

“Whiskey Spoiled the Whole Plan”

*The Story of the Millersburg Swedes &
The Northfield Bank Robbery*

“A Church That Jesse Built”

Legends of Jesse James

By B. Wayne Quist



CHRISTDALA SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

On the National Register of Historic Places

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CHRISTDALA - 1877

On the National Register of Historic Places

In Swedish, Christdala means “Christ’s Valley”



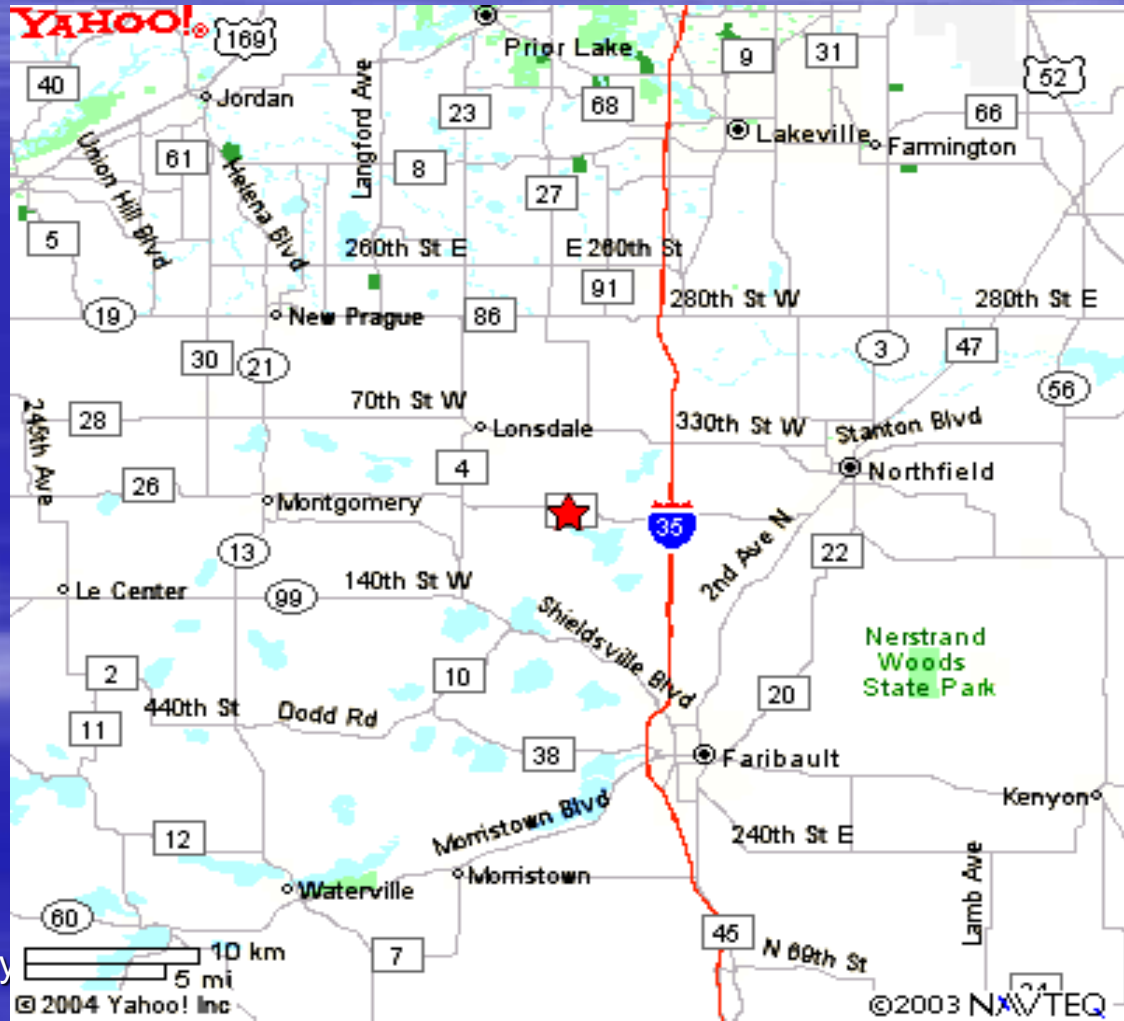
CHRISTDALA – 1877

- Christdala is located 40 miles south of the Twin Cities in rural Forest Township on Rice County #1
 - Interstate 35 - Exit 66
 - West one mile to Millersburg Schoolhouse & Boonie's Grill (the historic Dodd Road runs through Millersburg)
 - Continue one mile further west to Christdala
- Christdala is on the right, on a small hill at the northwest edge of Circle Lake on Rice County #1
 - 11 miles west of Northfield
 - 8 miles west of Dundas
 - 14 miles north of Faribault
 - 6 miles southeast of Lonsdale

CHRISTDALA – 1877

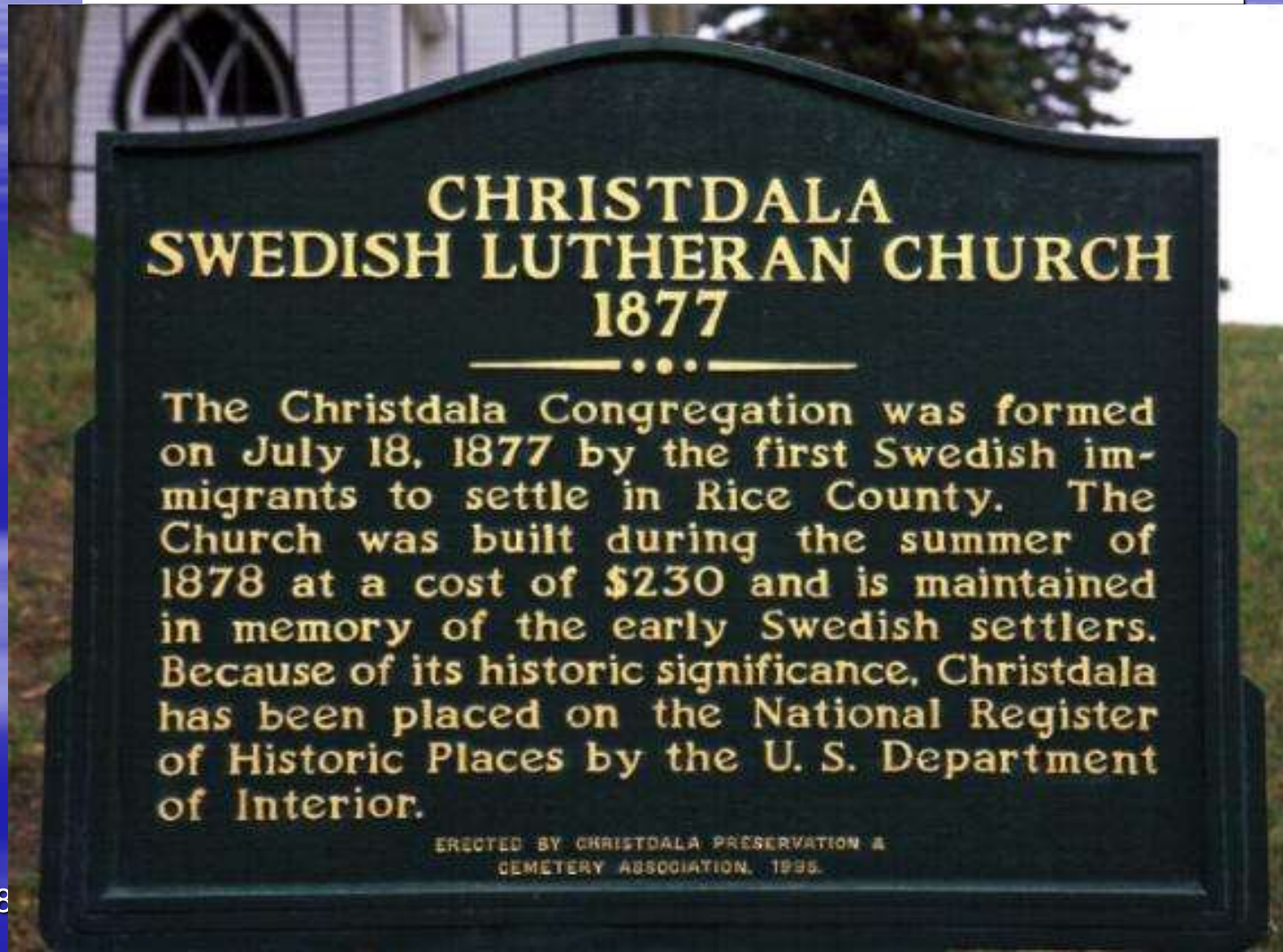
4795 Millersburg Blvd Lonsdale, MN 55046-4447

CHRISTDALA



THE STORY OF CHRISTDALA

On the National Register of Historic Places



History of Christdala

- 1853 – Building the Dodd Road
- 1855 – A Village called “Millersburg”
- 1870s - **Swedish Settlers Arrive**
- Burdens of Immigrant Life in the “Big Woods”
 - Clearing Trees, Breaking Sod, Grasshopper Plagues, Disease, Economic Depression
- Tragedy Builds a Church
 - Northfield Bank Robbery
 - Murder of Nicolaus Gustafson
 - “The Church that Jesse Built” – Legend of Jesse James
- 1877-1914 – Hard Work, Sustenance & Growth
- 1930-1966 – Inevitable Decline
- 1994 – Christdala Preservation Association
 - A New Rebuilding, Historic Preservation

CHRISTDALA - 1877

On the National Register of Historic Places

- Because of its unique historic significance –
 - Christdala was Formally Placed on The National Register of Historic Places in June 1995 by the U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service
- Formal Dedication Ceremony at Christdala with State Historical Society & Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Joanne Benson:
 - *“The Church and cemetery reflect the distinct accomplishments and contributions that these early Swedish immigrants made to the community and to early Rice County and southern Minnesota history.”*
 - *“Today Christdala serves as a historical reminder of the significance of ethnic Swedish communities such as Christdala in the early history of Minnesota.”*

HISTORIC CONTEXT

- 1840-1918 - Over 1.2 million Swedish immigrants settled in the United States - mostly in Minnesota
- 1878 to 1918 - First 40 years of Christdala correspond to the high point of Swedish immigration into the U. S. & into Goodhue & Rice counties in southern Minnesota

Millersburg & Christdala

1840-1914 – More than 1.2 million Swedes emigrated to U.S., mostly to Minn.

