

HAPPY "COLE" YOUNGER.

"Cole" Younger, the pardoned bandit, signed the statement Saturday that will be followed immediately by the issuance of the final papers allowing him to depart for his old home. The statement is a promise that Younger will abide by the conditions of the pardon and will never allow himself to be exhibited in public in any place of amusement or assembly where a charge for admission is made. The promise does not exclude him from visiting public performances or places of amusement.

Younger is busy arranging to take his final departure from the state of Minnesota. He spent Friday in Minneapolis, visiting friends and early on Saturday called upon Governor Van Sant to learn when he can procure the official documents, sealing his pardon. Younger is in a happy state of mind in anticipation of his return to his former home and while eager to begin the journey, is not over anxious to bid a speedy farewell to the many friends he has made there.

Younger is much against any demonstration attaching to his visit to Kansas City. For this reason he declines to say just when he will leave St. Paul. He declares he will travel a thousand miles out of his way rather than cause any notoriety.

The order of pardon is as follows:

In the matter of the petition of Thomas Coleman Younger for an absolute or a conditional pardon, as the board may deem proper.

Having carefully considered this matter, with a keen appreciation of our duty to the public and to the petitioner, we have reached the conclusion that his conduct for twenty-five years in prison, and his subsequent conduct as a paroled prisoner, justify the belief that, if his request to be permitted to return to his friends and kindred be granted, he will live and remain at liberty without any violation of law. We are, however, of the opinion that his absolute pardon would not be compatible with the welfare of this state—the scene of his crime—for the reason that his presence therein, if freed from the conditions of his parole, would create a morbid and demoralizing interest in him and his crime.

Therefore, it is ordered that a pardon be granted to Thomas Coleman Younger upon the condition, precedent and subsequent, that he return without unnecessary delay to his friends and kindred whence he came, and that he never voluntarily come back to the state of Minnesota. And upon the further condition that he file with the governor of the state of Minnesota his written promise that he will never exhibit himself or allow himself to be exhibited as an actor or participate in any public performance, museum, circus, theater, opera house, or any other place of public amusement or assembly where a charge is made for admission; provided, that this shall not exclude him from attending any such public performance or place of amusement. If he violates any of the conditions of the pardon it shall be absolutely void.

Coleman Younger was born in Jackson county, January 15, 1841. He is, therefore, 59 years old. His father was Henry Washington Younger, who moved from Kentucky to Missouri and in 1830 married in this county Miss Beesheba Flistoe. They had fourteen children, eight of them daughters.

The father of "Cole" Younger was a thrifty man and a good citizen. He was three times elected to the Missouri legislature and was for eight years judge of the Jackson county court. He owned a farm of 600 acres in Jackson county and another large farm near Harrisonville, Cass county. He moved to that farm in 1858 and began stock-raising and trading. When the Civil war broke out he had, besides these two farms, a livery stable and two stores in Harrisonville. His wealth was estimated then to be \$100,000—a very large fortune for a man in those days. His children were well-educated and well-reared.

The war ruined the Younger family financially and ruined part of them morally. The father was a Union sympathizer, but the Kansas Jayhawkers and Red Legs robbed him of all his live-stock and finally assassinated him near Independence. He was riding in a buggy from Independence, and when five miles out he was set upon and killed and \$400 were taken from his body.

It was this act which drove the Younger brothers to enlist under the black flag of Quantrell. Coleman Younger joined that band January 1, 1862. His first fight was one night when the band was at the home of John Flannery, near Kansas City. A body of Federal soldiers surrounded the house and demanded surrender. Quantrell promised an answer in ten minutes. This gave him time to arrange his men inside the house and pour a murderous volley of buckshot into the soldiers. The fight lasted two hours. Then the Federals set the house afire. The guerillas rushed from the burning building into the faces of the soldiers, each firing his gun. All escaped. "Cole" Younger became separated from his comrades and was chased by twelve cavalrymen whom he fought off single-handed.

After this fight "Cole" Younger stopped two days at the home of Jerry Blythe. The Federals went there after him, but he was gone. For revenge they killed a little son of Mr. Blythe. In revenge for this "Cole" Younger got together a band of Quantrell's men and stationed them on the banks of Blue cut, and as the seventy-five Federal soldiers filed through it every man of them was shot or killed.