

Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876:
Selected manuscripts collections and government records,
undated and 1854-1979 (bulk 1876-1979).
4 microfilm reels.

M468
p. i

PREFACE

At present (1999) this microfilm edition consists of two units: reels 1-2, which reproduce selected manuscript collections, a research file, and district court and prison files that were microfilmed in 1986; and reels 3-4, which reproduce selected prison records and pardon files that were microfilmed in 1999. The consolidated finding aid that follows this preface comprises two consecutively paginated sections:

Section 1. **Reels 1-2, pp. 1-18**

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Historical Sketch, p. 3
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Descriptions of the Collections:

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Manuscript Collections, pp. 5-9
Folwell Research File, pp. 10-11

Reel 2

District Court Files, p. 12
Prison Files, pp. 13-18

Section 2. **Reels 3-4, pp. 19-56**

Description of the Records/Roll Contents List:

Reel 3

Prison Files, pp. 19-21
Pardon Files, pp. 21-24

Reel 4

Pardon Files (cont.), pp. 25-26

Item List for Pardon Application Files: Younger Brothers, pp. 27-56

13,889
15,634

Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876: [M468]
Selected manuscripts collections and government records,
undated and 1854-1979 (bulk 1876-1979).
[4 microfilm reels.]

LOCATIONS OF CLOSED ORIGINALS

Manuscripts collections. (reel 1)	P1416
William Watts Folwell research file. (reel 1) Younger, Cole. Account of the Northfield bank robbery, 1897.	Res. 17
Government records. (reels 2-4) Rice County. District Court. Criminal Case Files 1482 and 5665: State of Minnesota v. The Younger Brothers, 1876. 2 folders. (reel 2)	Res. 61, Box 3
Stillwater State Prison. Case Files: Younger Brothers, 1900-1979. 7 folders. (reel 2)	Res. 61, Box 3
Minnesota. Governor: Van Sant. Pardon Matters: Younger Brothers (File 644c), 1901-1904. 1 folder. (reel 2)	Res. 61, Box 3
Stillwater State Prison. Commitment paper. (reel 3)	Res. 61, Box 2
Board of Pardons. Application files: 1887-1896, nos. 85 and 86. (reel 3)	Res. 61, Box 1
Board of Pardons. Application files: nos. 555 and 556, 663 and 634, and 758. (reel 4)	Res. 61, Box 2

M468 Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876:

Selected Manuscripts Collections and Government Records, undated and 1876-1979.

2 rolls positive microfilm. Originals are in the Minnesota Historical Society.

Collation of the originals: 15 folders, incl. 11 manuscripts collections and 3 government records series. 0.5 ft.

INTRODUCTION

This microfilm edition reproduces several small manuscripts collections, a research file, and several series of Minnesota government records relating to the attempted robbery, in 1876, of the First National Bank of Northfield, to the subsequent conviction and incarceration in the Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater) of the Younger Brothers, and to the parole of James and Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger. These materials appear on the microfilm in the following manner:

Roll 1: Manuscripts Collections and Research File

Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876:

Manuscripts Collections, undated and 1876-1962.

3 folders, incl. 10 collections. 1.5 in.

Armstrong, Charles. Reminiscences, undated.

Bronaugh, Warren Carter, compiler. Papers, 1890-1925.

Butler, Francis David. Letters, November 20, 1962.

Glispin, James. "Statement of Expenses..." January 21, 1878.

Hall, Eunice Eleanor Rowell. Letter, October 31, 1954.

Henkle, A. W. Letter, September 29, 1876.

LeVesconte, Lillie. Letter, February 19, 1945.

McKenzie, George A. Reminiscences, undated.

Thomforde, Bertha Germann. Reminiscences, ca.1962.

Younger, Cole. Letters and Photograph, 1889, 1896-1900.

Folwell, William Watts.

Northfield Bank Robbery Research File, undated and 1921-1923.
2 folders. 1 in.

Roll 2: Government Records

Rice County. District Court. Criminal Case Files 1482 and 5665: State of Minnesota vs. The Younger Brothers, 1876. 2 folders.
Stillwater State Prison. Case Files: Younger Brothers, 1900-1979. 7 folders.
3 in.
Minnesota. Governor: Van Sant. Pardon Matters: Younger Brothers (File 644c), 1901-1904. 1 folder.

Each unit of the microfilm edition is described in greater detail in the descriptions that begin on page 4 of this inventory.

For additional information on the Northfield bank robbery see the following materials in the Minnesota Historical Society's Division of Library and Archives: Minnesota State Archives. Governor. Records, 1858-1932.

Check Correspondence and Parole or Pardon files under each governor between 1876 and 1903.

Minnesota State Archives.

Rice County (Minnesota) District Court. Minutes, Volume A, 1858-1877.

Nordenstrom, Terry, comp. A Chronology of Selected Newspaper Accounts Relating to the Attempted Bank Robbery at Northfield, Minnesota, September 1876, ca.1971 (microform, available at Minnesota Historical Society).

See also, in the Watonwan County Historical Society in Madelia, Minnesota: Capture of the Younger Brothers. Papers, 1855-1950.

Listed in Minnesota Historic Resources Survey: Manuscripts, roll 7, frames 377-378 (microform, available at the Minnesota Historical Society).

INTRODUCTION
(cont'd)

The manuscripts collections and government records reproduced in this microfilm edition were microfilmed in order to permanently preserve their informational content. Due to their fragile condition, the following units are closed to public use, except with special permission:

Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876:

Manuscripts Collections, undated and 1876-1962.

However, if the Bronaugh Papers, which consist of photostats, are not legible on the microfilm, consult with the Reference staff regarding permission to use the originals.

Stillwater State Prison. Case Files:

Younger Brothers, 1900-1979.

13,889

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On September 7, 1876, eight men attempted to rob the First National Bank of Northfield, Rice County, Minnesota. Those men were Thomas Coleman (Cole), Robert, and James Younger, Frank and Jesse James, Sam Wells (aka Charlie Pitts), Bill Stiles (aka Bill Chadwell), and Clell Miller.

When the attempted robbery and subsequent street fight were over, the bank's cashier, Joseph L. Heywood, Northfield resident Nicholas Gustavson, and two of the outlaws, Bill Chadwell and Clell Miller, lay dead. The other six outlaws escaped with their lives but no money.

The ensuing manhunt lasted fifteen days and was one of the largest in Minnesota history. The Younger Brothers were finally captured on September 21 near Madelia in Watonwan County. Charlie Pitts was killed during the capture. (Jesse and Frank James had left the others on September 14 and headed west.)

The Youngers were held in the Faribault (Rice County) jail until their November 16 arraignment, when they were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater. They were transferred there on November 20.

Bob Younger died of phtisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) in prison on September 16, 1889. Jim and Cole were paroled on July 19, 1901, with the stipulation that they stay in the state. Jim, who suffered from depression, committed suicide on October 19, 1902.

On February 4, 1903, Cole Younger was given a pardon on the condition that he never return to Minnesota. He spent his later years touring with Frank James in a wild west show and lecturing. He died on March 21, 1916.

**Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876:
Manuscripts Collections, undated and 1876-1962.
3 folders, incl. 10 collections. 1.5 in.**

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Under this title are combined a variety of small collections containing letters, reminiscences, and related materials about the 1876 Northfield bank robbery, primarily pertaining to the personal experiences of southern Minnesota residents during the robbery and manhunt. The collections are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person by whom they were written or compiled.

These items were all received separately or were removed from groups of unrelated materials. Items that are intrinsically related to a collection of personal or family papers, remain with those papers. The researcher should, therefore, consult the card catalog for papers that may contain additional Northfield bank robbery data.

On the following pages are individual descriptions of the Northfield Bank Robbery Manuscripts Collections.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COLLECTIONS

ARMSTRONG, Charles (ca.1867-). "Recollections of a Nine Year Old Boy Concerning Events Following the Northfield Bank Robbery," undated. 5 l., handwritten.

Reminiscences of a Madelia, Minnesota, farm youth, describing the arrival of the Younger brothers, Charlie Pitts' body, and Sheriff Glispin at the Madelia train station; their transport by wagon into Madelia; and public viewing of Pitts' body in the jail the following day.

5985

BRONAUGH, Warren Carter, comp. Papers, 1890-1925. 23 items, photocopies. Originals in the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

Letters pertaining to efforts made by Missouri and Minnesota citizens to obtain pardons for the Younger brothers. Addressed mainly to Bronaugh, the movement's leader and author of "The Youngers Fight for Freedom," they include letters from Cole Younger (1885, 1890, 1893) to Bronaugh and Cole's aunt, Frances "Fannie" Fristoe Twyman, and a petition to the Minnesota Board of Pardons (1890s?) signed by members of Missouri's 39th General Assembly.

Some microfilm frames may be difficult to read. Request originals, if needed, from the Reference staff.

7808

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COLLECTIONS
(cont'd)

BUTLER, Francis David (1899-). Letters, November 20, 1962.
7 l., typed. Originals loaned by Walter Trenerry, St. Paul.

Two letters, Butler to Trenerry, containing data on the robbery, particularly the removal of Bill Chadwell's body to the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, as a study cadaver; anecdotes of pioneer days in Northfield; and reminiscences of the Butler family, especially his grandfather, Patrick, who emigrated from Ireland in the late 1840s, settled in Illinois, and in 1863 homesteaded near Waterford, Minnesota.

9337

GLISPIN, James. "Statement of Expenses Incurred by James Glispin, Sheriff of Watonwan County, Minn. In Keeping . . . the Northfield Bank Robbers While They Were in His Custody as Prisoners from Sept. 21st to Sept. 23rd, 1876," January 21, 1878.
2 pp., handwritten.

Itemizes each expense, including board, clothing, and medical and surgical accommodations.

no acc. no.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COLLECTIONS
(cont'd)

HALL, Eunice Eleanor Rowell (1872-). Letter, October 31, 1954.
3 l., handwritten.

Brief account of the burning of 14 Rice County mills shortly after the Northfield robbery, all believed to have been ignited by members of the James gang. The author, then three years old, recalls seeing two of the mills, the Beans and Grange mills in Faribault, burning.

7559

HENKLE, A W . Letter, September 29, 1876.
6 pp., handwritten.

Describes the experiences of Henkle, a Faribault resident, as a member of one of the many volunteer groups organized to aid in the pursuit and capture of the Northfield robbers. Also details a visit to Madelia to view the captives.

8901

LeVESCONTE, Lillie (ca.1886-). Letter, February 19, 1945.
2 l., handwritten.

LeVesconte, Prior Lake (Minn.) to Jacob Hodnefield, St. Paul, relating her recollections, as a 10 year old St. Paul girl, of the robbery and the transfer of Charlie Pitts' body to a St. Paul doctor.

10,799

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COLLECTIONS
(cont'd)

McKENZIE, George A . "Reminiscences of the Capture of the Younger Brothers," undated.
1 item.

