

TUSCO TIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TUSCO LONG RIDERS

"The Shooting Makes It Fun, the People Make It Special"

June 2020

Writer/Editor: Baby Doll Blue

June

After 2 months off, we are back shooting again! Congrats to our Top Overall shooter, Gray Hare, and Bdoc who is our Top Women's shooter. Thanks to Life-R and Doc Adams for their donation to the prize table. We look forward to seeing you all again in July!

Top 20

1. Gray Hare
2. Roscoe Ranger
3. John Barleycorn
4. Cheyenne Culpepper
5. Hooligan Howes
6. Swiss
7. Rowdy Bishop
8. Buckaroo Bubba
9. Stone Creek Drifter
10. Gray Squirrel
11. One More Woody
12. Sixgun Seamus
13. Buckshot Charlie Bill
14. Cheatin Charlie
15. Bdoc
16. Life-R
17. N.A.Custer
18. Thunder Creek kid
19. Harold Doc Adams
20. Moosetracks

Clean Shooters

Buckshot Charlie Bill	Prairie Dawg
Cheatin Charlie	Random Lee
Gray Hare	Short Gun Shorty
Hooligan Howes	Sixgun Seamus
John Barleycorn	Swiftwater Jack
Kit Coleen	Thaddeus Jones
Moosetracks	

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Next Shoot: July 4th 2020



Prairie Dawg's Old West Chronicles

A Compendium of Useful Information – June, 2020

James -- Younger Gang in Modern Film

The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid

The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid is a 1972 Western film about the James -- Younger Gang distributed by Universal Pictures. It was directed by Philip Kaufman, and starred:

Cliff Robertson as Cole Younger
Robert Duvall as Jesse James
Luke Askew as Jim Younger
R. G. Armstrong as Clell Miller
John Pearce as Frank James
Matt Clark as Bob Younger



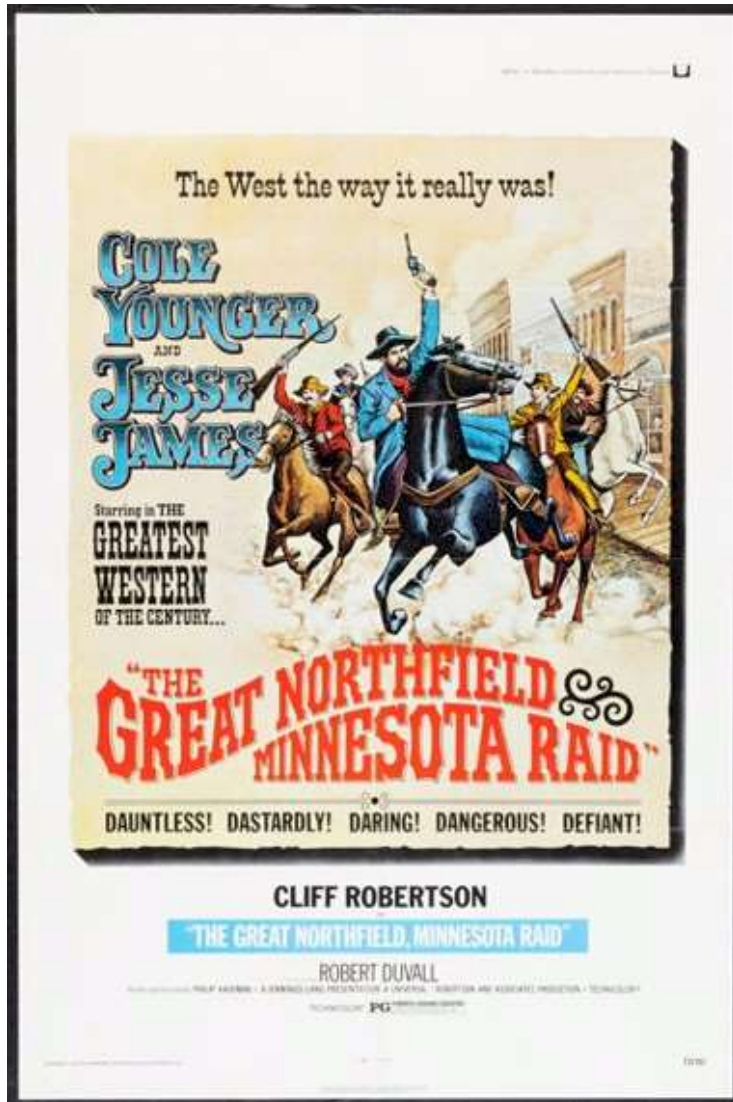
The film purports to recreate the James -- Younger Gang's most infamous escapade, the September 7, 1876, robbery of "the biggest bank west of the Mississippi" in Northfield, Minnesota.

