

July. Aug 26 1862.

My dear dear brother

It is a long time since (six months)

since I have written, but this letter on account of my health - which is now very poor! But that is not the most trouble. I never wrote a letter to any of my friends in such a long time as this - no my brother. These are times that say "mean souls" He thought it was bad enough to have our poor men, killed off by the rebels, by the thousands, but when we come to be obliged to fortify against the savage Indians that is quite another thing - which is the case now here in St Cloud? Yes my dear brother in call from where I am writing this letter. They are building a fortification, against the savages. One man that is at work on it came sixty miles a horse. He started with his family, and a large stock of cattle - ~~the Indians~~ ~~brother~~ were behind driving them - the Indians had murdered all the family above him he started, and left all his crops standing in the fields, in hope to escape - but they were overtaken and his father & brother killed, and he came on and left his father & brother on the ground dead - and here he is with one yoke of oxen, & wife, and children - but not one thing to eat. He told me to day he had nothing to eat nor he could not eat if he had it. He is not alone there are hundreds, here in the same way in St Cloud that have come from great distances - The town is full. He left last Monday and left our wheat & oats standing in the shock. Quincy left at the same time for Kentucky, and William for Michigan with his family - every one for themselves - or that is the way come do! That has money - a great many men are wanting there ~~money~~ and others to St Paul - and out of the state. No man is allowed to leave the state since William has gone, the men in Cass Rapids are building a fortification around Days Hotel. One Regiment of troops that started for to south, were sent back - got here last night.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

My ever dear Brother

July. Aug 26 1862.

It is a long time since (six months)

Since I have written, but time lingers on account of my health - which is now very poor! But that is not the most trouble. I never wrote a letter to any of my good friends since as there - no my brother. These one time that they means wants. He thought it was bad enough to have our poor men killed off by the rebels, by the thousands, but when we come to be obliged to fortify against the savage Indians, that is quite another thing - which is the case now here at St Cloud? Yes my dear brother in call from where I am writing this letter they are building a fortification, against the savages. One man that is at work on it came sixty miles a day. He started his family, and a long stock of cattle - then he was taken away from him near before driving them - The Indians had murdered all the family above him he started, and left all his crops standing in the fields, in hopes to escape - but they were over taken and his father & brother killed, and he come on and left his father & brother on other ground dead - and here he is with one eye of opium, & wife, and children - but not one thing to eat. He held fast to day he had nothing to eat now he could not eat if he had it. He is not alone there one hundred, here in the same way in St Cloud that home come from great distances - The Town is full. We left last Monday, and left our wheat & oats standing in the shock. Quincy left at the same time for Kentucky, and William Fox Madigan with his family, every one for themselves - or that is the way some do! That has money, a great many men are wanting their influence out and others to St Paul - and out of the State. No man is allowed to leave the state. Since William has gone, the men in Dark Rapids are building a fortification around Days Hotel. One Regiment of troops that started for South, were sent back - got here last night.

and this morning started for Fort Ruffely
and made the last line, whilst I was stopping
again down up with a man in the shed who had been
shot by an Indian out at Harris (it was about 88 miles from
us when they murdered) commencing the man's name was
Gnat his wife's name was Helen and she had Dr. Palmer
who lives to where we have not more than two rods and went
out and brought him in. It made me feel sick at heart to
see the men so long getting him out and carry him into the
house one man passing him all the time. I thought how many
have suffered then more in the same condition in the war.
He had a brave wife. She after her husband fell on the floor
and she thought he was dead managed to keep off a number
of Indians through the night with assistance came
in morning and shot over him with her knife of something
I have not named, whether they think him mortally wounded
or not they were afraid to touch him. There is the chief
that shot him I in the Chippewas that were afraid of at
present. The head chief name is Hole in the Hand.
He has been very friendly all along has offered the help us
fight the war he said he had seventy trained men
now, that would be glad to help but there has been
difficulties with the agents about they pay.
The agent was sent up a week ago but the chief said
he was not the man he wanted to see he told him he
had tried to hear at Washington and some other place
but could not and now he must be used.
Mr. Chaute is authorized by government now to give
them powder and dollars - he went up day before
yesterday - the last news from there came last night
saying the Indians had held a council.