1853-1856 – Dodd Road built thru Millersburg, George Miller acquired 160 acres, platted a village recorded as “Millersburg” in the “Big Woods”

- Sawmill, hotel, general store, post office, creamery, blacksmith shop
- “Yankee” settlers from Northfield & New England

1870 – First Swedish immigrants came from Red Wing-Vasa area

- Church services were held in their homes

1871 – Lester post office was established one mile west of Christdala - Postmaster John W. Thompson served in both armies during Civil War

- Thompson’s business card: “Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, Real Estate Developer, Minnesota State Legislature, Postmaster, Farmer”
- Half a dozen Swedish families lived in the Millersburg vicinity

1873 – Severe economic depression – massive grasshopper plague

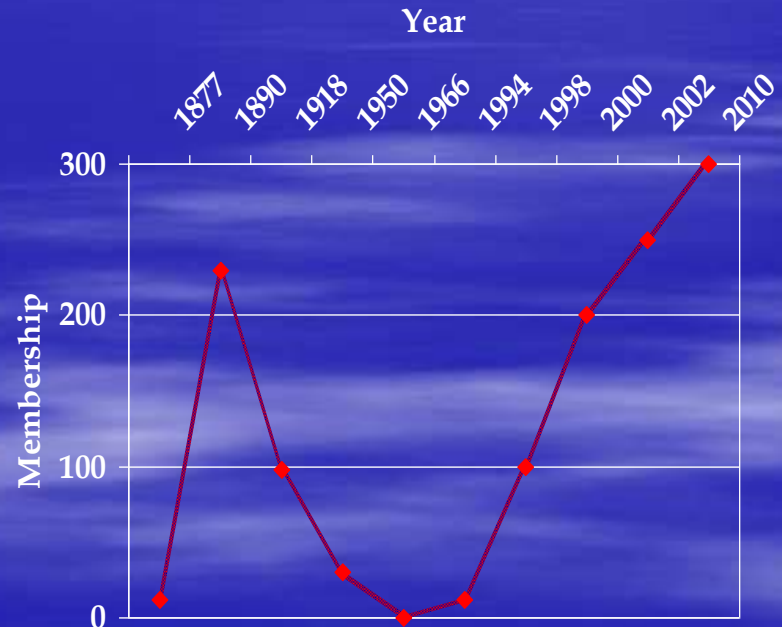
1876 – Nicolaus Gustafson, recent immigrant from Sweden, was shot & killed September 7th during aborted James-Younger robbery of Northfield bank

- Buried in Northfield - Millersburg Swedes had no church or cemetery
- Immediately started their own church & cemetery west of Millersburg
“A Church that Jesse Built”

CHRISTDALA MEMBERSHIP

- Christdala membership peaked in 1890 with 230 members
- By 1918 Christdala had declined to fewer than 100 members
 - Education was important to the early Swedish immigrants
 - Once educated, the young people typically left their farms for opportunities in Minneapolis & St. Paul, 40 miles north of Christdala
- By 1938 - 6 of the first pioneer settlers remained in the original Christdala community
- By 1950 there were only 30 members of the congregation
- Services were eventually terminated in the 1960s
- The congregation was formally disbanded August 21, 1966
- Today there are nearly 300 members in the Christdala Preservation Association

CHRISTDALA MEMBERSHIP



Millersburg Historic District



THE MILLERSBURG SWEDES

& the

JAMES-YOUNGER GANG

The Dodd Road - 1853

- Minnesota's First Major Highway
- Built in 1853 by Captain William B. Dodd
 - Connect Fort Snelling & St. Peter via Millersburg with Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River
- In 2003, 6.8 miles of the original Dodd Road running west from Millersburg were placed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Rice County signs along the old Dodd Road:
 - Historic Dodd Road, 1853
 - Route of James-Younger Gang, 1876

DODD ROAD - RICE COUNTY #1



Old Map of Dodd Road - 1853



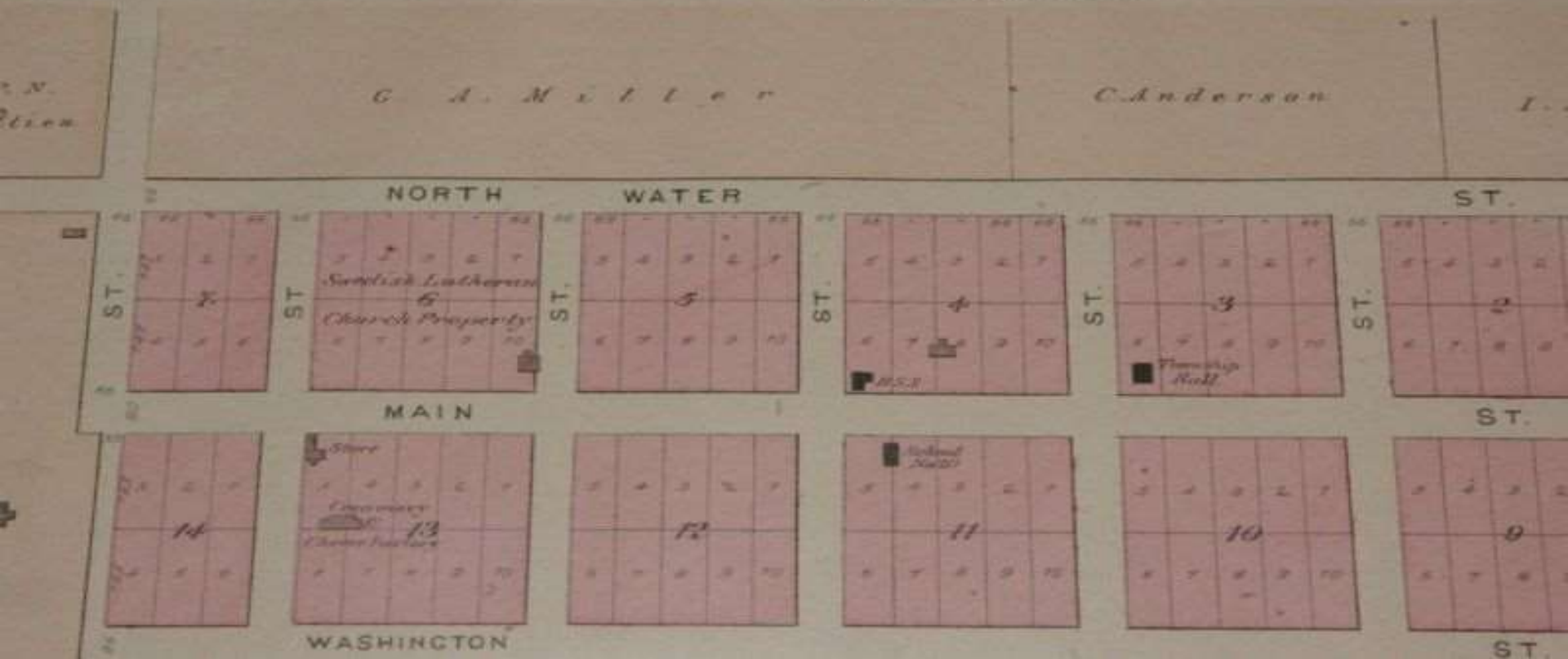
HISTORY OF MILLERSBURG



Millersburg Historic District - 1855

MILLERSBURG.

Scale: 200 ft.: 1 Inch.



Millersburg Store - 1890



Millersburg School - 1897



Millersburg School - 1935



MILLERSBURG SCHOOL

1881

DISTRICT 20

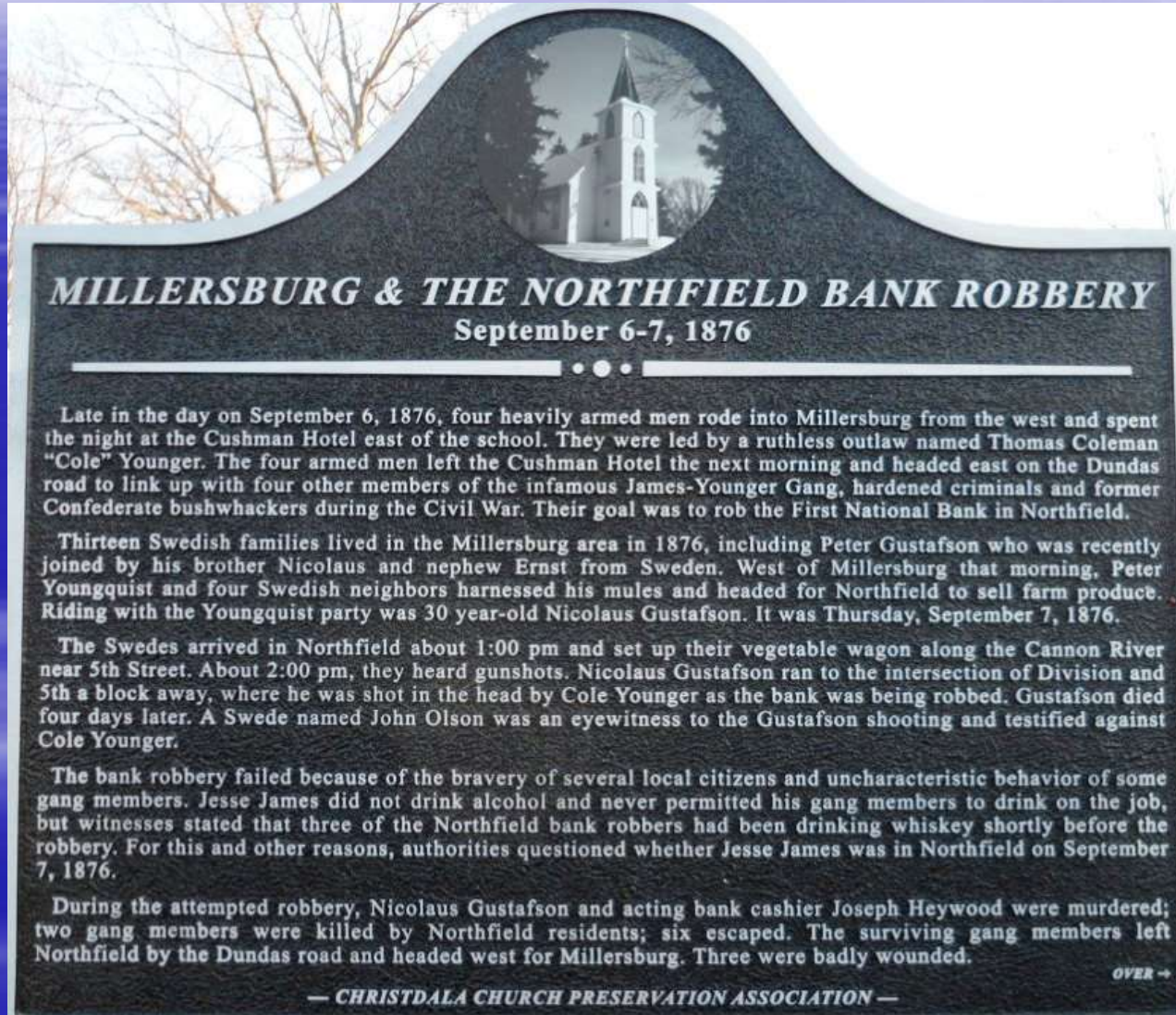
Maintained by The Christdala Preservation Association