The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid is a great, original Western, with seductive regional twangs and headlong wit and invention. The writer and director, Philip Kaufman, gets closer than most to the truth of the Jesse James -- Cole Younger story. He squeezes plenty of drama, meaning, pictorial beauty, and fun from their exploits, and glues your attention to the bouncing ball of his narrative. The period look pays homage to nineteenth-century graphics, then rips right through them with the speed and thump of the action. Kaufman's movie isn't just about the demise of an outlaw gang -- it's also about the end of an era of superstition and myth.

Cole Younger (Cliff Robertson) survives partly because he has something to look forward to -- he loves the machines and the gadgets that the U.S. Centennial of 1876 helped publicize -- while Jesse James (Robert Duvall) still lives out the Dixie side of the Civil War. James sees Northfield as just another hamlet ripe for pillaging, but Younger, when not training his eyes on the town bank, drinks in all the novel sights, including mechanized farm machines and baseball, that brand-new "national sport." Duvall gives one of his funniest and most terrifying performances, playing James as a sly, snaky guy who at times displays shameless religious hucksterism.

While *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* is offbeat & a bit ragged, it is a totally absorbing Western. This film profiles the infamous yet celebrated James-Younger gang in relatively

realistic terms, showing them for the murderous and desperate men they probably were, while offering a refreshingly sophisticated and cynical political analysis of their situation. Though it borrows heavily from late 1960s-early 1970s Western genre landmarks, such as *Bonnie And Clyde*, and *McCabe And Mrs. Miller*, it remains interesting for its depiction of how exploitive capitalism -- the railroads in this case -- compels somewhat simpleminded farmers into outlaw lives.



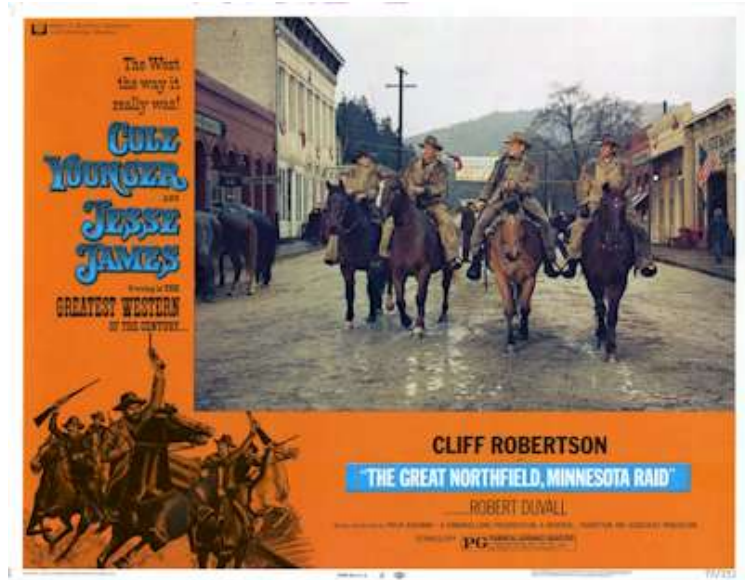
The Missouri legislature is preparing to vote on granting amnesty to those notorious outlaws, Jesse James (Duvall) and Cole Younger (Robertson). Some enlightened members argue that these men and their followers were driven into crime by powerful behind-the-scenes interests that appropriated their lands. Cole is willing to accept the amnesty and return to farming, but James argues that nothing will change, and the railroads will continue to steal their land, and their persecution will never stop. He's right. After the amnesty motion is ruled out of order, James plans to take the gang from their native Missouri to rob the big bank in Northfield, Minnesota, after reading a newspaper account about its financial standing as the biggest bank west of the Mississippi. Things go wrong.

