



## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Paper: *Times*  
Place: *Hutchinson Minn.*

*Fairmont Day.*

*The Representative  
Minneapolis.*

**THE YOUNGER BROTHERS.**

Senator Wilson, of Hennepin county, has introduced a bill in the state senate which will practically effect the pardoning of the Younger brothers, if it becomes a law.

"It is to amend the parole law of this state so that prisoners sentenced for life and who may have served over 20 years in prison, with a good prison record, may be granted a parole, limitless as to geographical restrictions.

"These paroles may be issued by the board of prison managers, and in the case of the Youngers would allow them to return to Missouri, or any other state, and from there, of course, they could not be brought back without extradition papers.

"The ordinary parole requires the prisoner to remain within the boundaries of this state.

"The bill went to the committee on state's prison and reformatory."

We hope the bill will pass. The two Younger brothers have served twenty-three years in the Stillwater penitentiary, and have an excellent record for conduct in the prison. Since they were convicted nearly one hundred "lifers" have been pardoned—some after serving only three or four years. But there was no mercy for the Youngers. Their offense was that they robbed a BANK! That was "the sin against the Holy Ghost!" For that there was to be no pardon in this world or the next. If they had simply killed a man they would have been pardoned long ago; but rob a bank! Mankind held up its hands with indignant horror!

And yet there are "shaving shops" in Western Minnesota, called banks, that have plundered the people worse than all the Youngers that ever lived.

The Youngers come of a good family in Missouri; but they reached manhood in the midst of a terrible civil war, when all the worst passions of the human heart were let loose. The horrors of that conflict in Western Missouri have never been written and probably never will be.

The crimes of the Youngers were the legitimate outgrowth of that awful epoch, when the hand of brother was raised against brother, and the midnight sky was lighted daily by the glare of burning homesteads. They carried on a war against society even after the civil war was over. They were not petty thieves, but marauders, who took their lives in their hands and boldly attacked law and government; and their crimes were dignified by a splendid courage that would have rendered regular warfare glorious.

Whether right or wrong it is nevertheless true there is a growing sentiment in the state that the Youngers have been sufficiently punished and that the bill before the legislature which provides for their parole should pass and become a law.

—The Minneapolis Journal says Judge Start was responsible for the failure to pardon the Youngers and that he made friends by it. We do not believe Judge Start is a vindictive man, but is a just one and that he could make friends by such an act we cannot believe.—Jackson Republic.

The Judge will not again be responsible. Turn those old men out and allow them to go home to die.

While striving to escape after the Northfield robbery they encountered in the woods near Mankato, a farmer, looking for his cows. They saw he recognized them and would spread the news, and they would be captured. Jesse James, who was of the party, proposed that they kill him for their own safety. The Youngers objected and declared they would defend him with their lives. Jesse then advocated gagging the prisoner and tying him to a tree in the forest. Cole Younger said this would be worse than killing him outright—as he might starve to death. Upon this the party split up, the Jameses going southwest and escaping, while the Youngers and their followers went towards Madelia. The latter, however, made the farmer swear that he would never tell he had met them; and he showed his gratitude for his life by putting the pursuers on their tracks; and they were soon overtaken and captured.

Let this good act be remembered in their favor now. They deserved punishment, and they have expiated their crime by twenty-three years of a living death.

Let them go back to their own state, —they are old men now—and employ the few remaining years of their lives in the duties of good citizenship. I.D.

The Times believes the Youngers should be released from the Stillwater prison. Penitentiaries are institutions for the cure of moral disorders, not seats of vengeance, and The Times believes that in the case of the Youngers, the object has been attained.

Minneapolis, Minn. by Supt.

*Food Co. Argus  
of  
Long Prairie*

There is quite a little opposition on the part of the state press to the proposed pardon of the Younger brothers. These men have been confined in prison twenty-two years and their conduct has been faultless as prisoners all this time. They are well along in years and if released would not return to their old ways. In these days the object of imprisonment is not for revenge, but for reformation, and since no one believes they would resume their criminal practices there can be no valid objection to giving them a taste of liberty in the evening of their lives.

*Union  
Lake Crystal Minn*

—We were compelled to have two packages, each weighing scant 4½ pounds, sent from Minneapolis last week, upon which we paid 35 cents expressage for each package. If this is not highway robbery then count the Younger gang saints.

Paper.....**FREE PRESS**  
Place.....**MANKATO Minn.**  
Date.....**FEB 17 1899**

### A PAROLE FOR "LIFERS."

There is before the legislature a bill introduced by Senator Wilson, of Minneapolis, which provides that under certain conditions prisoners under a life sentence can be released under parole after serving twenty years. This bill is taken by some to be a scheme for the liberation of the Younger brothers who have served nearly or quite a quarter of a century, and hence they oppose it. It seems to the Free Press that if the bill is properly guarded it is a most meritorious one and in the interests of humanity and reform. There is no question but that if the measure should become a law, the Younger brothers would be released under parole, but we see no reason why they should be excepted. In commenting upon the measure the Minneapolis Tribune says that "so long as the blood of the murdered Heywood cries from the ground for vengeance, no member of the James gang will ever receive pardon or parole with the consent of the majority of the people of Minnesota." This may be regarded a very good sentiment, perhaps by some as Christian sentiment, but to us it looks more like a sentiment of vengeance. There is no doubt but that there are worse disposed men liberated from prison every year, than are the Younger brothers, and men who have been confined there for crimes just as cold blooded, and for whom vengeance cries against release. We did not suppose the sole design, or even a small part, of a prison in this age of the world was for the purpose of wreaking vengeance out upon criminals, but rather for reformatory purposes. When a man goes up for life and serves twenty years the best part of his life is gone, old age is upon him, and in the vast majority of cases, if released, he will live an honest upright life rather than revert to a life of crime. It is also true that those who have the management of the prison and have closely watched the conduct of such prisoners can generally read them pretty close and tell whether or not their reformation is genuine, or is merely "shammed."

The Youngers have been exemplary prisoners. We believe that in their long residence at the Stillwater prison they have not had a black mark against them and that Warden Wolfer has expressed the opinion that were they released they would live the lives of good citizens. They would go back to changed associations from what they mingled with a quarter of a century ago. If vengeance is what is wanted, it would seem as though a quarter of a century ought to fill the cup to the brim. But the desire to keep them behind prison doors is nothing but a sentiment, and a sentiment not creditable to the great state of Minnesota, if the purpose of her institutions is to be of a reformatory nature.

What hope is held out to the man of a criminal turn, or who has become a criminal through associations, if vengeance is to be the watchword that is to keep men behind prison bars. How far have we progressed from the landmarks of the middle ages, if vengeance is what is to be meted out to criminals, instead of the hope of reform? What of our boasted civilization, if this is the spirit that is to still control us?

