, and wish to advise that Robert, James, and Cole Younger were all received here from Rice County, November 20th, 1876, for the crime of Murder 1st Degree, which was the actual shooting and killing of the cashier of the Northfield Bank, one Mr. Haywood.

Robert died in Prison on September 16th, 1889, and James and Cole were paroled July 14th, 1901. James later on in October 19th, 1902, killed himself in the Ryan Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota, by shooting.

Cole was Pardoned on February 4th, 1903 and later returned to Lee Summit, Mo., where he died in 1917.

Trusting the above information may be of some assistance to you, I am

Yours truly,

Warden

LFU:RK

XXXX XXXX XXXX
Office Phone 3-3191
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Res. Phone 5-8305

W. E. ASHBY AGENCY

GENERAL INSURANCE

RELIABLE COMPANIES PROMPT ADJUSTMENT OF LOSSES
AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE OUR SPECIALTY
NON-ASSESSABLE POLICIES

XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX
310 YOUNGERMAN BUILDING

DES MOINES, IOWA

MARCH 2- 1958

WARDEN STATE PENITENTIARY
STILLWELL MINN.

DEAR SIR ;--

When I was a boy . we lived in Southern Iowa not far from the MISSOURI line, and quite well remember how the bankers, the Rail Roads and Express companies feared the James and Younger gang. and their many raids of daring and robbery all over this part of the country.

Also remember when they took their fatal trip to Minnesota and roned the bank at NORTHFIELD. Forget just the date of that day but think it was about 1879 or 1880.

Frank & Jesse James escaped n but the Younger Boys would not leave the youngest brother Bob who was mortaly wounded so surrendered and set to your prision, I believe it was for life.

If not asking too much would you please let me know what happened to the YOUNGER BOYS. ? Also what was the date of that robbery.

Thanking you for any information you may give, Will enclose stamp for reply.

Yours very truly,

4220 KINGMAN BLVD
DES MOINES 11 - Iowa

W.E. Ashby

W.E. Ashby

MAR 4 8 22 AM '58

March 5, 1958

Mr. W. E. Ashby
4220 Kingman Blvd.
Des Moines 11, Iowa

Dear Sir:

Re: Younger brothers

In reply to your letter of March 2, please be advised that the Younger brothers, Robert, Cole and James, were admitted to this institution November 20, 1876, from Rice County for the crime of Murder First Degree which consisted of the shooting and killing of the cashier at the Northfield Bank during the course of a robbery.

Robert Younger died in prison on September 16, 1889. James and Cole were paroled July 14, 1901, but James died in St. Paul in October of the following year. Cole was released from parole by pardon on February 4, 1903, and died at Lee's Summit, Missouri, in 1917.

Interesting information on the lives and escapades of the Younger brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 55 - 5th Avenue, New York 3, New York.

Yours very truly,

Douglas C. Rigg
Warden

DCR/BF:p

✓ Mr. Rushen

Burbank Calif. 6-8-59

To: The Warden of Penal Institute
of Stillwater Minn

Dear Sir

would I be imposing on
your Good Nature to
ask. if you could furnish
me the information. as
to when Frank. James.
and Cole Younger. were
Paroled. and if Cole had
a Brother who was also
Paroled at that time
and am I correct in that
they were Paroled to the
then Governor of Missouri
and were not to leave
the state. I believe this
happened around. 1904 or 05

2)

if I am not imposing on
your time or violating any
Ethics. would be
Very Grateful for the
information.

Thanking you in advance
I beg to remain
Very Respectively

William A. Cox
317- East Verdugo
Burbank Calif

June 12, 1959

Mr. William A. Cox
317 East Verdugo Avenue
Burbank, California

Re: Younger Brothers

Dear Mr. Cox:

In reply to your letter of June 8th, please be advised that Frank James never served a prison term in a Minnesota institution. However, the Younger brothers, Robert, Cole, and James, were admitted to the Minnesota State Prison on November 20, 1876 from Rice County for the crime of Murder First Degree which consisted of the shooting and killing of the cashier at the Northfield Bank during a robbery.

Robert Younger died in prison on September 16, 1889. James and Cole were paroled July 14, 1901, but James died in St. Paul in October of the following year. Cole was released from parole by pardon on February 4, 1903, and died at Lee's Summit, Missouri in 1917.