Daily N. Wood

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

0627

and then morning started for Fort Riffely.
I made the last line, while I was stopping to rest
waggon drove up with a man in it, who had been
shot by an Indian, out at Harris City about 80 miles from
us. When they murdered someone the man's name was
Quot. His name Mather lived here and she took Dr. Palmer
who lives to where we live - not more than one road and not
out and brought him in. It made me feel sick at heart to
see ten men so long getting him out and carry him into the Dr.
house and man passing him all the time. I thought how many
poor souls then made in the same condition in the war.
He had a brave wife. She after her husband fell on the floor
and she thought he was dead, managed to keep off a number
Indians through the night until assistance came.
She was here and took care of him with her bottle of corn
I have not learned, whether they think him mortally wounded
or not - they were afraid to leave him there. At the same time
that shot him I in the Chippewas, that were afraid of at
present. The head Chief name is Hole in the Day.
He has been very friendly all along - has offered to help us
fight the South. He said he had twenty trained men
now, that would be glad to help - but there has been
difficulties with the agents about they pay.
An agent was sent up a week ago, but the chief said
he was not the man he wanted to see - he told him he
had tried to hear at Washington - and some other place
but could not and now he must be here.
Mr. Emery is authorized by government now, to give
them fourteen thousand dollars - he went up day before
yesterday - The last news from there came last night
saying the Indians had held a council.

Sally S. Wood

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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0628

September 8 1862

Dear brother

We are in great trouble here in Minnesota. The Indians are upon us in thousands. We are all expecting them every night every one is packing their goods that can get away. We have horses and cattle & wheat &c but it is impossible to sell any thing for money and William has gone to Shakopee and I could get the money of him if I come there with some arms and ammunition. I must tell the story. The great Sioux war is on and the Chippewas are all around us it is expected they intend to fight. They say we shall know tomorrow. The town is all in confusion. I only & David, with a few men is allowed to leave the place. If any chance of to sell the personal property they will do it. If you can send me 30 dollars to carry Almon & myself then to Michigan. Oh my brother - remember this moment that the Indians are killing people within 20 miles of us. If you cannot the money send it quick we may be all dead before that time.

DEFECTIVE PAGE

September 5 1862

Dear Father

We are in great trouble here in Minnesota - The Indians are upon us in by thousands - We are all suspecting them every night every one is leaving the state that can get away - The horse horses and cattle I make at the best it is impossible to sell any thing for money and father has gone to Southampton and I could get the money of him if I come close with some one we and Almina. I must not tell the story. The Great chance comes and now and the Chippewas are all around us it is expected they intend to fight - They say we shall know tomorrow - The town is all in confusion. I, Mary & David, will stay no man is allowed to leave the state, if any chance of to sell the personal property they will do it. If you can send me 30 dollars to carry Almina & my self ~~there~~ to Michigan. Oh my brother - never this moment that the Indians are killing people within six miles of us. if you send the money send it quick we may be all dead before that time