Millersburg Schoolhouse Museum



Millersburg & Northfield Bank Robbery - 1876



MILLERSBURG & THE NORTHFIELD BANK ROBBERY
September 6-7, 1876

Late in the day on September 6, 1876, four heavily armed men rode into Millersburg from the west and spent the night at the Cushman Hotel east of the school. They were led by a ruthless outlaw named Thomas Coleman "Cole" Younger. The four armed men left the Cushman Hotel the next morning and headed east on the Dundas road to link up with four other members of the infamous James-Younger Gang, hardened criminals and former Confederate bushwhackers during the Civil War. Their goal was to rob the First National Bank in Northfield.

Thirteen Swedish families lived in the Millersburg area in 1876, including Peter Gustafson who was recently joined by his brother Nicolaus and nephew Ernst from Sweden. West of Millersburg that morning, Peter Youngquist and four Swedish neighbors harnessed his mules and headed for Northfield to sell farm product. Riding with the Youngquist party was 30 year-old Nicolaus Gustafson. It was Thursday, September 7, 1876.

The Swedes arrived in Northfield about 1:00 pm and set up their vegetable wagon along the Cannon River near 5th Street. About 2:00 pm, they heard gunshots. Nicolaus Gustafson ran to the intersection of Division and 5th a block away, where he was shot in the head by Cole Younger as the bank was being robbed. Gustafson died four days later. A Swede named John Olson was an eyewitness to the Gustafson shooting and testified against Cole Younger.

The bank robbery failed because of the bravery of several local citizens and uncharacteristic behavior of some gang members. Jesse James did not drink alcohol and never permitted his gang members to drink on the job, but witnesses stated that three of the Northfield bank robbers had been drinking whiskey shortly before the robbery. For this and other reasons, authorities questioned whether Jesse James was in Northfield on September 7, 1876.

During the attempted robbery, Nicolaus Gustafson and acting bank cashier Joseph Heywood were murdered; two gang members were killed by Northfield residents; six escaped. The surviving gang members left Northfield by the Dundas road and headed west for Millersburg. Three were badly wounded.

— CHRISTDALA CHURCH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION —

OVER →

Younger Gang Rides into Town

- Late in the evening of September 6, 1876, four heavily armed men rode into Millersburg from the west on the Dodd Road from St. Peter & Mankato
- They stopped at the Millersburg Store, bought three bottles of whiskey, asked for directions to Northfield & Dundas, & for a place to sleep
- They spent the night at the Cushman Hotel east of the school – the building still stands
 - Young Charles Cushman slept in the attic, heard them talk, listened as they drank whisky & cleaned their weapons

Cushman Hotel Today



First Swedish Settlers

- 1870 - First Swedish settlers arrived in Rice County, 10 miles west of Northfield, near the Village of Millersburg in Forest Township
 - Their names were Youngquist, Johnson, Olson, Swanson, Gustafson
- They saw America's natural abundance & cheap farmland as God's plan for humanity
- By 1876, there were 13 Swedish families living in the Millersburg community – just 25 people
 - Forest Township had nearly 750, Dundas 500, Northfield 3,000

Mostly From Southern Sweden

- Småland
- Blekinge
- Skåne
- Västergötland
- Östergötland
- Halland



Immigrant Life Was Not Easy

- Many Burdens to Bear
 - Trees & Stumps to Clear, Sod to Break
 - Disease, Epidemics, Economic Depression
 - Terrible Grasshopper Plague 1873-1877
- They Were Poor People like all Immigrants
 - Homes were bare and cold, tools & clothing homemade, oil wicks set in grease provided light
- Bartered in Town –
 - Traded Farm Produce for Precious Tools & Winter Clothing

America's "Melting Pot"

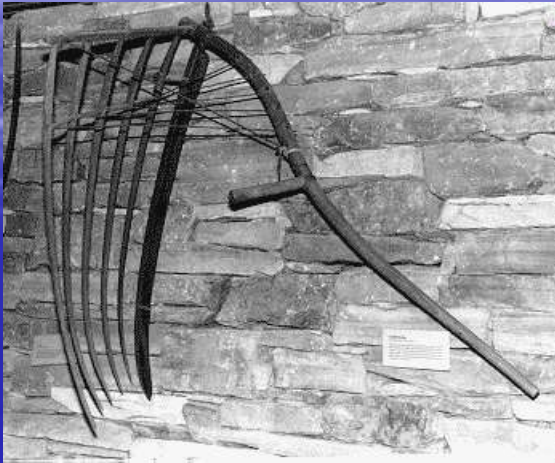
- **Hard-working, Industrious & Inventive**
- **Law-abiding & Neighborly**
- **Old world skills**
 - Excellent Farmers, Loggers, Woodsmen
- **Valued Education & Self-improvement**
 - Quickly learned to read & write English
 - Saw Advantages of Self-government
- **Devout & Community-minded**
- **Became Dedicated Civic Leaders**

CHRISTDALA - 1877

"The Melting Pot"

- A member of the Christdala Swedish community remembered:
 - *"West of Millersburg we have Irish, French and Bohemian settlements, Norwegians to the north and Germans to the south. All good neighbors."*
- In 1928 an early Swedish settler recounted the many changes he had witnessed since coming to America:
 - *"Sowing of seed was by hand, the wheat harvested by cradle; binding was by hand, and then came the mower, then the reaper, then the binder. Oxen were replaced by horses, then tractors; oil wicks in grease were replaced with candles and then by kerosene lamps."*

“...sewing of seed was by hand,
wheat harvested by cradle...”



“...oxen replaced by horses...”



...for plowing, haying, threshing...



“then came the mower, the binder...”



“...self-raking McCormick reaper...”



1876 Was A Banner Year

- America's Centennial, 1776-1876
 - Philadelphia Exposition – Ames Mill Flour Prize
 - Archibald Dundas Mill – London, U.S. Flour Prizes
- General Custer killed - Little Big Horn, MT
- Wild Bill Hickok killed, Deadwood, SD
- Severe Economic Depression - Panic of 1873
- Disputed Presidential Election - 1876
- Reconstruction Ended - Bitterness, Distrust
 - General Adelbert Ames was forced to resign as Governor of Mississippi – went to Northfield
 - Rumors of Mississippi cash in Northfield bank

The Northfield Bank Raid

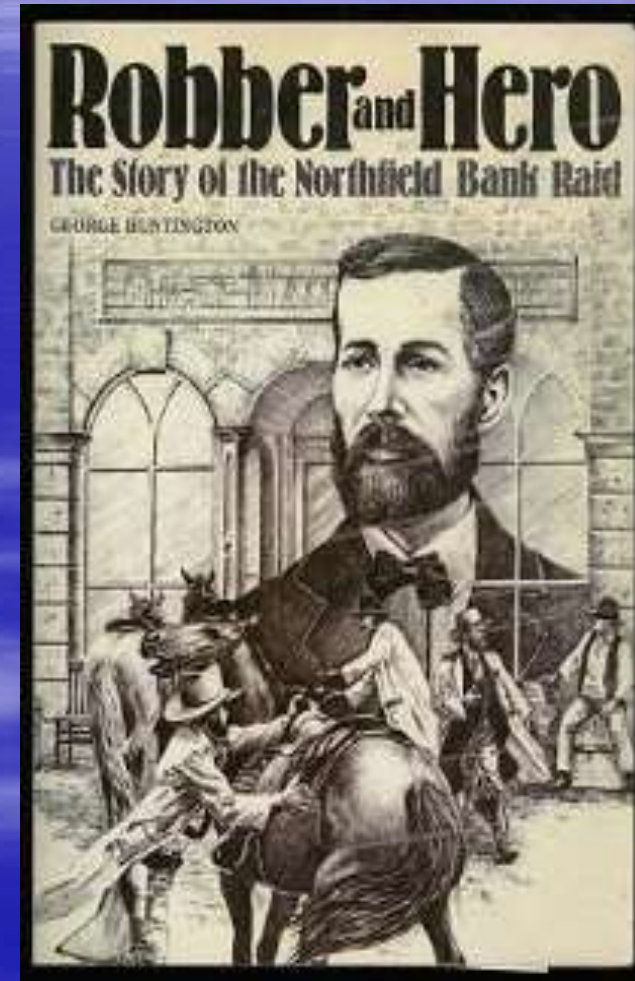
A Reckless Ride North From Missouri

James-Younger Gang Rides North

- August 1876 - Several heavily armed men took the train from Kansas City to St. Paul
 - The most hardened & dangerous criminals in America
- Gambled, met prostitutes in St. Paul, Minneapolis; purchased horses, split into two groups:
 - four went to Red Wing, four to St. Peter & Mankato
- Their plan – reconnaissance, meet between Northfield & Dundas on morning of September 7th
- There was a rumor - \$75,000 in the Northfield bank
“Easy pickins from damned Yankees”