Interesting information on the lives and escapades of the Younger brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, New York.

Yours very truly,

Douglas C. Rigg

Warden

DCR/RF:mjk

Duane L. Sims

4126 Vincent Ave. So.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

November 1, 1959

Wa 2-9637

Minnesota State Penitentiary
Stillwater, Minnesota

Attention: Warden

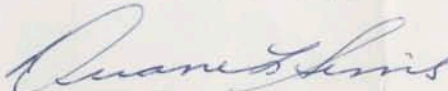
Dear Sir:

I am attempting to locate a record of a Clyde Cole and from information that I have gathered so far I have reason to believe that you may be able to help me.

I have heard that around 1900 you may have had two (2) or possibly three (3) Cole brothers as inmates in the prison. If one of these brothers was a Clyde Cole would you give me all the information that you have on him such as date of birth, place of birth, nationality, marital status and any other information you can give me on him.

Any help you can give me in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,


Duane L. Sims

RECEIVED
NOV 11 1959
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

Duane L. Sims

and present for the

Minnesota, Minnesota

November 1, 1959

Minnesota State Penitentiary

Stillwater, Minnesota

Attention: Warden

Dear Sir:

I am attempting to locate a record of a Clyde Cole and I have information that I have gathered so far I have reason to believe that you may be able to help me.

I have heard that around 1900 you may have had two (2) or possibly three (3) Cole brothers as inmates in the prison. If one of these brothers was a Clyde Cole would you give me all the information that you have on him such as date of birth, place of birth, nationality, marital status and any other information you can give me on him.

If you can give me in this matter will be greatly ap-

Yours very truly,

Duane L. Sims

RECEIVED

NOV 3 9 02 AM '59

STATE PRISON
STILLWATER, MINN.

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON
TRANSMITTAL SLIP

To <i>Mr. Farham</i>	Unit
From <i>McRignee</i>	Date <i>11-3-59</i>

ACTION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your information | <input type="checkbox"/> Per your request |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note and see me | <input type="checkbox"/> Reply and send me copy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take appropriate action | <input type="checkbox"/> Ret. with more detail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Note and file |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for my sig. | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please answer | <input type="checkbox"/> Per our conversation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate and report | <input type="checkbox"/> Note and return |

COMMENTS:

*Suggest he refer to Homer
Cray's book - don't make
answer long.*

☐ Over

November 5, 1959

Mr. Duane L. Sims
4126 Vincent Avenue S.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Re: Clyde Cole

Dear Mr. Sims:

In reply to your inquiry of November 1st, please be advised that we are unable to identify the above named as a former inmate of this institution.

The thought occurred that possibly you might have in mind the three Younger brothers, Cole, Robert, and James. If such should be the case, you will find interesting information on the lives and escapades of the these three brothers in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duall, Sloan and Pierce Incorporated, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, New York.

Yours very truly,

Douglas C. Rigg

Warden

DCR/BF:mjk

Jan. 6, 1960
Route 1.
Hasting's, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I'm sorry to bother you but I would like to have information leading to the Northfield robbing in early, middle or late 1800's or very early 1900's. I saw a program on T.V. about the bank robbery at Northfield. It was Talco & Wills Fargo. The robbery had about 7 or 8 men to help. One was Frank Jesse James, + a coal man. I would like to know if they ~~spent~~^{spent} life or only a few years. I would also like to ask if you have and old wanted poster on them or any other outlaw & because I would like to have them.

If you have any information about the Northfield I would like to have it. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours
Oreg Haveland
Route 1
Hasting's
Minnesota

Jan 6, 1960
1
Hunting, Minnesota

I am here:

In many to better you but I
would like to have information
leading to the truthfully saying
on early, middle and late 1950's
early 1950's. I was a fugitive on
1-1 about the bank robbery at
Hartford. At the time I was
in Chicago, the bank robbery was
near the top. One of the men
known to me was a man who
to know if they had left
only a few years. I would also
like to ask if you have and old
mounted picture of them and any
other other picture of them I would
like to have them.

I have been very interested
about the truthfully saying
to have it. Thank you very
much for your
information.

