Board of Pardons.

No. 55156

Petitions and Recommendations

Filed this 12th day of July 1897

A. V. Hartley

Clerk.

State of Minnesota

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

St. Paul,

Sturtevant Hotel, New York, N.Y. June 24th., 1897.

His Excellency, The Governor of the State of Minnesota,

St. Paul, Minn.

Honorable Sir:-

My attention has been called to case of Messrs, Cole and James Younger, now confined in the State prison at Stillwater, and I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject.

I have had ample opportunity to know these men, and to know them well, and I do not hesitate to say that I believe that the people in general through out the country would welcome their release.

The action of these men while serving a sentence that has now reached over a score years, has been such as to command the favorable attention of all who are acquainted with the facts, and if good conduct, true reformation and a faithful effort toward the betterment of character among those around them, ever deserves a reward, these men are certainly entitled to their release.

I know the character of the men now, and have known it for seven years, and I can say most emphatically, that who ever opposes the granting of pardon to the Younger Brothers now, if there are such, which I doubt; he or she does not understand the situation in its true light. It has reached a point, where in my opinion, it is simply a matter of justice, and I hope and pray for their relief through your prompt and just consideration.

I am yours, with great respect,

Arthur Pomeroy.

To Governor Clough,

St.Paul, Minn.

Board of Pardons

No. 85+86

Recommendation of

Arthur Pomeroy

Filed this 1st day of July 1897

Roland H. Hartley

Clerk.

G. A. NEWMAN, M. D.

New London, Minn., 6/6 1897.

To the Board of Pardons
of the
State of Minnesota.

Gentlemen:— It is in behalf of James and Colman Youngers now serving life sentences at the Minnesota State Prison, that I approach your Honorable Board and beg for their release.

These men have now served in that institution for more than a score of years. Their conduct has been exemplary, and they have always faithfully and cheerfully performed the duties assigned them.

These men are not criminals by nature, neither are

G. A. NEWMAN, M. D.

New London, Minn., ... 189

they are men; but men with well balanced mental faculties, and were they released would make good citizen.

From July 1st 1895. to July 1st 1896. I was Hospital steward at the Minnesota Prison, and know the Convicts intimately, and can say that they are gentlemen, who deserve to be given their liberty that they may enjoy the few remaining years of their lives as men among men.

Begging that you give your office for this release I am Gentlemen

Yours obediently.

G. A. Newman M.D.

Board of Pardons.
No. 85 + 86
Recommendation
of Dr. G. A. Newman
Filed this 12th day of July 1897
Roland H. Hartley
Clerk.

Dr G. A. Newman

PLANKINTON HOUSE.

W. G. KING, MANAGER.

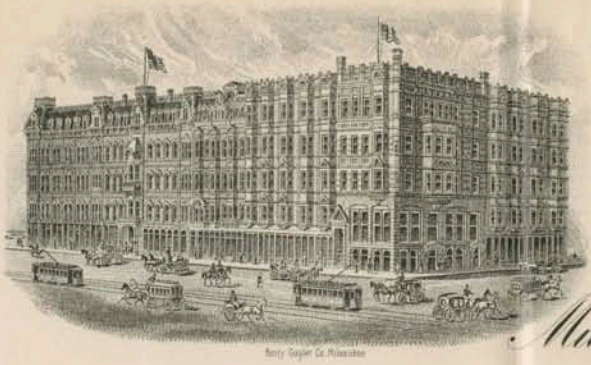
Milwaukee, July 1897

Board of Pardons,
Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

The undersigned was Chaplain of the Minn. State Prison from 1880 to 1883, and was the first one to study the life-history, the ancestry, & proclivities, and character, of the younger Brothers, at least the first man in Minnesota to do this.

After some years of study and observation



I was forced, against my own strong prejudice, to the conclusion that the popular judgment of these men, as banditti from choice, wholly depraved and dangerous was wholly wrong and unjust. I rather found that they were men highly developed in many of the nobler qualities of manhood. I ascertained that they were well born and bred; that the war found them as fine boys as Missouri could

PLANKINTON HOUSE.