England has a similar feature in her laws regarding life prisoners who by their conduct have shown evidence of reformation and have had no marks against them during their term, and it is said to work well. Possibly there would be instances where the parole would be broken, but we believe that on the whole those who were accorded the privilege of release on parole would be careful to see that its provisions were not in any way broken.

The Free Press has no sentiment of opposition to express on the Wilson bill. It has no defence to offer on behalf of the Youngers for their dastardly crime of twenty-five years ago. But it is firm in the belief that nothing can be gained by continuing these men as inmates of the penitentiary until called hither by the voice of God. So far as servitude can do, they have atoned for

their viciousness during the years of their young manhood. The environments surrounding them in the early years of their lives were wholly different than those existing today. They are old men now with only a few years to live at the best. It is now simply a question of humanity or a question of vengeance. Had the Youngers not lived nearly double the number of years behind prison bars that is allotted to the average life prisoner, with a record for behavior that has not a single black mark, we should feel differently. As it is, we can hardly see how human instincts can, under the circumstances, demand Shylock's last pound of flesh.

*Tribune*  
*Browns Valley Minn.*  
*Feb 17 1899*

The Younger boys should be released on parole from the Minnesota prison. For more than twenty years their conduct at the prison has been without a flaw, and it is conceded by all that they have long since repented of their misdeeds in early life. Their continued incarceration can't bring Cashier Heywood to life or do more to avenge his death.

Some of the district papers seem to

GAZETTE  
 Paper...  
 Place... STILLWATER Minn.  
 Date... FEB 11 1899

Paper... DISPATCH  
 Place... St. Paul Minn.  
 Date... FEB 11 1899

Journal  
 Paper...  
 Place... Eden Valley Minn.  
 Date... FEB 16 1899

WHILE there's life there's hope. In 1876 the Younger brothers, Cole, Jim and Bob, were rounded up on account of the robbery of the bank at Northfield, Minn., within a few days, and the trio sent to the state prison for life. One of the boys—Bob—has completed his sentence, dying in prison here a few years ago. The other two, Cole and Jim, have been exemplary prisoners, never having a mark against them. They were desperadoes, were members of a gang that struck terror to the heart, and deserved punishment for the crimes committed against our laws. They were of the crowd that shot the cashier of the bank robbed, Heywood, but there never has been any evidence that the Younger boys were guilty of this act. They have surely paid the penalty of their crime—having served over 22 long years—and are changed and reformed men. By their conduct in prison they have secured the sympathy of all the prison wardens and officials who have been connected with the prison since their incarceration. If a state prison is supposed to be for the purpose of punishment and reformation, it has accomplished the desired end with the Younger brothers. They have been punished severely and those who are in a position to know, declare that their reformation is complete. Senator George P. Wilson of Minneapolis, who as attorney general of the state of Minnesota, prosecuted the Younger boys in 1876, yesterday introduced a bill in the senate providing for the parole of these men, who are life prisoners. He fought the case to convict them twenty-two years ago; today he stands for them and seeks to have a bill passed that will release them from the penitentiary, which is not covered by the law now, as it does not provide for the parole of life prisoners. There has always been a determined and bitter fight against granting the boys their liberty, usually coming from Northfield. That the bill will be opposed by some there is no doubt, but in the able hands of Senator Wilson we hope to see the bill passed and Cole

OF JUSTICE AND CHARITABLE WORK.  
 The bill providing for the parole and release of life convicts who have served twenty years without a violation of the rules is one that will appeal to the common sense, as well as to the humanity, of the legislature. Ordinarily death will release the "lifer" long before the expiration of twenty years, but when that time has been served surely the ends of justice have been met, and there is almost no conceivable crime that such a punishment would not expiate. The bill should pass.

newsy and Belgrade should give it good support.  
 The Wilson bill which has for its object the release of the Younger brothers, in the light of Charity should pass, as the Youngers are old men now and have been in the prison over 20 years.

Paper... TIMES  
 Place... CROOKSTON Minn.  
 Date... FEB 14 1899

Princeton Minn.  
 Date... FEB 16 1899

THE TIMES believes that retributive justice has been satisfied in the case of the Younger Bros., and that they will make far better citizens in the light of their prison experience covering a period of 22 years than many who are and have been free to go and come as they pleased during all that time. They have been model prisoners, and never since their incarceration have they received or deserved a black mark for misconduct. They have even assisted in maintaining order, on occasions where their services were needed and if ever the ends of justice were well served in meting out punishment, they have been in the case of the Youngers.

It is proposed to so amend the criminal law that a life convict who has served 20 years of the sentence without violating the rules of the prison, shall be released on parole while kept under the espionage of the State authorities. If one of the objects of imprisonment is reformation surely there could be no better proposition than this, and surely a convict who has a record of 20 years continuous good conduct is entitled to this much leniency. The bill should pass.

Advocate  
 Place...  
 Date... FEB 16 1899

JOURNAL  
 Paper... LANE SBORO Minn.  
 Date... FEB 16 1899

The Younger Brothers, the Northfield Bank Robbers who have served twenty-three years in the Stillwater Penitentiary may yet receive their liberty and be free men. Senator Wilson introduced a bill in the Senate in their behalf. If liberated they would no doubt make good citizens.

SENATOR WILSON, of Hennepin county, has introduced a bill to amend the present law for paroling prisoners sentenced for life, and if passed all prisoners who have served twenty years will be granted a limitless parole and this would give the Younger brothers their freedom. We believe both of the boys would live honorable lives if paroled, but there will be much opposition to the bill no doubt.

and Jim Younger oncemore restored to liberty, believing they will be law-abiding, honorable citizens during the few remaining years of their life.

aper GLOBE  
Place Mergus Falls M1  
ate FEB 18 1899

Paper Times  
Place Mine Minn  
Date Feb 22 99

012 LUM  
Tribune  
Albert Lea Minn.  
FEB 22 1899

To Release The Youngers.  
From Stillwater Gazette.

If the state prison is supposed to be for the purpose of punishment and reformation, it has accomplished the desired end with the younger brothers. They have been punished severely and those who are in a position to know, declare that their reformation is complete. Senator George P. Wilson of Minneapolis, who is attorney general of the state of Minnesota, prosecuted the Younger boys in 1876, yesterday introduced a bill in the senate providing for the parole of these men, who are life prisoners. He fought the case to convict them twenty-two years ago. That the bill will be opposed by some that is no doubt, but in the able hands of Senator Wilson we hope to see the bill

passed and Cole and Jim Younger one more restored to liberty.—The Duluth News Tribune.