Legends of Jesse James

- Mixture of Fact & Fiction
 - Civil War “Victims”
 - Robin Hood “Hero”
- Expansion of Slavery & Civil War
 - “Jayhawker” Abolitionists
 - Border War “Bushwhackers”
 - Civil War & Quantrill’s Raiders
- After the War, a Reign of Terror
 - 15 Murders from 1866-1876
 - Merciless Killings, Slaughter
 - Robbed Banks, Trains, Stages
 - America’s “Most Wanted”



Fact & Fiction Intertwined

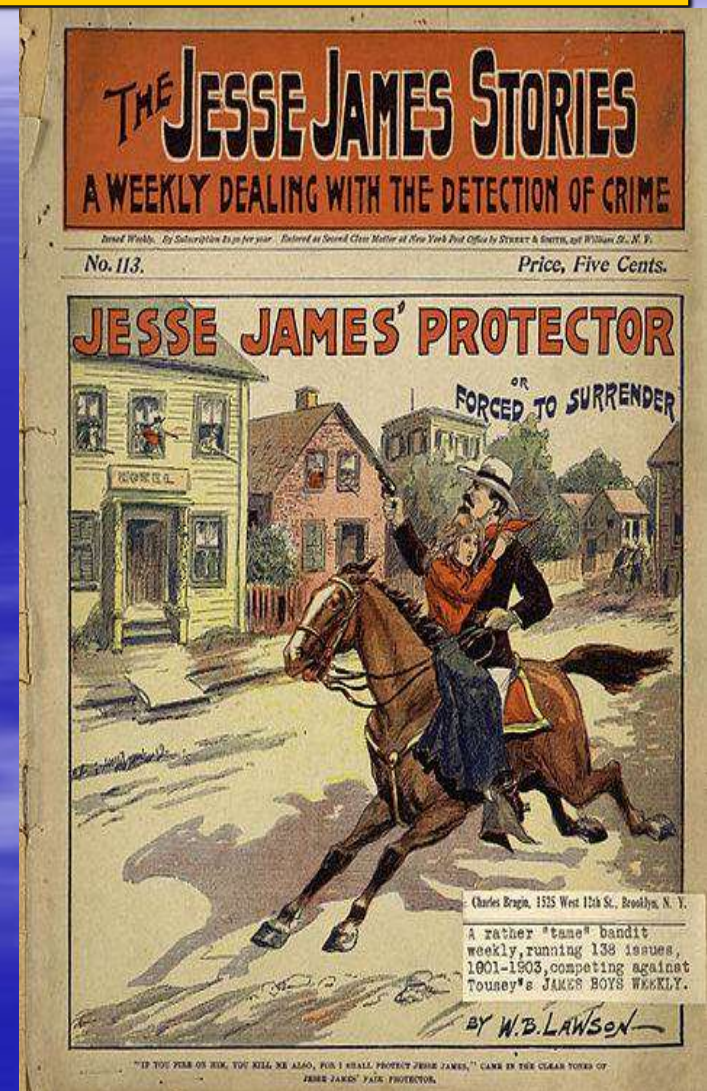
- Missouri was a slave state, divided, tried to secede
 - Population of Clay County was 27% Slave in 1850
- 1850s Border War Preceded Civil War
 - “*Bushwhackers*” vs “*Jayhawkers*,” Civil War Guerillas
 - Never Surrendered to Post-War Reconstruction
- Reign of Terror from 1866-1876
 - James/Younger Gang – America’s “Most Wanted”
- Pro-Confederate Missouri Newspapers
 - Sympathetic ex-Confederate Neighbors
 - 100s of Carelessly Written Books
 - People Accepted the Fiction, Doubted the Facts

James Farm - Clay County, Missouri

- Western Missouri was called “Little Dixie”
 - Clay County, population 27% Slave - sided with South in Civil War
- Father was Baptist Minister
 - Owned Six Slaves
- Ex-Confederate Support
 - Sympathetic Neighbors
- Friendly Newspapers
 - Dime Novel Fame
 - Only Wild Bill Hickok had more dime novels



Jesse James & "Dime Novels"



Mark Twain

***“...a truth is not hard to kill...
a lie told well is immortal.”***

“Advice to Youth,” 1882 Essay by Mark Twain

Destination Northfield

- Rumor - General Adelbert Ames, Yankee Reconstruction governor of Mississippi, deposited money in father's Northfield bank
 - James & Younger brothers never surrendered to civil authority after Civil War - robbed banks, trains, express companies, stage coaches
 - Robin Hood folk hero - “*rob the rich, give to the poor*” - legend & mythology developed
- Captain Jesse Ames owned the Ames Mill – famous for Northfield's “Malt-o-Meal”

The Ames Mill in Northfield



GENERAL AMES & JESSE JAMES

▪ Jesse James

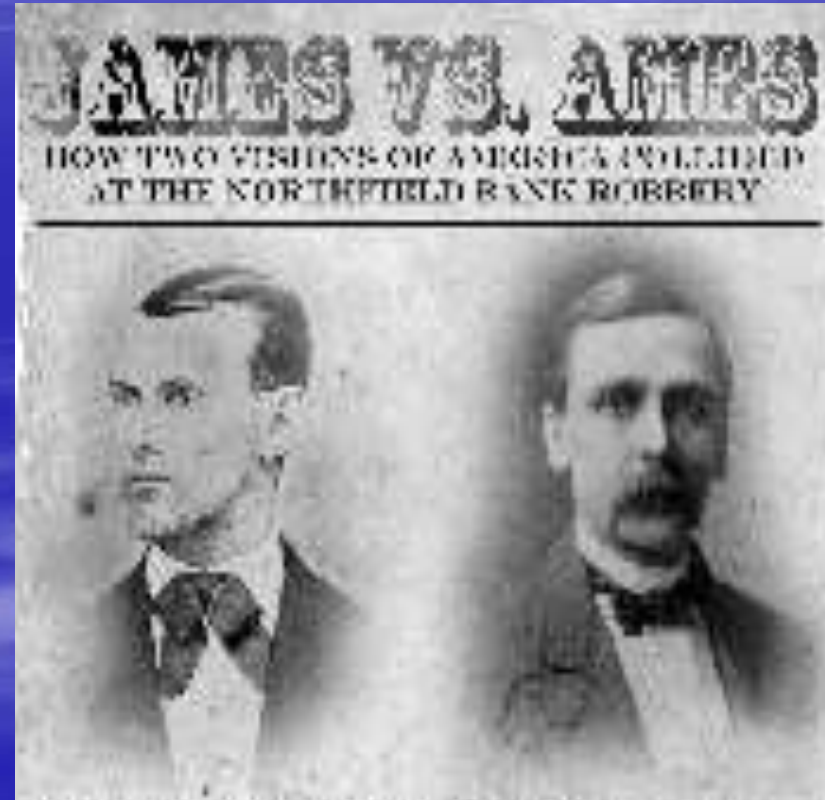
- Ex-Confederate Guerilla, Bushwhacker
- Notorious Outlaw
- Cold-blooded Killer

▪ Adelbert Ames

- Distinguished General
- Medal of Honor Winner
- Senator & Governor
- Father's Ames Mill

▪ Mississippi Gold

- Lingerin Doubt - Was Jesse in Northfield?



Northfield - 1876



Bridge and Square, 1876—James-Younger Bank Raid, Northfield, Minn.

Pub. by S. Finkelson.

Millersburg - September 6, 1876

- Late in the day Sept 6, 1876, four heavily armed men rode into Millersburg on the Dodd Road & spent the night at the Cushman Hotel east of the school
 - Charles Cushman (age 9½) slept in the attic with the Younger brothers the night before the bank robbery
- The four armed men left the Cushman Hotel the next morning & headed east on the Dundas road to link up with four other members of the ruthless James Younger Gang, America's "most wanted"
 - Led by Frank James & Cole Younger - hardened criminals, ex-Confederate guerillas during the Civil War
- Their goal – cut telegraph, terrorize citizens, and rob the First National Bank of Northfield - escape via Dodd Road

1ST NATIONAL BANK - NORTHFIELD



“Whiskey Spoiled the Whole Plan”

RICE COUNTY JOURNAL - Thursday, September 14, 1876, Vol. V, No. 2, Page 2, *The Northfield Tragedy of Sept 7. A Full Account of the Robbery, Incidentals*: “Four of the gang dined at Jeff’s restaurant, near the railroad station, between eleven and twelve on the day of the raid. Two called at John Tosney’s saloon on the West side. One called for wine and the other whisky, both drinking lightly. Two called at the Exchange saloon on the east side of the river and drank whisky.”

NORTHFIELD NEWS - Saturday, July 10, 1897, Number 28, Page 1: Statement from affidavit by Frank J. Wilcox, assistant bookkeeper, present in bank during the robbery: “The three who came in were Bob Younger, Pitts, and as I believe, Frank James. It was very evident they had been drinking as the smell of liquor was very strong.”