W. G. KING, MANAGER.

Milwaukee, 189

find — only Cole was a young man then; and from that time on they were involved in a series of adverse circumstances the most trying that could possibly come to a family. Not only that: A thousand crimes have been charged to them that they never heard of until they came to their knowledge in the papers or the red covered novel.

Being refused the protection of law and trial by law, they tried to rob a

bank in Winn. but failed.
In spite of Cole's command death resulted in the melee. For this they were sent to the State Prison. That this was right, neither they nor I have ever questioned.
But, gentlemen let me now invoke the spirit of justice and fair play.
Since the youngers were incarcerated we have pardoned some fifty life convicts after they had served short

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~~sentences~~ terms, and so far as I know, and I know the most of them well, there is not one of them who by his character or the nature of his crime is as worthy of his liberty as the foreigners. And there are many of them so depraved, so brutal and so dangerous, that it is astonishing how money and politics have released them without a a word of protest being raised by our citizens!

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PLANKINTON HOUSE.

W. G. KING, MANAGER.

Milwaukee, 189

Let us begin now and for once, grant long deferred justice to the most deserving.

Gentlemen, I have had a wide experience with men, and I now say that if I could form a picked colony of natures noblemen with whom to spend the remaining time of my life, men of truth, men of soul and brains and honor, if I were to have just twenty such men, Cole and I ones younger would be among them.

Very truly
W. H. Harrington

308 Globe Bldg. Mpls.

Board of Pardons.

No. 85 + 86

Recommendation

of Ex-Chaplain of Prison

Filed this 17th day of July, 1897

Roland H. Harvey

Clerk.

A. T. COLE
LAWYER,
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.

Fargo N.D. 7/6/97

Warden of Stillwater Penitentiary:—

On the 12th of this month I see that the matter of the application of Coleman and James Younger for a pardon is to be heard. As a former Minnesotian, living in the southern part of the state, I sincerely hope it will be granted. I have been a resident of the ~~State~~ of North Dakota for the period of 13 years but am familiar with all of the facts and incidents of the raid, living at that time in Stille County in your state.

My reasons for urging a pardon are these: Minnesota has adopted and has in practice the idea of reform as well as punishment. This is the true and humanitarian plan. The Younger boys are not rapists or torturers. Of such things no one has ever accused them of being

A. T. COLE
LAWYER,
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.

guilty. They were criminals, it is true, and as such they have suffered for the period of twenty one years. They are not criminals to day but are reformed men and ask but an opportunity to be given an opportunity to become useful citizens the rest of their lives. If the Younger boys should be pardoned I am sure their conduct the balance of their lives would be such as to teach other evil doers to follow the path of rectitude.

There is no element of revenge in the law. It is simply punitive and reformative. When reform is complete the punitive part is satisfied except in such cases as rape &c.. A broad humanity decreases crime. Twenty one years of incarceration of the Younger boys with their good conduct has done full penance for their crime and the law is satisfied. The great state of Minnesota is in the front rank of progress as her reform

A. T. COLE
LAWYER,
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.

system of punishment in her prisons attest. When it is satisfied that the ~~ends~~ purpose for which the laws were created, have been effected, then its pardoning power will in the name of common ~~and~~ humanity and the general welfare be extended to the unfortunate. To pardon the Younger boys will not be to turn loose upon the public criminals, but rather to restore to citizenship men who are thoroughly reformed, and who during the rest of their natural lives will do all in their power to make full and ample amends for the misdeeds of the past.

Justice is or should always be tempered with mercy. This is a divinely established rule, put in force and practised by the most enlightened humanity. The Younger boys will, I am sure, if restored to their liberty do all in their power to teach others to shun the ways of evil doers and lend a helping hand to the

A. T. COLE
LAWYER,
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.

fallen. If the pardoning power of your state should grant a full and complete pardon to the boys, I am sure that the calm surface level of reason among your people would, when it held sway, give full approbation to the act.

I am prompted to write this letter only by reasons of humanity and because I believe that it would be an act of simple justice. Should you deem this letter of any value you are at liberty to lay it before the pardoning power.

I am a practising attorney of six years standing, having been for two years acting States Attorney in one of the counties of this state. Am well acquainted with our state officials and also Hon Gilbert A. Pierce of Minneapolis, the proprietor of "What to Eat". Also Hon. H. C. Hansbrough and H. S. Johnson our members of Congress. I simply refer you to these men to show you that I am not simply

A. T. COLE
LAWYER,
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.

a "crank."