A card containing photographs of the seven men who captured the Younger brothers and McKenzie's account of the capture. McKenzie unknowingly played pool with Bob Younger in Owatonna shortly before the robbery and visited the Youngers in the Faribault jail following their capture.

6930

THOMFORDE, Bertha Germann (ca.1870-). "An Incident in the Career of the James Brothers," as told to Mrs. Herbert W. Meyer, ca.1962.
2 l., handwritten.

Reminiscence of Mrs. Louis Thomforde, as related to her niece, of a stop made by the Northfield robbers following the robbery at a schoolhouse near her childhood home in Featherstone Township, Goodhue County. Thomforde, then six years old, the next day viewed the names Jesse and Frank James written on the schoolhouse blackboard. Also a hand-drawn map of the area.

9490

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COLLECTIONS
(cont'd)

YOUNGER, Cole (1844-1916). Letters and Photograph, 1889, 1896-1900.
10 items.

Nine letters (1896-1900) from Younger to G. A. Newman, and a photograph of Younger with his brothers and sister (1889). Newman had been a physician at the Minnesota state prison in Stillwater, where Younger was serving a sentence for murder and armed robbery of the First National Bank of Northfield in 1876. Newman was practicing in Wells (1896-1897) and New London (1898-1900), Minnesota, during the correspondence.

The letters are largely occupied with news about the prison, especially the prison hospital where Younger worked. He gives information on personnel changes and on common acquaintances, as well as some information on prison illnesses. He also comments on Minnesota and national politics—Younger was a William Jennings Bryan supporter—and on world events. There are many observations on the Spanish-American War, including Younger's attempt to gain a parole for his brother James and himself so that they could organize a regiment of Missouri men to fight in the Philippines. There is also some information on Younger ancestors and relatives.

13,645

Folwell, William Watts (1833-1929).

Northfield Bank Robbery Research File, undated and 1921-1923.

1 folder, incl. 35 items. 1 in.

In 1921, while conducting research for his four-volume A History of Minnesota, William Watts Folwell collected a series of documents pertaining to the Northfield bank robbery of 1876. From them he produced a twenty-one page manuscript on the robbery, which he planned to use as an appendix to volume III. It was not included in that publication, however.

The manuscript and Folwell's research notes and correspondence on the subject now constitute a file in his personal papers. The materials are arranged in a single chronological sequence; undated items are filed before those with dates.

The manuscript (21 pp., typed, undated) describes both the robbery and subsequent events in the lives of Cole, Jim, and Bob Younger. It contains editorial marks and numerous typed and handwritten additions and corrections made by Folwell. The majority of the latter are separate notations that were stapled to the page to which they refer. These notes have been removed and are filmed directly following the page to which they were originally stapled. The manuscript concludes with several sets of notes.

The file also contains Cole Younger's narrative description of the robbery (17 pp., holograph). Written in 1897 during his first bid for parole, the manuscript was saved by Dr. A. E. Hedback, the state prison physician, who donated it to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1921. The handwritten manuscript and a typed copy (9 pp.) are filed as enclosures to Hedback's letter of transmittal to the Society (June 1921). In addition, there are Folwell's research notes (January 1921) on the Northfield News' publication of the manuscript (November 1915), a copy of which is filed with Hedback's notes.

The remainder of the documents consist mainly of responses to Folwell's solicitations for information about the robbery. They include letters from people and institutions both directly and indirectly involved with the robbery and/or the Youngers. Among the respondents are May Heywood Dean, daughter

Folwell, William Watts
(cont.)

of slain bookkeeper Joseph Lee Heywood, denying she ever supported parole or pardon of the Youngers (June 1921); F. E. Leonard, son of Reverend D. L. Leonard, homilist at Heywood's funeral (June 1921); and F. J. Wilcox (June 1921) and A. E. Bunker (July 1921), the two surviving bank employees, who comment on statements they gave Carleton College professor George Huntington for his 1895 book Robber and Hero, The Story of the Northfield Bank Robbery. Bunker's response includes a copy of his August 24, 1894, statement (17 pp., typed) which recounts events in the bank during the robbery, Bunker's escape through the back door and subsequent wounding, rumors that reached his wife (a teacher at the Northfield school), and seeing Frank James again in 1892.

There also are letters from Adolph Grethen, a St. Paul socialist, describing his meetings with Jim Younger the night before Younger's suicide (October 1921), and between W. C. Bronaugh and Folwell regarding Bronaugh's role as leader in the efforts to obtain Youngers' parole and pardon (July 1921; December 1922; ca.1923).

Other items contained in the file include the following: letters concerning books relating to the robbery in the Carleton College and Northfield public libraries (May-June 1921), the amount of money on deposit in the First National Bank of Northfield at the time of the robbery (June 1921), and the question of whether there was ever a requisition for extradition of Frank and Jesse James to Minnesota for their role in the robbery (August and October 1921); an undated photograph of Jim Younger; Folwell's research notes on the Youngers' attempts for parole and pardon, including the 1901 state parole board proceedings (undated) and W. C. Bronaugh's role in their parole fight (January 1921); and D. L. Leonard's homily at Heywood's funeral (June 1921).

MINNESOTA STATE ARCHIVES

Record Group: **RICE COUNTY**
Subgroup: **District Court**
Series: Criminal Case Files 1482 and 5665: State of Minnesota vs.
The Younger Brothers
Dates: 1876
Quantity: Partial microfilm roll
Location: M468, roll 2

Description

Two files of documents relating to the indictment and conviction of James, Thomas Coleman (Cole), and Robert Younger for murder and the robbery of the First National Bank of Northfield in 1876, removed from the Rice County District Court series entitled Case Files and Miscellaneous Court Papers.

File no. 1482. State of Minnesota vs. Younger Brothers, 1876.

Grand jury indictments numbers 1-4, accusing Thomas Coleman Younger, James Younger, and Robert Younger of the robbery of the First National Bank of Northfield, the murders of Joseph L. Heywood and Nicolaus Gustavson, and the wounding of Alonzo E. Bunker; and the district court's judgment roll receiving the grand jury's report, finding the brothers guilty, and committing them to the state prison at Stillwater.

File no. 5665. State of Minnesota vs. Cole Younger, Jim Younger, and Bob Younger, 1876.

Related papers filed in conjunction with file 1482, above, including subpoenas, witnesses' statements and notes, and a complaint and arrest warrant from the Faribault city police court.

MINNESOTA STATE ARCHIVES

Record Group: **STILLWATER STATE PRISON**

Subgroup:

Series: Case Files: Younger Brothers

Dates: 1900-1979

Quantity: Partial microfilm roll

Location: M468, roll 2

Description

Correspondence, parole reports, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to the incarceration in the state prison of Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger (file no. 699) and James Younger (file no. 700), and to their subsequent parole and employment. No documents relating to their imprisonment prior to 1900 are present in the file.

Also included is a file of correspondence with the public, largely regarding requests for information about the Younger brothers.

See item and file list, following.

STILLWATER STATE PRISON. Inmate Case Files.
Younger Brothers, 1900-1979.

FOLDER LIST

Inmate File #699. Thomas Coleman Younger, 1900-1903. 1 folder.

Undated, File jacket.
Undated, Board of Managers parole resolution. 5 l. [2 l are duplicates]
Dec. 22, 1900. Letter, George M. Bennett to Gen. C. McReeve.
March 20, 1901. W. C. Bronaugh to Henry Wolfer. 2 l.
March 25, 1901. Henry Wolfer to W. C. Bronaugh. 2 l.
April 11, 1901. W. C. Bronaugh to Henry Wolfer.
June 30, 1901. George M. Bennett to Henry Wolfer.
July 1, 1901. A. T. Cole to Warden. 2 l.
July 10, 1901. C. B. Buckman to Henry Wolfer.
July 11, 1901. A. T. Cole to Warden.
July 16, 1901. W. C. Bronaugh to Henry Wolf[er].
July 22, 1901. George M. Bennett to Henry Wolfer. 4 l.
July 23, 1901. Parole agreement. (printed)
July 23, 1901. Parole agreement. (manuscript) 3 l.
July 24, 1901. [Henry Wolfer] to George M. Bennett.
Aug. 13, 1901. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (TLS)
Aug. 20, 1901. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Aug. 29, 1901. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 2 l.
Aug. 31, 1901. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Aug. 31, 1901. Monthly parole report.*
Sept. 20, 1901. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Sept. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Oct. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Oct. 21, 1901. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 3 l.
Nov. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Dec. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Jan. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
Feb. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
Feb. 22, 1902. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Mar. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.

*Monthly parole reports are printed forms usually completed and signed by Younger, then countersigned by the person supervising the parole.

STILLWATER STATE PRISON. Inmate Case Files.
Younger Brothers, 1900-1979. Folder List.

Inmate File #699 (cont.)

[April 21, 1902]. Monthly parole report.*
May 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
June 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
July 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
Nov. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
Dec. 4, 1902. [Henry Wolfer] to Cole Younger. 2 l.
Dec. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
Jan. 20, 1903. Monthly parole report.

Inmate File #700. James Younger, 1901-1902. 1 folder.

Undated, File jacket.
July 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
July 23, 1901. Parole agreement. (printed)
July 23, 1901. Parole agreement. (manuscript) 3 l.
Aug. 14, 1901. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Aug. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
[Aug. 26, 1901]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Sept. 1, 1901. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Oct. 5, 1901. Andrew Schoch to F. A. Whittier.
Oct. 7, 1901. Andrew Schoch to Henry Wolfer.
[Oct. 10, 1901]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Oct. 10, 1901. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Oct. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Oct. 24, 1901. [Henry Wolfer?] to James Younger.
[Oct. 24, 1901]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Nov. 5, 1901. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 3 l.
Nov. 15, 1901. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
[Nov. 20, 1901]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Nov. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Dec. 20, 1901. Monthly parole report.
Jan. 20, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)

*Monthly parole reports are printed forms usually completed and signed by Younger, then countersigned by the person supervising the parole.

Inmate File #700 (cont.)

Jan. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.*
Jan. 23, 1902. Alice B. Russell to Henry Wolfer.
Feb. 12, 1902. James Elwin to Henry Wolfer. Includes business card
of W. J. Robbers, Tremont House, Minneapolis.
Feb. 13, 1902 James Elwin to Henry Wolfer. Employment contract for
James Younger.
Feb. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
March 18, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
March 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
April 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
May 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
June 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
June 26, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) Includes undated
clipping about Cole Younger's request for absolute
pardon.
June 27, 1902. [Henry Wolfer] to James Younger.
July 2, 1902. [Henry Wolfer] to James Younger.
[Aug. 2, 1902]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 4 l.
Aug. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
→ Aug. 22, 1902. [Henry Wolfer] to F. A. Whittier.
Aug. 22, 1902. [Henry Wolfer] to James Younger.
Aug. 24, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 3 l.
[Sept. 2, 1902]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 2 l.
Sept. 8, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Sept. 10, [1902]. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Sept. 19, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Sept. 20, 1902. Monthly parole report.
Aug. 20, 1902. Jim Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS)
Sept. 29, 1902. F. A. Whittier to Henry Wolfer.
Sept. 30, 1902. [Henry Wolfer] to F. A. Whittier.
Oct. 20, 1902. Agent "45 04" to Henry Wolfer.