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0630

This may be the last you will
have from me. Your aff.
Sister Sally J. Houn

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0 6 3 1

This may be the last you will
have from me. Yours aff.
Capt. Sully S. Wood

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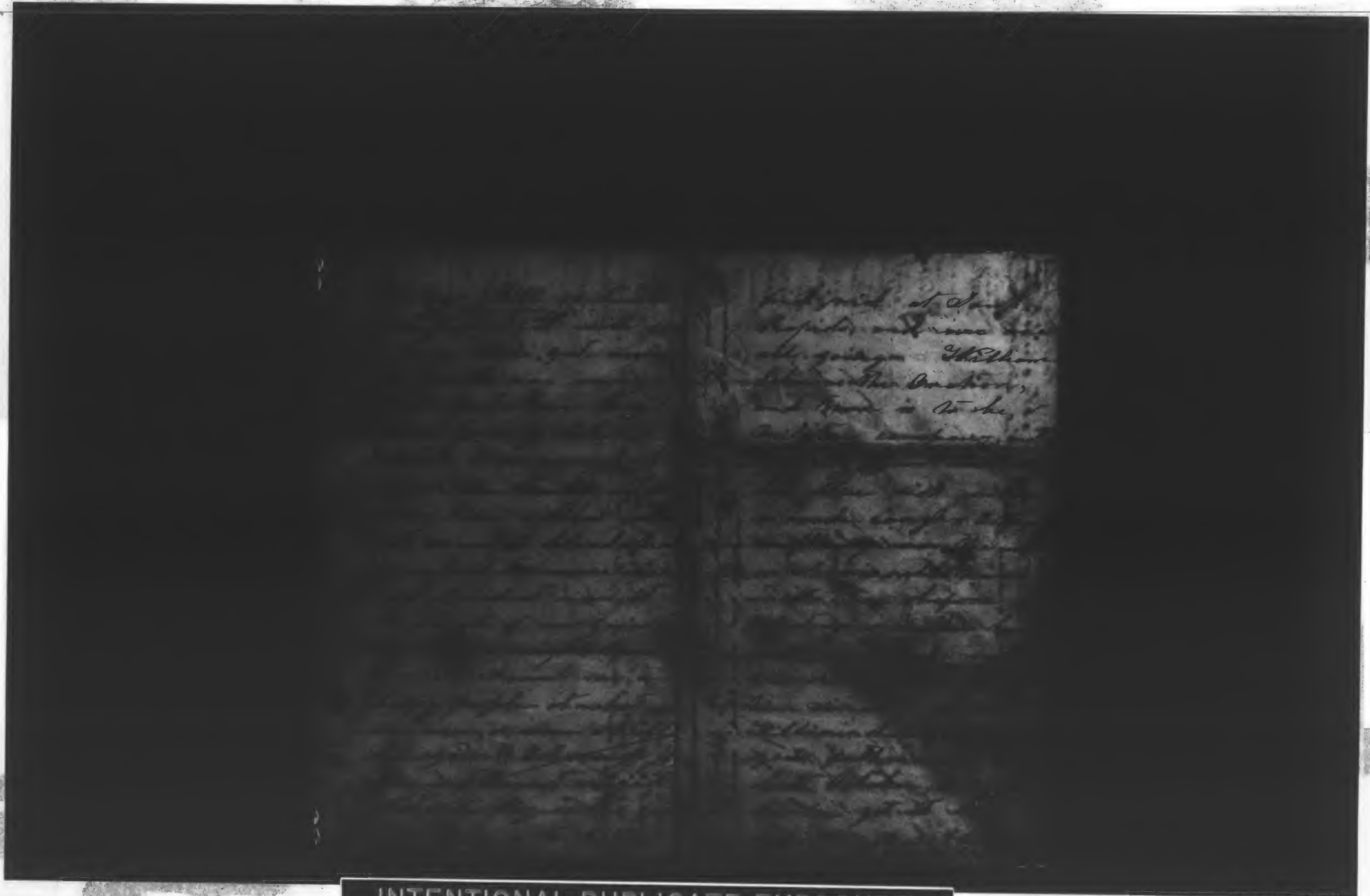
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0 6 3 8

Elmisle Aug 5 63

Dear Brother.

You may be some-
what surprised in reading
this letter to find, that we
have some ideas of leaving
Minnesota - The much loved
Minnesota, now infested with
hostile Indians - but that is
the case, with many, at this
time? Early has never been
contented here, in the best
of times - his eye has even
been turned towards the
west & have even been planned
and happy in the sunny
healthy climate of this
state - until the Indian
war broke out - and even
now, I regret to think of
leaving it - and it is very
hard for me to think of
leaving this beautiful
state.

W. H. Jones, free government, gives led to many regret
and stand by the side of the people who should not be

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0639

My dear brother, I have been thinking of you very much lately and I am sure you are well and happy. I have been thinking of you very much lately and I am sure you are well and happy.

Elmville Aug 5 63

Dear Brother.

You may be somewhat surprised in reading this letter to find, that we have some ideas of leaving Minnesota - The much loved Minnesota, now infested with hostile Indians - but that is the case, with many at the time? Nearly has been a contested area in the land of times - his eyes have been turned towards the west and happy in the healthy climate of the state until the winter was fast with and now, I regret to think of leaving it and I am sure you will be the same.