Although director-writer Kaufman claimed to have researched the real tale of the James-Younger gang while studying history at the University of Chicago, many of his details are inaccurate, and some scenes are outright fabrications. However, the awkward, crude, and unsophisticated dialogue is appropriate to the period, region, and characters. Duvall delivers an interesting interpretation of Jesse James as a borderline psychotic. Robertson credibly portrays Cole Younger as a cunning, intelligent and even sensitive person. The supporting players also are all believable, and the production seems clearly authentic. One of the best profiles of the James -- Younger gang yet made, although Walter Hill's *The Long Riders* more aptly captures the character of the gang.

Clearly a fair amount of research had been done, but changes were made to suit the story. It has the right participants of the raid, but Charlie Pitts and Bill Chadwell are presented as long-term members of the gang, when they were actually recent recruits. It is true that Bob Younger resented Cole's overbearing personality and had fallen for Jesse's charisma. The screen Jim Younger does not talk because he was shot in the mouth by a Bushwhacker. In reality, the wound was received at Northfield, and it seems unlikely that he would have been shot by a Bushwhacker, since Confederate guerrillas in Missouri were called Bushwhackers.

Duvall plays Jesse with a rattlesnake-like menace, pretending to see visions in order to win leadership of the gang from Cole, and even stealing Cole's idea for the Northfield raid, although he has no genuine loyalty to the other members of the gang.

This version of Jesse is a borderline sociopath, who kills men on a whim, does not believe that the war is over, and views all Yankees as prey. Always carrying a Bible, Frank is a bit simple in the head and worships Jesse.



In the movie, Clell Miller had given up robbing for his wife, who hates the outlaws, but he joins the raid because he misses the excitement. Although the real Clell Miller had been an active member of the gang for several years before the raid on Northfield, this is a key element in the history of the real James -- Younger Gang. By 1876, many members of the gang had settled down, and were unwilling to risk their lives robbing banks. Only younger outlaws like Jesse still craved the adrenalin rush.



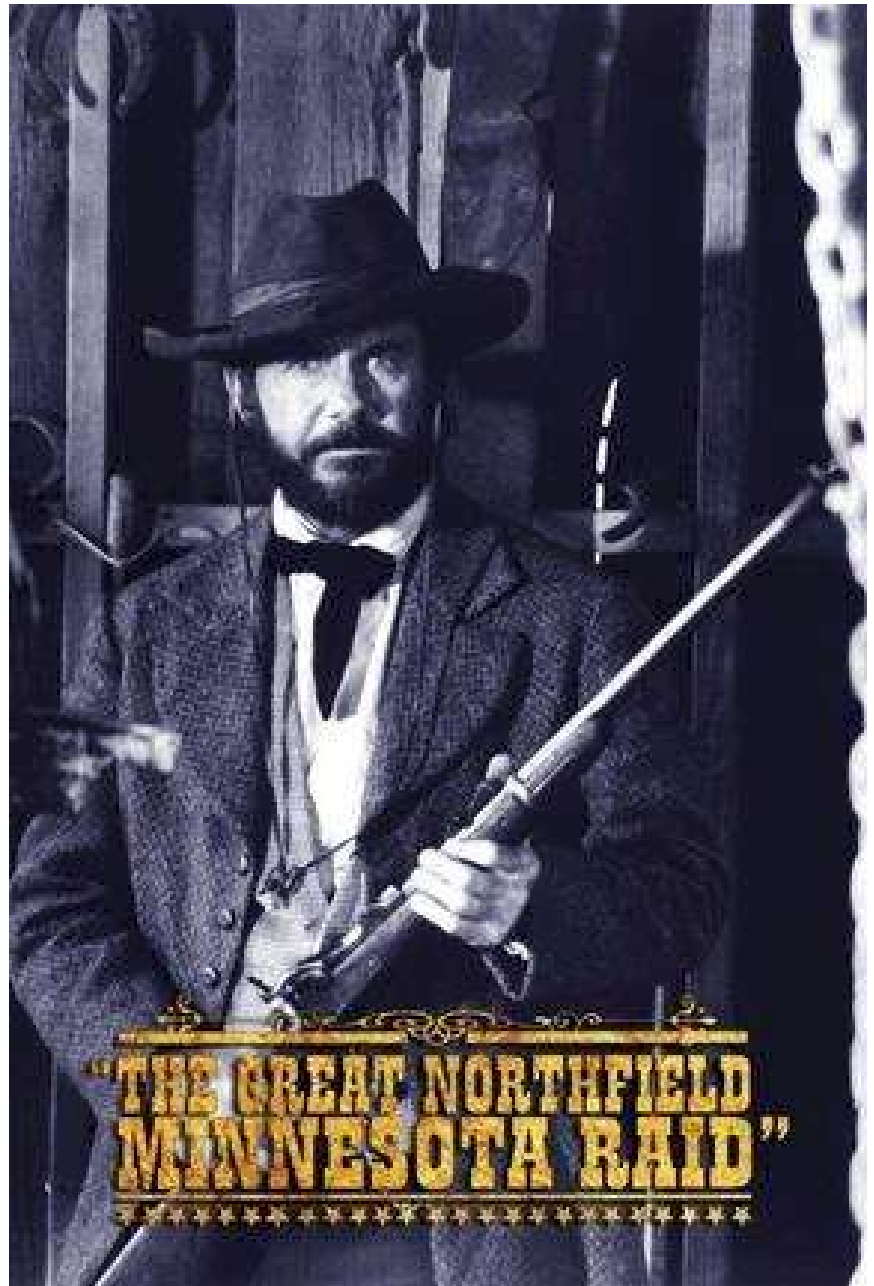
The script has a very good grasp of the economic situation in the United States at the time, showing how people struggled to survive outside events beyond their control, such as bank crashes, crops destroyed by locusts and influenza epidemics.