*Monthly parole reports are printed forms usually completed and signed by
Younger, then counter signed by the person supervising the parole.

Younger Brothers. Correspondence re Job Offers, 1901-1902. 1 folder.

45 letters relating to possible employment of James and Cole Younger during their parole.

Younger Brothers. Photographs and Clippings, undated, 1909-1946. 1 folder.

3 positive prints (same photograph) of Cole Younger #699.

2 positive prints (same photograph) of James Younger #700.

3 negative prints: 2 of Cole Younger #699 and 1 of James Younger #700.

Clippings, 1909, 1924, 1936, 1946. Articles from various Minnesota newspapers relating to the Younger Brothers and to the dismantling (1936) of portions of the State Prison at Stillwater.

Younger Brothers. Inquiry Letters to the Prison Requesting Information About the Younger Brothers, 1901-1979. 3 folders.

1901-1910. Includes, among other items:
Nov. 14, 1904. Cole Younger to Henry Wolfer. (ALS) 3 l.
Feb. 9, 1905. [Henry Wolfer] to Cole Younger. 2 l.

1911-1930. Includes, among other items:
June 18, 1924. Letter, State Parole Agent to J. A. Lawrence, giving reasons for choosing Northfield Bank as robbery site.

1938-1979.

MINNESOTA STATE ARCHIVES

Record Group: **GOVERNOR**
Subgroup: **Van Sant, Samuel R.**
Series: Pardon Matters: Younger Brothers (File 644c)
Dates: 1901-1904
Quantity: Partial microfilm roll
Location: M468, roll 2

Description

Eighteen items, arranged chronologically, relating to the parole and release from state prison of James and Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger (1901) and to the pardon of Cole Younger (1903).

Correspondents supporting the release and pardon include Cole and Jim Younger, the latter enclosing a letter of recommendation from his employer James Elwin, a Minneapolis cigar manufacturer (January and July 1902, respectively); Alix J. Mueller, St. Paul reporter and fiancée of Jim Younger, requesting his full pardon so that they could marry, which was forbidden under the terms of his parole (January 1902); William Warner, United States attorney for the western district of Missouri (June 1901); and Anton Knoblauch, a Minneapolis businessman (January 1902). There is also an unsigned letter from someone threatening to kill Van Sant if he did not pardon the Youngers (April 1902).

Letters protesting the brothers' release from prison include those from Samuel J. Prentiss, engineer on the extra trains run for posse members and for the prisoners in 1876 (April and July 1901); and from J. E. Reynolds also expressing his disapproval of the Youngers' public visibility following their parole (July 1901).

Other items in the file include state prison warden Henry Wolfer's letter forwarding the Youngers' paroles to the State Board of Parole (June 1901) and several requests--from the Redwood Falls, Minnesota, Gazette for immediate notification of a parole (July 1901), from W. C. Bronaugh for State Board of Parole's copies of all Minnesota and Missouri petitions received in support of the Youngers' release (May 1903), and from several Missourians for the exact wording of Cole Younger's pardon regarding public exhibition of himself (February 1903, February 1904).

AUTHORS

Armstrong, Charles, ca.1867- .
Bronaugh, Warren Carter.
Bunker, Alonzo E., 1849- .
Butler, Francis David, 1899- .
Dean, May Heywood, ca.1864- . .
Elwin, James.
Glispin, James.
Grethen, Adolphe.
Hall, Eunice Eleanor Rowell, 1872- .
Hedback, Alex Emanuel, 1874-1951.
Hinkle, A W .
Knoblauch, Anton, 1835- .
Leonard, Fred Eugene, 1866-1922.
LeVesconte, Lillie, ca.1866-
McKenzie, George A
Meyer, Mrs. Herbert W.
Mueller, Alix J.
Prentiss, Samuel J.
Reynolds, Joseph E , 1863- .
Schoch, Andrew, 1850-1925.
Thomforde, Bertha Germann, ca.1870- .
Warner, William, 1840-1916.
Wilcox, Frank James, 1848- .
Wolfer, Henry, 1853- .
Younger, James, 1848-1902.
Younger, Cole, 1844-1916.
Younger, Robert, 1854-1899.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Bank Robberies
Butler, Patrick, 1821-1900.
Butler Family.

Chadwell, Bill.
Crime and Criminals.
Court Records - Minnesota.

Faribault (Minn.).

Goodhue County (Minn.).
Gustavson, Nicolaus

Heywood, Joseph Lee, 1837-1876.
Hodnefield, Jacob, -1960.
Huntington, George, 1835-1916.

Irish in Minnesota.

James, Frank, -ca.1915.
James, Jesse Woodson, 1847-1882.

Leonard, Delavan Levant, 1834-1917.

Madelia (Minn.).
Michigan. University. Medical School.
Mills and Mill-work.
Minnesota - Governor.
Minnesota. State Prison, Stillwater.
Missouri - Legislature.

Northfield (Minn.).

Outlaws.

Pardon.
Parole.
Pioneers - Minnesota.
Pitts, Charlie
Politics - Minnesota.
Politics - United States.

Reminiscences.
Rice County (Minn.) - Fires.

SUBJECT HEADINGS
(cont'd)

Sheriffs.

Trenerry, Walter Northey, 1917- .
Twyman, Frances F. "Fannie" Fristoe (Mrs. L. W.).

Van Sant, Samuel Rinnah, 1844-1936.

Watonwan County (Minn.).

CROSS REFERENCES

Younger, Thomas Coleman.

SEE:

Younger, Cole.

Wells, Sam.

SEE:

Pitts, Charlie.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On September 7, 1876, eight men attempted to rob the First National Bank of Northfield, Rice County, Minnesota. Those men were Thomas Coleman (Cole), Robert, and James Younger, Frank and Jesse James, Sam Wells (aka Charlie Pitts), Bill Stiles (aka Bill Chadwell), and Clell Miller.

When the attempted robbery and subsequent street fight were over, the bank's cashier, Joseph L. Heywood, Northfield resident Nicholas Gustavson, and two of the outlaws, Bill Chadwell and Clell Miller, lay dead. The other six outlaws escaped with their lives but no money.

The ensuing manhunt lasted fifteen days and was one of the largest in Minnesota history. The Younger brothers were finally captured on September 21 near Madelia in Watonwan County. Charlie Pitts was killed during the capture. (Jesse and Frank James had left the others on September 14 and headed west.)

The Youngers were held in the Faribault (Rice County) jail until their November 16 arraignment, when they were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater. They were transferred there on November 20.

Bob Younger died of phtisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) in prison on September 16, 1889. Jim and Cole were paroled on July 19, 1901, with the stipulation that they stay in the state. Jim, who suffered from depression, committed suicide on October 19, 1902.

On February 4, 1903, Cole Younger was given a pardon on the condition that he never return to Minnesota. He spent his later years touring with Frank James in a wild west show and lecturing. He died on March 21, 1916.

Cheryl Norenberg Thies
Dennis E. Meissner
1986

Cheryl Norenberg Thies
1999

DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS / ROLL CONTENTS LIST

Rolls 3-4 of this microfilm edition reproduce portions of selected record series of two Minnesota government agencies—the Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater) and the Minnesota Board of Pardons—relating to the attempted robbery, in 1876, of the First National Bank of Northfield, to the subsequent conviction and incarceration in the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater of the Younger Brothers, to the parole of James and Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger, and to the pardon of Cole Younger.

ROLL 3

Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater, Minn.). Record of sentences, 1856-1926.

Murders.

Page 3 of 44.

One page from a volume that records sentence data on a variety of types of prisoners.

This section records information on prisoners convicted of murder (1856-1925). This page includes T. Coleman Younger (No. 699), James Younger (No. 700), and Robert Younger (No. 701). Listed are age, sentence data, county, degree of murder, sentence, pardon, commuted, or paroled, by whom, time served, died.

Death List.

Page 3 of 10.

One page from a volume that records sentence data on a variety of types of prisoners.

This section records information on prisoners who died in prison. It includes information on the September 16, 1889 death of Robert Younger, including his prison number, death date, death number (53), and cause (pleurisy).

Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater, Minn.). Commitment papers, [1880]-1978.

State of Minnesota. District Court. Fifth Judicial District. Rice County. State of Minnesota against Thomas Coleman Younger, James Younger, and Robert Younger, November 20, 1876. 1 item.

Document detailing the Youngers' plea of guilty to the murder of J. L. Heywood, their sentence to imprisonment at hard labor in state prison during the remainder of the term of their natural lives, and direction that they be taken to Stillwater without delay.

ROLL 3 (cont.)

Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater, Minn.).

Convict registers, 1854-1902.

These volumes contain registration (admission) data on inmates upon entering the prison. Each entry lists inmate's name, date received, register (inmate) number, county of residence, crime, age, state or country of birth, and date of discharge. The initial entries in volumes 2 and 3 have been carried over from the previous volume. When one register volume was filled, the complete entries for the inmates still in prison were transferred to the new volume. The convict register was discontinued in November 1902.

The Younger brothers were admitted to the prison on November 20, 1876.
Robert Younger is found only in Register No. 1 due to his September 16, 1889 death.

Convict Register No. 1.

Registrations of Prisoners No. 699 (Thomas Coleman Younger), No. 700 (James Younger), No. 701 (Robert Younger)
Page 98.

Convict Register No. 2.

Registrations of Prisoners No. 699 (Thomas Coleman Younger), No. 700 (James Younger)
Page 1.

Convict Register No. 3.

Registrations of Prisoners No. 699 (Thomas Coleman Younger), No. 700 (James Younger)
Page 1 and facing page.

Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater, Minn.).

Physical condition record, 1875-1913.

Volume A. Page 2.

Prisoner Registration No. 699 (Thomas Coleman Younger), No. 700 (James Younger).

This volume contains inmates' medical records, listing personal and family medical history, physical description, mental and physical condition at time of entry and discharge, inmate number, and related information.

Robert Younger is not listed. He died before this record was created.

ROLL 3 (cont.)

**Minnesota State Prison (Stillwater, Minn.).
Miscellaneous records, 1855-1959.**

Life Prisoners, 1859-1915.

Pages 102-103 of a partial volume.

Listing of prisoners sentenced to life including the Youngers. Includes date received, name, county, crime, nationality, age, pardon date, death date, commuted sentence expired, years commuted to, time served by convicts released by death, pardon, commutation, etc.

Daily Prison Record, September 29, 1882 - April 18, 1884.

1 volume.

