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Jesse James- FBI Files part four

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COPY

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York

Room 5600

December 5, 1935

Dear Mr. Whitley:

Here are the letters I mentioned to you over
the telephone this morning. I will telephone you
early next week.

Very sincerely,

/s/

b7c

Mr. R. Whitley
370 Lexington Ave.
New York City, N. Y.

Anonymous
Post marked Jacksonville, Fla.

Disturbed by letter

2 boys convinced Mr. R. is Jesse James. Ask Mr. R. to contact them thru the personal column of the news paper saying "Come home at once Dexter". If not they will take the matter up with the government.



HP

b7c

Mr. Rocky Hill

We have written you one about your
life, but did not receive any answer. We are
sure that you are Jesse James the bandit.
Put a message in the Personal section of the paper
either one for a week. This is our last letter, if we
do not receive a answer in the next ten days. We are
going to take it up with the U.S. Government. Or the
U.S. D.C.H. Put in the paper. You are right

Dick

This is our

Last Letter

Ball and Chain

Dear, Mr. Rockyfellow

Mr Rockyfellow, we are just two boys.
We have ~~been~~ looked up your life from beginning
and find it is very much like that of "Jessie
James" the Western outlaw.
will you contact us through If we are ~~wright~~
the personal column in the morning paper. Write
the following: "Please come home at once Dexter."
If you do not we will take it up with the
government. I think this is all that need to be said.
We would like to see you personal.

P. D. L.

We are sure that ~~you~~
you are Jessie James.

Personal



Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr.
Osmond Beach, Fla.

Personal

30 Rockefeller Plaza
NEW YORK, N. Y.

EXT:TD

62-58878 - 2

December 12, 1935

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
John D. Rockefeller, Victim;
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of December 9, 1935, with which you enclosed copies of a letter dated December 5, 1935 addressed to you by [redacted] Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., together with the originals and photostatic copies of letters and envelopes which accompanied [redacted] communication, you are advised that the Bureau has made a probable identification of the writers of the two anonymous letters received by Mr. Rockefeller. b7c

The Jacksonville Office has been requested to interview these two writers, who appear to be young children and they will be instructed to discontinue writing any such letters in the future.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
DEC 16 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 4907,
Jacksonville, Florida.

RAA:MFS

December 11, 1935.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER - Victim.
Extortion.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to letter to the Bureau from the New York Office dated December 9, 1935, copy of which was furnished to the Jacksonville Office, and to which was attached photostatic copies of two letters and envelopes, the originals of which accompanied [redacted] letter to the New York Office dated December 5, 1935.

Relative to this matter I desire to advise the Bureau and the New York Office as follows:

Sunday, December 8, 1935, about 1:00 P. M., I received a telephone call at the Jacksonville Office from a person who refused to give his name or address. He stated that he wished to confer with the writer concerning a matter that might possibly be of interest to the Government. He was advised that the writer would be in his office during the entire day of Sunday and would be glad to confer with him. He replied, stating that it would be impossible for him to call at the Jacksonville Office on Sunday, but that he would call some day during the week.

About thirty minutes prior to the receipt of the copy of the New York Bureau Office letter to the Bureau, dated December 9, 1935, a boy, about 15 years of age, entered our offices and was approached by the Chief Clerk. He stated that he had previously telephoned for an appointment and that he wanted to confer with the man in charge of the office, concerning information that he had that might be of interest to the Government. He stated that his name was [redacted].

DEC 27 1935

*letter from
letter
12-23-35
whittier
INDEXED
PK*

62-38875-3
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 13 1935 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM ONE

AAV.

TO DIRECTOR,
12-11-35

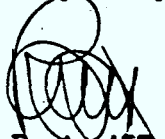
After entering my office he stated: "Now I want to ask you for some confidential information. I know that you are going to laugh, for everyone to whom I have reported this matter has laughed, but I am going on just the same". He then inquired, "Do you know positively that Jesse James is dead?" I told him that I was quite sure that Jesse James was dead and buried; that I knew his brother, Frank James, who told me a number of years ago where Jesse James was buried. The boy replied: "You might have been told that Jesse James is dead and buried, but another boy and I have been reading considerably about the life of Jesse James and have come to the conclusion that old man John D. Rockefeller is none other than Jesse James".

I then inquired of him on what grounds he based his conclusions. He then stated that his boy friend and he had been reading a great deal about Mr. Rockefeller; that they had been told that Mr. Rockefeller had only had his photograph taken once or twice during his life time, and that they had read in the papers that before he left his home in the North to come to Florida for this winter he positively refused to permit photographers to take his picture and for that reason he and his boy friend believed that Mr. Rockefeller was Jesse James or some other notorious outlaw.