HEILBRON, WILLIAM CASPER - “Convict Life at the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota,” Copyright 1909, “Real Facts About the Northfield, Minnesota Bank Robbery,” related by Thomas Coleman Younger, Page 135: “Whisky spoiled the whole plan. Between the time they left camp and reached the bridge the men who went ahead got way with a quart of whisky - the first time I had ever known Bob to drink, and ...I didn’t know he had done so ... The blunder was ... instead of waiting for us to get up with them...they slammed right on into the bank regardless, leaving the door open.”

NORTHFIELD MUSEUM: “...three of them drank at the Exchange Saloon on Division Street and bought a quart of whiskey to take with them. The other five ate lunch, and may have had alcohol at Jeff’s restaurant on the Cannon River’s west side.”

The Millersburg Swedes

- Thirteen Swedish families lived in the Millersburg area in 1876 – Swedes doubled in 5 years
 - Peter Gustafson was joined by his brother Nicolaus & nephew Ernst from Sweden in July
- West of Millersburg, Peter Youngquist & four Swedish neighbors hitched mules to the lumber wagon, headed for Northfield to sell farm produce
- Riding with the Youngquist party was 30 year-old Nicolaus Gustafson – arrived from Sweden in July
 - It was Thursday morning, September 7, 1876

Northfield, Minnesota



Death of Nicolaus Gustafson

- The Swedes arrived in Northfield about 1:00 pm, set up their wagon at 5th & Division – Market Day
 - About 2:00 pm they heard gun shots near the Square
- Nicolaus Gustafson was at the corner of Division & Fifth Street when he was shot in the head by Cole Younger as the bank was being robbed
- Gustafson died four days later in Norwegian hotel
 - First president of St. Olaf College spoke at his funeral
 - A Swedish carpenter named John Olson was an eyewitness to the Gustafson shooting
 - Olson testified against Cole Younger in sworn affidavits, received death threats from ex-Confederates in Missouri

DIVISION ST. - MAIN DUNDAS ROAD



JOHN OLSON AFFADAVITS

NORTHFIELD NEWS, SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1897

“On the 7th of September 1876 as I was working in a cellar under the building [Bierman’s] on the corner, I heard shooting. I immediately ran up to see what was going on and went to the crossing on Fifth street one block south of the square...a man came up to me pointing a revolver and cursing me, ordered me to get away, calling me all kinds of names. I turned and ran down Fifth street and back to the cellar I came from. As I turned to run in, a Swede named Gustafson came running up and we met right half way between the corner and the stairway to the basement. This stairway is about 20 feet from the corner. Just as we met a ball struck Gustafson and he fell backwards, striking me on the leg and staggering me. I kept on running to the stairway, however, but on reaching the door, which was two steps below the street, I found it locked, so I squatted right down by the door. I looked up and as soon as my head was above the sidewalk the robber caught sight of me and told me to ‘sit right still where you are, or I’ll kill you, too.’ I took him up to the Norwegian hotel [Kildahl’s across from Bierman’s] and called a doctor. The doctor found that his skull was fractured and the bone had pierced the brain. He lived, however, about four days, during which time I and another man took care of him. From the position in which Gustafson was when he was shot, it was physically impossible for him to have been killed by a ball from the guns of any of those defending the bank. The ball would have had to turn the corner about ten or twelve feet. The building was a stone one. I believe he was shot by the robber guarding the corner. He [Cole Younger] was there during the entire time I was out of the cellar and was shooting all the time in every direction and was evidently set there to guard the corner.”

Lingering Questions Remained





(Above) Inside The First National Bank of Northfield, circa 1876.
(Below) Period Woodcut of Bank Raid by James-Younger Gang.



Where Gustafson Was Shot



SITE OF NORWEGIAN HOTEL WHERE GUSTAFSON DIED



Nicolaus Gustafson Funeral Sermon

Reverend Thorbjorn N. Mohn

First President of St. Olaf College &
Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church

Delivered Nicolaus Gustafson
Funeral Sermon, Sept 11, 1876

Source:

Record of Burials
St. John's Lutheran Church
Northfield, Minnesota

135

		Recorded	Funeral Name	Min.
1874				
1	12/19	12/12	Maria Kousatta, wife of Larsen, Synniva of Sweden	1
		7/20	Hilje, S.D. Sister of Gustaf Malm	
1876				
2	15/17	1/1	Ursi, A.H. Brother of Baynild	
3	19/22	1/1	Thorensen, Henry H. Thorsen of Klaseh	
4	7/8	7/8	Alfred Thorsen, A.H. Tinsberg of Bro. Tinsberg	3:00
5	7/8	7/8	Carl Edwards, " " " " "	3:00
6	7/8	7/8	Nicolaus Gustafson, death of Birnna Jongsos Bro	3:00
7			Anne Tollefsdatter	3:00
1877				
	Jan 7	Jan 9	Anne Tollefsdatter, Kone til Christopher Hansson	3:00
	Feb 17	Feb 19	Marie Stevens, " " John Stevens	2:15
	Aug 20	Aug 20	Christine Olsen	
1878				
	April 20	April 28	Anne Leisdel, Kone til O. P. Leisdel	
	July 20	July 20	Matthilde A. Lindby	2:5
	Nov 11	Nov 14	Jorge Hansson, Sister of Mrs. Hansen	1:15
1879				
	Nov 22	Nov 21	Kari Engbretsdatter, siddigst	2:0

Badly Bungled Robbery

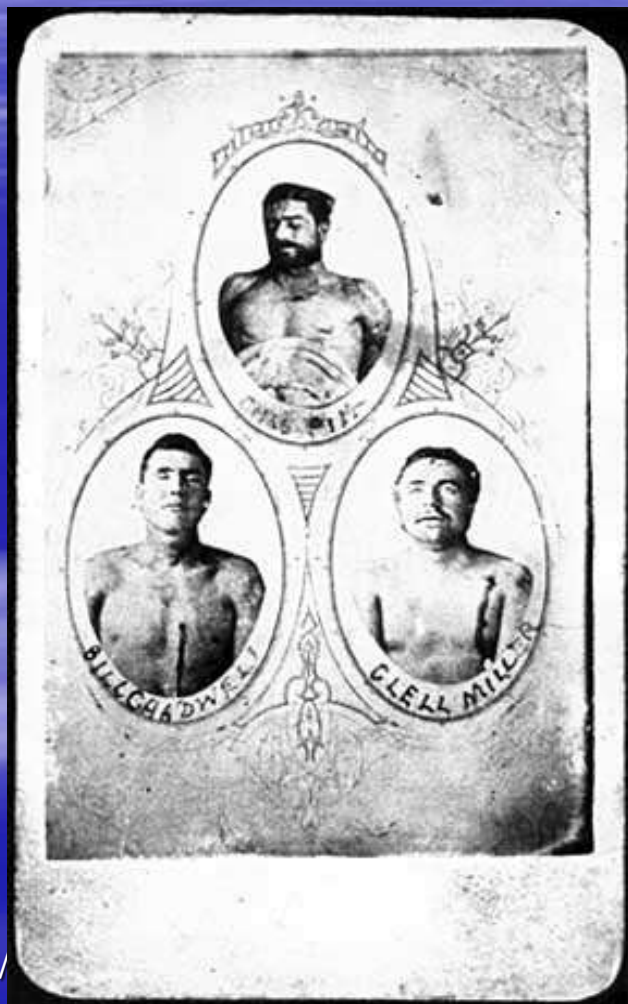
- Bank robbery failed - Unlike a typical Jesse James robbery
 - Gang members smelled of liquor, under the influence of alcohol
 - Local citizens became alarmed, bravely fought back
 - Jesse James was a disciplined military guerrilla leader
 - Did not drink alcohol, did not permit gang members to drink on job
 - Always used military-style planning & discipline, but not Northfield
- Robbers in bank reeked of whiskey – were seen drinking in town
 - Risky venture, poor planning, poor execution, unlike Jesse James
 - No evidence Jesse was in Northfield on September 7, 1876
 - Never indicted – no warrants or extradition (W. W. Pye conclusion)
- Nicolaus Gustafson & acting bank cashier Joseph Heywood were murdered; 2 gang members killed by Northfield residents; 6 escaped.
- The 6 surviving gang members headed south by main Dundas road, then west for Millersburg & escape to Missouri via the Dodd Road
 - Wounded, bleeding and in pain, lost 3 horses, riding double
 - Drunk, failed to cut telegraph lines – \$26.70 for their effort

Was Jesse James in Northfield?

You decide – “beyond a reasonable doubt”

- Northfield - Badly Bungled Robbery
 - Risky & Reckless Decision Far from Home
 - Poor Planning, Poor Execution – Who Was in Charge?
Jesse not in bank
 - Gang Under Influence of Alcohol, Multiple Witnesses
 - “Whisky spoiled the whole plan.” – Cole Younger
 - Jesse’s Wife & Son were in Nashville, Tennessee
 - Son’s 1st Birthday was August 31, 1876
 - Jesse’s birthday was Sept 5th – robbery Sept 7, 1876
 - Devoted to His Family, Never Missed a Birthday
 - Jesse & Cole - Not on Speaking Terms in 1876
- Jesse Denied Involvement in Northfield

The Human Toll from Northfield: 5 Killed, 3 captured, 2 escaped



Founding of Christdala

- The small Swedish community was shocked by the murder of Nicolaus Gustafson by Cole Younger, co-leader of James-Younger Gang at Northfield Sept 7, 1876
 - The Swedish community had no church or cemetery
 - They met that night in Peter Youngquist's home
 - Vowed to start a church as soon as possible
- They formed Christdala July 18, 1877
 - The Church structure was completed in 1878 by John Olson of Northfield and John Lundberg, cost of \$230
 - Olson received death threats when he bravely testified against Cole Younger

National News – Big Event

The Chase, September 8, 1876

ST. PAUL.

ST. PAUL, Sept. 8.—A report has been received that the posse of citizens pursuing the robbers who raided Northfield, yesterday, overtook them last night, and a fight ensued, in which one robber was wounded. They then escaped through the woods. No particulars; the pursuit is being continued.