A handwritten volume recording summary statistics (total number of prisoners and number of males and females) and notes on the movements of individual prisoners, including the Younger brothers. Includes information on hospitalizations, discharges, and fires on January 8 and 26, 1884.

**Minnesota. Board of Pardons.
Pardon application registers, 1897-1934.**

Volume 1. Page 85.

Application No. 85, Thomas Coleman Younger, June 18, 1897.

Application to the Board of Pardons for pardon. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, and date refused (July 13).

Volume 1. Page 86.

Application No. 86, James Younger, June 18, 1897.

Application to the Board of Pardons for pardon. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, and date refused (July 13).

Volume 1. Page 555.

Application No. 555, Thomas Coleman Younger, May 8, 1901.

Application to the Board of Pardons for parole. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, date granted (July 10), and conditions of the parole.

ROLL 3 (cont.)

**Minnesota. Board of Pardons.
Pardon application registers, 1897-1934. (cont.)**

Volume 1. Page 556.

Application No. 556, James Younger, May 8, 1901.

Application to the Board of Pardons for parole. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, date granted (July 10), and conditions of the parole.

Volume 2. Page 633.

Application No. 633, Thomas Coleman Younger, December 20, 1901.

Application to the Board of Pardons for commutation of sentence. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, date refused (February 5, 1902), and reasons for refusal.

Volume 2. Page 634.

Application No. 634, James Younger, December 20, 1901.

Application to the Board of Pardons for commutation of sentence. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, date refused (February 5, 1902), and reasons for refusal.

Volume 2. Page 758.

Application No. 758, Thomas Coleman Younger, December 9, 1902.

Application to the Board of Pardons for pardon. Lists where convicted, crime, sentence, date of notice mailed to judge and prosecuting attorney, date granted (February 4, 1903 and stipulations of pardon).

**Minnesota. Board of Pardons.
Pardon calendars, 1897-1954.**

File No. 642, 1897-1900.

Minutes, regular meeting of the Board of Pardons, Monday, July 12, 1897.

2 pages.

Includes discussion and denial of the Youngers' application for pardon (Numbers 85 and 86).

File No. 642, 1901-1903.

Applications for Pardons and Commutations, Regular Meeting, July 8, 1901.

2 pages.

Includes Youngers' application for parole (Numbers 555 and 556).

ROLL 3 (cont.)

**Minnesota. Board of Pardons.
Pardon calendars, 1897-1954. (cont.)**

File No. 642, 1901-1903.

Applications for Pardons and Commutations, Regular Meeting, February 1, 1902.

2 pages.

Includes the Youngers' application for pardon (Numbers 633 and 634).

File No. 642, 1901-1903.

Applications for Pardons and Commutations, Regular Meeting, January 12, 1903.

2 pages.

Includes Thomas Coleman Younger's application for pardon (Number 758).

Minnesota. Board of Pardons.

Pardon application files: Younger Brothers, 1887-1909.

These records are divided into five sections, each organized around an effort to parole or pardon the Youngers. *An annotated folder contents (item) list follows each introductory folder target on the microfilm and this description/roll contents list.*

1887-1896. 4 folders.

The first section consists of letters and petitions sent primarily to the Governor in support of releasing the Youngers. The majority date from 1889. A few seek just the release of Bob Younger, who was terminally ill in 1889. Most were probably used in an 1899 attempt by Senator George P. Wilson to pass a bill in the state legislature that would allow parole of convicts who had been sentenced to the State Prison for the period of their natural life. The bill, drawn by George M. Bennett, passed the Senate, 48 to 5, but was defeated in the House, 31 to 68.

Letters and petitions of support came from relatives, including the Youngers' aunt T. J. Younger and nephew H. A. Jones; from members of their 1876 capture party, including Ara Barton, B. G. Yates, C. O. Cooley, W. W. Murphy, and Harold I. Cleveland; from State Prison staff, including Warden J. A. Reed, chaplains W. H. Harrington, J. N. Albert, and M. E. Murphy, inspectors E. G. Butts, A. K. Doe, and Liberty Hall, officers S. A. Langum and David Day, and doctor T. C. Clark; and from a variety of well-known Minnesotans and politicians, including Stillwater mayor E. W. Durant, U. S. Marshall W. M. Campbell, Henry H. Sibley, Julius A. Schmahl, M. D. Flower, Ignatious Donnelly, U. S. Senator D.

ROLL 3 (cont.)

Minnesota. Board of Pardons.

Pardon application files: Younger Brothers, 1887-1909. (cont.)

1887-1896. 4 folders. (cont.)

M. Sabin, St. Paul Mayor Robert A. Smith, and St. Paul Police Chief John Clark. There is also a letter from G. W. Batchelder, one of the Youngers' 1876 lawyers, and petitions from various officers, members, and staff of the Missouri General Assembly.

The documents against release are mainly from businessmen, including a petition from the Citizens of Madelia, forwarded by Madelia businessman W. R. Estes. Some of the letters are simply against the parole bill, not the Youngers.

Nos. 85 and 86, 1897-1898. 3 folders.

Following the creation of the Board of Pardons by a Constitutional amendment in November 1896, Cole and Jim Younger applied for a pardon or commutation of their sentence on June 16, 1897. The application was denied on July 13, 1897. Included in these materials are the applications (Nos. 85 and 86); statements in support of clemency submitted by the Youngers' attorney H. A. Jones (June 10) and Colonel Bronaugh (undated), a telegram from G. N. Baxter, Faribault, the prosecuting attorney during the 1876 trial (July 13), and numerous letters and petitions in support of or against the pardon/commutation. Most of the materials bear a dated receipt stamp from the Board of Pardons. A few items in the previous section also are stamped and were probably used in this attempt.

Materials in support are addressed both to the Board of Pardons and the Governor and include letters from H. A. Jones, from two of their 1876 captors Thos. H. Loyhed and H. M. Barton, from prison doctors G. A. Newman and W. H. Pratt and chaplain W. H. Harrington, and from Geo. P. Wilson, attorney general and assistant prosecuting attorney during the 1876 trial, and U. S. Senators D. M. Sabin and S. B. Elkins. There is also a petition from Citizens of Madelia, with 3 of the 7 signatures belonging to members of the 1876 capture party.

The documents against pardon/commutation include affidavits of F. J. Wilcox, D. J. Whiting, John Morton, P. S. Dougherty, W. H. Riddell, and Ellen M. Ames, all recounting what they witnessed during the 1876 raid; letters from Marion B. Lull, whose husband was a Pinkerton agent killed in an 1874 robbery involving the Youngers, and district court judges Wm. Louis Kelley and H. A. Brill; and petitions from citizens of Howard Lake, Dassell, Faribault, Northfield, and the Rice County Board of Commissioners.

ROLL 4

Minnesota. Board of Pardons.

Pardon application files: Younger Brothers, 1887-1909. (cont.)

Nos. 555 and 556, 1898-1901. 3 folders.

In April 1901, a law was finally passed that allowed the parole of convicts who had been sentenced to the State Prison for the period of their natural life [Laws 1901 c232]. On May 8, 1901, Cole and Jim Younger applied to the Board of Managers of the State Prison for parole. The Board of Managers forwarded a resolution of support to the Board of Pardons and on July 10, 1901, that board—Governor S. R. Van Sant, Chief Justice Chas. M. Start, and Attorney General Wallace B. Douglas—passed the application.

These files include the applications (May 8, 1901); the Board of Managers resolutions of support (undated), several letters detailing passage of the law; portions of a 1898 novel about the Youngers entitled "Mizzoura;" clippings from 1899 Minnesota newspapers; petitions supporting parole signed by Bishop M. N. Gilbert, Alex. Ramsey, John Ireland, Bishop Henry B. Whipple, and bankers and lawyers of Sedalia, Missouri; letters from prison guards Geo. P. Dodd, Missouri Supreme Court Justice L. B. Valliant, Bishop H. B. Whipple, U. S. Senator C. K. Davis, Bishop M. N. Gilbert, and U. S. Senator S. B. Elkins, and a letter from George M. Bennett promising to obtain employment for the Youngers.

There is also a group of materials enclosed in a June 25, 1901 petition to the Governor from Bennett. Many of the letters are dated 1898 and 1899 and addressed to Bennett or Geo. P. Wilson, and were originally sent in support of the first attempt to pass a parole bill.

There are no materials documenting those against the parole.

Nos. 663 and 634, 1901-1902. 4 folders.

On December 20, 1901, Cole and Jim Younger applied for commutation of their sentences but were denied by the Board of Pardons on grounds of prematurity.

Included are the applications (December 20, 1901), the Board of Pardons statement (undated), and an advertising card for the Globe Hotel in St. Paul, stating that Jim lived nearby and was often seen (undated).

The support documents include petitions from the cities of Perham, Moorhead, Felton, St. Paul, Minneapolis, LeSueur, Staples, Hastings, Sauk Centre, Buffalo, Janesville, and Stillwater, Hennepin and Wright counties, and employees of the

ROLL 4 (cont.)

Minnesota. Board of Pardons.

Pardon application files: Younger Brothers, 1887-1909. (cont.)

Nos. 663 and 634, 1901-1902. 4 folders. (cont.)

Minneapolis post office and police and fire departments, RR Transfer Co., N. Star Shore Co., and Northern Pacific Railroad employees in Hennepin County. There are also letters of support from captors B. G. Yates and J. M. Sullivan, prison doctors Daniel G. Beebe and J. P. Chance and prison manager B. G. Nelson, state senators John H. Smith and L. H. Schellback, state representative P. C. Demming, who sponsored the 1901 parole bill, Minneapolis Postmaster H. P. Lovejoy, and a letter from Ed. Schurmeier, St. Paul businessman, offering the Youngers employment and a place to live. There is also a letter from A. J. Muller, St. Paul, to the Board of Pardons; the handwriting is that of Jim's fiance, Alix J. Mueller.

There are a few letters against pardon from Missourians.

No. 758, 1902-1905, 1909. 2 folders:

On December 9, 1902, Cole Younger again applied for a pardon. It was passed by the Board of Pardons, with the condition that he immediately leave Minnesota and never voluntarily come back and the stipulation he place on file with the Governor his written promise to never exhibit himself or allow himself to be exhibited where a charge was made for admission. These papers include the application (December 9, 1902), the Board's undated statement, Younger's signed promise (February 7, 1903), letters from Warden Henry Wolfer (January 3, 1903) and Board of Control of State Institutions O. B. Gould (January 6, 1903) stating Younger had maintained the conditions of his parole, and several letters of support.

There is also a letter from Younger, Lee's Summit, Missouri, to Governor John A. Johnson, requesting the condition regarding exhibition be dropped and he be given a full and unconditional pardon (January 8, 1905), and letters from Thos. T. Crittenden, former Governor of Missouri (January 30, 1905) and H. C. Lawrance, Kansas City attorney (February 1, 1909) to the Governor supporting an unconditional pardon.