Hoping that the pardon may be granted I remain,

Very Respectfully,

A. T. Cole.

Board of Pardons.

No. 85 + 86

Recommendation

of A. J. Cole of Fargo N. D.

Filed this 12th day of July 1897

Roland H. Hartley

Clerk.

Wm. H. Wallace.
T. B. Wallace.

Wallace & Wallace.
Attorneys at Law.
American Bank Building.
Kansas City, Mo.

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July 6th. 1897

To the Board of Pardons of Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

Whether it is to my credit or not, I have never known of a man more averse to lending himself to promiscous requests for pardons than I. I was for a number of years connected with the criminal court of Jackson County Missouri as its prosecutor and I frequently refused to request the pardon of criminals when the Judge and every other officer connected with the court had done so. In the case of one of the James Band of train robbers who was serving a twenty five years sentence in the Missouri penitentiary it was said that every officer who had ever at any time been connected with the criminal court of this County where he was convicted ~~asked~~ recommended his pardon, except myself. During the past thirteen years I have frequently been asked to write a letter requesting the pardon of the Younger boys but have always refused. Noticing from the public prints that formal application for their release will be made to you on the 12th. of this month, I now write without request from any one, earnestly recomending their pardon. I believe they have been punished enough and that the law has been vindicated.

I was raised in the same section with the Younger boys, but was too young to take any part in the war. I remember Cole Younger very destinctly. I knew Bob well who worked after the war in the blacksmith shop of Dick Hall his brotherinlaw where my father a minister and farmer had his blacksmithing done. I was raised in the same neighborhood with Charlie Pitts (Sam Wells son of Wash Wells), who was killed in the capture of the Youngers. Having lived nearly forty years in this County I presume I know the lineage relatives and friends of the Youngers, about as well as any man in Missouri.

Wm. H. Wallace.
T. B. Wallace.

Wallace & Wallace.
Attorneys at Law.
American Bank Building.
Kansas City, Mo.

They have many near relatives in this county who are as honorable and law-abiding citizens as can be found any where. Many of their relatives never sympathized with them in any of their post bellum exploits. In fact until their capture in your state they never believed they were guilty of any of the crimes with which they were charged. I was just commencing the practice of law at Independence in this County at the time of the Northfield robbery in your state. A most reputable lady, an aunt of the Younger boys whom I knew well, came to my office and stated that she had noticed by the papers that another crime had been charged to her nephews but she had no doubt it was false and wanted to know what I thought. I never saw a more astonished and downcast person than she was, when I told her that it was undoubtedly true, that I recognized beyond question the pictures of Cole, Bob and Pitts (Wells), taken in Minnesota and published in the newspapers. This lady is still living and would be as far from sympathizing with any kind of robbery as any lady in Missouri or Minnesota. They have many such relatives and friends in this state and I cite this instance to show what their surroundings and environments will be should they be pardoned. I am sure that hundreds of our best citizens who believe as I do that they have been justly punished, are now ready and anxious to assist them in leading a new life and in becoming law-abiding citizens, I believe they will, otherwise I would not ask this pardon.

I had occasion some years ago in an effort to properly discharge my duty as a public prosecutor to acquaint myself with the details of all the robberies attributed to the James-Younger band and as far as possible with the character and antecedents of the 21 men who belonged to it from its organ-

Wm. H. Wallace.
T. B. Wallace.

Wallace & Wallace,
Attorneys at Law.
American Bank Building.
Kansas City, Mo.

ization in 1866 to its final over throw in 1882, and I have no hesitation in saying that in my judgment Cole Younger possessed more good qualities and less bad ones than any man that ever belonged to it. He was the only one of the whole number who could control Jesse James and I am convinced that those who knew both men well told me the truth when they said that in a number of instances Cole Younger at his own peril prevented Jesse James from taking life. It is my honest conclusion after going over all the evidence and talking to scores of persons who knew about the conduct of these men, that Cole Younger has never been a blood thirsty man . I believe that it is true that he was always actuated by a desire to spare life. Jim of course was younger and little is said about him. I recall no instance now in which my informants told that Cole or Jim personally killed any one Of course if life was taken in a robbery in which they were participants, in law they are guilty, but I now speak to a tribunal of mercy at the end of almost a life time of punishment and I am sure you desire to look , as you ought to, into the hearts of these men.