Respectfully,
Dorothy

Dorothy
Hartford
Hunting, Minnesota

January 8, 1960

Miss Inez Haveland
Route 1
Hastings, Minnesota

Dear Miss Haveland:

In reply to your inquiry of January 6th, please be advised that complete information on the escapades of the Younger brothers, Robert, Cole, and James, will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws" published in 1956 by Duall, Sloan and Pierce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, New York.

I am not aware of the existence of any "Wanted" posters on the Younger brothers.

Yours very truly,

Douglas C. Rigg

Warden

DCR/RF:mjk

Page 159

May 9, 1960

JOHN P. LARSEN

Contractor

Box 246

Rush City.

Minnesota

Mr. John P. Larsen
Box 246
Rush City, Minnesota

Re: Younger Brothers

Dear Sir:

In reply to your recent request, please be advised that the Younger brothers, Robert, Cole, and James, were admitted to the old Minnesota State Prison on November 20, 1876, from Rice County for the crime of Murder First Degree which consisted of the shooting and killing of the cashier at the Northfield Bank during the course of a robbery.

Robert Younger died in prison on September 16, 1889. James and Cole were paroled July 14, 1901, but James died in St. Paul on October of the following year. Cole was released from parole by a pardon on February 4, 1903, and died at Lee's Summit, Missouri, in 1917.

Interesting information on the lives and escapades of the Younger brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, New York.

Yours very truly,

Douglas C. Rigg

Warden

DCH/RF:mjk

Quite complete information on the escapades and prison life of the Younger brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, LAST OF THE GREAT OUTLAWS, published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan & Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York.

Substitute for IP #3

NEW HOTEL ASTOR

HILL ST. AT SECOND
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

11-21-60

my-
ABBRHS
Mr. Frankham
Dear Sir -

Can you send me a hus
that of Qale Yunker.
I need it for my book.

I am a Retired Cop. &
Detective now a Minister.
for 25 years.

I know his wife & his
daughter. Freddie & Tom -
Yunker. Peers Yunker -
please send it
to Tam -
Wm E. Fourns Ed
Astor Hotel. L.A. 191 Calif

No reply. Cannot read
hand-writing
PT 11-25-60

20 May 1964

Dear Warden,

Recently, I bought a small wood box which was hand made wood inlaid and stamped with a butterfly design on the ends and on another design on the sides. I bought the box at a Salvation Army store and it had some pencil writing on the back bottom which says "Made by Cale Younger in the Stillwater Prison" No date in on the box.

Is it possible for you to provide me with a facsimile of his signature.

If you can't do this then

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON
TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Mr. Farnham

TO

UNIT

FROM

DATE

ACTION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your information | <input type="checkbox"/> Per your request |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note and see me | <input type="checkbox"/> Reply and send me copy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take appropriate action | <input type="checkbox"/> Ret. with more detail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Note and file |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for my sig. | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please answer | <input type="checkbox"/> Per our conversation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate and report | <input type="checkbox"/> Note and return |

COMMENTS:

*ok - if we have
his sig.*

May 26th 1964

Mr. Charles E. Grant
324 Arizona Street
Fairfield, California

Dear Mr. Grant:

As requested in your letter of recent date, I am enclosing photo-copies of Cole Younger's signature. I trust this will assist you in identifying the maker of the chest you acquired.

Yours very truly,

R. H. Tahash, Warden

f
encl

ABIQUIU, NEW MEXICO
October 17, 1965

Your Honor, The Warden
Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

My dear Sir:

I am doing some literary research on the records of the men known as the YOUNGER BROTHERS who were inmates of your Institution--as you well know--for about 25 years. Doubtless you are familiar with the publication of Cole Younger's Book--a very good one--in which he praises the officials of your state prison as kind and considerate of him and his brothers Jim and Bob Younger. This of course you know. The point I raise, however, in this letter of inquiry--at this late date--which I would greatly be favored by you in answering is a question I ask which comes from lines printed in the book. It is this:

1. Among friends who worked for the release or pardon of the Youngers were many. But some "were misguided." Two men were former guerrillas "who committed small crimes that they might be sent to prison and there plot with us for our escape." One of these men was sent to the County Jail; and the other served a year in Stillwater prison without ever seeing us."

2. Could you therefore give me the names of those two men as Cole Younger suggests in his book, but does not name them, or the date in which they served time in your prison and in the County Jail!