ITEM LIST

1887-1896.

Folder 1. [Ca. 1887] - June 22, 1889.

ca. 1887. Brochure by W. H. Harrington, Chaplain, Minnesota House of Representatives, describing the lives of the Youngers prior to the robbery and pleading for their release.

1887 August 17. T. J. Younger, Warrensburg, Missouri [mailed from Osceola, Missouri], to Harrington. The aunt of the Youngers. She will organize letters in support of the brothers to be sent to Harrington and to Governor Hubbard.

1887 August 23. Wm. O. Mead, Osceola, Missouri, to Harrington.
Supports release.

1887 August 31. Robt. M. Culloch, Register of Lands, and Mich'l K. McGrath, Secretary of State, Missouri, to Harrington.
Supports pardon.

[Note to users: In 1899, Senator George R. Wilson attempted to pass a bill in the state legislature that would allow parole of convicts who had been sentenced to the State Prison for the period of their natural life. The bill, drawn by George M. Bennett, passed the Senate, 48 to 5, but was defeated in the House, 31 to 68. Wilson had been Attorney General at the time of the raid and assisted with the prosecution of the Youngers in 1876. Most of the following 1899 items probably were used in the attempt to pass this bill.]

ca. 1889. J. A. Reed to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Warden at the time of incarceration and for 10 years after. Supports pardon.

ca. 1889. Petition for pardon for Robert, due to his poor health, sent to Governor W. R. Merriam. Signed by A. K. Doe, Andrew D. Stowe, M. E. Murphy, J. C. O'Gorman, G. M. Seymour, J. H. Albert, E. G. Butts, Isaac Staples, R. M. Anderson, and J. A. Reed.

ca. 1889. Petition, Officers of the State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1889. Petition, Members of the 35th General Assembly, House of Representatives, State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1887-1896.

Folder 1. [Ca. 1887] - June 22, 1889 (cont.).

1889. Petition, Members of the 35th General Assembly, Senate, State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1889. Petition, Clerks of the 35th General Assembly, Senate, State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1889 April 26. Petition, Enrolling and Assistant Enrolling Clerks of the 35th General Assembly, State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1889 April 26. Petition, Engrossing and Assistant Engrossing Clerks of the 35th General Assembly, State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1889 April 26. Petition, Chief and Assistant Chief Clerks of the 35th General Assembly, State of Missouri to Hon. W. R. Merriam, Governor of the State of Minnesota.
Supports pardon.

1889 May 27. A. K. Doe, Stillwater, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon of Robert.

1889 June. W. H. Harrington, Minneapolis, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Supports release of Robert.

1889 June 12. Col. A. W. Edwards, Editor, The Argus, Fargo, North Dakota, to Cole Younger, Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater.
Wishes to help in anyway to obtain release for them.

1889 June 14. H. A. Jones, Pleasant Hill, Missouri to Governor.
Nephew of the Youngers; supports clemency for Robert.

1889 June 21. Capt. Ara Barton, Morristown, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Rice County Sheriff; supports pardon.

1887-1896.

Folder 1.

[Ca. 1887] - June 22, 1889 (cont.).

1889 June 22. Capt. D. Cavanaugh, Faribault, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports clemency for Robert.

1889 June 22. G. W. Batchelder, Attorney, Faribault, to Governor William R. Merriam.

Supports release for all three; but especially Robert. Batchelder is an ex-State Senator and was one of the Youngers' attorneys after the raid.

1889 June 22. H. B. Wilson, Red Wing, to Governor W. R. Marshall (should be Merriam).

Formerly State Superintendent of Public Institutions; supports pardon for all three.

1889 June 22. R. A. Mott, Attorney, Faribault, to Governor Marshall (notation on letter—"Respectfully referred to Gov. Merriam").

Supports pardon.

1887-1896.

Folder 2.

June 23 - July 6, 1889.

1889 June 23. H. P. Hynes, Roofer, Duluth, to Governor Merriam.
Against pardon.

1889 June 24. G. M. Seymour, Stillwater, to Governor William R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. The Youngers worked for him while in prison and have done well.

1889 June 24. E. W. Durant, Mayor, Stillwater, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 June 24. D. M. Sabin, Businessman and U. S. Senator, Stillwater, to Governor Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 June 24. E. G. Butts, Attorney, Stillwater, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Former prison inspector.

1889 June 24. A. K. Doe, Stillwater, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Prison inspector.

1887-1896.

Folder 2.

June 23 - July 6, 1889 (cont.).

1889 June 24. H. W. Pratt, Businessman, Minneapolis, to Governor.
Supports pardon for Robert.

1889 June 24. T. C. Clark, Doctor, Stillwater, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Supports release for Robert. Robert's doctor while in prison.

1889 June 24. Liberty Hall, Kansas City, Missouri, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon for Robert. Former prison inspector.

1889 June 24. J. N. Albert, Stillwater, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Protestant chaplain at the prison.

1889 June 26. Horace W. Pratt, Businessman, Minneapolis, to Governor W. R.
Merriam.
Supports pardon for all three. (Different than the June 24 letter).

1889 June 29. M. E. Murphy, Stillwater, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Catholic chaplain at the prison.

1889 June 30. Sam'l [Mathus?], Stillwater, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 July. W. H. Harrington, Chaplain, Minnesota House of Representatives, to
Governor Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 July 1. S. B. Lovejoy, Minneapolis, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 July 1. W. H. Grant, Attorney, St. Paul, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 July 2. Petition, Citizens of St. Paul, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Encloses nine letters written between June 28 and 30 on
Merchants Hotel, St. Paul stationery. They all support pardon; several have
multiple signatures.

1887-1896.

Folder 2.

June 23 - July 6, 1889 (cont.).

1889 July 2. David Day, St. Paul, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Written on Ramsey County Court House and City Hall Special Commission stationery. Douglas was a member of the commission and was also an officer at the prison at time of the Youngers' incarceration. Supports pardon. Also signed by William Lee.

1889 July 2. Adam Fetsch, Tobacconist, St. Paul, to Governor.
Supports pardon for Robert.

1889 July 3. W. M. Campbell, U. S. Marshall. District of Minnesota, St. Paul, to Governor.
Supports pardon.

1889 July 4. H. G. Finkle, Judge of Probate Court of Clay County, Moorhead, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Against pardon on legal grounds; not just because it is the Youngers.

1889 July 4. Edward J. Hodgson, Businessman, St. Paul, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Against pardon. Encloses clipping from the Red Wing Advance, Sunday, July 3, protesting the pardon.

1889 July 4. W. W. Griswold, Morris, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Against pardon.

1889 July 4. Thos. P. Ritchie, St. Louis, Missouri, to Governor Merriam.
Against pardon.

1889 July 5. H. W. Brower, St. Charles, to Governor Merriam.
Against pardon.

1889 July 6. T. M. Newson, St. Paul, to Cole Younger.
Asks Cole to forward the enclosed letter in support of pardon to the Governor.
Enclosure, 1889 July 6, Newson to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.

1887-1896.

Folder 3. July 8 - July 23, 1889.

1889 July 8. Henry H. Sibley, St. Paul, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Handwritten.

1889 July 8. Wm. Warner, Dept. of the Interior, Sioux Commission, Crow Creek Agency, Dakota, to Col. E. F. Rogers, St. Paul.
Supports pardon. Warner is an ex-member of Congress and Commander in Chief of the GAR.

1889 July 8. B. G. Yates, Businessman, St. Paul, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Former resident of Madelia and participant in the capture of the Youngers.

1889 July 8. W. S. Culbertson, New Albany, Indiana, to Governor.
Against pardon.

1889 July 9. Julius A. Schmahl, Editor, The Redwood Gazette, Redwood Falls, to Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon. On the back is stamped: Board of Pardons, Nos. 85 & 86 Recommendation of Julius A. Schmahl, Filed this 10th day of July 1897 Roland H. Hartley, Clerk.

1889 July 9. Elisha Taylor, Detroit, to Governor.
Against pardon.

1889 July 9. S. A. Langum, Editor and Publisher, Preston Times, Preston, to Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon. Formerly an officer at the prison. On the back is stamped: Board of Pardons, Nos. 85 & 86 Recommendation, Filed this 10th day of July 1897. Roland H. Hartley, Clerk.

1889 July 10. C. O. Cooley, Doctor, Madelia, to Governor Wm. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Physician for the Youngers for first week after capture.

1889 July 11. W. R. Estes, Businessman, Madelia, to Governor.
Against pardon.

1889 July 11. W. W. Murphy, Madelia, to Governor William R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Sheriff of Watonwan County and a member of the capture party.

1887-1896.

Folder 3.

July 8 - July 23, 1889 (cont.).

1889 July 11. James H. Easton, Banker, Decorah, Iowa, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam.
Against pardon.

1889 July 12. A Citizen, Arkoe, Missouri, to Governor.
Against pardon.

1889 July 12. John C. Wise, Editor, The Review, Mankato, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon.

1889 July 13. Harold I. Cleveland, Editorial writer, St. Paul Pioneer Press, to Governor.
Supports pardon. Present at capture in Madelia and has kept in contact with the Youngers since then.

1889 July 13. Petition, Citizens of St. Paul and other cities, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Includes signature of W. R. Gill and other prominent citizens.

1889 July 14. W. R. Estes, Businessman, Madelia, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Encloses copy of unsigned petition being circulated in Madelia and asks him to wait for the signed copy before deciding on pardon.

1889 July 15. H. M. Blaisdell, Attorney, Fairmont, to Board of Pardons.
Thank you for your action in the cases of Cole and Jim Younger. On the back is stamped: Board of Pardons, Nos. 85 & 86, Filed this 16th day of July 1897
Roland H. Hartley, Clerk.

1889 July 16. W. R. Estes, Businessman, Madelia, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Encloses signed petition against pardon from citizens of Madelia.

1889 July 17. M. D. Flower, Businessman, St. Paul, to Governor W. R. Merriam.
Supports pardon. Formerly Adjutant General of Minnesota.

1887-1896.

Folder 3. July 8 - July 23, 1889 (cont.).

1889 July 20. Envelope labeled, "Letters for Pardon of Younger Bros. Filed July 20, 1889. Not yet read by Gov. Merriam. From Ignatious Donnelly, Mayor Smith St. Paul, Chief of Police Clark, B. G. Yates, Capt. Police Bresett".

Letters from Donnelly to Governor Merriam (July 18), Robert A. Smith, Mayor of St. Paul, to Governor William R. Merriam (July 17), John Clark, St. Paul Chief of Police, to Governor Wm. R. Merriam (July 18), B. G. Yates, St. Paul, to Governor Merriam (July 15), and Captain of Police John R. Bresett, St. Paul (July 18).

1889 July 20. John [?], Mankato, to Governor William R. Merriam. Supports pardon. Former Blue Earth County sheriff; his life and that of his son were spared twice by the Youngers during the flight from Northfield to Madelia..

