



BOOT HILL™
Wild West Mini-Module
Shootout in Northfield
and Other Famous Gunfights

SHOOTOUT IN NORTHFIELD

*With his cousins Bob and Cole,
 And a desperate hand of men
 Jesse rode to Northfield town.
 Jes' and Frank got away
 But the rest had to pay;
 In jail, or else shot down.*

-from *The Ballad of Jesse James*

INTRODUCTION

On September 7, 1876, the James-Younger gang tried to rob the First National Bank of Northfield, Minnesota. Before the day was out, four men lay dead in Northfield and another six had been wounded. In the chase following the robbery another gang member died and three others were captured.

Jesse and Frank James were the only outlaws to escape. Gang members Bill Chadwell, Clell Miller, and Charlie Pitts were killed. Bob, Jim, and Cole Younger were captured and sentenced to life imprisonment. The gang's reception in Minnesota was so fierce that one bandit, Cole Younger, was wounded eleven times (he nonetheless lived to the ripe age of 74).

The James-Younger gang developed a bloody but effective method for robbing banks using tactics they learned as guerilla fighters during the Civil War. Several men robbed the bank while most of the gang patrolled the streets. At the first hint of trouble, Colts flashed from holsters and lead flew freely. Intimidated (or sensible!) townspeople dove for cover while the gang grabbed the loot and high-tailed out of town.

The citizens of Northfield did not carry guns openly like the citizens of some "wide-open" wild west towns. Even so, when they saw what was happening they grabbed whatever weapons were handy and returned fire on the bandits. Most of the guns came from two hardware stores owned by J. A. Allen and A. B. Manning. The citizens were so enraged that men without guns were throwing rocks. Besides Allen and Manning, Elias Stacey and Henry Wheeler (a medical student on vacation) played important roles in driving off and destroying the gang.

Inside the bank the situation was no better. Tellers and cashiers usually jumped when Jesse James threatened them, but Joseph Lee Haywood, chief cashier, was brave and foolhardy. Though pistol-whipped and threatened with a bowie knife, Haywood insisted that the vault had a time lock he could not open. Not only did the vault have an untimed lock, it was open because Haywood had forgotten to spin the dial that locked it. On top of everything else, Haywood tried to pull a pistol from a drawer as the bandits fled. He was shot dead before he could fire.

The robbery had turned into a nightmare: The first outlaw killed was Bill Chadwell, a native Minnesotan and the only gang member who knew the nearby territory. The bandits never realized the vault was unlocked, and what little money they stole was dropped and lost on the street during the shootout. Jesse never was able to rebuild a gang that could match the one he lost in Northfield. Six years later he was murdered by Bob Ford.

Shootout in Northfield is a game using all the basic **BOOT HILL** rules except **Random Movement Determination**. No advanced or optional rules are used unless specifically mentioned (see **Morale**). There are two sides, the James-Younger gang and the citizens of Northfield, Minn. For convenience, one side will be called the James-Younger Player and the other will be called the Northfield Player. Any number of people can play, but one player should act as leader for each side. If there are more than two players, each player should control one or more historical characters in the shootout. Players may want to create **BOOT HILL** characters of their own to join one side or the other. The Northfield scenario also is an excellent solitaire game.

GAME MATERIALS

The counters from the BOOT HILL game are used in **Shootout in Northfield**. Six two-handed gun counters plus two left-handed gun counters are the James-Younger gang. These eight counters should be numbered so the characters can be recognized easily. Each bandit also has a horse. The horses should be numbered to match the eight gang members.

Eight other counters should be marked to represent the seven important townspeople (Henry Wheeler, counter D, has two counters, but only one will be used in any particular game). Five right-handed gun counters should be marked A, B, C, D, and F. Two rifle counters should be marked D and E. A shotgun counter should be marked G. The people represented by these counters are listed on the **Citizens of Northfield** table. The remaining right-handed gun, left-handed gun, rifle, and shotgun counters are left unmarked. They will be used for other Northfield citizens armed with various weapons. The horse counters, Indian counters and Mexican counters are not used in the game.