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Every night when we go to
bed we think it as likely as
any way, we shall be murdered
before morning - There is no living
any thing about them - no one
goes out of it cloud without
being armed - He lives four
miles down the River from
it cloud on the River - and it
is so low now a man can ford
it on foot without any trouble
On the other side of the Mississippi
for twelve miles they have
killed a number of whites and
then have to leave their farms
and go into town, Clearwater
There is a large piece of meadow
back of the town, some four or
five miles - where they say
are 400 Indians.
He gave 100 soldiers some
in search of them, but could
not find any - but at the same
time the Indians would be

this side killing men, and
stealing horses, firing at the same
men over out on their farms,
cutting their hay - that the
way they are raiding about
all the time. He have had an
offer for our farm - and
William thinks we had better
sell and go to Michigan
some where - and told me
I had better write to you
to look around, or perhaps
you know of some small
farm with a good comfortable
fenced house, and a good
wood & water on it -
that could be bought
some where in your part
of the country. I like to
find a man that wanted
to sell - to clear a mortgage
or to go to some other place
I don't expect to find with

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Every night when we go to
bed we think it as likely as
any way, we shall be mounted
before morning - There is nothing
any thing about them - no one
goes out of at cloud without
being armed - He lives four
miles down the River from
at cloud. on the River - and it
is so low now a man can ford
it on foot without any trouble
On the other side of the Mississippi
but on twelve miles, they have
killed a number of white and
black men to leave their farms
and go into town, Clearwater
There is a large piece of land
back of the town, some four or
five miles - where they say
are 400 Indians.
Some 100 soldiers were
in search of them, but could
not find any - but at the same
time the Indians would be

this side killing men, and
stealing horses, firing at the men
who were out on their farms,
cutting their hay - that the
men they are waiting about
all the time. We have had an
offer for our farm - and
William thinks we had better
sell and go to Michigan
some where - and told me
I had better write to you
to look around, or perhaps
you know of some small
farm with a good comfortable
fenced house, and a good
meadow near it -
that could be bought
some where in your part
of the country. I like to
find a man that wanted
to sell - to clear a mortgage
or to go to some other place
I don't expect to find either

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0 6 4 2

chance immeasurably ~~immediately~~
immediately in your
vicinity. But perhaps there
may be. We should like
to have you and Livermore
around and find what
such a form can be found
bought for an acre.
on how much they would
and for acre - It is through
by many that there will be
a general out looking of the
ground for gold - and the
best of all the get away
from the mine
can after looking about
and let us know what we
can do there if we will
I hope you will write soon
and let us know what we
can depend upon. Love all
Yours aff. Chas. H. Head

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0 6 4 3

chance immensely
immediately in your
vicinity, but perhaps there
may be. We should like
to have you and Livermore
around and find what
work a party can be put

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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0644

(a)
Sauk Rapids, Minn.
Oct. 20. 62

Dear Uncle,

We are once more
at home - all safe and
sound, and find nobody
here either killed or wounded,
maimed, or harmed in
person or property by the
Indians. I found all my
property, house, barns, store,
and other property, just as I
left it, and am now fairly
settled on to business again
and am right glad the long
prayer has been performed as
a res. with all its hardships,
dick, cold, gollings, and
troubles. I am going to stop
at home now for at least ten years.

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0 6 4 5

(a)
Sault Rapids, Minn.
Oct. 20. 62

Dear Uncle,
We are once more
at home - all safe and
sound, and find nobody
here either killed or wounded,
maimed, or harmed in
person or property by the
Indians. I found all my
property, house, barns, store,
and other property, just as I
left it, and am now fairly
billed down to business again
and am right glad the long
prayer has been performed
to us, with all its hardships,
dark, cold, frostings, and
troubles. I am going to stay
at home now for at least two years.

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0 6 4 6

Had a pleasant visit in N. A.
Visited, Aunt Lydia, Mr. Towles,
Mr. Sandberg, and saw Sullivan -
and Mr. & Mrs. Brook at Cousin
May's. Mrs. May Ann Loring
Stuckell was a very pleasant, amiable
and entertaining woman with all
the comforts of the house.
Sullivan has had his house burned
up, and is building a new one -
is evidently one of the unfortunate
ones. Aunt Lydia told me to say
to Livermore that he ought to
send on to Sullivan a few Bills
of flow seeing he was well able to do
it. I did not see Livermore on
my way, and with Aunt's request,
which you will please deliver to him
and my agency in the matter will
have been accomplished. You know
how it is: the thrifts are expected to
provide for the centrifugal relations

and so Livermore is expected to send
on 10 Bills of flow to Sullivan who
is unfortunate.

I found Mother here when I got here
at her own home, and she says she will
not go East this year. The money is given
with her subjects to your order -
and of course my responsibility
in the matter of the money is at
an end. If you want the money
you must send to her to send it
back with the says this is willing
\$90.

Our Indian brothers are pretty
much of an end, and so far as
actual danger is concerned there is no
further fear. The bands of Sioux
not yet captured are wandering
around - but the nation has been
refused and scattered. They have
settled pretty badly and killed many
on the prairie and destroyed much.