1889 July 21. J. S. Pattee, Minneapolis, to Governor W. R. Merriam. Wishes to see him concerning the pardon.

1889 July 21. A. E. Rice, Banker, Willmar, to Governor. Against pardon.

1889 July 23. L. M. Hazen, Chief of Detective, Cincinnati, Ohio, to Governor. Commends Governor for his statement (clipping enclosed) that he would do nothing at all in the case no matter how many petitions, etc. Hazen had pursued the Youngers in Missouri before the Northfield robbery.

1887-1896.

Folder 4. 1894-1896.

1894 October 30. E. F. Rogers, Businessman, Kansas City, Missouri to Governor. Supports pardon.

1894 November 21. E. F. Rogers, Businessman, Kansas City, Missouri to Governor K. Nelson. Congratulations on the election and trust you will see October 30, 1894 letter regarding the Youngers.

1887-1896.

Folder 4.

1894-1896 (cont.).

1894 December 14. B. G. Yates, Businessman, St. Paul, to Governor Knut Nelson.

Supports pardon. Formerly lived at Madelia and participated in the capture of the Youngers. Mentions enclosed letters but none are listed and none were with this letter.

1896 December 8. Nicholas A. Nelson, Publisher, Washington County Journal, Stillwater, to Governor Clough.

Supports pardon. On the back is stamped: Board of Pardons, Nos. 85 & 86, Filed this 22nd day of July 1897 Roland H. Hartley, Clerk.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 1.

Packet, Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota, No. 85. In the Matter of the Application of Thomas Coleman Younger. Declined this 13th day of July 1897 R. H. Hartley, Clerk.

1897 June 16. Application for Pardon or Commutation, Thomas Coleman Younger. Signed. Filed the 18th day of June 1897 R. H. Hartley, Clerk. Applied on the grounds that he had been imprisoned nearly 21 years, more than double the average time served by life prisoners; that during his entire confinement he demeaned himself in perfect conformity to all prison regulations; and the main object of the imprisonment had been accomplished, the reformation of the prisoner.

Packet, Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota, No. 86. In the Matter of the Application of James Harden Younger. Declined this 13th day of July 1897 R. H. Hartley, Clerk.

1897 June 16. Application for Pardon or Commutation, James Hardin Younger. Signed. Filed the 18th day of June 1897 R. H. Hartley, Clerk. Applied on the grounds that he had been imprisoned nearly 21 years, more than double the average time served by life prisoners; that during his entire confinement he demeaned himself in perfect conformity to all prison regulations; and the main object of the imprisonment had been accomplished, the reformation of the prisoner.

1897 June 10. Filed July 18, 1897. Board of Pardons, Nos. 85 and 86. Statement of case and reasons for clemency. Signed by the Youngers' attorney, H. A. Jones.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 1. Undated. Filed 1897 July 13. Remarks of Col. Bronough to the Board of Pardons. Stating reasons for clemency.

1897 July 13. Telegram from G. N. Baxter, Faribault, to Governor Clough. Prosecuting attorney during the Youngers' trial. He went to Northfield at that time to get evidence to indict them for shooting the Swede [Nicolaus Gustavson] and could find no one who knew if he was killed by the robbers' or citizens' fire so it was decided it was a stray bullet and no indictment was found.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 2. Petitions and letters in support of pardon/parole: Loose sheet labeled "Board of Pardons Nos. 85 and 86 Petitions and Recommendations Filed this 12th day of July 1897".

[Many of the materials in this folder were stamped on the back upon receipt by the Board of Pardons. When applicable, the file date has been listed.]

June 24. Arthur Pomeroy, New York, New York, to Governor Clough. Filed July 1, 1897.

June 26. G. A. Newman, Doctor, New London, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Hospital steward at the prison, 1895-1896.

July. W. H. Harrington, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Chaplain at the prison, 1880-1885.

July 6. A. T. Cole, Attorney, Fargo, North Dakota, to Warden of Stillwater Prison. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 6. Wm. H. Wallace, Attorney, Kansas City, Missouri, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Knew the Youngers prior to the robbery.

July 7. E. D. Wheelock, [K?], South Dakota, to Warden Wolfer. Filed July 12, 1897.
Former Steele County resident.

July 8. Petition, Citizens of Preston, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 10, 1897.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 2. Petitions and letters in support of pardon/parole (cont.):

July 9. E. B. Ellison, Guthrie, Oklahoma, to Governor Clough. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 9. Robert Forbes, Chaplain, State Senate, Duluth, to Governor D. M. Clough. Filed July 10, 1897.

July 9. W. W. [?], St. Paul, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 10. Burr Duell, Red Wing, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Suggests exchange of James stock from Missouri for the Youngers.

July 10. Thos. H. Loyhed, Businessman, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Was a member of the capture party.

July 10. Robert Mee, Attorney, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Former Rice County Attorney.

July 10. H. M. Barton, Businessman, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Deputy Sheriff of Rice County at the time of the robbery.

July 10. R. A. Mott, Minnesota Institute for Defectives, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
A large number in the county are in favor of release.

July 10. R. A. Mott, Minnesota Institute for Defectives, Faribault, to Governor Clough. Filed July 12, 1897.
A large number in the county are in favor of release.

July 10. Henry Wolfer, Warden, to Roland H. Hartley, Clerk of the Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Encloses July 10 letter from Geo. P. Wilson, Minneapolis to Warden Wolfer.
Wilson was Attorney General at the time of the raid.

July 10. Geo. W. Newell, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 10. Geo. W. Batchelder, Attorney, Faribault, to Charles W. Start, Chief Justice and member of the Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 2. Petitions and letters in support of pardon/parole:...(cont.).

July 10. D. Cavanaugh, Businessman, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 10. C. Cooley, Attorney, Madelia, to Governor D. M. Clough. Filed July 12, 1897.

Encloses petition from citizens of Madelia; 3 of the 7 having been in the posse that captured the Youngers.

July 10. George W. Tressler, McKeesport, Pennsylvania, to Governor. Filed July 12, 1897.

Former inmate at the prison.

July 11. Hector McLean, Minneapolis, to Judge [Charles W.] Start. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 11. W. N. Cosgrove, Faribault, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

ca. July 12. Signatures of business and professional men on letterhead of Wm. R. Estes, Madelia. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 12. D. M. Sabin, Bayfield, Wisconsin, to Board of Pardons, in care of Warden Wolfer. Filed July 12, 1897.

Telegram.

July 12. C. Kendrick, Doctor, Kendrick, Mississippi, to Governor Clough. Filed July 13, 1897.

Mississippi State Senator.

July 12. Affidavit of Geo. M. Bennett, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 2. Petitions and letters in support of pardon/parole:...(cont.).

July 12. Series of printed copies of selected 1889 letters in support of pardon.
Filed July 12, 1897.

All except one of the originals are found in the 1889 folders. Included are Ignatious Donnelly (July 18), John C. Wise (July 12), G. W. Batchelder (June 22), J. A. Reed (undated), Horace W. Pratt (June 26), T. C. Clark (June 24), B. G. Yates (July 15), M. D. Flower (July 17), D. M. Sabin (June 24), W. M. Campbell (July 3), G. M. Seymour (June 24), Henry H. Sibley (July 8), Robert A. Smith (July 17), Harold I. Cleveland (July 13), John Bressett (July 18), John Clark (July 18), E. W. Durant (June 24), Liberty Hall (June 24), J. H. Albert (June 24), Ara Barton (June 21), M. W. Murphy (June 29), A. K. Doe (June 24), Wm. Warner (July 8), Thos. T. Crittenden (June 5; original not in these files), David Day/William Lee (July 2), and E. G. Butts (June 24).

July 12. T. T. Crittenden, et al, Jackson County, Missouri, to Governor Clough and Chairman, State Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Telegram.

July 12. John Q. Crisp, Missouri to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.
Telegram. Member, Missouri Legislature.

July 13. A Friend, Hannibal, Missouri to Governor. [Stamped Filed July 12, 1897.]
Telegram.

July 13. J. N. Rogers, Attorney, Princeton, to Governor Clough. [Stamped Filed July 12, 1897.]

July 22. . Henry Wolfer, Warden, to Roland H. Hartley, Secretary of the Board of Pardons. Filed July 22, 1897.
Encloses [all filed July 22, 1897]: Nicholas A. Nelson (not found); July 3, 1897, W. H. Pratt, Doctor, Stillwater, to the Board of Pardons, describing the exemplary conduct of Cole during the January 25, 1884 prison fire; July 1, 1897, H. A. Jones, Pleasant Hill, Missouri to Wolfer, with enclosed petition from the 37th General Assembly of Missouri addressed to Governor Nelson (ca. 1891).

1898. June 6. S. B. Elkins, U. S. Senator, to Governor David B. Clough. Filed June 9, 1898.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 3. Petitions and letters against pardon/parole: Loose sheet labeled "Board of Pardons Nos. 85 and 86 Protests and Affidavits Filed this 12th day of July 1897".

[Many of the materials in this folder were stamped on the back upon receipt by the Board of Pardons. When applicable, the file date has been listed.]

June 10. Affidavit of F. J. Wilcox. In the Matter of the Application for the Pardon of Coleman Younger. Filed July 12, 1897.

Clerk of the Northfield bank during the robbery; describes shooting of Heywood but does not say who shot him.

July 7. D. B. Thurston, Kansas City, Missouri to Governor. Filed July 10, 1897.

July 7. Affidavit of D. J. Whiting, Northfield dentist. Filed July 12, 1897.

Describes seeing Coleman Younger giving orders in the street during the raid and men who he thought were Bob and Jim Younger firing on Manning.

July 8. Affidavit of John Morton, Northfield jeweler. Filed July 12, 1897.

States he saw Cole Younger shoot the Swede [Nicolaus Gustavson].

July 8. Affidavit of P. S. Dougherty. Filed July 12, 1897.

States he saw the man who shot the Swede [Nicolaus Gustavson] but does not name the man.

July 8. Affidavit of W. H. Riddell, Northfield storekeeper. Filed July 12, 1897.

States he never heard anyone on the street during the raid say don't shoot.

July 8. H. A. Brill, St. Paul, District Court Judge, to Chas. M. Start. Filed July 10, 1897.

July 9. Anson L. Keyes, County Attorney, Faribault County, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 9. F. A. Smith, Bank cashier, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 10, 1897.

July 9. John McKinley, Duluth, to Attorney General Childs (a member of the Board of Pardons). Filed July 12, 1897.

July 9. Chas. C. Otis, District Court, St. Paul, to Chas. M. Start. Filed July 10, 1897.