The James-Younger Gang

No.	Name	Reward	BASP	BAC	STR	MRL	WPN
1	Jesse James	\$10,000	+16	93%	14	92%	FDR6 +26 SAR6 +24
2	Frank James	\$10,000	+13	90%	15	91%	FDR6 +23 SAR6 +21
3	Cole Younger	\$5,000	+16	95%	20	97%	FDR6 +26 SAR6 +24
4	Jim Younger	\$5,000	+13	90%	14	95%	FDR6 +23 SAR6 +21
5	Bob Younger	\$5,000	+14	90%	14	99%	FDR6 +24 SAR6 +22
6	Clell Miller	\$1,000	+12	72%	14	87%	FDR6+22 SAR6 +19
7	Charlie Pitts	\$1,000	+9	69%	13	84%	FDR6 +19 SAR6 +16
8	Bill Chadwell	\$3,000*	+9	70%	13	81%	FDR6 +19 SAR6 +16

* normally \$ 1,000, tripled to reflect his importance as the gang's guide.

Citizens of Northfield

Let.	Name	BASP	BAC	STR	MRL	WPN
A'	Joseph Haywood	+11	62%	13	100%	SAR6 +19
B	A. E. Bunker	+4	48%	14	68%	D2 +9
C	Frank Wilcox	+2	40%	13	45%	D2 +7
D	Henry Wheeler	+16	70%	14	91%	AR +6 or SAR6 +24
E	A. B. Manning	+13	73%	15	93%	R6 +8
F	J. S. Allen	+7	52%	16	82%	SAR6 +15
G	Elias Stacey	+12	60%	14	84%	SG2 +7
	citizen	+0	40%	13	40%	R6 -5 or SG2 -5 or SAR6 +8

Let. = suggested counter I.D., BASP = Basic Speed (SPD + Bravery), BAC = Basic Accuracy, STR - Strength, MRL = Morale, WPN = Weapon plus adjusted speed.

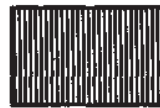
Counter Positioning: Counters may be in one of three positions. When a counter is face up, that individual has a loaded weapon (or weapons). When a counter is face up but turned upside down, the individual is loading a weapon that turn and cannot fire. When a counter is face down, the individual either has no weapon and cannot fire or is a gang member who has been shot unconscious.

Map: The map represents the part of Northfield where the shootout took place. One square on the map equals 12 feet. This scale is twice that normally used in the BOOT HILL rules so *all movement allowances and weapon ranges should be halved* (fractions are rounded up). Example: Medium range for a derringer will be two squares and a man on foot can walk three squares per turn. Brawling is allowed between counters in adjacent squares.

MAP KEY



Alley/Street



Sidewalk



Building



Bank Vault



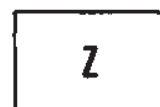
Town Square



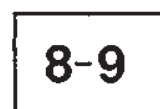
Door



Window



Citizen Starting Square



Random Placement Square



Reinforcement Entry Square



Escape Route/Reinforcement Square



The James-Younger Gang

SETTING UP THE GAME

The Northfield Player sets up first, placing the citizen counters marked *A*, *B*, and *C* face up (but upside down) inside the bank on the squares marked *A*, *B* and *C*. Counters *E*, *F*, and *G* also are placed face down on the map positions marked with their letters. To determine how Henry Wheeler is armed, roll one die. On a roll of 1 or 2, place the revolver counter *D* on map position *D* (face down). On a roll of 3-6, place the rifle counter *D* on map position *D*, face down. (Earlier in the day Henry Wheeler took his revolver home to be cleaned and forgot to bring it back with him.)

Turn the unlettered citizen counters face down on a table top and mix them together. Without looking at the fronts of the counters, place one face-down on each map position labeled *H* through *O*.

The Northfield Player now rolls two dice and adds the numbers. The result is how many more citizen counters start the game on the map. To find the starting position for each of these counters, roll one die twice to get a two-digit number. Example: A roll of two and a roll of five means the character is placed at map position 2-5. These citizen counters also start face down. Up to two citizens may start in the same square; if the same square is rolled three or more times, roll again to get a square that is empty or contains only one character. Any unused citizen counters are kept in a special pile, and may be used as reinforcements (see **Reinforcements**).

