

## **Ephraim Nute to Franklin B. Sanborn**

Ephraim Nute's efforts on behalf of "4 more fugitives," including Charley Fisher of Leavenworth, and the activities of "manhunters" in and around Lawrence are the main focus of this letter to F. B. Sanborn, but Nute also mentions the continuing need for money to pay for Doy's defense. The trial was to begin at St. Joseph the next day.

Creator: Nute, Ephraim

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## Ephraim Nute to Franklin B. Sanborn

U. Nute, E.

Lawrence K. T., March 22<sup>nd</sup> 57

F. B. Sanborn Esq

Dear Sir

(Yours of the 11<sup>th</sup>)

enclosing draft for \$50 is rec<sup>d</sup>. It comes very opportune & that it comes from our highly esteemed friend Mrs Green makes it peculiarly gratifying. Day before yesterday we (i.e. about half a dozen who have had the management of the Lox expedition) were almost in despair for the want of funds to meet the pressing emergency for his defence. His trial is to come off at St Joseph tomorrow & it was necessary to send 6 witnesses over by which an alibi can be proved & some other facts bearing on the case. We had entrusted debts in the preparation for the trial that was appointed for some 4 weeks since at Platte city & \$160 + over was needed immediately. Three of us took such a subscription paper & worked

I fear more trouble, anyone in the Lox case, the hear by our share in the case that several other individuals are pending over him & that the prisoners of Platte

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the greater part of the day & got about \$60. I then learned that \$25 sent by Dr Howe to Conway was available for the object on my discretion (\$25 I had drawn before & used in this case)

We have since made up the amount into about \$10. But here are 4 more fugitives who must be forwarded immediately  
1<sup>st</sup> Charley Fisher who has twice kidnapped & of whom you have before read. 2<sup>d</sup> Bill Riley one who was taken with Dr Doy & who escaped from Platte city jail by burning out an iron bar from the logs in which it was fastened across the window. (Dr Doy was shut up in an iron cage within the general enclosure & so could not escape with Riley)

3<sup>d</sup> a woman with a child who has been here some three months.

4<sup>th</sup> a smart young fellow who walked into our house the day last week. He escaped from masters in Lewis Co N.Y. & had walked hither in 3 or 4 nights.

I directed him to the next depot 7 miles



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West telling him to make inquiries at a friends  
a mile from this, He had been gone but  
a quarter of an hour or so when a young man  
rode over from the main street (our house  
is on the western border) & after inquiring  
about the fugitive informed me that the  
hunters were on his track, - that they had  
reached Lawrence but a short time after  
the fugitive the evening before & had put  
up at the public house in which or in  
the outhouse of which the "property" had  
found shelter, - that they had got sight  
of their game in the morning, <sup>engaged</sup> had, the  
base helpers who, I am pained to answer, are  
not few here in Lawrence to be on the  
watch & they had tracked him to my  
house & were proposing to make a descent  
on us that night. In the mean time his  
further progress through the corn-field  
lack of our house had escaped their vigilance  
It not being according to the usual method  
they had been misled supposing he would  
not move again before night. I mounted  
& rode "across lots" to intercept the hunted one

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to have him take a hiding place through  
the day & then get him conveyed under  
cover of darkness by an unpermitted route  
In this I succeeded. that night he was  
taken horse-back & safely conducted to  
a good place 7 miles on the road &  
last night 25 miles further I expect.  
On returning to town & going into the main  
street I found the alarm had been well  
grounded. The leading man among the man-  
hunters had conferred with the landlord  
in great trouble about the escape of "his  
Uncle's" chattel - said he was authorised to  
offer \$600 for his delivery in Jan 6. & offered  
200 for information that would lead to his  
capture, this he also did in several stores.  
He was very anxious to know if it would be  
possible to take him in Lawrence & get off  
with him, or safe to make the attempt - but  
the replies which he got were not very encour-  
aging & he pretended to give up the hunt.  
but some of the dealings are doubtless on the watch,  
I give these particulars to help you to a clear idea of  
the business & the desirableness of despatching <sup>in our expedition</sup> I must  
close abruptly & hope to write more soon, as our quar-  
ters are

are determined to have him back there yet. the counsel will take all the  
apprehension from our department for the defence - my \$1000 in gold = \$500 cash

Jan. 487 E. N.