A Valuable Reference

Country.  
A bill has been introduced in the legislature to pardon the Younger boys. The plan of petitioning has so many times proved fruitless that the friends of the boys have adopted other tactics. Nothing can be said against their conduct since their incarceration, and for more than twenty years they have lived thus. It would do no harm to let the boys out, as at their present age there is no danger of them returning to their former life.

State Legislature  
\* Silhouettes of Lawmakers presented by a "Tribune" Writer....

Senator Nelson of Hennepin county has introduced a bill in the senate under which it is claimed the Younger brothers may be paroled. Under the provisions of the bill no one can be paroled who has served a previous term in the penitentiary, either in this state or elsewhere; nor unless he has served twenty years and has faithfully observed the prison rules and is without discredit marks. In such case he can be paroled by the prison managers under such regulations as the governor may prescribe.

The friends of the bill claim that the Younger brothers have met all these conditions and in the length of service have gone nearly three years beyond the period named in the bill; that if the purpose of punishment be to reform, then the ends of justice have been served in their case. The friends of the bill do not attempt to excuse, or to palliate, the crime committed by the Younger brothers, but claim that after nearly twenty-five years of faithful service, with only a remnant of their lives left to them, the people of this state may well lay aside vindictiveness and suffer them to be paroled subject, as they would be, to arrest at any time if they violated the terms of the parole. If the great Lincoln had any one quality, which more than another endeared him to the people, it was his broad charity toward the erring and his willingness to forgive, forget and pardon. He used the pardoning power freely. Those opposed to the bill think that the moral effect would be bad and for this reason claim that it would be better that they end their days in the prison. It seems that since the Younger brothers were committed to prison some fifteen or twenty prisoners convicted and sentenced for life for the same crime have been pardoned. It is understood that the warden and prison managers favor the passage of the bill

R. N. J.

Paper UNION  
Place Lake Crystal M1  
Date FEB 22 1899

—Let the Youngers go free. Sinner, do you remember what the blessed Saviour said to the thief on the cross? "This day thou shalt be with Me in paradise."

Union  
Princeton Minn.  
FEB 23 1899

it would suit him. No wonder Spain's monarchy has crumbled.

It does not require very much courage to sit in a newspaper office and fight the Younger Brothers. They have served more than twenty years as a penalty for the crime of which they were convicted, and it is carrying justice beyond all the limits of mercy to punish them further. Their release could harm no one, and would be an incentive to good conduct on the part of other criminals now in prison.

Union  
Bird Island Minn.  
FEB 24 1899

A bill, that if passed, in our state legislature, will give the Younger boys their liberty is occupying the attention of our legislators. They have served many years for robbing a bank, as no other crime was directly proven against them, and it does seem as though it would be right after their long years of faithful service to grant them a pardon.

Republic  
Jackson Minn.  
FEB 24 1899

The Globe intimates that money is being used or will be used to push a bill through the legislature which will permit the paroling of the prisoners who have served twenty years in the penitentiary, in other words, will restore the Younger brothers to liberty. I sincerely hope the bill will become a law. The talk of there being money behind the bill is nonsensical. The only thing I blame ex-Gov. Clough for was his failure to pardon the Younger brothers when he had the opportunity. Gov. Clough has repeatedly told me that he was sorry he did not temper justice with mercy before the board of pardons came into existence. Senator Wilson, the author of the bill, is a gentleman above and beyond reproach. The Younger brothers have amply atoned for their misdeeds. Let them spend their few remaining days on earth with the friends of their boyhood in old Missouri.—Princeton Union.

Paper.....  
Monitor  
Place.....  
Beuson Minn.  
Date.....  
FEB 24 1899

Gazette Reporter  
Wheaton, Minn.  
FEB 24 1899

A bill has been introduced in the legislature which practically reduces life imprisonment to a commutation of twenty years. It is claimed that the bill is introduced in the interest of the Younger Bros. who have already served over that time and have a most exemplary prison record. To our mind no punishment is too severe for a man who will wantonly take human life, still if there are any extenuating circumstances why he should be sent to life imprisonment instead of being hung it would only seem humane to hold out some hope and inducement for him to be a model prisoner. Twenty years is a long time to serve and a man who will spend that length of time in the penitentiary without breaking any of the prison rules is certainly entitled to some reward for his behavior. The bill, however, has not yet become a law and it may meet with some serious objection when it comes up for discussion.

Aside from the residents of Northfield and vicinity there are few people in the state who will object to the passage of the bill introduced by Senator Wilson, which provides that prisoners sentenced to the penitentiary for life may be released on parole

after twenty years if their conduct during that time is shown by the prison records to be good. The passage of this bill would result in the release of the Younger brothers on parole and enable them to pass the few remaining years of their lives among friends. They have been in prison twenty-three years and have always been model prisoners. They are now old, white-haired men and have long since repented of their early misdeeds. Society would in no wise suffer from their release, and Senator Wilson's bill will be criticised by few except those in whose makeup the desire for vengeance outweighs mercy.

One of the notable achievements of

The above coming from Auditor Dunn is refreshing but we have always noticed one thing, wherever you see an able independent go-ahead newspaper, one that truckles to nothing on earth but hits a wrong when ever it sees it whether it is in his own town or out of it you will see its editor advocating forgiveness after repentance. But we regret to say that Minnesota has editors who are simply parrots, men never taking a stand when they are positive of public opinion, and following in the lead of a few city papers from whom they draw every inspiration but thank the Lord they are not numerous.

Paper.....  
messenger  
Place.....  
Wenanga-Minn.  
Date.....  
FEB 24 1899

ing members, and are accomplishing good results.

Another attempt is being made to release the Younger Bros from the Stillwater penitentiary. If left to a vote of the state no doubt the men would be released; they have served a purpose.

INDEPENDENT

Litchfield Minn.

FEB 28 1899

Hairmont Sentinel.

A bill is before the legislature to practically cut a penitentiary life sentence to twenty years by good behavior. We understand that this principle is carried out elsewhere to a considerable extent. A time prisoner can always reduce his sentence by good behavior, and we see no reason why a lifer should not have some chance. We are inclined to look on this departure with favor. It is claimed that this bill will allow the Youngers to be liberated on parole, and for this reason the measure is bitterly attacked in certain quarters.

912 LUMBER EXCHANGE, MINNEAPOLIS. PHONE 1940.

Reid Star.

Ortonville Minn

MAR 2 1899

among the schools of the state and the cause of education will be best served.

