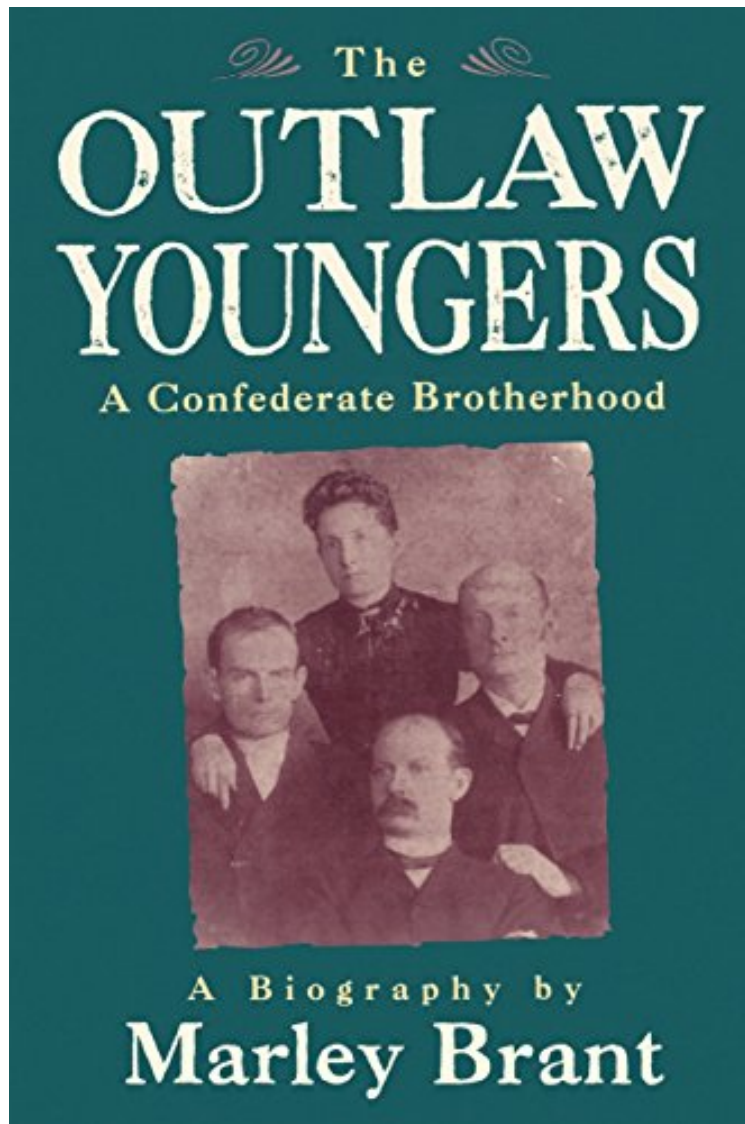


(Download) The Outlaw Youngers: A Confederate Brotherhood

The Outlaw Youngers: A Confederate Brotherhood

Marley Brant

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Marley Brant : The Outlaw Youngers: A Confederate Brotherhood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Outlaw Youngers: A Confederate Brotherhood:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Informative, well researched; a little too detailedBy William R. DrakeIt appears the writer did an exhaustive amount of research, and in writing her book, has made a significant contribution to the literature pertaining to both the Younger brothers and Jesse and Frank James. Anyone with a serious interest in this subject should find this book of value.I learned a lot about the family history and lives of the