The real gang did spend a couple of weeks in Northfield, posing as cattle buyers and staying in the red light district to avoid attention, while they mapped out escape routes.

A large portion of the film takes place in Northfield, which enables Kaufman to support the theme that technology is rapidly transforming the outlaws' world. While it is not mentioned by the screenplay, the gang's future was grim. Recent recruit Hobbs Kerry had been captured about a month earlier after throwing around money from his share of the proceeds of a previous robbery. Although he did not know anything about the planned raid in Northfield, he had confessed the names of the members of the gang, so the noose was tightening around the outlaws.

The key players in Northfield appear but they are given different roles.

- Nicolaus Gustavson is a crazy man who had lost his son during the war, instead of an innocent man caught in the crossfire.
- Henry Wheeler was a medical student, but there is no evidence that he was so near-sighted that he was almost legally blind.
- The greatest change is the transformation of the bank president into a greedy slimeball, who justifies his willingness to cheat the townspeople by saying that financiers and speculators like Jay Gould and James Fisk did the same.
- This portrayal ignores the fact that the gang decided to rob the bank at Northfield because one of its owners was ex-governor, senator and Union general Adelbert Ames, and former Union general Benjamin Butler had deposited a very large sum of money in the bank.



Furthermore, banks typically had a reserve in greenbacks, not gold, to cover withdrawals. However, the transformation aids Kaufman's unflattering look at establishment figures, although the hanging of innocent men by worked up posses was probably far too common, since justice was often hard and fast at that time.

Despite meticulous planning, Cole's robbery does not go as planned, and the entire town starts shooting at the gang, but run away when the outlaws fire back. In reality, a handful of residents calmly picked apart the most feared gang in the United States. The story gets the general facts right, showing who was killed in the town, who died during the pursuit, and who goes to prison, but the survivors had received many more wounds during the shootout in front of the bank.

While the screenplay may have stretched the facts, it is definitely an enjoyable movie, largely because of Robertson's Cole Younger, who strolls through the film expressing wonderment at each new technological marvel. The scene where the James brothers are trying to remember if they had ever robbed an innocent man, aside from the banks and railroads, while sitting next to each other in an outhouse, gives the film an earthy feel.

Despite the setting, the movie is more of a caper than a traditional Western. It is also the first Jesse James movie where Cole, not Jesse, originates the idea for the raid, as well as destroys the myth that the outlaws stole from the rich and gave to the poor.

Give it a look. It's a neat film that paints a picture much different than your typical John Wayne Western. Dawg gives it Two Thumbs Up!

Next month:

We'll take a look at another version of the James -- Younger Gang's last robbery, Walter Hill's *The Long Riders*

High Noon 2020

Registration now open

Don't wait! We sold out in 10 Days last year!