I notice from the daily press that many of those who have written to you asking clemency for the Youngers, speak of the strong provocation under which they acted during the war and the mitigating circumstances attending their conduct afterwards. I pass all this by and make my appeal for them on the broad ground of humanity. I have never hesitated to say to their friends that they were receiving what they deserved, but in my humble judgment they have suffered enough and it is time for their bitterest opponents to declare that they are satisfied. It is respectfully submitted that no argument can be framed showing that the best interests of either the law

Wm. H. Wallace.
T. B. Wallace.

Wallace & Wallace.
Attorneys at Law.
American Bank Building.
Kansas City, Mo.

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or society will be longer subserved by further imprisonment. Surely we ought not to insist that human law shall at length ripen into vengeance for this belonges to another and higher Power.

If thirty years is the average life of man, then almost a generation has passed away since punishment began to be inflicted upon these men. For one I am in favor of saying to Justice that she may lay aside her lash, and give the soft angel of mercy a chance to heal their stripes.

I wish to add that it is impossible that I can be actuated by any selfish motive in writing this letter. The friends of the Youngers were my enemies when I was in politics and I owe them nothing. As a rule they are poor and have no business which I covet. Neither they nor any others can assist me to an office, for I am a gold democrat and expect to remain one and to spend the balance of my days in Missouri.

Most Respectfully.

Wm H. Wallace

Board of Pardons.

No. 85+86

Recommendation of

Wm. W. Wallace

Filed this 12th day of July 1897

Clerk.

Kanfuska So. Dak. July 7th 97

Warden Wolfer
Minnesota Prison

Dear Sir

I have noticed in the press, that an effort is being made to secure a pardon for the Younger Brothers and that you are friendly to the move, for this reason I address you to add the approval of an old union soldier to your efforts in their behalf. I served in an Illinois Cavalry Regiment that spent considerable time in Missouri and knew from personal knowledge the condition of things that prevailed there during that terrible struggle and after hostilities had ceased elsewhere and how utterly impossible it was for the Youngers and others to settle down to peaceful pursuits of life. During the campaign of 1864

I was in a Brigade composed of two Missouri Regiments and one from Kansas and know full well the fearful excesses on both sides between the men from Missouri. I was a citizen of Minnesota living in Steele county, when the attack was made on the Northfield Bank and the particulars are quite fresh in my memory, but I feel the ends of justice have been fully served and that any further punishment would be in the nature of vengeance. I believe they are men of honor and if allowed their freedom, would go forth with different feelings towards the people of the north as a whole and assist very materially in allaying the bitter feelings that still exist in the hearts of their old comrades.

I do not write this with any idea that it will be any aid in securing their freedom but you can count it as

one more name on the petition in their favor, and I am confident a good strong petition could be secured among the old minor soldiers in this locality

I am a Republican. have served a term in the State Senate of So. Dakota, am Post Commander of a G.A.R. Post of Watertown So. Dak. and if I can do anything to help release the Younger Brothers in a lawful manner. or say or do anything that will tend to heal the old sore between the north and south I am ready.

Hoping for success in the present move I remain

Yours &c
E. D. Wheelock
Hamlinska
So. Dakota

Board of Pardons.

No. 85486

Recommendation of

E. D. Wheelock of S. D.

Filed this 12th day of July 1897

Roland H. Hartley

Clerk.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF PARDONS,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

Believing that Cole and James Younger have been incarcerated for a sufficient length of time, in view of the fact that they did not directly participate in the killing which occurred at Northfield, and in view of their manifest reformation, as evidenced by their examplary prison conduct, and further believing that, if liberated, they will prove themselves honorable and useful citizens, we respectfully petition your Honorable Board to grant them a pardon.

Dated Preston, July 8th, 1897.