characters involved, and the book's early focus on the unfortunate Civil War events near the Missouri and Kansas borders was very educational. The author makes the case that a main motivation for the outlaws' deeds was to strike out against the Federal Government/Express Companies because of the cruel destruction their family and homeland suffered during and after the war. Certainly they had a lot of bitterness, but I wonder if their main motivation was just to get easy money and the rest was, at least to a degree, a rationalization. It appears true that they generally tried to spare the average working person the full force of their actions, but in robbing banks owned by the wealthy are not the "little people" who have accounts there wiped out in the process? A problem I had with the book was its amount of detail. It was like the author included every possible fact she could dig up. As well as including the most trivial of details, it seemed that whenever a minor character happened to be mentioned, she had to stop and give a biography of him or her, as for example with Hayward, the bank employee killed at the Northfield bank (p.186, hardback, c1992). (Admittedly, some history buffs would find this a plus.) Another concern I had was the considerable amount of speculation, even though the author was quite careful to separate fact from her guesswork. Her guesses made the book interesting in a way, but as to their likelihood, in many cases there was no way to know. For example, the book describes the train robbery at Gad's Hill, in which case an unidentified passenger was forced to strip to his underwear. Further on (p.243 hardback) when the writer speculates on Gov. William Merriam's refusal to parole the Younger brothers from prison in 1889, she notes that the governor's father was on the Gad's Hill train during the robbery and wonders if he was the person forced to strip, hence the governor's unexplained decision. Who knows??? While the book has some flaws, if you are interested in the subject, it is worth reading.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I've read about the robbery

By Donald F. Pelletier I found it clear and concise and it helped to clear up a lot of misconceptions about the Younger family and what really happened at Northfield. A very enjoyable read. One of the best books I've read about the robbery.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful

By Diane Moore This is about the best, unbiased text on the subject I've read. Very entertaining and puts a real face and personality on the characters. Great product, arrived perfect, quality better than expected. Great seller.

A character study of the men, the myths and the legends of the Outlaw Youngers, one of the most notorious gangs in the Wild West.

From Publishers Weekly First-time author Brant, a Georgia TV writer and producer, claims to have spent more than two decades researching the four Younger brothers--Bob, Cole, Jim and John--ex-Confederate Army guerrillas whose life of crime ended with the famous Northfield, Minn., raid of 1876 in which Bob, Jim and Cole were captured. Affluent, intelligent sons of a respected Missouri family, the foursome were, in Brant's compassionate view, unable to distinguish between wartime and peacetime conduct. She pores over their family tree, and examines the Missouri-Kansas border war's effects on the Youngers. She also traces their involvement with the Frank and Jesse James gang and the lengthy incarcerations of charismatic Cole Younger, who received a pardon in 1903 and died in 1916, and his bookish, brilliant brother Jim, who was paroled in 1901 and committed suicide the following year. Brant's dedication notwithstanding, she proves unable to sift the significant from the trivial, so that the Younger brothers emerge from her biography as inscrutable as ever. Photos. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal In this in-depth biography, Brant shows that the Younger brothers--Cole, Bob, John, and Jim--were motivated by commitment, and she sets them firmly in the context of their times, clearly explaining how and why the sons of a prominent western Missouri merchant turned to a life of crime in the years following the Civil War. In the process, she also shows what life on the Missouri-Kansas border was like for those who supported the Confederacy. Brant has carefully crafted a comprehensive and informal account based on the available primary sources and has properly qualified many statements for which definitive proof is lacking. She successfully involves readers in the Youngers' story, making this work especially appealing to a general audience. Recommended for most libraries.

- Stephen H. Peters, Northern Michigan Univ. Lib., Marquette Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the Back Cover This biographical history tells the story of an American family in conflict and four brothers' attempts to regain the prestigious position their family once held. Loaded with never-before-published photos and little-known facts, this probing character study examines the men, the myths, and the legends of the Outlaw Youngers. The Youngers - Bob, Cole, Jim, and John - tested the boundaries of the violent and turbulent post-Civil War society in which they lived. The author investigates events from the Border and Civil Wars, details of the Youngers' attempts at legitimate ranching in Texas, and the frequent and often brutal murders and robberies. Using never-before-published accounts from Jim and Bob Younger, the author presents a new theory regarding the James-Younger gang and the actual Younger involvement - a theory which opposes the one held for over 100 years. She also offers insights into the Northfield robbery and gives reasons why the Youngers' parole was delayed. Meticulous research exposes the controversial truth about the Youngers and refutes the folklore that surrounds the infamous outlaw brothers.