\$5,000 Reward - 1,000-Man Posse

REWARD!

- DEAD OR ALIVE -

\$5,000^{.00}_{x x} will be paid for the capture
of the men who robbed the bank at

NORTHFIELD, MINN.

They are believed to be Jesse James and
his Band, or the Youngers.

All officers are warned to use precau-
tion in making arrest. These are the most
desperate men in America.

Take no chances! Shoot to kill!!

J. H. McDonald,

SHERIFF

Two-Week Chase, Rainy & Cold

- On September 21st the Younger brothers & Charlie Pitts were surrounded near Madelia during a fierce shootout - \$10,000 Chase, Huge Posse
- Surrendered on September 21, 1876
 - Bob Younger had wounds in his arm and chest
 - Jim Younger had 5 bullet wounds
 - Cole Younger had been hit 11 times
- Pitts had been hit 5 times and was dead
- Frank James & 8th gang member escaped

WANTED

DEAD OR ALIVE

\$5,000.00
FOR THE CAPTURE
OF THE MEN WHO
ROBBED THE BANK
AT NORTHFIELD
MINN.



BELIEVED TO BE
JESSE JAMES AND
HIS BAND OR THE
YOUNGERS.
THESE MEN ARE
DESPERATE.

JESSE OR FRANK JAMES

NOTORIOUS ROBBER OF
TRAINS AND BANKS

\$5,000.00

REWARD

Contact: Pinkerton's
Detective Agency
and
Union Pacific Railroad
Agency

THIS NOTICE TAKES THE PLACE OF ALL PREVIOUS
REWARD NOTICES.
CONTACT SHERIFF, DAVIESS COUNTY, MISSOURI

JULY 26, 1881

Youngers Captured Near Madelia



Cole Younger

RICE CO. JOURNAL EXTRA.

Four of the Robber Gang Captured!

Madelia Gathers Them In

One Dead 3 Wounded!

MINNESOTA NO PLACE FOR MISSOURI CUT-THROATS.

They Will Reach St. Paul To-day.

APRIL 21.—The four named with Vaughn were two at a time—the Duke's posse in Linden, Brown County, eight miles from Madelia and got bread and butter and went to the woods to eat it. Reporting them to be the robbers, Nelson sent his son to Madelia to harness, who started on a run and kept it up, falling over on the way, horse and rider falling in the road, but hastily recovering, got to Madelia in good time. He rode to Vaughn's Grove where stood James Gilpin, Sheriff of Watonwan County who took in the situation at once, and in five minutes Sheriff Gilpin, Col. Vaughn, Dr. Crowl and James Stevens started in and back to the Nelson place.

As soon as horse and driver could be secured, forty or fifty men followed in pursuit, arriving in time to drive the four bundles through a slough, into the open prairie, and spread fire on them. The robbers returned the fire but kept working towards the river, which they finally reached and hid in the bushes. When the firing became general, it had the robbers sure that it was useless to hold out longer, and gave up. One was killed, the other three wounded, one only a wound in the arm. The one supposed to be Cole Younger is badly wounded in the head and back. The other two had wounds in the jaw and shoulder. It is thought one or two will die of their wounds. The one wounded in the arm is supposed to be the one wounded here on the 20.

COLE YOUNGER

One of the prisoners was struck by one of the robber's bullets on the right vest pocket in which was a large pocket knife, which saved his life. George Bradwell treated a scratch on his arm by a bullet, but not seriously hurt.

THE SCENE

When Sheriff Gilpin advanced within fifteen feet of the robbers, one of them rose and drew his revolver on Gilpin, who drew his rifle on the robber. Both fired at each other at once, but the robber fell, and Gilpin escaped. Gilpin dropped to his knees to reload, when

CAPTAIN STEVEN

advanced and fired five shots at the sleeping robbers who fired as fast as they could at the men who were steadily advancing upon them.

THEIR WOUNDS

being and prostrate, the last man the one wounded at Fort Snelling on the 10th inst. on his back, and he said, "I give up, the rest of the boys are all shot to pieces."

He advanced to the citizens and surrendered himself to Capt. Murphy who took his pistols. He then led them to the place where lay the three companions. Gilpin had the

THE DEAD, AND THREE WOUNDED

placed in a wagon and brought to Madelia, where Drs. Crowl and Cuddey dressed the wounds of the living, and placed in beds at Vaughn's Hotel. The three wounded men confessed that they are the

WOUNDED MEN

One, Frank and Jim, but refuse to state who the dead man is or who the rest of the party were. The dead man is supposed to be one of the

JAMES STEVENS

being nearly six feet, with black mustache, thin whiskers, and weighing about 160 pounds.

THE WOUNDS

are very severe, but not certainly fatal.

AFTER THE CAPTURE

a few of the more excited wanted the prisoners shot, but Gilpin and the men who acted in their capture prudently informed all that the best man who attempted to lay violent hands on them would be shot. This ended their action.

AT MADRIA.

The prisoners say that the whole six crossed the bridge work together at Madelia, and were all in many ways surprised on Thursday of last week at Minnesota Falls; that they were at one time entirely surrounded in less than an acre of ground, and could hear all that their pursuers said, and had remained in the woods undisturbed till last night.

THE WOUND WOUNDED

showed that the head and wounded prisoner is believed to be, but to-day, and that will be a delivered, some persons by the entrance along the line of the Sioux City and St. Paul railroad.

THE SCENE

who were last evening reported captured, are not at large. They are supposed to be two of the same boys, and were last seen at Wednesday at 4 o'clock P. M. At that point of that day they were taken as a place six miles north of Leavenworth, and were there with west. At 4 o'clock they were taken to St. Paul.

THE SCENE

the man in his way to find a patient near James Stevens, right after from St. Paul. The doctor being anxious about the man being sent to St. Paul, Stevens went back home, and staying on beyond if they were acquainted with his road. They replied by showing their wounds, and

THE SCENE

supposing him a doctor. They remained and were examined, but they were not satisfied, and that amounted to a fight with them till about 5 P. M. when they made a dash with the doctor, and made it a dash, escaping without being shot, and having to look in their own hands, and they got to St. Paul. The doctor could not tell which way they went. He says he is better off, if nothing better, he would tell the light complexioned, with a bullet wound near the right knee, which the robber said he received at Fort Snelling, and the man the doctor had to take the bullet, both near the knee. The doctor said they were pretty well cured, especially the wounded man.

WOUNDED MEN

Apr. 21.—The two robbers were eight miles north of here today. The prisoners say they stopped a wagon to make of the road. It is reported that the three are in prison of them to see who they are.

THE SCENE

the morning the news the boys, you, and were in, captured a wagon.

THE SCENE

which crossed the river. They had, horse, man and whatever else it could hold would have reached up to St. Paul, and things were possibly being the second time.

AT FORT

the city will maintain, but they don't have the horse, as we have.

PLANS AND SCENES

at the City Dock Point.

AGNEW, BARRELL & BUTCHERSON,
Publishers.

Sentenced to Life

Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater

- September 23, 1876 - Younger brothers taken to Rice County jail in Faribault
- November 16 - grand jury issued four indictments
 - Two for 1st degree murders of Joseph Heywood and Nicolaus Gustafson
 - One for bank robbery, one for assault with deadly weapons on wounded bank clerk
- Younger brothers pleaded guilty - sentenced to life terms in state prison at Stillwater

Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater



The Rest of the Story

- Bob Younger died in prison in 1889 from TB
- Cole & Jim Younger were paroled in 1901 on condition they remain in Minnesota
 - Jim committed suicide on parole in St. Paul
 - Cole Younger received a pardon in 1903 on condition he leave Minnesota & never return
- Back in Missouri, Cole joined a “Wild West” show with Frank James & died there in 1916
 - Jesse was killed by a gang member in 1882
- The brutally violent James-Younger Gang ceased to exist after the Northfield tragedy

Minnesota Never Indicted Jesse James

“Beyond a Reasonable Doubt”

- William Pye Paper, 1947
 - Jesse Was Never Indicted -
No Evidence, No Warrants,
No Extradition, No Trial:
“Beyond a Reasonable Doubt”
- Heywood Fund - \$17,700
 - Jesse James Killed in 1882
 - 100s of Dime Novels
 - Frank Tried & Acquitted
 - No Northfield Indictments
- People Accepted Fiction,
Doubted Facts
 - Myth, Legend Survived
 - Huntington Book, 1895



Northfield Needed Jesse James

- After the robbery, Northfield & Carleton College raised over \$17,700 for Heywood's family
 - Joseph Lee Heywood was City Treasurer & Carleton College Treasurer
 - Many Northfield civic leaders were Carleton graduates
 - Jesse James was the most famous criminal in America & had killed the Northfield & Carleton College hero
 - The name "Jesse James" made immediate national headlines and the helped fund-raising effort
 - Natural alliance, "robber & hero" – *bookkeeper vs killer*
- 1895 – Carleton Prof George Huntington's book extolled Heywood, accepted presence of Jesse James in Northfield
- Nicolaus Gustafson remained forgotten for 120 years

The Intervening Years

- Over the years, the Huntington book became the established “Bible” and primary account for telling the story of the Northfield bank robbery –
- The 50th anniversary in 1926 retold the old story - even with lingering doubts by some Northfielders about presence of Jesse James
- In 1947, returning World War II veterans created a fall festival and launched Northfield’s “Jesse James Days”
- Northfield attorney W.W. Pye questioned the wisdom of honoring a criminal, common thug, “retail murderer”
 - Submitted a paper to Rice County Historical Society, in 1947 to set the record straight