A BILL that is exciting considerable discussion, both in and out of the legislature, provides for the liberation on parole of all life prisoners after 20 years of confinement. The bill is fathered by Senator Wilson of Hennepin County, and is aimed to effect the release of Cole and Jim Younger, who for nearly 25 years have suffered punishment at the Stillwater prison for the Northfield raid. The author of the bill was the attorney general of the state at that time and prosecuted the Youngers with the above result. He now declares they are worthy of their liberty, and many people will agree with him that a parole permitting these men to enjoy their few remaining years in at least nominal liberty, is merciful and just.

The bill for the re-forming of coun-

Paper

Place

Date

Paper *Opener*  
Place *Pine City Minn*

MAR 2 1899

To most people unbiassed by personal grievance or resentment the pardon of the Younger brothers at this time appears reasonable. They have expiated their crime by more than 20 years incarceration, surely long enough so far as salutary influence on would-be bank robbers is concerned. They are thoroughly reformed men, if we may believe the wardens and keepers at the Stillwater prison. And the advocacy of their claims for clemency by men of sterling worth and integrity who knew them as young men is entitled to some consideration. The opposition from Northfield people appears to be actuated by a spirit of vengeance which should have scant weight in the matter, and we hope the effort now being made to secure the release of these men will be successful.

Paper

Place

Date

Paper *Edgerton*  
Place *Edgerton Minn*

MAR 2 1899

subjects, and always with a masterly hand.

A BILL has been introduced in the legislature which, if passed, will give the Younger brothers an unlimited parole. We sincerely hope the bill will pass. They have paid a dear penalty for their crime, and should be allowed to spend the remainder of their life in freedom. They have shown beyond a question of doubt that they have reformed, and continued punishment can never undo the many misdeeds of the past. The law has accomplished its purpose, and should give way to mercy.

Paper

Place

Date

Paper *Journal*  
Place *Ortonville Minn*  
Date *MAR 2 1899*

places.

THE legislature has been considering the advisability of providing for the release of the Younger brothers on parole. These men were responsible for the killing of Cashier Hayward at Northfield, Minn., and have been in Stillwater for 20 years. Warden Wolfer and others connected with prison management think that the conduct of the Younger brothers while they have been in prison has been such that it would be a wise and humane act to give them their liberty on parole. These men have had scarcely a black mark, if indeed any black mark, against them since they have been in prison. They have very few years to live anyway, and it would seem as if the ends of justice in their case had been attained. The object in imprisoning men is not to wreak vengeance upon them but to make them capable of being good citizens, and if the conduct of twenty years is any criterion by which to go the Younger brothers will lead respectable lives if released. We say let them "leave the prison walls and get a glimpse again of heaven's sunshine."

Paper *Times*

Place *Ely Minn*

Date *MAR 3 1899*

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The effort to release the younger brothers from prison should meet with success. They have served past the time men usually live in confinement, are now old men, and there is no danger of them returning to former habits. Then, too, it seems their record previous to being incarcerated is not as bad as painted. They have been sufficiently punished, and the press of the entire state is in favor of their release.

Paper *Gazette Reporter*

Place *Wheaton, Minn*

Date *MAR 3 1899*

avoided.

Senator Wilson's bill providing for the granting of limitless paroles to life prisoners who have served twenty years in prison and have records for good behavior to their credit during that time, seems to meet with general favor throughout the state. The passage of such a law will be a strong incentive for good behavior among life prisoners and will tend to uplift the moral standard of prisoners in general, as good behavior on the part of those convicted of the most heinous crimes must necessarily have a beneficial effect on their associates. Rules similar to this are in force in nearly all European prisons and the Minnesota prison, considered one of the model penal institutions of the world, cannot afford to be deprived of anything that will tend to improve it.

Attention has several times been called to the spirit of unfairness and

I have read the Appendix to Hixxoura and the letters in it from Foster  
 Hixins and Gregg, Mr. Bennett who wrote the appendix forgot to have Capt. Zia  
 Gregg say that he was, ~~the~~ first lieutenant of the notorious Quantrell who  
 sacked Lawrence and murdered fully two hundred people, peaceable citizens and  
 that he was next in command to Quantrell and on duty at that massacre. He  
 lives in Kansas City now and takes pride in telling his exploits with ~~Quantrell~~  
 Quantrell and of that raid on Lawrence. He always attends the reunions of  
 the members of Quantrell's gang as you will notice by the papers every time  
 they meet. If as he says, he and Cole Younger was mustered into the confed-  
 erate service, Cole in protecting Foster only followed the orders of his  
 superior officers who had ~~been~~ placed <sup>Foster and other prisoners</sup> in the house at Lone Jack, and would in  
 have been liable to courtmartial if he had not, and that was, as the letters  
 show, in 1862, before Quantrell's gang got to doing their bloodiest work  
 which was in 1863, and 1864 - 5

That appendix <sup>page 371</sup> claims that the <sup>1865</sup> Constitution and laws of Missouri held the  
 Confederates of Mo. responsible for all act done during the war while it  
 gave amnesty to all of the local Federals for their acts. I dont know about  
 that, but I do know, that any time after the passage of the act for giving  
 the President power to grant amnesty to rebels down to the repeal of that  
 act which was <sup>page 371</sup> in 1867, <sup>appendix</sup> these men could have had amnesty freely given them  
 by applying for it and taking the oath of allegiance, <sup>and constitution</sup> and the laws of Mo  
 could not have harmed them when they had the protection of the U. S. over  
 them. But they did not want amnesty, it appears they did not need any in  
 their business.

It is easy to ascertain that all the statements made here by me are true. I  
 do not sign this, for the reason that I do not care to be mixed up in  
 any trouble with them, if they come out, and there will be trouble enough  
 sooner or later if they are released.

If they want the favor of parole, let them earn it by at least helping the  
 state to find and punish the last man to leave the bank, and the man on the  
 buckskin horse

The fact that they have been so long in prison and are in such good health  
 is proof that they have been well fed and well treated, and have lived much  
 longer than they would have done had they had their own way outside, for  
 they would have been dead long ago even if they had never been arrested or  
 punished. Even if they were not in good health, we cannot release prisoner  
 for such a reason. All men, inside as well as outside the walls are subject  
 to illhealth. Many of our best men, confined in offices, loose health and  
 drop, but the public are not concerned in his condition and offer no help.  
 Why should we do more for the convict. The law says to him when convicted.  
 You will not be put to death now, but may die from natural causes later.  
 Now when nature begins to fail why should we be in such haste to pardon. If  
 it was right and just to hold the prisoner if in good health, it is just and  
 right to hold him in poor health. Dont see how health has anything to do with  
 it

Younger Bros  
Historical and Biographical

Murder of Harry Younger, father of Cole Younger.