The James-Younger Player places as many counters as he or she wants inside the bank. The matching horse counters are placed on the street outside the bank next to the sidewalk. The rest of the bandit counters and horse counters are placed on any unoccupied squares on Division Street. Bandits outside the bank start the game mounted.

TURN SEQUENCE

1. Citizen Reaction Roll
2. Movement and Arming Citizens
3. Combat
4. Threats (to bank employees)
5. Search (to discover money in the bank)
6. Reinforcement (roll for number and location)

Note: Morale rolls may occur at any appropriate time.

CITIZEN REACTION

At the beginning of the game, the citizens of Northfield do not realize their bank is being robbed, so they cannot move. At the start of each turn, the Northfield Player rolls one die. A roll of 1 or 2 means the robbery has not been discovered yet and the townspeople may not move. A roll of 3-6 means the alarm has been sounded and the citizens, realizing the bank is being robbed, may move normally. This roll is made at the start of every turn until the robbery is discovered. Until the robbery is detected the Northfield Player can move only counters *A*, *S* and *C* (the cashier Haywood and the tellers Bunker and Wilcox).

MOVEMENT

The James-Younger Player moves first, the Northfield Player second. Diagonal movement is allowed except through doors. A door can be entered only from the square immediately in front of it. Movement is halved because the map scale is twice that of the **BOOT HILL** map. Movement may be reduced by wounds; such reductions are cumulative, with fractions rounded up.

Stacking: Two counters (not counting horses) can be placed in the same square. Both counters occupy the square equally (both can shoot and be shot at). Counters cannot move through a square with an opposing counter in it. Counters on opposing sides may stack together only if they are brawling, or if a citizen is capturing an unconscious outlaw.

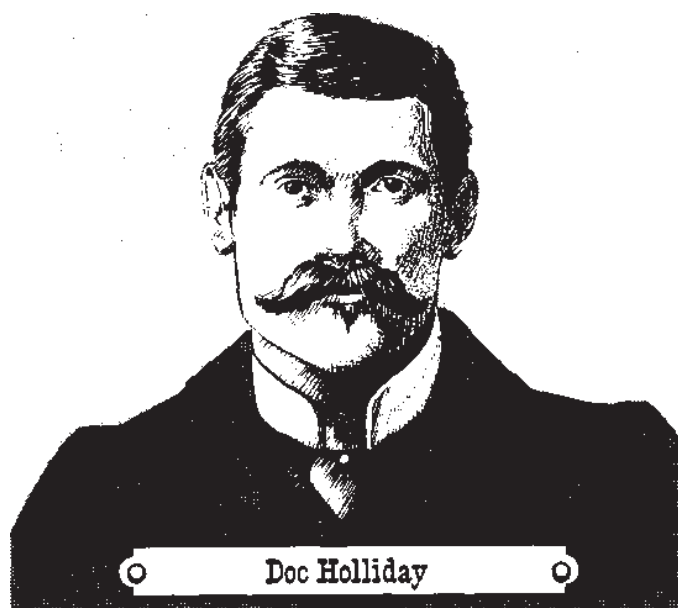
Horses do not count for stacking purposes. Since a horse can carry two riders in emergencies, a maximum of six counters can be stacked in a square (two horses and four riders, riding double).

Capturing Outlaws: Townspeople can capture unconscious outlaws by entering the unconscious character's square and dragging him to a safe area. Dragging an unconscious character reduces movement by half. A safe area is any place the remaining gang members cannot or will not enter to rescue their comrade. In addition, any outlaws left behind at the end of the game are automatically considered captured.

Horses: Horses cannot enter any building or move onto a sidewalk. Dismounting or mounting uses one point of movement and ends that counter's movement for the turn. Because of stacking restrictions, riders must mount from or dismount into an adjacent square. Each horse can carry two bandits if the need arises, but riding double reduces the horse's movement by half. Picking up a dismounted man while riding reduces movement for the turn. Unconscious men cannot be picked up by a man on a horse, but can be rescued by a dismounted friend. Slinging an unconscious man over a horse takes three points of movement and does not end the character's movement for the turn. Example: Jesse James tries to pick up Charlie Pitts, who is dismounted and conscious. Jesse is trotting (movement of eight) and uses two points of movement riding adjacent to Charlie. The pick-up uses three points of movement, leaving two points to escape. Since riding double cuts the horse's movement in half, Jesse and Charlie can ride one more square this turn.