William W. Pye 1870-1965

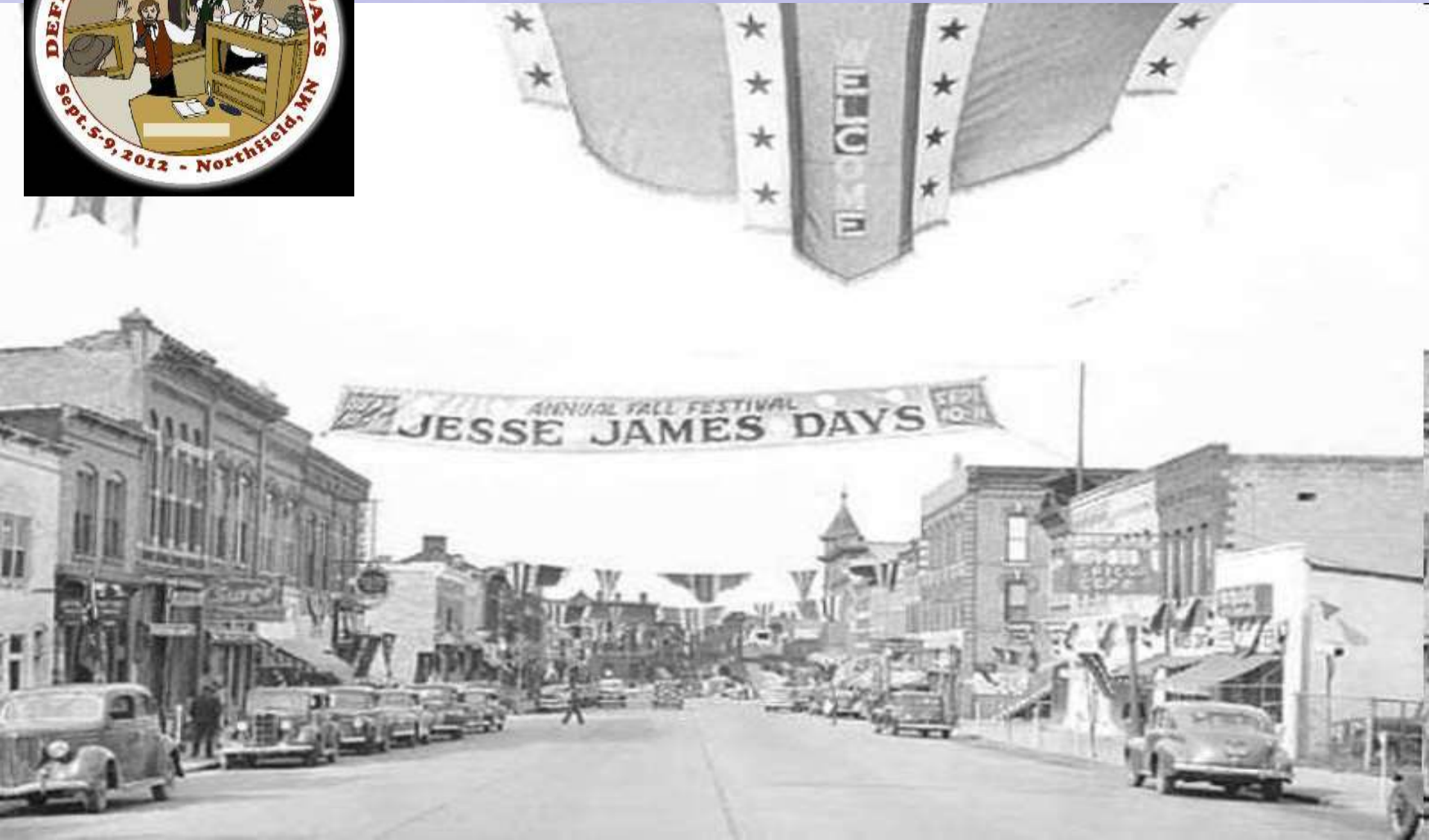
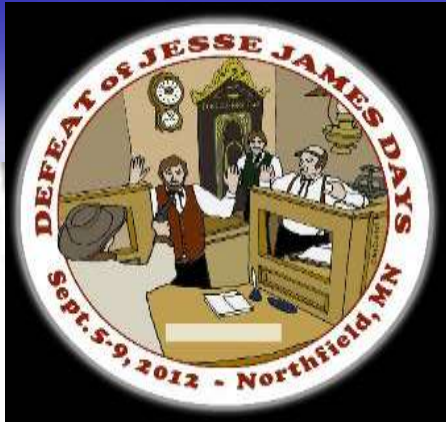
Distinguished Northfield Attorney

Known for meticulous legal research & thorough examination of facts
Pye's Presentation to Rice County Historical Society, Fall 1947:

“If the James brothers were the two who escaped, it seems strange that warrants were not sworn out and extradition obtained , and they were not apprehended and brought here for trial.”

“...as a boy I knew most of these men [involved in the raid] and heard accounts of the raid from everybody who knew anything about it...and [studied the facts].”

Northfield's Fall Festival



W.W. Pye's Concern

“Why Honor a Common Criminal?”

1. “Northfield should not honor a thief & criminal like Jesse James”
2. Jesse James was a terrorist and murderer
3. Preponderance of the evidence - no proof “beyond a reasonable doubt” Jesse was ever in Northfield
4. “Jesse James was never indicted, extradited, warrants were not issued, never brought to trial for the Northfield crimes”
5. Northfield's “Jesse James Days” are a sham

Sept 19, 1953 - Festival Tragedy

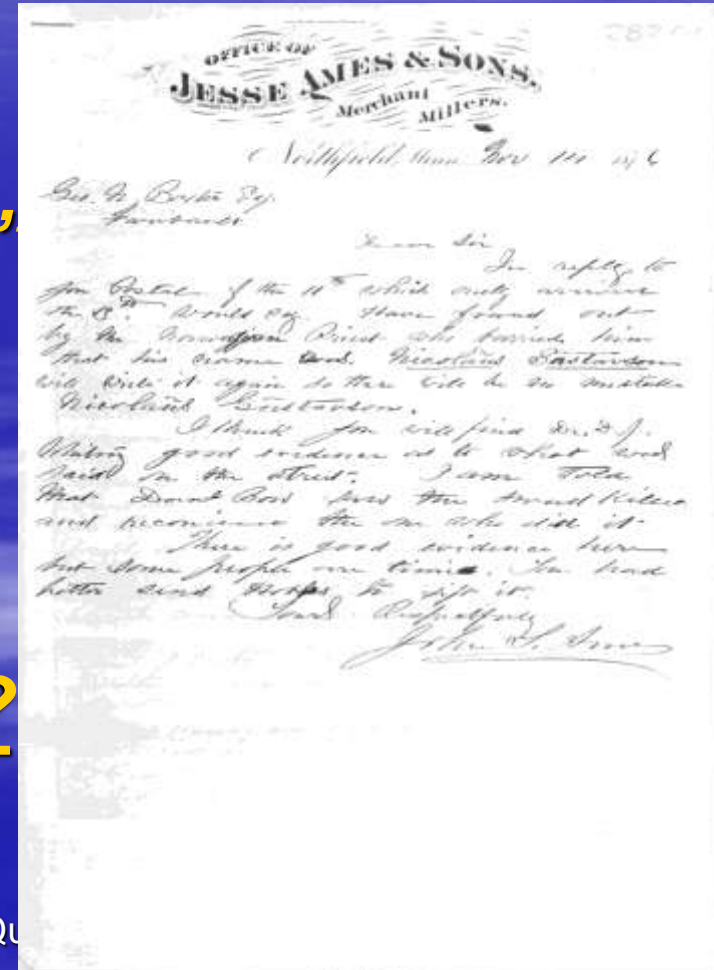
Northfield News Oct 10, 1953:

- “Police Chief Ousted As Aftermath of Fatal Fire Truck Accident”
- “Fire Engine Rolls Over”
 - *“Queen candidate killed, four others seriously injured September 19”*
- Felony Criminal Negligence Charged Against Driver of Fire Truck” - Drunk
- Festival Scandal - Citizens Incensed

“Defeat of Jesse James Days”

Gustafson Family Concerns:

- Northfield Reenactments
 - “He Was Not a Norwegian”
- Undignified Portrayals
 - He Was Not Drunk
- Unmarked Grave Site
 - Where Was He Buried?
- Mystery Solved in 1994



The End of the Story

- Nicolaus Gustafson's grave had no marker in Northfield -
 - Was he Norwegian? – a sad state of affairs for a Swede
- Preparing the Younger brothers' indictments, the prosecutor thought Gustafson was a Norwegian – he died in the Norwegian Hotel after the shooting & a Norwegian pastor preached the funeral sermon
- The story ends happily in 1994 when we identified his grave
 - Two letters were pinned to his death certificate at the Court House
 - The mayor of Faribault asked the mayor of Northfield for the name of the "Norwegian" who was shot during the bank robbery
 - The mayor of Northfield responded: "...he was a Swede named N. Gustafson, buried in Lot #1, Northfield Cemetery."
- In May 1994 the people of Northfield and Dundas –
 - Wayne Drake, Chip DeMann, & others, corrected the record & erected a permanent marker at Gustafson's gravesite in Northfield
 - Each year Northfield hosts a graveside ceremony in honor of Joseph Lee Heywood & Nicolaus Gustafson

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH LEE HEYWOOD

“Faithful Unto Death”

"In grateful memory of Joseph Lee Heywood,
Treasurer of the College. Born August 12, 1837.
A man modest, true and gentle; diligent in
business; conscientious in duty; a citizen
benevolent and honorable; towards God
reverent and loyal; who, while defending his
trust as a bank officer, fearlessly met death at
the hands of armed robbers, September 7, 1876.
This tablet is inscribed by his friends as a
tribute to heroic fidelity.

Esto Fidelum Usque Ad Mortem."