On page 80 of Vol. 12 part 2 Series one, of the U.S. Rebellion records, appears report of Gen. Ben Loan to his superior officer Gen. Curtis, <sup>dated Jan. 1863</sup> in which Gen. Loan says "I arrested one Capt. Wally who <sup>had</sup> murdered one Harry Younger in Jackson County for his money. the evidence was so <sup>clear</sup> ~~sixing~~ that he confessed it. but preferring a regular trial and punishment, I ordered court convened at Independence for that purpose. The witnesses soldiers of the ~~the~~ fifth regiment Missouri State Militia stationed at Harrisonville Cass County were <sup>sent</sup> ~~ordered~~ to attend court. When on their way they were bushwhacked by a <sup>band</sup> ~~band~~ under Bird Younger a son of the murdered man, and the court was not <sup>held</sup> ~~held~~ ~~the~~

The name should have been Bud Younger (typographical error) as Cole went by that nickname in those days See his statement to that effect near bottom of first column page 3 of Pioneer Press Feb. 21st 1888

Lawrence Masacre

In the same volume page 487 appears copy of dispatch to Mo. Democrat from Leavenworth Kan. Dated Aug. 26th 1863, a day or two after the masacre.

Among other things the dispatch says

"Quantrell had with him Sam Hays bro. of Jo Hays, Yeager, Holt, Geo. Todd, and Younger, with 150 men with 150 more citizens of Clay, Lay Fayette, Jackson, Cass and Bates Counties not over 300 men altogether.

183 bodies had been burried and 7 more had been found. 182 bldgs had been burned &c &c

A document filed by Capt. Bronaugh of Mo. favoring their petition for pardon in July 1897, which is now in the Governors office, shows that the Youngers got into bad ways by their connection and close association with Quantrells band and the James Bros.

GAVON D. BURGESS.  
CHIEF JUSTICE.

JOHN R. GREEN.  
CLERK.

STATE OF MISSOURI.  
OFFICE CLERK SUPREME COURT.  
JEFFERSON CITY.

DIVISION NO. 1.  
THEODORE BRACE, P. J.  
WALTON M. ROBINSON, J.  
WILLIAM C. MARSHALL, J.  
LEROY B. VALLIANT, J.

DIVISION NO. 2.  
THOMAS A. SHERWOOD, P. J.  
GAVON D. BURGESS, J.  
JAMES B. GANTT, J.

Jefferson City Mo 12<sup>th</sup> June 1907

Hon Charles M. Stark

Chief Justice Supreme Court Minn.

Dear Sir

Some years ago I wrote you asking  
your favorable consideration of the petition  
for the pardon of the Youngers. I write again to  
assure you that time and reflection have  
confirmed the views I then had. The laws  
of Minnesota were grossly violated but the  
offenders have atoned as far in their power  
has laid and I really think the offended law  
would show itself more sublime now by  
extending mercy to these men than by  
further showing its power to punish.

When they committed the deed for which

GAVON D. BURGESS.  
CHIEF JUSTICE.

JOHN R. GREEN.  
CLERK.

STATE OF MISSOURI.  
OFFICE CLERK SUPREME COURT.  
JEFFERSON CITY.

DIVISION NO. 1.  
THEODORE BRACE, P. J.  
WALTOUR M. ROBINSON, J.  
WILLIAM C. MARSHALL, J.  
LEROY B. VALLIANT, J.

DIVISION NO. 2.  
THOMAS A. SHERWOOD, P. J.  
GAVON D. BURGESS, J.  
JAMES B. GANTT, J.

They were convicted they were young men,  
now they are old men, they have paid as a  
penalty for their deed all that there was of  
young manhood life and middle age and,  
as I am informed, under the good influences  
that have surrounded them in prison, they  
have entered upon their old age with  
character mellowed by suffering and elevated  
by Christianity. I believe the act of mercy to  
them would have a good influence on the public  
and really vindicate the majesty of the law

Very respectfully

L. B. Valliant

E. F. ROGERS,  
REAL ESTATE AND LOANS,  
27 AND 36 BEALS BLDG.,  
N. W. COR. 9TH AND  
WYANDOTTE STREETS.  
TELEPHONE 1846.

NOTARY PUBLIC, CLAIM AND PENSION AGENT.

*Kansas City, Mo.,* June 15th, 1901. 189

Hon. Charles M. Start,  
Chief Justice Supreme Court,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Esteemed Sir:

One of the grandest characteristics of this government is that the humblest citizen has the right of petition to the highest and most exalted court of justice in the land. With this fact as a basis and encouraged by realizing your position in one of the very best states of the Union, I am persuaded that I will be pardoned in taking the liberty of stating to you a few facts in behalf of the Youngers, now prisoners in your penitentiary.

When I say I was an officer in the federal army during the civil war and fought Cole Younger more than once, you will know I am not moved by mere personal motive but only through "the right as God shows me the right"

I knew Cole Younger when not a blot stained his character. His father was the highest type of a genuine good man and most respected by those knowing him best.

My regiment was stationed at Harrisonville, Mo. during the winter of 1861 and 2 and sometime during that winter one of the citizens gave a ball and Cole and one of our captains with others attended that dance; this Captain Walley of ours engaged the company of a young lady to dance with him during the evening and when he went to her for the next dance she told him she was engaged to Mr. Cole Younger for that particular dance. This enraged Capt. Walley and he went to Cole and told him he would make no disturbance that evening but kill him the first opportunity. Every

*Kansas City, Mo.,* ..... 189

body knew the Captain was vicious and not afraid of blood.

Younger felt but one course was left for his safety and that was to leave home and taking that step led him to another; but with all that he never lost the courage and manly principles of a gentleman because I saw and heard him stand up and raise his voice against insults to us wounded at Lone Jack, Mo. by cowardly confederates and declare he would protect the Union prisoners from such insults or harm even at the cost of his life. I state these facts to show that these boys are not fiends in human form and to substantiate that belief I will refer you to their record as prisoners for nearly a quarter of a century.

I do not justify the wrongs of any man and am of the opinion that our laws in this country are not enforced as they should be but it seems to me, and I think I speak the sentiment of ninety per cent of our people irrespective of party, that in this case the law has been fully vindicated, justice more than abundantly meted out to these poor unfortunate victims of circumstances and now I beg of you gentlemen in whose hands the liberty of the Younger brothers is held that you be governed by that same spirit that controled the lowly Nazarine while hanging on the cross, "Father, forgive them".

I do not know whether you are a politician or not or whether you make any profession of Christianity but I do know since my sins were forgiven I have tried to live a consistant member of the Baptist Church and nothing strengthens my hope more than to lend a helping hand to the oppressed whose life shows a reformation. "It is human to err but divine to forgive".