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

- Folder 3. Petitions and letters against pardon/parole:...(cont.).
- July 9. Wm. B. Dean, J. Ross Nichols, Businessmen, St. Paul, to C. M. Start.
Filed July 10, 1897.
- July 10. Ed. A. Paradis, Editor, The Midway News, St. Paul, to Henry W. Childs.
Encloses clipping; an editorial by Paradis.
- July 10: Ed. A. Paradis, Editor, The Midway News, St. Paul, to Governor D. M.
Clough. Filed July 12, 1897.
Encloses clipping; an editorial by Paradis.
- July 10. Not safe to give my name, Louisville, Kentucky, to Governor.
- July 10. Petition, Citizens of Howard Lake, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12,
1897.
- July 10. J. W. Mason, Attorney, Fergus Falls, to H. W. Childs, Attorney General.
Filed July 12, 1897.
- July 10. William Louis Kelley, District Judge, St. Paul, to Chs. M. Start.
- July 10. C. R. Barns, Editorial writer, St. Paul Pioneer Press, to H. W. Childs.
Filed July 12, 1897.
- July 10. Affidavit of Ellen M. Ames, Northfield. Filed July 12, 1897.
States she saw Cole shoot a drunk coming out of a saloon during the raid.
- July 12. Packet: Board of Pardons Nos. 85 & 86 Protests Filed this 12th day of
July 1897.
- Charles Parsons, Banker, St. Louis, Missouri, to F. W. Anderson, St. Paul
asking to please pass this sentiment to Board of Pardons and Governor (July
10); Fred Bloom, Woodstock, to Governor D. M. Clough (July 10); Marian B.
Lull, Brooklyn, New York, to Governor David M. Clough, stating her
husband, Capt. Louis J. Lull, was killed in a fight with the Youngers following
an 1874 train robbery in Missouri (July 8); Fanny Lull Henderson, Minerva
Lull, and Julia Lull Royce, Boston, Massachusetts, to Governor David M.
Clough, also commenting on the death of their brother, Capt. Lull (July 9).

Application Files No. 85 and No. 86, 1897-1898.

Folder 3. Petitions and letters against pardon/parole:...(cont.).

ca. July 12. Petitions, Citizens of Madelia to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

Two petitions.

ca. July 12. Petition, Citizens of Dassel to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

ca. July 12. Petition, Citizens of Faribault to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

ca. July 12. Petition, Citizens of Northfield to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 12. Rice County Board of County Commissioners to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

Two copies with different signatures.

July 12. Samuel M. Davis, Attorney, Minneapolis, to Chas. M. Start. Filed July 13, 1897.

July 12. Martha G. Ripley, Doctor, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

Against pardon/parole on grounds that keeping them in prison means they cannot reproduce.

July 12. C. A. Patterson, Architect, Minneapolis, to Governor D. M. Clough. Filed July 13, 1897.

July 12. G. W. Plank, Laird, to Governor D. M. Clough and Board of Pardons. Filed July 12, 1897.

July 13. F. E. Dudley, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons. Filed July 13, 1897.

Application Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 1. Packet cover: Nos. 555 and 556. Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota, In the Matter of the Applications of Thomas Coleman Younger and Jim Hardin Younger.

Application Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 1.

May 6, 1901. No. 555. Application For the Parole of Thomas Coleman Younger, Filed on the 8th day of May 1901.

Submitted to the Board of Managers, State Prison. Reasons for parole: has been confined in the Minnesota State Prison for nearly 25 years and during that time has obeyed all of the rules of the prison and shown every evidence of reform.

May 6, 1901. No. 556. Application For the Parole of Jim Harden Younger, Filed on the 8th day of May 1901.

Submitted to the Board of Managers, State Prison. Reasons for parole: has been confined in the Minnesota State Prison for nearly 25 years and during that time has obeyed all of the rules of the prison and shown every evidence of reform.

1901. To the Honorable the Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota, Resolution, From the Board of Managers, in support of Cole's parole, signed by B. F. Nelson and Henry Wolfer.

1901. To the Honorable the Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota, Resolution, From the Board of Managers, in support of Jim's parole, signed by B. F. Nelson and Henry Wolfer.

1901 April. Materials pertaining to the passage of "A bill for an act to amend section 7510 of the 1894 General Statutes of Minnesota, the same being section 4, of chapter 9, of the General Laws of Minnesota for the year 1893, relating to the parole of prisoners." The bill allowed parole of convicts who have been sentenced to the State Prison for the period of their natural life.

A sheet detailing the history of the bill: Filed April 2, returned to the House April 5, returned to the Governor's Office April 9, filed with the Secretary of State, April 11.

April 5. Copy of a letter from Governor S. R. Van Sant to M. J. Dowling, Speaker of the House, returning House File 234.

April 5. Copy of a letter, W. B. Douglas, Attorney General, to Governor Van Sant, returning H. F. 234 to the Governor. Following passage by both houses and submission to the Governor for approval; explains constitutional points and recommends approval.

ca. 1901. Petition, Faribault citizens in support of the bill.

Copy of the 1897 act creating the Board of Pardons (created by amendment to the Constitution, adopted November 1896).

Application Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 1. 1901 July 10. In the Matter of the Parole of Coleman and James Younger. Satisfied that Chapter 234, Laws 1901 is a law and the parole of the Youngers is valid. Signed by the Pardon Board: Governor S. R. Van Sant, Chief Justice Chas. M. Start, and Attorney General Wallace B. Douglas.

Application Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 2. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole.

[Note to users: Some of these materials are actually in support of passage of the 1901 law and therefore predate the 1901 applications.]

Undated. Clippings (1899) from various Minnesota newspapers, glued to pages of the Appendix to "Mizzoura The Youngers," a novel written by Cora McNeill in 1898 and published by the Mizzoura Publishing Co., Guaranty Loan Building, Minneapolis, Minn. Includes pages 367-368, 371-372, 375-376, 381-382, 385-286 (2 copies), and 387-392. The 1899 clippings, all in support of the parole, are from the Minneapolis Journal (undated), The Representative, Minneapolis (undated), Lake Crystal Union (undated, February 22), Todd County Argus, Long Prairie (undated), Fairmont [Daily?] (undated), Hutchinson Times (undated), Browns Valley Tribune (undated), Stillwater Gazette (Feb. 11), St. Paul Dispatch (Feb. 11), Crookston Times (Feb. 14), Solway Advocate (Feb. 16), Eden Valley Journal (Feb. 16), Lanesboro Journal (Feb. 16), Princeton Union (Feb. 16, 23), Mankato Free Press (Feb. 17), Fergus Falls Globe (Feb. 18), Morris Times (Feb. 22), Albert Lea Tribune (Feb. 22), Litchfield Independent (Feb. 23), Benson Monitor (Feb. 24), Jackson Republic (Feb. 24), Menahga Messenger (Feb. 24), Bird Island Union (Feb. 29), Wheaton Gazette Reporter (Feb. 24, March 3), Edgerton Enterprise (March 2), Pine City [?] (March 2), Ortonville Herald Star (March 2), Crookston Journal (March 2), and Ely Times (March 3).

Undated. Unsigned sheet against parole; seems to be the second page of an unsigned letter.

Undated. Unsigned sheet containing notes on the Youngers' father's murder and Cole's participation in the 1863 Quantrell raid on Lawrence, Kansas.

1901 June 12. L. B. Valliant, State of Missouri, Supreme Court Justice, to Supreme Court Justice Charles M. Start.
Supports parole.

Application Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 2.

Petitions and letters in support of and against parole (cont.).

1901 June 15. E. F. Rogers, Businessman, Kansas City, Missouri, to Charles M. Start.
Supports parole.

1901 June 25 . Petition to Governor S. R. Van Sant from Geo. M. Bennett, Minneapolis.
Supports parole. Written on the back: "The Youngers" Petitions for Relief—from Rt. Rev. H. B. Whipple, Hon. C. K. Davis, Ex. Gov. Alex Ramsey, et al. Filed by Geo. M. Bennett.

Enclosures:

ca. 1901. Petition for conditional pardon; split between "We Prefer Full Pardon" and "We Think Conditions are Advisable." Signed by M. N. Gilbert, Alex. Ramsey, John Ireland, Bishop Whipple, etc.

Undated. H. B. Whipple, Bishop of Minnesota, Fla. to C. M. Start. [Copy]

1899 February 25. C. K. Davis, U.S. Senator, Washington, D.C.

1901 July 8. D. Frank Powell, Doctor, St. Paul, to Governor Van Sant.

(?) March 28. M. N. Gilbert, Bishop, Diocese of Minnesota, St. Paul, to Hon. Geo. P. Wilson.

1899 February 20. Henry A. Castle, Postmaster, St. Paul, to Geo. P. Wilson, Senate.

In support of the bill for parole of life prisoners after 20 years.

1899 March 23. A. T. Ankeny, Attorney, Minneapolis, to Geo. P. Wilson, Senate.

In support of the bill for parole of life prisoners after 20 years.

Printed copies of 1889 letters by Sibley and Robt. A. Smith.

1899 March 4. George P. Dodd, Minneapolis, to George M. Bennett.
Witnessed by his wife Annie L. Dodd.

Was a guard at the prison; details the Youngers' exemplary behaviour during the January 25, 1884 prison fire.

Application Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 2. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole (cont.).

1901 June 25 . Petition to Governor S. R. Van Sant from Geo. M. Bennett,
Minneapolis (cont.).

Enclosures (cont.):

1898 May 7. Emory S. Foster, St. Louis, Missouri, to Geo. M. Bennett
Was a Union officer; Cole kept him from being shot during the war.

1898 July 4. S. B. Elkins, U. S. Senate, to Charles M. Start.
Re Cole's war service. Elkins was a teacher of the Youngers in Missouri.
[Annotated that it is a duplicate given to Geo. M. Bennett by Elkins.]

1901 January 24. E. F. Rogers, Kansas City, Missouri to Geo. M. Bennett.
Re Cole's war service.

1898 March 5. Statement of Gideon W. Thompson, Barry, Missouri.
Re Cole's war service.

1898 April 25. E. G. Bower, Dallas, Texas, to George M. Bennett.
Re Cole's war service. Was Cole's mess mate.

1898 April 9. Wm. N. Gregg, Kansas City, Missouri, to Geo. M. Bennett.
Re Cole's war service.

1898 August 6. Affidavit of Marshall P. Wright, Jackson County, Missouri.
States he once saw the Youngers in Missouri the day after they were supposed
to have robbed a train in Iowa 250 miles away.

1898 December 28. A. R. McGill.

1901 July 2. Petition, Bankers of Sedalia, Missouri, to Governor S. R. Van
Sant.
Supports parole.

1901 July 2. Petition, Lawyers of Sedalia, Missouri, to Governor S. R. Van
Sant.
Supports parole.

1901 July 6. Wm. J. Stone, Attorney, St. Louis, Missouri, to Governor S. R.
Van Sant.
Supports parole.

Applications Files No. 555 and No. 556, 1898-1901.

Folder 3. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole (cont.).

1901 July 7. C. E. Faulkner, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons.
Supports parole.

1901 July 10. Geo. M. Bennett, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons.
Offering to find employment for the Youngers.