3. My dear Sir, this may sound foolish to you, but in recent years--as you already know--other men have "claimed" association with the Youngers and James, a la Hollywood style, of course. One of these odd-balls or crackpots admitted it was he who killed Jim Younger in the Reardon Hotel in St Paul on October 19, 1902. Your records, however, show that the said Jim Younger committed suicide.

4. The man who made that dramatic admission of murder is now dead. He died at Granbury, Texas in 1951, and was known as J. FRANK DALTON, alias "JESSE WOODSON JAMES!" This person "explained" that the deceased Jim Younger was one of the "Dodson Brothers" who acted in their place as "stooges" and served their time--but were well paid for it! And then the recital ends with the confession of DALTON that this stooge for Jim Younger "tried to blackmail me out of money!"

5. Perhaps you may have a "nagging" question to ask me. I'll answer it now. I am working on the theory (privately) that the said DALTON knew more about the Younger-James Gang than he admitted. He died at 107 years old! He was not altogether a psychopathic person. He could have been "closer" to the records than history acknowledges in the long story of those outlaws. My private investigation is therefore based on some speculation I hope to prove in this research from reliable sources such as yours and other records being checked. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated and respected. THANK YOU.

Yours very truly,

Leonard Saxon

"He could have been one of those men like Younger mentions in his book. But of course Dalton would have served time under a different name."

ABRIDG, NEW MEXICO
October 17, 1962

Your Honor, The Warden
Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

My dear Sir:

I am doing some literary research on the records of the men known as the YOUNGER BROTHERS who were inmates of your institution--as you well know--for about 25 years. Doubtless you are familiar with the publication of Cole Younger's book--a very good one--in which he praises the officials of your state prison as kind and considerate of him and his brothers Jim and Bob Younger. This of course you know. point I raise, however, in this letter of inquiry--at this late date-- which I would greatly be favored by you in answering is a question I ask which comes from lines printed in the book. It is this:

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4. The man who made that dramatic admission of murder is now dead. He died at Gretna, Texas in 1951, and was known as J. THOMAS DALTON, alias "Jesse Woodson James." This person "explained" that the deceased Jim Younger was one of the "Dobson Brothers" who acted in their place as "stooges" and served their time--but were well paid for it! And then the recital ends with the confession of DALTON that this stooge for Jim Younger "tried to blackmail me out of money."

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Yours very truly,

Donald Dalton

Handwritten notes in the right margin, including "I am doing some literary research on the records of the men known as the YOUNGER BROTHERS who were inmates of your institution--as you well know--for about 25 years. Doubtless you are familiar with the publication of Cole Younger's book--a very good one--in which he praises the officials of your state prison as kind and considerate of him and his brothers Jim and Bob Younger. This of course you know. point I raise, however, in this letter of inquiry--at this late date-- which I would greatly be favored by you in answering is a question I ask which comes from lines printed in the book. It is this: 1. Among friends who worked for the release or pardon of the Youngers were many. But some 'were misguided.' Two men were former guerrillas 'who committed small crimes that they might be sent to prison and there plot with us for our escape.' One of these was sent to the County Jail; and the other 'served a year in Stillwater prison without ever seeing us.' 2. Could you therefore give me the names of those two men as Cole Younger suggests in his book, but does not name them or the date in which they served time in your prison and in the County Jail? 3. My dear Sir, this may sound foolish to you, but in recent years--as you already know--other men have 'claimed' association with the Youngers and James, a la Hollywood style, of course. One of these odd-balls or crackpots admitted it was he who killed Jim Younger in the Resdon Hotel in St Paul on October 19, 1902. Your records, however, show that the said Jim Younger committed suicide. 4. The man who made that dramatic admission of murder is now dead. He died at Gretna, Texas in 1951, and was known as J. THOMAS DALTON, alias 'Jesse Woodson James.' This person 'explained' that the deceased Jim Younger was one of the 'Dobson Brothers' who acted in their place as 'stooges' and served their time--but were well paid for it! And then the recital ends with the confession of DALTON that this stooge for Jim Younger 'tried to blackmail me out of money.' 5. Perhaps you may have a 'nagging' question to ask me. I'll answer it now. I am working on the theory (privately) that the said DALTON knew more about the Younger-James gang than he admitted. He died at 107 years old! He was not altogether a psychopathic person--He could have been 'closer' to the records than history acknowledged--in the long story of those outlaws. My private investigation is therefore based on some speculation I hope to prove in this research from reliable sources such as yours and other records being checked. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated and respected. THANK YOU.

