



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society: Northfield (Minnesota) Bank Robbery of 1876 Selected Manuscripts Collection.

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OFFICE OF

HARDWARE,

T. H. Loyhed.

STOVES.

Fairbault, Minn. *Sept 29 1876*

Dear Cousin Wm

It is long since I have written you and should have before now, but have been away in the country and then after I got back we had the great excitement of the Northfield tragedy on hand. I was at Kenyon on business when it happened and could not come home until the next morning, then I stayed at home one day the next morning a company of 47 started for Mankato to join in the other hunt from there of course most every man who was not a coward and could go had already been out since the time it happened and had succeeded in harassing the Robbers and keeping

them out in the cold trace woods
between here and Ely since for a whole
week. Captured their horses saddles & C & C.
But they finally succeeded in crossing
the N. T. S. P. R. R. and were next heard of
near Grandkato as you will see by the
paper I sent you. We left here at 10⁴⁵-
in the evening under command of
Hon J. M. Baxter and arrived at the
the next morning at 6²⁰ ready for
the chase - In about 15 minutes the news came
that the robbers had succeeded in crossing
the Blue Earth River that night and were
in the timber near Minneopa falls.
Of course we started in pursuit and
skimmished through the brush all day
there were probably not less than
350 men out from all parts of
this section of the state

HARDWARE,

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I at first was with our own company and then with Mike Hoys party awhile but did not like their cowardly way of pursuing and then joined Capt Colv & ~~the~~ other men (all picked) and stayed with him during the bal of that day in the evening we started for Garden City thinking they would try and cross the Blue Earth again there, we found Sheriff Davis and his party of 35 mounted men & enough others and what came afterwand to make at least 100 men. We formed a picket line from the river to Rush Lake, one man

Every 3 or 4 rods and it would have
been impossible for them to pass through
there. I was stationed about 40 rods
from the river on an elevation &
never suffered more from cold than
I did that night. Next morning
we found that two of the robbers
had succeeded in passing another
point live near Lake Crystal about
5 or 6 miles from where we were
and one of the guards fired at
them but missed, it being about
12 o'clock at night. The other
4 we lost track of, and were not
heard from until captured the
other day. We then went to Lake
Crystal to join in pursuit of
those two, they had stolen horses
and every body that had or could

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got a horse was after them. about 8 of our men succeeded the bal of them and also from their prints could do nothing more than go home. I was among that number. Mr Lay he staid 4 days longer and travelled about 300 miles more, but did not good beause they did not catch up with the rascals.

The pursuers went as far as Faulkton & Sioux City and some are now yet on the trail, and we still hope that they may be captured. Both are wounded and suffer fearfully from cold & exposure.

Thousands have been to see the four
that were captured near Madeline, our dead.
There is nothing good about them
they look as if they hated the sight
of every man and would not hesitate
to put a bullet through the brains of any one.
I am well as usual. Trade is quiet.
Money scarce. Aunt Sarah is getting
along nicely, but of course grumbling
a good deal, Mrs & Mr Day had have
you to the state fair, I am reaping
house at present.

The folks on E.P. are all well as
far as I know.

With kind regards to you
I remain your cousin
A.W. Hinkle