Very respectfully,

*E. F. Rogers*

To His Excellency S .R .Van Sant  
Governor of Minnesota

Dear Sir :

I desire to deposit in your office ,the attached petition for pardon,together with the accompanying letters from numerous persons ,favoring clemency in the case of Coleman and James Younger .

While the principal petition and some of the letters advocate pardon ,I do not present them as praying for pardon at this time ,but for the consideration of the members of the Board of Pardons ,~~to assist~~ in determining their action on the parole of the men above referred to ;their application for which is now,as I am informed,pending .

Should such parole be denied however ,I desire that these papers be used before the said Board of Pardons ,to sustain any petition that may be presented ,for commutation of <sup>the</sup> sentences of the said Coleman and James Younger ,to a term of years ,or for absolute pardon in case they should apply for such relief . The signatures subscribed to the petition together with the letters attached ,were procured and received by me ,or written at my suggestion . All are originals except as herein noted ,and I know the signatures to be genuine . None of the petitions or letters have ever been used before any Governor or the Board of Pardons ,except the letters of Ex Gov. Sibley and Robert A. Smith ,now Mayor of St .Paul .

The C .K .Davis letter was written and signed by the Senator in my presence . It was not addressed to any person or official body ,he deeming it as well to write ,as it appears ,a declaration expressing his views ,to be used by me on behalf of the Younger Bros. ,either before officials or in private .

The letter bearing the signature of Bishop H .B .Whipple ,is a true copy taken from the original under my direction ,with the consent of Bishop ~~W~~ Gilbert (to whom the letter was forward by Bishop Whipple for examination and copying before mailing to the addressee ) with full authority for its public or private use .

The letter signed by Stephen B .Elkins was signed by him in duplicate ,one to be mailed to Chief Justice Start ,the other was handed me by Senator Elkins at his residence in Washington D .C .on the day of its date ,July 4th 1898 with authority to use the same in public or private ,in any effort I might make to secure clemency for the Youngers . I have made an earnest effort to obtain reliable testimony from Federal officers ,who were the best informed as to the situation of these men during and after the war . The statements of Senator Elkins ,Maj. Foster and Col. Rogers import absolute verity . The others although confederates are equally reliable in the communities where they reside

The conduct of the Younger Bros. at the great State prison fires occurring in 1884 should have entitled them to favorable consideration at that time . Such conduct on the part of prisoners has always been recognized by authority in all civilized countries . It does not seem that it was urged in their favor however before the Board of Pardons *at its meeting in 1897 when*

*petition for pardon was denied*  
Minneapolis Minn. June 25th 1901

Very Sincerely Yours

*Geo. W. Bennett*

*Sub 7, 1898*

List of Petitions, Letters &c, bearing on the Parole of the "Youngers."

- 1st Petition of Bishop H. B. Whipple, <sup>et als</sup> for pardon.
- 2nd " " of Senator C. K. Davis.
- 3rd Ex-Gov. Ramsey, on petition with Bishop Whipple
- 4th Bishop Gilbert,
- 5th Letter of Hon. Henry A. Castle, Auditor U. S. Postal Department.
- 6th Letter A. T. Ankeny, President State Normal School Board.
- 7th Letter of Ex-Gov. Sibley and Hon. Robt. A. Smith, Mayor of St. Paul.
- 8th Letter of Geo. P. Dodd, Ex-Guard, as to conduct of these men at the great prison fires which occurred in 1884.
- 9th Letter of Major Emory S. Foster, commander of Union forces at the battle of Lone Jack Mo., testifying to the saving of his life by Coleman Younger, while a wounded prisoner in the hands of the Confederates.
- 10th Letter of Stephen B. Elkins, U.S. Senator from West Va., testifying to the saving of his life by Coleman Younger.
- 11th Letter of Col. E. F. Rogers, an aid to Major Foster at the battle of Lone Jack, confirming the Foster letter.
- 12th Affidavit of Col. G.W. Thompson to the mustering into regular Confederate service, of Cole Younger.
- 13th Letter of Hon. E. G. Bower, formerly of the Confederate service, as to his knowledge of the character and conduct of Cole Younger while he was in the Confederate service.
- 14th Letter or affidavit of Wm Gregg formerly Capt. in Shanks regiment of Confederate cavalry as to his knowledge of Cole Younger while in the service
- 16th Newspaper clippings from the press of the State
- 15th Affidavit of Marshall Wright, stating the whereabouts of the Younger Bros. at the time of a certain Iowa train robbery of which they were charged.

Filed in the office of the Governor by Geo. M. Bennett June 1901

THE PRINCIPAL PETITION bears the following well-known signature.

Within the numerous petitions appear the following well known names

H. B. Whipple, Bishop of Minnesota,

M. N. Gilbert, Co-adjutor Bishop,

Henry A. Castle, Auditor of D. O. Department,

George R. Finch, of Finch, Van Slyke, Young & Co.

E. A. Young, of Finck, Van Slyke, Young & Co.

E. J. Hoagson, President Security Trust Company,

Stewart L. Moore, G. F. A. Northern Pacific Railway,

R. C. Dunn, State Auditor,

George P. Wilson, State Senator,

George L. Becker, Railway Commissioner,

Joseph Wheelock, Editor, Pioneer Press,

W. W. Murphy,

George A. Bradford,

C. A. Pomeroy,

The last three being all the living members of the band of seven, who entered the brush and captured the prisoners.

Robert A. Smith, Postmaster of St. Paul,

Conde E. Hamlin, Editor, Pioneer Press,

Gen. M. D. Flower, St. Paul, Stockyards Co.,

Thomas Cochran, President Northwestern Investment Co.,

A. Allen, Merchants' Hotel, St. Paul,

G. A. Gilman, Ex-lieutenant Governor,

Capt. B. G. Yates, who was with the assaulting party at Madelia.

Marion D. Shutter, D. D. Minneapolis.

Rev. William Wilkinson, Minneapolis,

Frank M. Nye,

J. Adam Bede, Pine City,

E. W. Durrant, Stillwater,

C. K. Davis, Letter approving full pardon,

Alex Ramsey, Ex-Governor and Ex-U. S. Senator,

J. H. Shurmier, President, Wagon and Carriage Co.,

John Wright, Rector of St. Paul's Church, St. Paul,

Albert Berg, Secretary of State,

E. J. Shurmeier, Mgr., Shurmeier Wagon Co.,

H. M. Wheeler, who shot Clell Miller and Stiles. *at Northfield*

*Arch Bishop John Ireland*

To The Board of Pardons of the  
State of Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

We most respectfully request and petition that Thomas Coleman Younger, and James H. Younger, now in prison at Stillwater, be each granted a conditional pardon, the conditions and limitations thereof to be of such extent and nature as you in your good judgment may see fit to impose.