October 21, 1965

Mr. Leonard Saxon
Abiquiu, New Mexico

Re: Younger Brothers

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of October 17, please be advised that a fairly reliable account of Cole Younger's life before, during and following his imprisonment in Minnesota will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

Institution records reveal nothing in the way of a plot to aid Cole, Robert and James to escape from prison. Furthermore, James Younger's death has always been listed as suicide.

Very truly yours,

Mark R. Moran
Acting Warden

MRM/RF:rm

Topeka Capital-Journal



Stauffer Publications Newspapers

Sixth & Jefferson

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66607

The Topeka Daily Capital
MORNING

Sunday Capital-Journal

TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL
EVENING

May 23, 1966.

Ralph H. Tahash:
Warden,
Minnesota State Prison,
P.O. Box 55,
Stillwater, Minn.

Warden Tahash:

I am writing to enlist your aid in a research project I am conducting relating to the Younger brothers, who served time in your institution.

Of primary importance at this time is records of their various tasks and conduct while imprisoned there. Would such records be available through photocopying?

Due to a recent discovery of historical importance, I am also particularly interested in obtaining descriptions of the three brothers -- particularly their relative heights - on entering Stillwater.

Whatever aid you can supply me in this matter will be greatly appreciated. I will, of course, bear all expense of photo-copying, etc.

Sincerely Yours

Edward Knowles
Topeka Capital-Journal,
Topeka, Kansas.

EK/ns.

No photo copy - Letter only.

May 26, 1966

Mr. Edward Knowles
Topeka Capital-Journal
Sixth and Jefferson
Topeka, Kansas 66607

Re: Younger Brothers

Dear Sir:

In reply to your inquiry of May 23, regret to advise that institution records such as you seek are available on Thomas Coleman Younger only. His description at time of admission to prison was as follows:

Age:	32
Height:	5' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight:	230#
Occupation:	Farmer
Native:	Missouri State

Robert, Cole and James Younger were admitted to the old Minnesota State Prison on November 20, 1876, from Rice County for the crime of Murder First Degree which consisted of the shooting and killing of the cashier at the Northfield Bank during the course of a robbery.

Robert Younger died in prison on September 16, 1889. James and Cole were paroled July 14, 1901, but James died in St. Paul in October of the following year. Cole was released from parole by pardon on February 4, 1903, and died at Lee's Summit, Missouri, in 1917.

Interesting information on the lives and escapades of the Younger Brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Tahash
Warden

RHT/RF:rm

Mr. Fairbank



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

SOUTHERN UTAH STATE COLLEGE

CEDAR CITY, UTAH
84720

Royden C. Braithwaite
President

June 12, 1969

Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

It is my understanding that Jim Younger served a prison term in the Minnesota State Prison from 1876-1901. I have in my possession a death certificate of a man who claimed to be Jim Younger who died in our community of natural causes in 1926. I am attempting to confirm his story that he was Jim Younger the youngest member of the Younger Gang. Are/copies of his prison record or pictures available that might give information relative to his birth place, his family, etc. which might help me in this research. If there are pictures of him available this would be helpful as there are still members of the community who remember the Jim Younger from our community who could identify him.

Your assistance in this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Morris A. Shirts

MAS/ta

Morris A. Shirts, Dean
School of Education

June 16, 1969

Mr. Morris A. Shirts
Dean, School of Education
Southern Utah State College
Cedar City, Utah, 84720

Re: James Younger

Dear Mr. Shirts:

In reply to your recent request please be advised that the Younger Brothers, Robert, Cole, and James, were admitted to the old Minnesota State Prison on November 20, 1876, from Rice County, for the crime of Murder First Degree, which consisted of the shooting and killing of the cashier at the Northfield Bank during the course of a robbery.

Robert Younger died in prison on September 16, 1889. James and Cole were paroled July 14, 1901, but James died in St. Paul on October 14th of the following year. Cole was released from parole by a pardon on February 4, 1903, and died at Lee's Summit, Missouri, in 1917.

Interesting information on the lives and escapades of the Younger brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, "Last of the Great Outlaws", published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, 10003.