In Honor of Nicolaus Gustafson

NICOLAUS
GUSTAFSON
AUG. 20. 1846
SEPT. 11. 1876

A SWEDISH IMMIGRANT
SHOT BY ROBBERS



CHRISTDALA - 1877

**PROUD OF OUR
SWEDISH HERITAGE**

“A CHURCH THAT JESSE BUILT”

LEGENDS OF JESSE JAMES

CHRISTDALA – 1877

Annual September Open House



CHRISTDALA – 1877

Annual September Open House



CHRISTDALA – 1877

Annual “Open House” in September



Svenskarnas Dag 2012



Svenskarnas Dag 2012



CHRISTDALA - 1877

A Gift from the Past to the Present



CHRISTDALA – 1877

- Christdala is a monument & memorial to the significant contributions made by hardy Swedish settlers who came to Rice County in the 1870s
- They left their homes in Sweden to settle in the New World where they faced danger, tragedy, hardship, loneliness, death
- They also prospered, built a simple church, and made lasting contributions to their community and the broader American civilization
- They were hard-working, well-educated, and devout, and quickly became a part of the greater American “melting pot”

CHRISTDALA - 1877

On the National Register of Historic Places



CHRISTDALA – 1877

On the National Register of Historic Places

**ORIGINAL
1886 ORGAN
PURCHASED
FROM WICK
ORGAN CO.
IN CHICAGO**



YOUNGQUIST HOMESTEAD – 1873



YOUNGQUIST HOMESTEAD

Appraisal Summary

- LOCATION: Rice County, MN Parcel Number: 06.09.3.25.003
- MAP #: 06-09-00-00-001.500 Roll Type: 2.36 acres
- Rural Property Address: 4795 MILLERSBURG BLVD , LONSDALE MN
- LEGAL DESCRIPTION: MAP # 06 09 00 00 001.500
S709.15 FT E382.5 FT NW4 SW4 EX
- Class: 204 - RES 1 UNIT Residential Dwelling Lot Area: 5.70 Acres; 248,292 SF Occupancy: SINGLE-FAMILY/OWNER OCCUPIED Style: 1 1/2 Story Frame Year Built: 1873 Exterior Material: Wood Lap, Living Area: 1,095 Number Rooms: 7 Bedrooms: 3 Basement Finished Area: 0 SF Number of Baths: 1 Full Bath, Heat: Yes, Porch (120 SF); Wood Deck-Med (340 SF); 1 S Fr Enc (52 SF) Yard Extras: DRIVEWAY, Ag Buildings Garage): 720 SF (Built 1990)
- Appraised Values for 2005 Tax Year: Land \$76,100 Buildings \$66,000 Attached Machinery \$0 Total \$142,100
- Sale Dates: 9/1/2000 \$115,000 #469061 NORMAL ARMS-LENGTH SALE 5/1/1998 \$0 #438179 OLD SALE 5/1/1989 \$48,500 #B511 P266+ NORMAL ARMS-LENGTH TRANSACTION, GOOD SALE - purchased in 2005 by Christdala for \$150,000
- Permits 6/26/1990 New Bldg (Garage)
- 2014 market value \$111,000 - 2013 taxes \$1,582 - 2012 new road RC#1

MILLERSBURG SCHOOL

1881

DISTRICT 20

Maintained by The Christdala Preservation Association

Millersburg Schoolhouse Museum Today



Millersburg Schoolhouse Museum



9/1/2018

Copyrig



MILLERSBURG & THE NORTHFIELD BANK ROBBERY **September 6-7, 1876**

Late in the day on September 6, 1876, four heavily armed men rode into Millersburg from the west and spent the night at the Cushman Hotel east of the school. They were led by a ruthless outlaw named Thomas Coleman "Cole" Younger. The four armed men left the Cushman Hotel the next morning and headed east on the Dundas road to link up with four other members of the infamous James-Younger Gang, hardened criminals and former Confederate bushwhackers during the Civil War. Their goal was to rob the First National Bank in Northfield.

Thirteen Swedish families lived in the Millersburg area in 1876, including Peter Gustafson who was recently joined by his brother Nicolaus and nephew Ernst from Sweden. West of Millersburg that morning, Peter Youngquist and four Swedish neighbors harnessed his mules and headed for Northfield to sell farm produce. Riding with the Youngquist party was 30 year-old Nicolaus Gustafson. It was Thursday, September 7, 1876.

The Swedes arrived in Northfield about 1:00 pm and set up their vegetable wagon along the Cannon River near 5th Street. About 2:00 pm, they heard gunshots. Nicolaus Gustafson ran to the intersection of Division and 5th a block away, where he was shot in the head by Cole Younger as the bank was being robbed. Gustafson died four days later. A Swede named John Olson was an eyewitness to the Gustafson shooting and testified against Cole Younger.

The bank robbery failed because of the bravery of several local citizens and uncharacteristic behavior of some gang members. Jesse James did not drink alcohol and never permitted his gang members to drink on the job, but witnesses stated that three of the Northfield bank robbers had been drinking whiskey shortly before the robbery. For this and other reasons, authorities questioned whether Jesse James was in Northfield on September 7, 1876.

During the attempted robbery, Nicolaus Gustafson and acting bank cashier Joseph Heywood were murdered; two gang members were killed by Northfield residents; six escaped. The surviving gang members left Northfield by the Dundas road and headed west for Millersburg. Three were badly wounded.

OVER →

CHRISTDALA – 1877

Long-serving Pioneer Pastors

- Pastor A. Wahlin, Organizer, 1877
- Pastor A. Anderson 1878-1879.
- Reverend Swante Anderson 1880-1890
- Reverend J.J. Froden/C.M. Ryden 1890-1896
- Pastor Dr. Lars August Edman, first resident pastor, 1896-1915
- Pastor E. Norsen 1915 -1928
- Reverend J.E. Oslund 1928-1934
- Dr. James Moody 1934-1940
- Reverend August F. Seastrand 1940-1947
- Reverend Ralph Baumgartner 1994-present

CHRISTDALA – 1877

Pastor Ralph Baumgartner



CHRISTDALA – 1877

Pastor Steve Swanson



CHRISTDALA – 1877

“The blessings of their endeavors are ours....as giants in the earth they stood...”

70TH ANNIVERSARY 1947



70TH ANNIVERSARY - CHRISTDALA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MILLERSBURG, MINN. JULY 26TH 1947
A. F. SEASTRAND - PASTOR

CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

- September 1994 - Christdala Preservation & Cemetery Association was established with 16 Members
- Today Christdala has nearly 300 People on its Mailing List & Linked WebPages to Kristdala in Sweden
 - People from all over the U.S. & Sweden with a connection to Christdala & an interest in genealogy & Northfield bank robbery
- The Christdala Preservation Association is a Minnesota 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation
 - Approved by IRS for Charitable Gifts – www.christdala.com
- Since 1994, the Christdala Preservation Association has Invested Over \$500,000 in Restoration Work for the Church, Cemetery & Schoolhouse
 - Established Historical Preservation Guidelines

CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

First Organizational Meeting September 20, 1994



BOARD MEMBERS APRIL 2004



CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

OFFICERS

- Dale Quist, President & CEO
- Reed Anderson, Treasurer
- Jan Dalby, Asst Treasurer
- Shirley Galvin, Secretary
- Wayne Quist, Historian & Museum Curator
- Clarence Swanson, Vice President, Grounds

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Dalby, Chairman

– 25 Active Board Members

CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

118 Year Old Maple Trees 2003



CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

OBJECTIVE & MISSION



CHRISTDALA – 1877

On the National Register of Historic Places

ORIGINAL
1880 PULPIT
BUILT BY
JOHN OLSON



9/1/2018

CHRISTDALA OBJECTIVE & MISSION

- Restore and maintain the Christdala Church and Cemetery in unaltered and original condition to preserve the heritage and legacy brought to America by the Swedish immigrants who established Christdala
- Collect, preserve & share historical documents, photographs, memorabilia & artifacts that relate the experiences of the early pioneers who settled around Christdala – Millersburg Schoolhouse Museum
- Support genealogical research – www.dalbydata.com
- Encourage the use of the Church for suitable group, family and community events
- Establish and maintain a permanent endowment fund that provides sufficient income to maintain the Church, Cemetery & Schoolhouse, and accomplish the objective & mission of the Association

Mission - Historic Preservation



CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

Current Activities & Special Events

- Annual Non-Denominational Fall Service & Open House in September
- Svenksa Klub “Midsummer Celebration”
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Anniversaries
- Church Tours
- Special Events
- Genealogical Research – www.dalbydata.com

CHRISTDALA – 1877

Salute to Christdala's Veterans



CHRISTDALA – 1877

Tribute to Military Veterans

Christdala Veterans

- Civil War
- Indian Wars
- Spanish American War
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Iraq & Afghanistan

Annual Non-Denominational September Service & Open House



9/1/2018

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CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

THIRD DECADE

- **Embarking on Third Decade as a Historical Preservation Organization**
- **Telling People About Plans for the Next 10 Years & Current Activities**

CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

THIRD
DECADE
1990-2020



CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Increase Christdala Permanent Fund to \$1,000,000
 - Ensure perpetual maintenance of the church, grounds, cemetery, & schoolhouse museum
- Community Museum & Genealogical Research Center
 - Youngquist Homestead - 1873
 - Millersburg Schoolhouse - 1881
 - Schoolhouse Museum & Genealogical Research – www.dalbydata.com
 - Expanded Christdala Cemetery & Grounds - four acres

CHRISTDALA – 1877

Annual September Open House



Annual September Open House



CHRISTDALA PRESERVATION ASSN

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Working with State Historical Society in Establishing Our Schoolhouse Museum & Genealogical Research Center – www.dalbydata.com
- Working With Swedish Heritage & Historical Preservation Groups to Share Information
- Working with Forest Township Board to Integrate Preservation Efforts into the Local Community
- Forest Township Population has More than Doubled in the Last 15 Years
 - Circle Lake has 3 New Housing Developments
 - People Commute into the Metropolitan Areas
 - Growing Interest in Genealogical Research

CHRISTDALA – 1877

A Gift from the Past to the Present



CHRISTDALA – 1877

Annual September Open House



CHRISTDALA – 1877

A Gift from the Past to the Present



CHRISTDALA – 1877

September Open House



CHRISTDALA – 1877

A Gift from the Past to the Present