We beleive that the law has been fully vindicated, the demands of justice satisfied, and that their plea for clemency may now properly be granted, without detriment to the best interests of

society, and that they will become good citizens if given the opportunity

We prefer Full Pardon.

M. N. Gibson

Bishop Whipple at-  
tended by Rev. M. N. G.

E. A. Wilman

B. G. Yates  
G. W. Marsh

We think Conditional Advisable

Alex Ramsey

J. H. Schumier

L. Fletcher

John Ireland

J. A. Whitlock

M. D. Flower

Robert A. Smith I think  
they are entitled to a full pardon

That when unconditional pardon

Conrad Hamlin

E. Allen

Geo. L. Beecher

Geo. P. Wilson Uncond. Pardon

Wm. Wilkinson

Mr. J. P. Fullerton  
John P. Reay  
William D. Shultz  
Francis M. Myers

J. Mann Peck  
E. M. Prout

Return, State Auditor,  
full pardon - with all my heart.

Henry H. East  
Oliver J. Hedgson  
full pardon - no emasculation  
granted it.

George R. Finch

Stewart L. Moore

Edward A. Young

Walter Berg Secy. State Minn.

J. Sullivan (Rode the big  
grey horse  
in 1876)

William A. Loe

Conditions Perhaps Advisable.

To The Board of Pardons of the  
State of Minnesota.

Gentlemen:--

We most respectfully request and petition that Thomas Coleman Gouger and James Hardin Gouger now in prison at Stillwater, Minn., be each granted a conditional pardon, the conditions and limitations thereof to be of such extent and nature as you in your good judgment may see fit to impose.

We believe that the law has been fully vindicated, the demands of justice satisfied, and that their plea for clemency may now properly be granted, without detriment to the best interests of society, and that they will become good citizens if given the opportunity.

Dated, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1898. #1

We Prefer Full Pardon

We Think Conditions Advisable

H M Wheeler M.D.

The man who shot  
Old Miller

two

We prefer Full Pardon.

W. Murphy  
Geo. A. Bradford  
J. C. Pomeroy  
John Wright.

Rector of St. Paul Episcopal  
Church - St. Paul -  
Edw. Schurmeier -

Gen. Mitchell  
H. G. Donohue, House Rep 1899

We think Conditions Advisable.

"The Youngers"  
Petitions for Relief -  
From -

Rev. Rev. H. B. Whipple,

Hon. G. K. Davis, *et-al*

Ex-Gov. Alex Ramsey.

Filed by Geo. W. Bennett

Copy -

Lake Wailand  
Orange Co. Fla.

Hon. C. Mc. Stark.

Chief Justice.

Dear Sir: I learn from

~~Whipple~~  
Bishop Gilbert that an appeal is made to the Board of Pardons, for the pardon of Coleman and James Younger. I join my fellow citizens in this request for the following reasons: I know the conditions of Missouri during the civil war, my cousin General Halleck was in command. The previous conflict in Kansas had ripened into the bitterest hatreds and vendetta. The family of the Younger Brothers were sufferers. They joined the free lancers of the Confederacy. I believe their subsequent history was the outcome of those days of Guerilla warfare, and so far as I know and believe the Younger brothers were not guilty of personal acts of cruelty or murder. I believe that in the Northfield Bank robbery, the murder of the Cashier, was the act

of a drunken member of the gang. Since the day they entered prison they have lived exemplary lives, and men like General Sibley, Gov. Marshall and others have expressed to me their belief that they had received their punishment in such manner as to guarantee their good behavior and were proper subjects of clemency.

Their case cannot be a precedent for the future, for we are not likely to suffer again the hatreds of civil war. They are old men; I shall be glad if at this Christmas tide you can see your way to grant their pardon.

With high regard

Yours Faithfully,

H. B. Whipple

Bishop of Minnesota.

Copy

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 25, 1899

I have been so deeply impressed  
by the character of many of the  
signers of the petition for clemency  
to the surviving Youngs Brothers  
that I have, after much careful  
deliberation, concluded to join  
them.

I have been particu-  
larly moved to do this by  
my conversations with Senator  
Elkins of West Virginia, Coleman  
Youngs during the civil war unques-  
tionably saved the Elkins life at  
the ~~point~~ peril of his own

21

CK Davis

Saint Paul. Minn. July 8<sup>th</sup> 1901.

D. Frank Powell, M.D.

Governor Van Sant.

Yours of calling, of a residence, (for more than one half of the past twenty years) in this state entitled me to a hearing as a citizen of this commonwealth I beg leave to add my earnest, sincere pleading for execution elsewhere in the case of the younger Bro's. And if there is any doubt as to either of them being able to get a 'situation' for the time being I will employ one of them at a reasonable living salary until such time as he can better the position. It seems to me, all things considered, that a period, or point, has been reached when further imprisonment would mean vengeance, not justice and I cannot see why we have this great State can be fulfilled by their being compelled to spend their now fast passing years, in prison. With the assurance of my profound personal esteem, I am, dear Sir, most respectfully yours  
D. Frank Powell.

March 28, (?)

Diocese of Minnesota,  
Residence of  
The Bishop Coadjutor,  
18 Summit Court,  
St. Paul.

And Good Morn

My dear Sir,

#4

If it were possible I  
would appear before the House Com-  
mittee on State Prison, to night,  
for the purpose of urging favorable  
consideration of your Penal Bill.

I cannot express myself too strongly  
in favor of it, from every point  
of view. It is a grand step  
forward in the matter of Penal  
Reform. It is just, it is humane  
it is wise. It may secure the  
Peace of the younger Bros, and  
surely if any man should re-  
ceive displeasure they are entitled to  
it. To curtail them, however is  
simply an act of inhumanity and

Diocese of Minnesota,  
Residence of  
The Bishop Coadjutor,  
18 Summit Court,  
St. Paul.

Dear Sir,

I am unalterably assured that  
this measure is a wise one, and  
if you think any statement of  
my position will reinforce this bill  
do not hesitate to read this letter

Most truly yours

M. N. Gilbert

Bishop Coadjutor of Minnesota

St Paul

Mar 28<sup>th</sup>



# Saint Paul Post Office.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER.

Saint Paul, Ramsey Co., Minn., Feb 20, 1897

Wm. P. Wilson Senator

Dear Sir: I write briefly  
to express my gratification that  
you have initiated measures that may  
result in the release of the Younger  
Brothers, now confined in the State Prison  
at Stillwater. I have felt for several  
years past that the ends of justice and  
the demands of example have been  
fully complied with by their long im-  
prisonment.