Very truly yours,

JACK G. YOUNG, WARDEN

JGY/RF/lr

By: _____
R. F. Farnham, Records Officer



RECEIVED
JUN 23 1969
SOUTHERN UTAH STATE COLLEGE

CEDAR CITY, UTAH
84720

STATE PRISON
STILLWATER, MINN.
Royden C. Braithwaite
President

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

June 20, 1969

Mr. R. F. Farnham, Records Officer
Minnesota State Prison
Box 55
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I sincerely appreciated your letter of June 16th and the information it contained relative to the Younger Brothers. This adds to my interest however, since you indicated that Jim Younger died October 14, 1902 in St. Paul, Minnesota. I have affidavits from several members of our community who knew the man who claimed to be Jim Younger, the youngest of the Younger Gang. One man claims that this old gentleman carried pictures of Bob and Cole Younger, his brothers, and talked often about them and about Missouri. They claim he was not a large man and stood perhaps 5'8" or 5'10" and was very respected because of his "fast gun" reputation and short temper. One man claims to have seen him write with a clear firm hand displaying beautiful penmanship. I have a death certificate indicating that a Jim Younger died in Cedar City, Utah June 30, 1926. All his vital statistics were listed as "unknown". This old gentleman may have assumed the name and reputation of Jim Younger. On the other hand, there is the possibility that he might have really been Jim Younger, in which case such a fact might be of considerable historical interest and importance. Through a non-professional but highly personal interest, I would like to determine the true identity of this old gentleman who was buried on a lonely hillside outside our city limits. Would it be possible for you to supply information concerning the following points:

- (1) Can Jim Younger's death on October 14, 1902 in St. Paul, Minnesota be reliably verified by a death certificate or other means and are copies available? Where was he buried?
- (2) Are there any vital statistics about Jim Younger available from your prison records such as place of birth, date of birth, names of relatives or family such as wife, children, father, mother, etc.
- (3) Are copies of his handwriting or signature available from any of the prison documents?
- (4) Did Jim Younger have a middle name or initial?
- (5) Are there pictures of him available in your records or other sources?

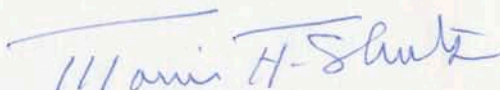
Mr. R. F. Farnham

-2-

June 20, 1969

Although these questions may be purely academic, they may be of vital interest if Jim Younger did move to Cedar City to spend the last remaining years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Morris A. Shirts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

MAS/ta

Morris A. Shirts, Dean
School of Education

June 24, 1969

Mr. Morris A. Shirts
Dean, School of Education
Southern Utah State College
Cedar City, Utah, 84720

Re: Younger Brothers

Dear Dean Shirts:

With reference to your letter of June 20th, regret to advise that there are no official documents on file at this institution to verify the death of James Younger. However, such verification as you require might possibly be obtained from the Bureau of Health, 555 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

JACK G. YOUNG, WARDEN

JGY/RF/lr

By: _____
R.F. Farnham, "Records Officer"

32-20 61st Street
Woodside, N. Y. 113 77
April. 6, 1970

Dear Warden :

I thank you very much for information on the Younger Brothers, who were sentence to your prison in 1876, for the robbery of Northfield, Minn. Sept 7, 1876. I did fail to ask you one thing. On what grounds did the Younger's receive a parole after being sent there for life. Is it possible for me to a copy of their admittance to the prison and leaving the prison in 1903. and a copy of a medical report of the operation of Robert Younger, when he had the bulletts dig out of his face. At all? I would apprdiate any further information relating to this letter.

Sincerly yours.

Arthur Frank
Brown

No record

RECEIVED
APR 8 8 57 AM '70
STATE PRISON
STILLWATER, MINN.