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Had a pleasant visit in N. H.
visited, Aunt Lydia, Mr. Fowler,
Mr. Sanborn, and Sam Sullivan -
and Mr. & Mrs. Brook at Cousin
May Ann's. Found May Ann looking
frustrated and a very pleasant, agreeable
and entertaining woman with all
the comforts of life about her.

Sullivan has had his house burned
up, and is building a new one -
is evidently one of the unfortunate
ones. Aunt Lydia told me to say
to Libermore that he ought to
send on to Sullivan a few Bbls
of flour seeing he was well able to do
it. I did not see Libermore on
any way, and with Aunt's request,
which you will please deliver to him
and my agency in the matter will
have been accomplished. He told me
how it is: the thief are expected to
provide for the scattered relatives

and so Libermore is expected to send
on 10 Bbls of flour to Sullivan who
is unfortunate.

I found Mother here when I got here
at her new home, and she says she will
not go East this year. The money is got
with her subject to your order -
and of course my responsibility
in the matter of the money is at
an end. If you want the money
you must send to her to send it
back which she says she is willing
to do.

Our Indian brothers are pretty
much of an end, and so far as
actual danger is concerned there is no
further fear. The bands of Sioux
not yet captured are wandering
around - but the Nation has been
scattered and scattered. They have
settled pretty badly and killed many
on the frontier and destroyed much.

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0648

● We have now in the State
 8000 troops for the purpose of driving
 the Indians from the State. So that
 I have no doubts but that we shall
 now be free from the red savages.
 Mother, Father, Sister & all mine are all
 well. They all want to see you as well
 as relatives near you. Mother's health
 is quite good now - better than for a year.
 The weather is getting cool & rather -
 I hope you are all well - and that
 some of you will come out and
 see us next summer. Come out
 uncle Plummer & see us. You can do
 so if you wish. The troops here make
 business rather quick - and so
 good price to the people of all kinds.
 Give my best respects to uncle & Aunt
 and Aunt Martha, & all mine. I shall long
 remember my pleasant visit
 at your house.
 Mrs Wood sends love to all
 Yours truly W. Wood

I have no doubt but that we shall
 now be free from the red savages.
 Mother, Father, Sister & all mine are all
 well. They all want to see you as well
 as relatives near you. Mother's health
 is quite good now - better than for a year.
 The weather is getting cool & rather -
 I hope you are all well - and that
 some of you will come out and
 see us next summer. Come out
 uncle Plummer & see us. You can do
 so if you wish. The troops here make
 business rather quick - and so
 good price to the people of all kinds.
 Give my best respects to uncle & Aunt
 and Aunt Martha, & all mine. I shall long
 remember my pleasant visit
 at your house.
 Mrs Wood sends love to all
 Yours truly W. Wood

DEFECTIVE PAGE

We have now in the State
 8,000 troops for the purpose of driving
 the Indians from the State. So that
 I have no doubt but that we shall
 now be free from all wars.
 Mother, truly, I am all well.
 They all want to see you and
 visit you. Mother's health
 is quite good now - better than for a year.
 The weather is getting cold rather -
 I hope you are all well - and that
 some of you will come out and
 see us next summer. Come out
 and see us. You can do
 so if you wish. The troops here make
 business rather quick - and so
 good price to the people here.
 Give my love to all - to Uncle
 and Aunt Martha, Henry, and
 all the cousins. I shall long
 remember my pleasant visit.
 Your love,
 Mrs. Wood. Love to all.
 Yours truly, William

I have now in the State
 8,000 troops for the purpose of driving
 the Indians from the State. So that
 I have no doubt but that we shall
 now be free from all wars.
 Mother, truly, I am all well.
 They all want to see you and
 visit you. Mother's health
 is quite good now - better than for a year.
 The weather is getting cold rather -
 I hope you are all well - and that
 some of you will come out and
 see us next summer. Come out
 and see us. You can do
 so if you wish. The troops here make
 business rather quick - and so
 good price to the people here.
 Give my love to all - to Uncle
 and Aunt Martha, Henry, and
 all the cousins. I shall long
 remember my pleasant visit.
 Your love,
 Mrs. Wood. Love to all.
 Yours truly, William

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

DEFECTIVE PAGE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
 MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