T. A. Langum	Editor Preston Times.
H R Wells	Attorney at Law (Banker)
R. E. Thompson	Atty at Law
John N. Hopp	County Attorney
M R Todd	Mayor of Preston, Minn (Banker)
A. W. Thompson	County Abstracter
E. K. Blexrud	Sheriff of Fillmore Co.
Thomas J. Garratt	Register of Deeds
Edw. O. Olson	Deputy Register of Deeds
D W Bacon	Clerk District court
M. C. Shook	Post Master
E. V. Farrington	Probate Judge
E. O. Hanne	County Treasurer

(Over)

J. C. Mills County Auditor
H. S. Bassett, Atty at Law, (ex Probate Judge)
Dr. L. D. Flipman
C. M. Morgan Supt E. Light & W. Works
Drs. Jones and Saunderson
Julius Johnson, village Recorder
A. M. Stond Cashier Bank of Preston
John C. Haure Merchant
N. L. Gray Jr. Clerk in Gray & Thompson Law office
Carl Kuethe Vil Treas.
F. Read Pharmacist
Aaron L. Sleyster Photographer
M. McBlunt Hardware Merchant
Owen Kinsella Hardware Merchant,
Edw. Erickson Deputy Sheriff
A. H. Linstroth Harness Dealer
G. W. Ward Ex County Auditor
Wm Kruppenbacher Pop Barber Shop
G. W. Phillips M. D. (ex Representative)
Drs. Duncan & Way (Dentists)
Sjezia & Mahersey Marble dealers
Chas. Schornbaum Book Keeper

Board of Pardons.

No. 85486

Petition of Citizens of Preston

Filed this 10th day of July 1897

Roland H. Hardy
Clerk.

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Guthrie Okla
July 9, 1897

Gov. Clough

You should pardon the Youngers for the one reason That they were manly enough to stay with their brother when he was almost dead. If they had not stayed with their brother they could have escaped with the James boys. It will be one of the most noble acts of your life if you pardon the Younger boys. God will bless you for it. Hoping you will pardon them I remain

Yours respectfully
C. B. Ellison
Guthrie
Oklahoma

Board of Pardons.

No. 85 + 86

Recommendation of
E. B. Ellison of Oklahoma
Filed this 12th day of July 1897
Roland H. Harrison
Clerk.

State of Minnesota.

Senate Chamber

30th Session.

John L. Gibbs, Lieut. Governor. Samuel A. Nangum, Secretary.

Chaplain.
Robert Forbes,
Duluth.

Duluth Minnesota
July 9th 1897.

Hon D. M. Clough
Governor of Minnesota
Dear Sir.

Permit me as a humble citizen of this State to address the Board of Pardons. concerning the Younger Brothers.

I sincerely hope the Board will act favorably on the application for Pardon.

Surely they have paid the full penalty. and I can see no good end that will be served by keeping them longer in prison, Let "mercy temper Justice"

I have been a resident of the State for twenty seven years. and know the history of the case.

Respectfully yours

Robert Forbes

Board of Pardons.
No. 85486.
Recommendation
of Robert Forbes.
Filed this 10th day of July 1897
Roland H. Hartley
Clerk.

Board of Pardons.
No.

Filed this ..... day of ..... 189..

Clerk.

St Paul, Minn
July 9th 1897.

To the Hon-ble
The State Board of Pardons
of Minnesota,

Honored Sirs:

I most earnestly petition your Honorable Board to pardon Mr James Younger and Mr Coleman Younger.

We live in a christian civilization. Our final command to the repentant is "go and sin no more" – We have risen above the debased fear and superstition which demanded "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" – The last reluctance to advocate leniency in this case has been completely removed from my mind by the full evidence of a full and abiding change in the hearts of the messrs Younger; and it seems to me that the christian state owes pardon to these men, whom the State has made christian

With deepest respect I am, Sincerely
W. W. Snow,

Board of Pardons.
No. 85 + 86
Recommendation
of Lt. W. Everett
Filed this 27 day of July 1899
Roland R. Hardy
Clerk.

Red Wing Minn July 10th 97

To the Hon Board Pardons

Stillwater Minn -

Sir

I presume to suggest - that the Great State of Minnesota be requested to exchange the James stock for the Younger - and the whole people will say " Amen "

Resp

Russ Dewel

Board of Pardons.

No. 85 + 86

Letter of Edwin Darrell

Filed this 12th day of July, 1897

Roland H. Harley