

**THE BORDER OUTLAWS: AN AUTHENTIC
AND THRILLING HISTORY OF THE MOST
NOTED BANDITS OF ANCIENT OR
MODERN TIMES: THE YOUNGER
BROTHERS, JESSE AND FRANK JAMES,
AND THEIR COMRADES IN CRIME**

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The border outlaws: an authentic and thrilling history of the most noted bandits of ancient or modern times: the younger brothers, Jesse and Frank James, and their comrades in crime by J. W. Buel

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J. W. BUEL

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COLE YOUNGER.



JIM YOUNGER.



BOB YOUNGER.

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AN AUTHENTIC AND THRILLING HISTORY OF THE MOST
NOTED BANDITS OF ANCIENT OR MODERN TIMES,

THE YOUNGER BROTHERS,

JESSE AND FRANK JAMES,

AND

THEIR COMRADES IN CRIME.

COMPILED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES ONLY AND CONTAINING
THE LATEST FACTS IN REGARD TO THESE
CELEBRATED OUTLAWS.

BY J. W. BUEL,

Author of "Life of Wild Bill the Scout," "Legends of the Ozarks,"
etc., etc., and Member of the Editorial Staff of the
Kansas City and St. Louis Press.

Illustrated with Portraits and Colored Plates.

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PREFACE.

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AN authentic history of the desperate adventures of the four Younger Brothers has become a necessity. Their lives require no romantic or exaggerated shading to make the narrative remarkable. Their deeds are as prominent in the archives of guerrilla warfare as their names are familiar on the border. But with a comprehension of the morbid appetites of many readers, newspaper and pamphlet writers have created and colored crimes with reckless extravagance, and then placed upon them the impress of the Younger Brothers, because the character of these noted guerrilla outlaws made the desperate acts credited to them not improbable. The difficulties encountered in procuring facts connected with the stirring escapades of the outlaw quartette, have heretofore been overcome by imaginative authors and correspondents, giving in minute detail incidents with which their creative genius is at all times well supplied. These remarks are not intended to disparage the merit of any contributor to the annals of border history, but rather to excite a proper suspicion on the part of the public against a too ready belief of every adventure, fight or robbery charged to the Younger Brothers.

The part they acted during the great civil strife has, undoubtedly, been truthfully told, but their career since the close of that dreadful drama has been, in a great measure, elaborated by imagery, until it is difficult for those unacquainted with the facts, to conclude which record is true and which created.

The writer does not claim exception from mistakes, but

without arrogating to himself any special merit, it can be truthfully said that the following history of these great outlaws contains a less number of errors and a more reliable and comprehensive description of their valorous deeds than any previous publication. For several weeks prior to the completion of this work, a correspondence was maintained with the Younger Brothers, as well also with the warden of the Minnesota penitentiary, and through this source many new facts were obtained and numerous errors discovered. In addition to this, personal interviews have been had with several old comrades of the Youngers, and with Cole Younger himself; and nothing has been left undone to procure all the facts possible, and to avoid falling into the old mistakes which have been repeated until they have become almost traditional.

For a considerable period the writer was a resident of Kansas City, where he was engaged in journalism, and made the acquaintance of hundreds of persons who were intimately known to the Younger and James Brothers, and from these also much valuable and trustworthy information was received, which various corroborative sources have enabled the author to reliably write the history of the noted outlaws without resorting to either fiction or romance.

J. W. B.

St. Louis, December 15, 1880.

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