1901 July 10. F. E. Kenaston, President, Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co., to
Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Contrary to a statement made by someone in the company; they will not provide
jobs to the Youngers.

1901 July 10. Henry Wolfer, Warden, to the Board of Pardons.
Encloses: 1901 July 9. C. E. Faulkner, Minneapolis, Superintendent, The
Washburn Memorial Orphan Asylum, to Wolfer.
Supports parole.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

Folder 1. Packet: Nos. 633 & 634. Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota In the Matter of
the Application of Thomas Coleman Younger and James Harden Younger.

December 20, 1901. Application No. 633. For the Parole of Thomas Coleman
Younger.

On the back: Application for the Commutation of Sentence of Thomas Coleman
Younger Filed on the 6th day of January 1902.

Reasons for commutation: Has already served 36 years; would like to return home
and establish a business; has friends with ample capitol ready to help him if he is
restored full citizenship but won't do so until that happens; would like to be
among his relatives in his last years; and no further justice would be served by
keeping him on parole.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

- Folder 1. December 20, 1901. Application No. 634. For the Parole of Jim Hardon Younger. On the back: Application for the Commutation of Sentence of Jim Hardon Younger Filed on the 6th day of January 1902.
Reasons for commutation: Has already served 36 years; is in poor health; would like to move to a warm climate for his health and establish a home and business; has friends with ample capitol ready to help him if he is restored full citizenship but won't do so until that happens; desires a home and family; in present conditions is continually at the mercy of impersonators and advertisers who seek to make capitol out of his misfortune; and no further justice would be served by keeping him on parole.
- Undated. Statement of Pardon Board. Application denied for reason it is premature. Unsigned.
- Undated. Advertising card, Globe Hotel, 260 E. Sixth St., St. Paul. Contains the following statement: "A noted person located at a place one block and a half from and in sight of this hotel is Jim Younger, one of the famous Younger Brothers, who has charge of the cigar department in the Andrew Schoch Grocery Co., Seventh and Broadway." Written on the back: "Picked up on the street."

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

- Folder 2. Petitions in support of parole/pardon, undated.
- Citizens of Perham.
 - No area listed.
 - Twin Cities, including signature of H. M. Rice.
 - Citizens of Moorhead and Felton.
 - Citizens of St. Paul. 6 petitions.
 - Citizens of State of Minnesota. Many are Minneapolis and suburbs.
 - Citizens of Le Sueur.
 - Railroad shop men, Minneapolis.
 - Railroad department, Minneapolis.
 - The Fire department, Minneapolis.
 - Minneapolis Post Office employees.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

Folder 2. Petitions in support of parole/pardon, undated (cont.).

 Citizens of Hennepin County.

 Citizens of Staples.

 Signed mainly by citizens of Hastings.

 Citizens of Sauk Centre.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

Folder 3. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon.

 1901 April 10. H. T. Williams, Attorney, Sedalia, Missouri, to Governor Samuel R. Van Sant.

 Against parole bill, in general, and parole/pardon for the Youngers specifically.

 1901 April 10. Archibald Carnagher, Concordia, Kansas, to Governor.
 Supports parole.

 1901 May 10. O. B. Gould, Attorney, Winona to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
 Against parole.

 1901 May 10. A Christian (B. Lueder), New Salem, North Dakota, to Governor and Board of Pardons.
 Supports pardon/parole.

 1901 July 7. A friend of right and justice, St. Louis, Missouri to Governor and Board of Pardons.
 Against parole.

 1901 July 12. Edw. J. Schurmeier, Businessman, St. Paul.
 Undated cover sheet addressed to the Governor to please file these with the Younger Bros. papers:

 July 12. Schurmeier to Governor Van Sant enclosing letter sent to Warden Wolfer.

 July 12. Schurmeier to Warden Wolfer.
 Will furnish the Youngers with a store in a suitable location for a cigar and tobacco business; or if employed by Andrew Schoch Grocery Co. they can live with him; or anywhere else they work in St. Paul they can still live with him.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

Folder 3. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon (cont.).

[1901?] December 15. B. G. Yates, Maitland, Florida, to Governor.
Supports full pardon. Appeared earlier before the Pardon Board with Warden
Wolfer and Edw. J. Schurmeier on behalf of the Youngers.

1901 December 20. Daniel G. Beebe, Minneapolis, to Governor S. R. Van Sant
and the Board of Pardons.
Supports full pardon. Was assistant surgeon at the prison, 1896-1897.

1901 December 27. Inter-State Institute, St. Paul (H. C. Schurmeier) to Governor
Samuel R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

Folder 4. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon.

1902 January 6. Petition, Citizens of Buffalo and Wright County, to Board of
Pardons.
Supports full pardon.

1902 January 8. A. J. Muller, St. Paul, to Board of Pardons. [Handwriting
matches that of Jim Younger's fiancée, Alix J. Mueller].
Supports full pardon.
Encloses letter from John H. Smith, State Senator, Detroit, to Mr. Alex J. Muller,
St. Paul and letter from L[ouis] H. Schellback, State Senator, Granite Falls, to
Muller, both in support of a full pardon, and a petition circulated in the State
Senate by Senator M. J. Daly, with the majority in support of parole.

[1902?] January 8. J. P. Chance, Doctor, Royalton, to Governor Van Sant.
Supports full pardon. Resident surgeon at the prison June 1900-May 1901.

1902 January 8. N. W. Chance, Doctor, Little Falls, to Governor Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.

1902 January 8. R. H. [Murray?], Businessman, Little Falls, to Governor S. R.
Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

- Folder 4. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon (cont.).
- 1902 January 8. W. H. Noyes, State House of Representatives, Barnum, to Cole Younger, St. Paul.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. John H. Schulze, White Bear, to Governor Samuel R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. Geo. Gundlach, St. Paul, to Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 9. E. J. Goff, M. O. Toole, Janesville, Minnesota, to Board of Pardons.
Encloses petition for the area supporting pardon.
- 1902 January 9. W. M. Fuller, Editor, Daily Transcript, Little Falls, to Governor Van Sant.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 9. L. N. Scott, Theatre Manager, St. Paul, to Board of Pardons.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. Patrick J. Kavanagh, Businessman, St. Paul, to Board of Pardons.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. John J. Platt, Doctor, St. Paul, to Board of Pardons.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. J. M. Bach, Businessman, St. Paul, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- [1902?] January 9. F. H. Mero, Dentist, Little Falls, to Governor Van Sant.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 9. John A. Kennedy, Little Falls, to Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 9. M. V. Wetzel, Pharmacist, Little Falls, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports pardon.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

- Folder 4. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon (cont.).
- 1902 January 9. Geo. [?], Little Falls, to Governor Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. C. B. Buckman, Little Falls, to Board of Pardons.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. J. A. Nichols, Businessman, Little Falls, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. L. M. Roberts, Doctor, Little Falls, to Governor Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 9. N. C. Stewart, City Editor, Daily Transcript, Little Falls, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 11. Petition, RR Transfer Co. employees, Minneapolis, to Pardon Board.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 11. Petition, "Poleas" Department, Minneapolis, to Pardon Board.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 11. B. F. Nelson, Businessman, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon. Was a manager at the state prison.
- 1902 January 11. F. H. Boardman, County Attorney, Hennepin County, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 14. Petition, Citizens of State of Minnesota, Minneapolis, to Pardon Board.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 14. Petition, North Star Shore Co., Minneapolis, to Pardon Board.
Supports full pardon.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

- Folder 4. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon (cont.).
- 1902 January 14. Petition, NPRR employees located in Hennepin County, to Pardon Board.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 14. Petition, Citizens and ex-soldiers of Stillwater, to Governor Samuel R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 15. H. P. Lovejoy, Postmaster, Minneapolis, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 16. William Kennedy, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardon.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 17. Petition, Minneapolis Post Office employees, to Pardon Board.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 17. Stanley Washburn, Businessman, Minneapolis, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 January 21. "Justice" to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Against pardon.
- 1902 January 23. J. M. Sullivan, Businessman, Minneapolis, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon. Was in the posse that caught the Youngers.
- 1902 January 23. Geo. M. Bennett, Deadwood, South Dakota, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports full pardon.
- 1902 January 25. Cyrus J. West, Businessman, Duluth, to Board of Pardons.
Against pardon.
- 1902 January 27. John C. Sweet, Minneapolis, State House of Representatives, to Governor S. R. Van Sant.
Supports pardon.

Application Files No. 633 and No. 634, 1901-1902.

- Folder 4. Petitions and letters in support of and against parole/pardon (cont.).
- 1902 January 31. W. E. Rochford, Doctor, Minneapolis, to Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon.
- 1902 February 1. P. C. Deming, Minneapolis, State House of Representatives, to
Board of Pardons.
Supports pardon. Was sponsor of the 1901 parole bill.

Application File No. 758, 1902-1905, 1909.

- Folder 1. 1902-1903.
- Packet: No. 758. Board of Pardons, State of Minnesota, In the Matter of the
Application of Thomas Coleman Younger.
- 1902 February 9. Mrs. Ruth [March?], Madison, Wisconsin, to Governor.
Thank you for pardoning the "James" boys. Very rambling letter full of religious
allusions.
- 1902 September 9. Helen Grubbs (age 15) and Lula Webster (age 13), Nashville,
Tennessee, to Governor.
Thank you for the pardon [parole], now please allow them to return to Missouri.
- 1902 December 9. Application for The Pardon of Thomas Coleman Younger
filed on the 10th day of December 1902. Signed by Cole Younger.
Asks for conditional or unconditional pardon on the grounds of poor health; true
reformation and ; demonstrated evidence of his desire and purpose to live an
honest and self-supporting life; difficulty in earning a living in a harsh climate;
readiness and willingness to submit to any limitations or restrictions imposed by
the Pardon Board; and since the death of Jim Younger the stronger need for home
and family. [A photographic negative of this item also exists and is filed with the
original documents.]

Application File No. 758, 1902-1905, 1909.

Folder 2. 1905, 1909.

1905 January 8. Cole Younger, Lee's Summit, Missouri to Hon. J. A. Johnson, Governor.

Concerning his 1903 written agreement re exhibition. He has been a proprietor of a show but not a participant contrary to what you may have heard. Is asking for the conditions of his pardon to be dropped since people misunderstand them and think he is still on parole and still a prisoner who can't sign contracts, etc. A full pardon would make his life easier.

1905 January 30. Thos. T. Crittenden, Kansas City, Missouri, to Governor Johnson and Board of Pardons.

Former Governor of Missouri. Asked by Cole to write and urge the unconditional pardon. Is in full support of it.

1909 February 1. H. C. Lowrance, Lowrance & Casey Lawyers, Kansas City, Missouri to Governor J. A. Johnson..

Supports an unconditional pardon. Writing as a citizen, not a fee-ed attorney.