ARMING TOWNSPEOPLE

Most townspeople start the game unarmed. There are two ways unarmed citizens can pick up guns. Any citizen who moved three or fewer squares during the turn and is inside a building may search for a weapon. A roll of 1 on one die means a weapon has been found. A citizen can search the same (or another) building each turn until a weapon is found. Townspeople can also pick up weapons at either hardware store (**Allen Hardware** or **Manning Hardware**). Any town citizen inside a hardware store will find a weapon automatically. A



citizen will use the weapon pictured on his counter. Weapons are unloaded when found; loading takes one turn. The only exceptions are Henry Wheeler (revolver only) and the bank employees, all of whose weapons are loaded.

If Henry Wheeler does not have his revolver (see **Setting Up the Game**), he can automatically pick up an army rifle by moving into the **Dampier House**. Elias Stacey can obtain a shotgun automatically by moving into any building.

COMBAT

The James-Younger Player fires first, followed by the Northfield-Player. No fire is allowed through a square containing a friendly counter. Gang members cannot enter or shoot into any building except the Bank unless citizens in the building are ready to fire that turn.

Players who want more realistic movement and fire can move counters in the order of their B ASP (highest to lowest) and fire in the order of their BASP + WPN.



Cover: Most townspeople will be firing from behind hard cover. Everyone inside a building is assumed to have hard cover unless they are being shot at from an adjacent square. Anyone firing a pistol from cover will expose head, gun arm and gun shoulder. Anyone firing a rifle or shotgun from cover will expose head, both arms and one shoulder (usually the left). Firing around a corner also exposes a leg. Hits in any non-exposed areas are ignored. For simplicity, any individual not inside a building or using the corner of a building for cover can be hit anywhere.

Reloading: All gang members carry one FDR6 and one SAR6. Townspeople and outlaws are limited by their rate of reloading. A character is not allowed to reload if he moved more than three squares during the turn or performed some other function (searching, slinging an unconscious man over a saddle, etc.). A character reloading inside a building cannot be shot at by anyone outside the building. A townspeople can always reload his weapon even if he moves out of the building where he found it.

Horses: When firing at a mounted individual there is a chance that a shot will hit the horse instead of the rider. A roll of 1-60 on percentile dice means the man has been hit. A roll of 61-00 means the horse has been hit. Reverse these numbers if the firer was aiming at the horse instead of the rider. Mounted characters who are wounded to 0 or fewer *Strength* points pass out and fall off their horse (no additional damage is suffered in the fall).

The James-Younger gang usually rode the best horses available. Each of their horses has a *Strength* of 40.

MORALE

Morale reflects an individual's willingness to fight or continue fighting. Morale is based on the *Bravery* score of a non-player character (player characters never need to check morale). When a morale check is called for, percentile dice are rolled. If the roll is higher than the individual's morale (or *Bravery*) score, that individual has failed the check and will either run for safety or surrender.

Townspersons who fail a morale check are removed from play. Unlettered counters are returned to the citizen pool (face down) and may re-enter the game as reinforcements. Lettered counters are set aside and cannot enter the game as reinforcements. Members of the James-Younger gang who fail a morale check will ride out of town if they can do so without being shot at. They will surrender if they cannot escape without being shot at.

On the turn the robbery is discovered, the Northfield Player rolls one die to find out if anyone recognizes the gang. A roll of 1 or 2 means the townspeople realize they are being robbed by the James-Younger gang. A roll of 3-6 means they have no idea who the robbers are. (Historically, the townspeople did not know who they were fighting.) This roll is made only once. The outcome effects citizen morale (see **Morale Modifiers**).

Also on the turn the robbery is discovered, townspeople outside the bank can make their first move. Before moving, each citizen outside the bank must make a morale check. Citizens who enter the game as reinforcements also must make morale checks before moving. All members of the James-Younger gang must make morale checks when (or if) the first gang member is killed or shot unconscious (reduced to 0 or fewer *Strength* points).