R. L. Wilson

HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS COMPANY

27 LAKEWOOD CIRCLE NORTH • MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT 06040 U.S.A. • TEL. 203 646-1648

SAMUEL COLT PRESENTS (1961)
ARMS COLLECTION OF COLONEL COLT (1963)
ARMY REVOLVERS & GATLING GUNS (1964)
L. D. NIMSCHE, FIREARMS ENGRAVER (1965)
BAT MASTERSON, LAWMAN OF THE WEST (1966)
THE EVOLUTION OF THE COLT (1967)
THE RAMPANT COLT (1969)
COLT COMMEMORATIVE FIREARMS (1969)
THE GOLDEN SPIKE (1969)
A. A. WHITE ENGRAVERS, INC. (1969)
THE COLT COMMEMORATIVE (EDITOR, QUARTERLY JOURNAL)
SCHRIMSHAW THE ART OF THE WHALEMAN (1970)
ANTIQUE ARMS ANNUAL (EDITOR)
THEODORE ROOSEVELT - OUTDOORSMAN (1970)
COLT - WINCHESTER FIREARMS ENGRAVING (1971)
THE BOOK OF COLT FIREARMS (1971)

October 22, 1971

Records Clerk
Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

An engraver in my employ, Mr Alvin A. White, is producing a deluxe pistol with the theme "Outlaws of the Wild West". This gun will have a holdup scene engraved on the frame, various outlaw motifs, gold mounted ivory grips, and the signatures in facsimile of some of the West's foremost outlaws.

We wish to include the signatures of Cole and Jim Younger on the revolver, and understand that you could supply us with xerox copies of these if they appear in your record books. Cole Younger was prisoner #699 and Jim #700, and they were sentenced to your institution on November 20, 1876.

Enclosed is a stamped envlpe for your convenience in reply.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

RL Wilson

RL Wilson

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON
TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO <i>Key Terhoun</i>	UNIT
FROM <i>Bier</i>	DATE <i>10-27-71</i>

ACTION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your information | <input type="checkbox"/> Per your request |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note and see me | <input type="checkbox"/> Reply and send me copy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take appropriate action | <input type="checkbox"/> Ret. with more detail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Note and file |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for my sig. | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please answer | <input type="checkbox"/> Per our conversation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate and report | <input type="checkbox"/> Note and return |

COMMENTS:

*Any thoughts on this (7)
OK by me -*

October 28, 1971

Mr. R. L. Wilson
27 Lakewood Circle North
Manchester, Connecticut, 06040

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As requested in your letter of October 22nd, I am enclosing a copy of Cole Younger's signature.

I regret to advise that a signature of James Younger is not available.

Very truly yours,

WVM/RF/lr

WM. V. MILLIKEN
Acting Warden

Enclosure

8, Foxlands Avenue,
Penny,
Wolverhampton,
Staffordshire,
England.

23rd. October, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I am a member of The English - Westerners Society, at present researching the lives of the notorious James - Younger gang of outlaws.

I'm sure that you must have been asked this question many times before, but I would be grateful if you could help.

I need the descriptions of the three YOUNGER brothers

as they were when they
entered Stillwater Penitentiary
in November, 1876, following
an abortive bank raid at
Northfield, Minn., on 7th Sept.
1876.

I am sorry to trouble you,
but your descriptions of these
men are probable the most
accurate that exist.

I hope that you will be
able to oblige me.

Wishing you well from
England.

Yours faithfully,
Malcolm Eden.

October 30, 1972

Mr. C. Eden
8, Foxlands Avenue
Penn, Wolverhampton,
Staffordshire,
England

Dear Mr. Eden:

As requested in your letter of the 23rd of
October, I am enclosing description of the
Younger brothers, Thomas Coleman, James and
Robert.

Yours very truly,

BRUCE W. MCMANUS, WARDEN

By: 

R. F. Farnham
Records Officer

RFF/jk

james d. horan

James D. Horan
27 Woods Road - Great Notch
Little Falls, NJ 07424

H. J. 07087

June 26, 1976

Dear Sir:

If possible I would like to obtain photostatic copies of the monthly reports turned in by Cole Younger, who served a long term in state prison as a member of the James-Younger gang after the Northfield raid. As a paroled prisoner he sent in monthly reports to the warden during 1902 and 1903.

I intend to include the material in a book on the western frontier, to be published by Crown publishers of New York City.

If you will let me know the cost of making the copies I will send on a check.

Sincerely,

James D. Horan
James D. Horan

RECEIVED
JUN 28 1976
FBI - NEW YORK

RECEIVED

JUL 1 10 27 AM '74

STATE PRISON
STILLWATER, MINN.

James D. Nolan

STILLWATER

will send on a check.

