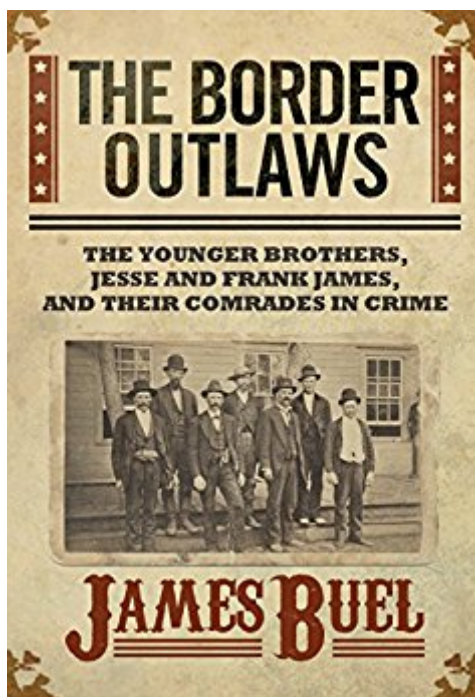


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The Border Outlaws: An Authentic And Thrilling History Of The Most Noted Bandits Of Ancient Or Modern Times: The Younger Brothers, Jesse And Frank James, And Their Comrades In Crime



Synopsis

Jesse James, Frank James and the Younger brothers were some of the most notorious outlaws of nineteenth century America. They terrorized the towns and countryside across the West, robbing banks, committing murders, holding up stage coaches and stealing from helpless citizens. The story of these infamous villains begins with the outbreak of the American Civil War when the Younger brothers signed up for the Confederacy to fight in Quantrill's vicious band of guerrillas. Buel takes the reader through the actions undertaken by the group as they fought for the South in quick lightning strikes against the armies of the North, developing tactics that would come in useful in their later lives. After the end of the war Buel explains how the gang slipped effortlessly from guerrilla warfare to bank robberies, evading capture and killing opponents. They could not evade lawmen and vigilantes forever, Buel explains in vivid detail the gang's eventual demise. The Border Outlaws is essential reading for anyone interested in the American Civil War and the actions of Quantrill's raiders as well as outlaws of the Old West. The authority of this work is explained by Paul Iselin Wellman in A Dynasty of Western Outlaws: "This may be the first of the books published about the James and Younger outlaws" Buel had no illusions about them. He names names and quotes dates. At times he includes contemporary newspaper accounts. At others he cites correspondence of the outlaws themselves, to relatives or friends, and in some instances to himself. "It is the best source material we have." Outlaws on Horseback, Harry Sinclair Drago James W. Buel was a journalist, based initially in Kansas City and later in St. Louis. He wrote over fifty books during his lifetime on the wilds of Africa and the American West. The Border Outlaws was first published in 1881. He died in San Diego, California, in 1920.

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Customer Reviews

There are very few of us who even remotely remember the terrible times of Quantrill and the raiders that were spawned from that era ! The Younger's, Dalton's and James brothers were a product of an age that was without borders and a united country ! They lived outside the law in an area of the country (Kansas and Missouri) that was steeped in crime and violence! Their life style was an answer to those who were trying to bring sanity and unity to a fractious country . The author put together an excellent and comprehensive dissertation in presenting an unbiased view of the facts and actions of these men and their ultimate rewards !

I was not prepared for the book that author James Buel put together, detailing the adult lives of Cole Younger and his brothers as well as Frank and Jesse James. I had thought it was going to be just another history book, but it turned out to be much more. Subtitled as "The Younger Brothers, Jesse and Frank James, and Their Comrades in Crime," the book appears to be well-researched if we are to believe the author. My gut tells me I should. The book centers around Cole Younger, beginning with a short history of his father before jumping into Cole's years with Quantrill during the Civil War. Almost the first half deals with his war exploits, and we begin to get a sense of the kind of man Cole Younger had grown up to be. This part of the book is extremely important, because the war and how his family was affected were influential on Cole's life after the war. Indeed, many of the outlaws had fought in the war, and having been anesthetized to violence, they carried on in the same manner (in fact, some of the incidents described during the war were much more coldblooded than many of the outlaws' acts). Having set the scene, the author then moved on to the different train and bank robberies that Cole Younger has been accused of committing. Mr. Buel was extremely careful, and attempted to have justification before adamantly accusing Younger (or any of the

outlaws) of being present at a robbery. However, Cole and his brothers were easily recognizable and many folks knew them on sight, so the author was able to corroborate his stories with eyewitness accounts. It was very interesting to read some of the letters written by Cole Younger as well as read the conversation he had with the author while in prison. I now have a different understanding of who Cole Younger was, based upon everything the author shared in the book. Mr. Buel published the book in 1881, and it is a fascinating piece of history itself. The author writes in the style of the times, and I had to wonder at times whether he was serious or if he was spicing his words with a bit of sarcasm. For instance, when describing a lynching by vigilantes:

“They only decorated Andy with a new grass rope and hauled him skyward over the branch of a big oak, with the usual manifestation of sympathy. Admittedly, the author appears to have a level of respect for Cole Younger. I am not sure if this is due to their correspondence or from meeting. Some of the other characters, such as Jesse James, are painted as being nothing but mean and vile. Readers will have to judge for themselves on some of the incidents and personalities. All things considered, this was a great book, allowing me to learn while having a bit of fun at the same time. Four stars.

You go into a book like this knowing it has some bias and bravado. That is what makes it really interesting. You are seeing it through the eyes of a group of men who have survived great tragedies. It is history story of how they have had to come to terms with these events, what they saw and took part in. Read it, sit back imagine an older guerrilla retelling events he lived. It is immersing for what he says and what he does not say. If you want a text book history lesson don't purchase. You want to feel their struggle, then I recommend it.

Finding history of this era an interesting topic, I enjoyed the book as it provided some information worth considering. But seeing as how the primary source for much of its content was Cole Younger himself, and the Youngers & James well-established habit of providing false information that always portrayed themselves in nothing but the most favorable light, the book should be considered a very questionable source and used as only one of many sources by anyone seeking an truthful and accurate account of the subject.

Whilst interesting reading it tended to jump from one event to another. Due to its length, keeping abreast of all the various happenings was sometimes difficult. The author, on occasions, is unable to attest to the accuracy of events. He tends to side with the viewpoints of certain characters, with

whom he appears to have an affinity. Perhaps this is due to the fact that he has interacted with these characters.

This book is rather ponderous reading and since it was written when there was general knowledge of the people talked about, it also leaves some gaps for a modern reader. What is interesting how lawless (by modern standards) things were back in the old west. For a real history buff, this would be an interesting read.

I think this is meant to be written as a true story. I actually believe half of it but I'm not sure of some of the details. A little far-fetched in places.

Still reading it but off to a great start. Real good factual information from Buel. My second book from him i'm reading.

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