Morale can be modified by the situation. Circumstances that may apply are:

Morale Modifiers (add or subtract from the % die roll)

- 10 If a member of the James-Younger gang
- 5 If on the side with the greatest numbers
- 5 If on the side with the fewest casualties
- 5 If a citizen of Northfield
- 10 If a relative is killed
- + 5 If suffering from wounds less than 50% of *Strength*
- + 10 If suffering from wounds totaling more than 50% of *Strength*
- +10 If the outlaws have been recognized
- +10 If directly threatened (see **Threatening Bank Employees**)

ROBBING THE BANK

Inside the bank are two cash reserves of \$ 1,000-\$6,000 each (roll one six-sided die * \$ 1,000) and the bank vault containing \$6,000-\$36,000 (six six-sided dice * \$1,000). The robbers could leave the bank with all, some, or none of this money, depending on their luck and patience. They can find the money two ways: by threatening the bank employees or by searching for it.

Threatening Bank Employees: Each teller knows where one of the cash reserves is hidden, and the cashier knows how to open the bank vault. The robbers can try to force the employees to reveal this information by threatening them. A robber can threaten one employee per turn. The robber must be adjacent to the employee, and may take no other action that turn except moving. A threatened employee must make a special morale check. If he fails, the bandit gets the money (a cash reserve from a teller, the contents of the vault from the cashier) and the employee counter is removed from play. Each employee may be threatened once each game. Bank employees may not make heroism morale checks the turn they are threatened (see **Employee Heroics**).

Searching the Bank: If the bank employees refuse to tell the robbers where the money is hidden, or the robbers do not ask, the robbers may search the bank. One gang member can search one bank square per turn. He may move to the square and search it, but may not perform any other action that turn. A robber locates a hidden cash reserve on a one-die roll of 1; otherwise, the square is empty. If a robber searches the vault square, the vault is open on a roll of 1 or a six-sided die; otherwise, it is locked. Each bank square may be searched only once.

The bank always contains two cash reserves and the money in the vault; there never will be more or less than this. If the James-Younger player finds both cash reserves, he cannot find any others. The vault can be looted only once. If the robbers search nine squares without finding anything, both cash reserves will be in the last two squares. The vault money is always in the vault.

Covering Bank Employees: If a teller or cashier is being "covered" by at least one gang member, the bank employee will not try to attack. To cover a bank employee a bandit must have a loaded weapon and may do nothing else that turn (including movement). One bandit may cover two employees if the employees are in the same square (the bandit may move the employees together during the Movement Phase).

Employee Heroics: Unlike other citizens, each teller has a loaded derringer and the cashier has a loaded revolver nearby. If a bank employee is not being covered or threatened, a special morale check is made. If the morale roll is unsuccessful, remove the employee counter from play. If the roll is successful, the teller or cashier will reach for and try to fire a nearby loaded gun. The weapons will always be nearby as long as the bank employees remain in the bank. If shot at or attacked, the tellers and cashier will reach for their guns and fire without having to make a morale check.



The Northfield Player may receive reinforcements at the end of each turn after the robbery has been discovered. Reinforcements come from the pool of unlettered citizen counters. The counter mix limits the number of counters in play. The Northfield Player rolls one die and the result is the number of reinforcements arriving that turn. One reinforcement is subtracted from the roll for every gang member who is on the streets intimidating citizens (shooting, but not shooting at specific targets). The number of reinforcements cannot be adjusted to less than 0. As reinforcements arrive they are placed in one of six locations on the edge of the map. Each location is marked with a number and an arrow pointing into town. Roll one die for each reinforcement, and place the arriving counter on the corresponding square. Stacking limits must be obeyed. If the square a reinforcement should arrive at already contains two characters, place the new counter in any adjacent square. Reinforcements are unarmed when they arrive (see **Arming Citizens**).

ADDING PLAYER CHARACTERS

Player characters may be added to the game on both sides. Up to five player characters may be added to the James-Younger gang. The characters replace (in order) Charlie Pitts, Clell Miller, and Bill Chadwell. If more than three player characters join the James-Younger gang, no additional gang members are replaced. Instead, the Northfield Player automatically gets 12 extra townspeople at the start of the game (no two-die roll is made) and Henry Wheeler, Elias Stacey, A. B. Manning, and J. S. Allen begin the game with loaded weapons (Wheeler will have his revolver).