Very Truly Yours,

Henry C. Laeth

#5

Henry Alcasto

LAW OFFICE OF  
**A. T. ANKENY,**  
502 GLOBE BLDG.  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

March 28. 1899.

Hon. Geo. P. Wilson,  
Senate, St. Paul, Minn.

My Dear Senator:

I desire to say to you that I heartily favor the passage of your bill for the parole of life prisoners after a service of twenty years.

The conceded object of punishment is not revenge but reformation. To hold indefinitely even for a great crime any human being is but stubbornly to refuse to advance in the methods of prison management from that which prevailed in the darkest ages. In my opinion we are just now in danger of placing and fixing a stigma upon the fair name of our state, and I trust that the sober reflection of the legislature will save us from such a fate. My interest alone in good government is my only apology for thus addressing you and wishing you success in your noble work.

Very Truly Yours.

A. T. Ankeny,

#6

LAW OFFICE OF  
**A. T. ANKENY,**  
502 GLOBE BLDG.  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

*Ankeny*

MARCH 28, 1898.

Hon. Geo. W. Wilson,

Senator, St. Paul, Minn.

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work.

Very Truly Yours,

*A. T. Ankeny*

46

*From General H. H. Sibley, Ex-Governor, &c.*

ST. PAUL. JULY 8TH, 1889.

His Excellency Wm. R. Merriam,  
State Capitol, City.

Governor:

I feel it to be my duty to join in the appeal for pardon to the three convicts, known as the Younger Brothers, who have been incarcerated in the State prison at Stillwater for the past thirteen years. In so doing, I depart from the rule which has governed me, not to interfere with the course of justice, except under very exceptional circumstances.

Believing the ends of justice to have been fully answered by the long and severe punishment inflicted upon the convicts mentioned, and taking into consideration the excellent record made by them during their confinement, I am persuaded that their release from further punishment, would be favorably regarded by a majority of the people of the state, as an exercise of that comity towards a sister state, which has appealed to your Excellency, through many of her high officials and other representative citizens, to pardon these young men and restore them to their friends, guaranteeing that in such event, they will prove to be law abiding citizens.

Minnesota has shown her power to punish malefactors, let her now manifest her magnanimity, by opening the prison doors to the men who have so long suffered for a violation of her laws, and bid them "go and sin no more."

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY H. SIBLEY. ✓

*From Mayor Smith, of St. Paul.*

ST. PAUL, MINN., JULY 17, 1889.

#7  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY, W. R. MERRIAM:

Governor of Minnesota:

SIR :

I desire to add my voice to the appeal now being so generally made for the pardon and liberation of the Younger Brothers, at present undergoing sentence in the State penitentiary at Stillwater. While feeling that nothing can be urged in mitigation of the crime for which they were convicted, I believe that the thirteen years incarceration they have undergone; the uniform good conduct credited to them since and during their confinement; the evidences of genuine sorrow and regret the brothers have repeatedly given for the crime and the conditions of youth, associations and influences which made them criminals; together with the fact that one of the brothers is now at the point of death, will warrant that exercise of clemency at your hands which will give these men an opportunity to pass the remainder of their lives among their fellow men and, as free men, endeavour to retrieve in some measure their natural inheritance—the right to freedom—which they sacrificed upon the altar of youthful indiscretion, ignorance and passion.

I am assured that competent aid and intelligence in abundance stands ready to place and keep these men in a position to demonstrate their sincerity and determination to do all that human beings can do to prove their worthiness of the pardon which is so earnestly craved at your hands and, which I feel myself constrained to supplicate for them.

I am Sir, with the highest esteem,

Very respectfully, etc.,

ROBERT A. SMITH,

Mayor.

MINNEAPOLIS CITY WORKHOUSE.

J.M.Meloy, Supt.

*Re Prison Fire*

Minneapolis, Minn. March 4th, 1899.

George M. Bennett, Esq.,  
City.

Dear Sir:-

#8  
Answering your inquiry concerning the conduct of the younger brothers at the prison fire which occurred January 25th, 1884, I wish to say, I was a guard at the prison and the night of the fire acted as assistant deputy warden by order of warden Reed, owing to the fact that the assistant deputy W. C. Reed was absent, being sick with typhoid fever, and the deputy Abe Hall having met with an accident during the early stages of the fire. My wife Annie L. Dodd was matron of the prison at the time, and as the fire broke out suddenly, we were obliged to get her and the female prisoners out as quickly as possible, and as time did not permit they were scantily dressed. There being no place but the cell room where we could take them for protection, I had them taken there, and had Mrs. Dodd put them in the locker, <sup>It could not be locked at that time</sup> a small room where they kept prison supplies. <sup>Dueing to the fact that the fire alarm was kept there and the door had to be kept open and such being the case I considered the danger greater</sup> At the time I put them in there the younger boys were passing and Cole asked me if he could be of any service. I said, "Yes, Cole, will you three boys take care of Mrs. Dodd and the Women?" Cole said, "We will", and if you ever had confidence in us, place it in us now." I told him I had the utmost, and I slipped a revolver to Cole, as I had two. James I think had a pick axe handle, and Bob had a little pinch bar. The boys stood before the door; they even took the blankets they had brought from their cells and gave them to the women to try and keep them comfortable, as it was very cold. Of course I felt uneasy as the prisoners were all loose in the cell room. Deputy Warden Hall having recovered, came along about the time the boys were guarding the women, and

ordered them with other prisoners out of the cell room, but Cole explained that I had put them there to protect my wife and her charges, and he answered, "All right, boys, stay there until you are relieved." When the men were out of the building so I could take charge of the women, and the boys were relieved, Cole returned my revolver to me. I had the utmost confidence in the boy's honor and have to this day, and do not think that the services they rendered to the state and officials, that dreadful night, was ever fully appreciated.

The next day the boys went up to the jail without chains or restraint of any kind, and I know it has been the hope of both my wife and myself, that some day their services and acts of that night would be appreciated, and the boys pass out free men. They conducted

themselves with great credit at the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~great~~ <sup>great</sup> ~~fire~~ <sup>fire</sup>  
 Very truly yours, *Geo. P. Dodd*  
 Which occurred shortly before the one mentioned

I have read the foregoing letter written by my husband, George P. Dodd and confirm it in every particular. My husband is now Quarter master and hospital steward of Minneapolis Workhouse.

*Annie L. Dodd*

Quarter master and hospital steward of Minneapolis Workhouse.

P. Dodd and confirm it in every particular. My husband is now

I have read the foregoing letter written by my husband, George

*Thank you very much for the letter and the boys pass out free men.*

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