

## Scenarios for searching in the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub

(<http://www.mnhs.org/newspapers/hub>)

Start by clicking on the blue **“Search the Newspapers”** button in the middle of the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub home page.

### Scenario 1. Historic Bank Robbery in Northfield

A student comes into the library wanting to find early historic news reports about the James-Younger gang’s bank robbery at a Northfield bank on September 7, 1876.

Use **Map Search** (with the magnifying glass) to find the city of Northfield and see if there are any newspapers available in the Hub that were published there.

1. Click on the **“Map Search”** tab in the middle of the 6 tabs in the upper left corner of the screen to open the map of Minnesota, then zoom in.
2. Find the city of Northfield in Rice County and **click on the circle that represents the city**. You will find that *The Northfield News* is listed.
3. **Click on the newspaper title** and you will get access to the newspaper issues. There you will find that the earliest issue date available is November 15, 1879, which would be too late for this historic event.

You could continue this process to browse other newspapers in Rice County or neighboring counties but that is not very practical.

Another approach is to try the **Search** tab:

1. Click on the **“Search”** tab (with the binoculars symbol) in the center of the 6 tabs in the upper left corner of the screen.
2. Click on the arrow in the small box in the upper far right of the screen under **“Set Search Limits to”**. Set it to **“Date Range”**.
3. Type a range of dates in the boxes: Try **1876-09-07** and **1876-09-30** as a starting point.
4. Click on **“Add Search Term”** and the **“And”** button.
5. Type another search term in the new box: **Robbery**
6. Click the **“Search”** button on the far right of the screen.

42 total results will be found.

7. Limit the number of results by clicking on a day in the **“Day published”** box. Try **“08”**, the day after the robbery, and you will narrow it down to **4 results**:
  - *The Minneapolis Tribune*, pg. 1, “Northfield’s Sensation. Full and Graphic Account of Bank Robbery.”
  - *The Record and Union* (Rochester), pg. 3, “A Daring Robbery”
  - *Stillwater Messenger*, pg. 1, “One of the boldest attempts at robbery ever made in this county...”
  - *The Mantorville express*. The articles on pg. 2 and 4 are not about the Northfield bank robbery.

Try other search terms and designate what type of terms they are in the “**Set Search Limits to**” box and there will be different results depending on what words are found in the articles.

### **Scenario 2. Finding an Obituary for an Early Settler in Duluth**

You are working on your family history. You remember that your Grandmother mentioned a relative by the name of John Dunphy who was an early settler in Duluth, Minnesota. He was supposed to have died in late May or early June, 1902. You would like to find an obituary for him and you think there should be one in a large newspaper in the Duluth area.

Use the **Map Search** to see what newspapers are available from Duluth (St. Louis County) in the Hub. Both the *Duluth Evening Herald* and the *Labor World* were being published in 1902.

Click on the **About Titles** tab toward the right of the set of tabs in the upper left hand corner of the screen and you will see more information about any newspapers in which you are interested. The *Duluth Evening Herald* was published 6 days per week from 1883-1910, so it would be a good choice for more news coverage.

Next use the **Browse By Date** tab (with the calendar book icon) to find the listing for the *Duluth Evening Herald*.

1. **Click on that title** and you will get a list of years that are available in the Hub.
2. Then **click on a year** (in this case 1902) and you will get a calendar view of the issues for that year.
3. If John Dunphy died in late May, his obituary probably wouldn't show up until early June. So to start browsing **click on the calendar date** for June 2<sup>nd</sup> to open up that issue.
4. Next in the upper right corner of the screen there is a box with a magnifying glass button next to it. **Type “John Dunphy” into that box and click the magnifying glass button.** That search luckily takes you to page 5 of the issue where there is an obituary for him. It's entitled, “John Dunphy, Duluth's Second Oldest Settler, Dies at Advanced Age”. It has a lot of good information in it about his life.

### **Scenario 3. Gauging the Political Climate in St. Cloud Leading Up to the Civil War**

A researcher is hoping to discover what social and political issues were being discussed in St. Cloud leading up to the Civil War.

Use the **Map Search** to see what newspapers are available from the St. Cloud (Stearns County) area in the Hub. If you are interested in the years 1857-1861, you would want to browse the *St. Cloud Visiter* [sic] and the *St. Cloud Democrat* because of the years they were published.

Using **Browse Issues** can be helpful for this topic.

1. Click on the **“Browse Issues”** tab (with the issues of newspapers icon) toward the upper left corner of the screen.
2. Specify any titles you want to browse, by clicking in the **“Titles”** box. You can click on “all”, several, or only one title. In this case choose the two titles, the *St. Cloud Visiter* and the *St. Cloud Democrat*.

398 results will be found.

3. Next you could **narrow your browse** by any of the categories using the drop down boxes: **“Year published”, “Month published”, “Day published”, “Subject-Country”, “Subject-State”, “Subject County”, and “Subject-City”**. You can make as many choices as you want.

For a more targeted search use the **Search** tab:

1. Click on the **“Search”** tab in the upper left corner of the screen.
2. Specify any titles you want to browse, by clicking in the **“Titles”** box. Choose the two titles, the *St. Cloud Visiter* and the *St. Cloud Democrat*.
3. Click on the arrow in the small box in the upper far right of the screen under **“Set Search Limits to”**. Set it to **“Date Range”**.
4. Type a range of dates in the boxes: Try **1857-01-01** and **1858-12-31** as a starting point.
5. Click on **“Add Search Term”** and **“And”** button.
6. Type another search term in the new box: For example, **Slavery**
7. Click the **“Search”** button on the far right of the screen.

30 total results will be found.

8. Browsing through the issues you will find these two issues with examples of anti-slavery sentiment in St. Cloud:
  - The *St. Cloud Visiter*, June 17, 1858, pg. 4, “Prospectus of the St. Cloud Visiter”. The *Visiter* clearly spells out its editorial policy and “creed” of the newspaper. Points 3 and 5 come out unequivocally against slavery. (Jane G. Swisshelm, editor)
  - The *St. Cloud Democrat*, October 14, 1858, pg. 2, “Glorious Democratic Victory! Stearns County Redeemed!” It is an article about the election victory of anti-slavery candidates.