Up to six player characters may be added to the Northfield Player's side. The player characters are assumed to be law-abiding individuals who happened to be in Northfield when the robbery started. For every player character in Northfield, reduce the number of townspeople starting at randomly-assigned locations by two. If more than four player characters fight on the Northfield side, the Northfield Player will not receive reinforcements. Player characters start with loaded weapons at hand. Player characters on the Northfield side are positioned before the game using the random two-digit location system (see **SETTING UP THE GAME**).

If player characters join both sides the conditions given above are cumulative. Example: Eleven player characters fight at Northfield, five for the robbers and six for the citizens. This means Wheeler, Stacey, Manning, and Allen will have loaded weapons within reach, no counters are placed randomly and the Northfield player gets no reinforcements. The six player characters' counters begin the game in town.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The game ends when all surviving James-Younger gang members have ridden off the map on any of the roads marked with an arrow pointing out of town (* ») or when any gang members still in town cannot escape. Gang members may be mounted double, but no bandits may leave town on foot.

The winner is the player with the most money at the end of the game. The James-Younger Player gets money by robbing the bank. The Northfield Player gets money by capturing or killing bank robbers and collecting rewards.

FAMOUS GUNFIGHTS

The **BOOT HILL** game rules and the **Promise City** map can be used to recreate many famous gunfights and famous encounters that might have led to gunfights. The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral and the Battle of Coffeyville are given in the **BOOT HILL** rulebook. This section outlines six additional gunfight scenarios. Suggestions for adding player characters to the gunfights are also included. **BOOT HILL** referees should feel free to use these gunfights to spice up adventures. Statistics for the historical gunfighters are given at the end of this section.

The Death of Ben Thompson

Ben Thompson was one of the fastest, toughest gunmen the West ever knew. When sober he was a genial, friendly man, but drunk he was a real hell-raiser, mean and deadly. Unfortunately, as Ben Thompson grew older his drinking increased until even his friends grew wary. That was all the excuse his enemies needed.

One March night in 1884, Ben Thompson and another noted gunfighter, John "King" Fisher, entered the Vaudville Theatre in San

Antonio. No one is certain what happened that night, but before it was over both Thompson and Fisher were dead. They had been killed by Joe Foster, Billy Sims, and Jake Coy — friends of Jack Harris, a man Thompson had killed.



Foster, Sims, and Coy's version of that night was that Thompson became drunk and belligerent. Coy claimed that he grabbed Thompson's gun after it had been drawn so Thompson could not fire effectively. They also claimed King Fisher's gunbelt somehow got twisted around so that he never even managed to draw.

Friends of Thompson and Fisher told another story. They claimed Foster, Sims, and Coy posted men with rifles in boxes above Thompson and Fisher. They pointed out that though the coroner's report stated only three bullets struck Thompson, an autopsy showed he was hit nine times and most of the bullets had struck him from above. King Fisher had been shot 13 times.

To recreate the gunfight use five right-handed pistol counters and six rifle counters. Three of the pistol counters will represent Sims, Foster, and Coy. Two will represent Thompson and King. The rifle counters represent the unknown men who may have waited in ambush.

The fight will take place in the **Gay Lady Variety Hall & Saloon**. Place Foster, Sims, and Coy next to each other near the front of the building, facing the top of the map. Place Thompson and Fisher adjacent to the three men, with Fisher facing Sims and Thompson facing Foster and Coy. Allow Foster, Sims, and Coy to hipshoot for a +5 speed modifier while Thompson and Fisher are caught completely by surprise (-10 speed modifier). No counters need to check morale.

The second version of the gunfight is the same, except that six ambushers are added. The rifle counters should be lined up along the wall next to the stairs in a U shape facing Thompson's and Fisher's backs.

To even up the gunfight, three or four player characters should join Thompson and Fisher (three if they are very good gunfighters, otherwise four). Player characters can carry any weapons they want. Neither side is caught by surprise and anyone may choose to hipshoot. All non-player characters must check morale after each round of shooting.

The remaining scenarios all represent famous one-on-one encounters. Shots were fired in two, and might have been in the other three if they had not been stopped for some reason or another. Player characters may join any side of the one-on-one gun duels but the same number of characters should be added to both sides.