The young man seemed sincere in his convictions. He refused to give his address in Jacksonville, saying that after he had thought the matter over it all seemed so silly that he did not want to be interrogated further. He said nothing about having written to Mr. Rockefeller as reflected in the enclosures received from the New York Office.

It is apparent indeed that the letters in question to Mr. Rockefeller were written by this boy [redacted] of Jacksonville, Florida. *b7c*

Very truly yours,



R. A. ALT,

Special Agent in Charge.

cc - New York

RECEIVED
~~OF 60076-2~~
RECORDED

62-38875-3

December 23, 1935

Mr. Theo Whitley,
Special Agent in Charge,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
370 Lexington Avenue, Room 1403,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

With reference to the letter addressed by the Bureau to the Jacksonville Office under date of December 12, 1935, pertaining to the anonymous communications addressed to John B. Rockefeller, in which the name of Jesse James appears, you should advise the Secretary to Mr. Rockefeller that the Bureau has ascertained that these letters were written by two boys of approximately 15 years of age, whose identity is known to the Bureau. Mr. Rockefeller's secretary should be informed that these boys evidently had a bona fide belief that John B. Rockefeller is in fact Jesse James. You may also inform Mr. Rockefeller's Secretary that the Bureau is taking appropriate steps to have these boys discontinue the writing of these letters.

For your information, I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter addressed to the Bureau, under date of December 11, 1935, by the Special Agent in Charge of the Jacksonville Bureau Office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #631300

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
~~Personal and Confidential~~
DEC 24 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEC 24 1935
RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Hoover

EAT:TAM

December 23, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your communication of December 11, 1935, pertaining to the case entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, Victim - Extortion, it is desired that you personally interview [redacted] and emphatically inform them that they must immediately discontinue their practice of writing letters concerning John D. Rockefeller. These boys should be informed that should they continue their activities along this line, it will be necessary for the Bureau to take appropriate legal steps to prosecute them.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED

62-38875-4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 DEC 20 1935 P.M.
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS
 MAIL ROOM

DEC 23 1935
 P. M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
 DEC 23 1935
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enford

Depp

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 4907,
Jacksonville, Florida.

RED:MFS

December 27, 1935.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

235
06
9

Dear Sir:-

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
John D. Rockefeller - Victim.
Extortion.

Reference is made to Bureau letters dated December 12th and 23rd, 1935, (62-38875), directing me to get in touch with the author of letters to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, regarding accusations that he was believed to be identical with Jesse James.

Attention is first invited to my letter to the Bureau dated December 11, 1935, which fairly well established who the author of these letters was. However, since the submission of the photostatic copies of letters received by Mr. Rockefeller, and the Director, I have caused two boys named [redacted] to be located in Jacksonville and brought to this office for personal interview. b7c

These two boys live in the outskirts of Jacksonville and come of very poor families. They are high school students and from my interview with them I am convinced that the writing of the letters in question by the boys was not prompted by any ulterior motive. They readily admitted that they had written the letters in question; that they had no idea whatsoever of seeking any money or reward, but were prompted to take this action by reason of having seen photographs of John D. Rockefeller and Jesse James in some publications which came to their attention and upon studying same it appeared to them that there was a considerable likeness, and they thought it would be a good idea to check up on their "hunch".

[redacted] admitted that he wrote the letter to the Director, [redacted] stated that he wrote the letter to Mr. Rockefeller. The typing on the envelope transmitting the letter to the Director, and the typed names of these two boys appearing on the letter to Mr. Hoover, was placed thereon by using a typewriter in a local drug store where these boys are employed on alternate shifts during Saturdays and other school holidays.

INDEXED
RECORDED
JAN 2 1936
Hunt

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62-38875-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 30 1935 A.M.
TAMM ONE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO DIRECTOR,
12-27-35.

I personally instructed these boys that they must desist from writing such letters, even though they had good intentions by reason of the fact that Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Hoover and various other public officers were being continually annoyed by letters of this character, in the first place, and in the second place they could not possibly serve any good purpose.

Both of these boys are sufficiently intelligent to appreciate my talk to them, appear to be very penitent as regards the instant matter and assured me that we would not hear from them again, and I believe there will be no further trouble from these boys.

The descriptions of the boys are as follows:

Name
Age
Weight
Height
Eyes
Hair
Complexion
Build
Occupation
Residence

Parents

[REDACTED]

b7c

The Jacksonville Office will regard this as a closed case.

Very truly yours,



R. A. AIT,
Special Agent in Charge.

cc - New York

Jax No. 9-29-

FEB 24 1950

wh

62-38875-6, 7, 7X

CHANGED TO

62-26471-5X, 6X, 8X

c

file copy