Check out

<https://www.tuscolongriders.com/>
for more details

News & Notes

Six Stages

We shoot six stages at Tusco. A few people have told us that they drive a good distance to shoot at Tusco and would like to shoot as much as possible. Obviously we only have room for five shooting bays. So what we do is shoot the first stage you start on twice.

Consider it a warm up stage. Only five stages will be scored. You can take your best time on your first stage. If you don't want to shoot it twice you do not have to. This would provide more shooting for our shooters.

New SASS Magazine

With the new release of the SASS Quarterly Cowboy Chronicle, I once again would like to start collecting any unwanted issues of the magazine. We will use these for our promotional events, like our Tusco Long Riders' Day at Kames Sports. Please either black out or cut off your name and address or I will do it before they are passed out.

Thank you!

Facebook Page

When you make a post about Tusco or share pictures on Facebook, include #TuscoLongRiders. Let everyone see what we are all about.

New Shooters Shoot for Free at Tusco

The Tusco Long Riders will be offering FREE SHOOTS to ALL FIRST TIME SHOOTERS AT TUSCO. This is ONLY for a shooter's first ever shoot at Tusco. (*this is only for monthly matches, excluding High Noon 3-day Shoot in October, and the Charity Shoot in November.)

Cowboy Swap Meet at Monthly Shoots

As a reminder, feel free to bring your old Cowboy Gear, Guns and Equipment to sell at our monthly shoots. It's a good opportunity to sell some of your unwanted stuff to your fellow shooters. Your items are your responsibility.

Pre-Paid Shoots

Looking for that perfect Gift for your Cowboy Friends and Family? How about a Pre-paid Shoot to a Tusco Monthly Match. They cost \$10.00 each at a shoot or they can be mailed for \$10.50. Contact Buckaroo Bubba at pittfandwr@aol.com or 330-348-5637 if you would like to purchase them.

Help Wanted at Tusco

If you are available to help set up target stands/props before our shoots it would be greatly appreciated.

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Supporting Clubs

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www.bigirons.com

Blackhand Raiders

Nashpost, Ohio
www.blackhandraiders.com/home.html

Brown Township Regulators

Malvern, Ohio
www.browntownshipregulators.com

Firelands Peacemakers

Rochester, Ohio
www.firelandspeacemakers.com

Greene County Cowboys

Xenia, Ohio
www.gcfng.com/gccowboys/index.html

Henderson Wild Justice League

Williamstown, WV
<http://hendersonwilds.com/>

Logan's Ferry Regulators

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
www.logansferrysportsmens.com

Miami Valley Cowboys

Piqua, Ohio
www.miamivalleycowboys.org/

Ohio Valley Vigilantes

Mount Vernon, Ohio
www.ohiovv.com/

Sandusky County Regulators

Gibsonburg, Ohio
<http://scsclub.org/events/cowboy-action/>

Scioto Territory Desperados

Chillicothe, Ohio
www.sciotodesperados.com

Shenango River Rats

Masury, Ohio
www.brookfieldconservation.com/Cowboy.html

Wild West Point

West Point, Ohio
www.affox.com/casscores/westpoint.html

Tusco Long Riders' Mercantile

Brought to you by: LouAnn's Sewing Shoppe

One-Shot Al & Needle-Eye Annie



The collage displays a variety of custom-made items for the Tusco Long Riders. It includes several baseball caps in tan and white, some with "TUSCO LONG RIDERS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING" and others with "BUCKAROO BUBBA". There are grey and white t-shirts, a white drawstring bag, and a white drawstring bag with "BUCKAROO BUBBA" branding. A set of three patches is shown, each featuring the "TUSCO LONG RIDERS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING" logo. A grey vest and a white mug also feature the same logo. A hand holding scissors is shown cutting a dashed line across the bottom of the collage.

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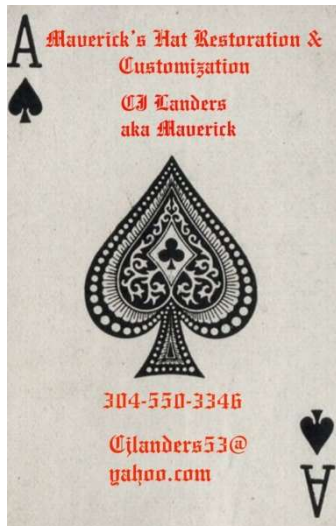


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