It don't tell me know the cost of making the copies I
thought to be handled as some business of the work day.

I think to include the material in a book on the history
of the 1905 and 1903.

My wife's brother's son sent in some letters to the prison
and he's a member of the James-Donner E. K. Club the prisoners
in some letters sent in to the donors who sent a lot of money to

It doesn't I would like to see in some of the
best of:

James D. Nolan

James D. Nolan

James D. Nolan

James D. Nolan

James D. Nolan

247 Dandridge Dr.
Barnhart, Mo. 63012
March 18, 1978

Warden
Minnesota State Penitentiary
Stillwater, Minn.

Dear Sir:

I'm engaged in research for a book on the old West. The notorious Younger Brothers - Coleman, James and Robert - were imprisoned at Stillwater in November, 1876, for the attempted holdup of the Northfield bank. I would like to know the exact date the Youngers reached the Stillwater prison to begin serving their sentence. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Dale T. Schoenberger

file

March 23, 1978

Dale T. Schoenberger
247 Dandridge Dr.
Barnhart, MO 63012

Re: Cole, James and Robert Younger

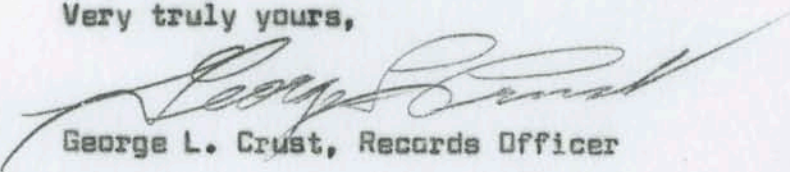
Dear Mr. Schoenberger:

This is 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 20, 1886.

Robert died in prison on September 16th, 1889. James and Cole were paroled 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, on the condition that he leave the State and never exhibit himself in public in any way, and later returned to Lee Summit, Missouri, where he died in 1917. Also there is a note in the file that Robert died of Phthisis.

I hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,


George L. Crust, Records Officer

GLC/sw

cc: file

Mark Brown
Box 172
Johnsedale, Ca.
93236

Dear Sirs,

I would like to know if you
have any ~~of~~ information on the
Younger Brothers. The Younger
Brothers were in the
Minnesota State Prison for
life. This would be sometime
around 1876.

To Rand You,
Mark Brown

Younger files

RECEIVED
JAN 2 10 01 AM '70
STATE PRISON
ST. MARYS MINN

Mark Brown
Box 172
Johnsendale, Ca.
93236



MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

MINNESOTA

Records

Please provide
whatever info
you can
[Signature]

5

9:30

833

100

67

COPY

MINNESOTA STATE PRISON

August 29, 1979

Mark Brown
Box 172
Johnsondale, CA 43236

Re: Cole, James and Robert Younger

Dear Mr. Brown;

This is 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 admission date of the Younger Brothers was November 20, 1876.

Robert died in prison on September 16, 1889 of Phthisis.

James Younger was paroled on July 14, 1901, and killed himself in the Ryan Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota, by gun, on October 19, 1902. The reason for this act was unknown to us.

Cole Younger was paroled on July 14, 1901. He was then pardoned on February 4, 1903, on the condition that he leave the State and never Exhibit himself in public in any way, and later returned to Lee Summit, Missouri, where he died in 1917.

I hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Judy Dornfeld

Judy Dornfeld, Asst. Records Officer

JD/sw

cc: Base file

WARDEN'S OFFICE
Minnesota State Prison

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Stillwater, Minnesota

BOX 55

55082

Re: Younger Brothers

In reply to your recent request, please be advised that the Younger brothers, Robert, Cole, and James Younger were admitted to the old Minnesota State Prison on November 20, 1876, from Rice County for the crime of Murder First Degree, which consisted of the shooting and killing of the cashier at the Northfield Bank during the course of a robbery.

Robert Younger died in Prison on September 16, 1889. James and Cole were paroled July 14, 1901, but James died in St. Paul on October 14th of the following year. Cole was released from parole by a pardon on February 4, 1903, and died at Lee's Summit, Missouri in 1917.

Quite complete information on the escapades and prison life of the Younger brothers will be found in Homer Croy's book, LAST OF THE GREAT OUTLAWS, published in 1956 by Duell-Sloan & Pearce, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York.