0650

about 1/2 way to the top of the
hill the highest ridge of the
full. Sullivan looks better than
Liberman, and I don't like
him next to me. I was once
blasted with a
family and then
with my first at his house.
Give my best regards to the
young cousin who is with
us for you. I am sure to
be in the full evening. I
want that. I wish the could
come and stay with us at
one summer. I should like
very great pleasure in having
you all the time.
Indian Chiefs in the
Country. Well, well, I have been
written you a long letter, and hope
you will find time to answer.
I send you my paper from
which you can learn much of
the news of the part of the world.
(William)

DEFECTIVE PAGE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

0651

about the same time
with the other
full. Still, I am
in the most
with my kind
my best
young
and I
one summer
very great pleasure
I have been
Country. Well, each I have
after you a long letter, and hope
you will find him to be
I find you my paper from
what you can be
the name of the party to be
(William)

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

DEFECTIVE PAGE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

0 6 5 2

Federal Records Survey¹- work done by Mary E. Reed, ~~Aug~~ June 11, 1937.

Letters in possession of Mrs. Altan Moore, 105 Wren Street, Jackson.

Collection consists of five letters written from Elmisle, Minn. to Hanover, Michigan.

Sally Wood Letter No. 1

"Aug. 26 - 1862

"My Very Dear Brother

It is a very long time since I have written..... health poor but that is not the most trouble. I have never written to my friends during these perilous times. These are times that try men's souls. We thought it was bad enough to have our poor men killed off by the rebels, by the thousands but when we come to be obliged to fortify against the savage Indian that is quite another thing which is now the case here in St. Cloud.... In call from where I am writing they are building a fortification against the savages. One man who is working on it came sixty miles above us. He started with his family and a long stock of cattle. His father and brother were behind driving them. The Indians had murdered all the familyhe started and left all his crops standing in the field in hopes to escape but they were overtaken and his father and brother killed and he came on and left his father and brother on the ground dead. And here he is with one yoke of oxen and wife and children but not one thing to eat. He told perly he had nothing to eat nor could he eat if he had it. He is not along there are hundreds here in the same way in St. Cloud that have come from a great distance. The town is full. We

Rec'd April 1, 1940 from Mrs. Altan Moore, Jackson, Minn.

left last Monday and left our wheat and oats standing in the shock. Quincy left at the same time for Kentucky and William for Michigan with his family. Everyone for themselves or that is the way some do that has the money. A great many men are sending their wives....and mothers to St. Paul and out of the state. No man is allowed to leave the state since William has gone. The Men in Sauks Rapids are building a fortification around Days(?) Hotel. One regiment of troops that started to go south were sent back, got here last night and this morning started ~~taxes~~ for Fort Ripley. Since I wrote the last line ~~while~~ I was stopping to rest a wagon drove up with a man in it on a bed who had been shot by an Indian at Ferris City about 30 miles from us where they murdered so many. The man's name was Yost - his wife's mother lives here and she took Dr. Palmer who lives where we live not more than two rods and went out and brought him in.....10 men so long to get him off the wagon. He had a brave wife. She after her husband fell on the floor and she thought he was dead managed to keep off a number of Indians through the night until assistance came... ..I have not learned whether they think him mortally wounded or not.....The Sioux tribe that shot him. It is the Chippeways that we are afraid of at present. The head chief's name is "Hole in the Day" had been very friendly all along offered to help us fight the South. He said he had seventy trained warriors that would be glad to help but there had been difficulty with the agent about their pay. Mr. Sweete was sent up a week ago but he said he was not the man he wanted to see & he told him he had tried to.....at Washington and some

other places but could not and now he must be..... Mr. Sweete is authorised by the government to give them fourteen thousand dollars. He went up day before yesterday. The last news from came last night saying the Indians has held a council.

Sally S. Wood"

Sally Wood Letter No. 2

"Sept. 5 - 1862

"Dear Brother

We are in great trouble now in Minnesota ^[sic]. The Indians are upon us by the thousand. We are all expecting them every night everyone is leaving the state that can get away. We have horses and cattle, wheat and oats but it is impossible to sell anything for money and William has gone to New Hampshire or I could get the money from him. If I come Jose will come with me and..... Tomorrow will tell the story. The Sioux Indians have camped near and the Chippeways are all around us- it is expected they intend to fight. they say we shall know tomorrow the town is all in confusion. Bobby and David will stay no more ^[man] is allowed to leave the state. if any chance to sell the personal property they will do it. If you can send me 30 dollars to carry Almora(?) and myself to Michigan. Oh my brother....this moment that the Indians are killing people within six miles of us. if you send the money send it quick we maybe all dead before that time. This may be the last you ever hear ^[sic] from me.

Your aff sister

Sally Wood"

Note: This letter was written on the back of the letter dated Aug-26-62, under very apparent nerve strain. Hand writing was so shaky it was very bad to read in some places.

Sally Wood was a sister of Nathaniel P. Drake, Sr., whose family history appears among this collection.

Sally Wood Letter No. 3

"Elmisle Aug 5-'63

"Dear Brother

You may be somewhat surprised in reading this letter to find that we have some idea of leaving Minnesota - the much loved Minnesota now infested with hostile Indians but that is the case with many at this time. Perly(?) has never been contented here in the best of times his eye has ever been turned toward Michigan but I have been ever been pleased and happy in the sunny and healthful climate of this state until the Indian man knock and even now I regret to think of leaving it and it is very hard for me to think of leaving this bracing atmosphere.

Every night when we go to bed we think it is as likely as any way we shall be murdered before morning. There is no knowing anything about them, no man goes out of St. Cloud without being armed. We live down the river four miles from St. Cloud, on the river - and it is so low now a man can forde

it on foot without any trouble. On the other side of the Mississippi ten or twelve miles they have killed a number of whites and men have to leave their farms and go into town, Clearwater. There is a large piece of meadow back of the town some four or five miles where they say are 400 Sioux Indians. We have 100 soldiers in search of them, but could not find any but at the same time the Indians would be this side killing men and stealing horses firing at the men who are out on their farms cutting their hay. thats the way they are raiding about all the time. We have had an offer for our farm and William thinks we had better sell and go to Michigan some where and told me I had better write to you to look around or perhaps you know of some small farm with a good comfortable framed house and orchard, wood and water on it that could be bought reasonable some where in your part of the country. I should like to find a man who wanted to sell to clear a mortgage or to go to some other place. I don't expect to find such a chance immediatly in your vicinity but perhaps there may be. We should like to have you and Livermore look around and find if such a farm could be found and what it could be bought for or how much they would ask per acre. It is thought by many that there will be a general outbreaking of Indians this fall and William thinks we had better get away this fall if we can..... let us know what we can depend upon.

Sally Wood"

P.S. "We have two government guns loaded every night and stand by our bed if we should need them."

Sally Wood Letter No. 4

"Elmisle June 29 - 1863

"My Dear Niece

.....I am in the land of the living yet.
The Indians have not got my scalp yet but I cannot tell now soon they may. The Sioux are in rebellion against the whites now. Some think they will trouble us again this fall but I hope not. The war still continues and I fear it will for a long time yet unless the north are more successful than they have been of late. I think it is a wicked war. The trouble might have been settled without so much bloodshed if we had more wise and prudent men at the head of our government. The Union might have been saved and we a happy people at what we are now or ever shall be again. But enough of this unpleasant subject.....

Your aff aunt

S. S. Wood"

Letter from William Wood to Nathaniel Drake

"Sauks Rapids, Minn.

Oct. 20 - '62

"Dear Uncle

We are once more at home all safe and sound and find nothing, nobody, either killed or wounded maimed or harmed in person or property by the Indians.

I found all my property, house barns store and other property just as I left it and am now fairly settled down to

business again and am right glad the long journey has been performed and over with all its hardships dust, cold, jottings and trouble. I am going to stay at home now at least for two years....

Our Indian troubles are pretty much at an end and so far as actual danger is concerned there is no further fear. Some bands of Sioux not yet captured are wandering around.... We have now 8000 Troops for the purpose of driving the Indian from the State so that I have no doubt but that we shall now be freed from the red rascals.....

Yours.....

W.H. Wood"

Note: On another page not dated Mr. Wood writes:

....."but thousands of bushels of grain went to waste for want of attention during the Indian excitement. Bands of Sioux and Chippeways are planning war - 1500 Sioux are now said to be marching on Col Tilly on the river side..... no doubt there are Indians enough to kill all the whites if they dared but Col Pope intends to put an extinguisher on the whole pack of them and send them from the state or kill them outright. We have the troops to do it now.....

William"

Note: This seems to be part of the 1st letter from William written Oct. 20 - 1862