

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA & NSDA

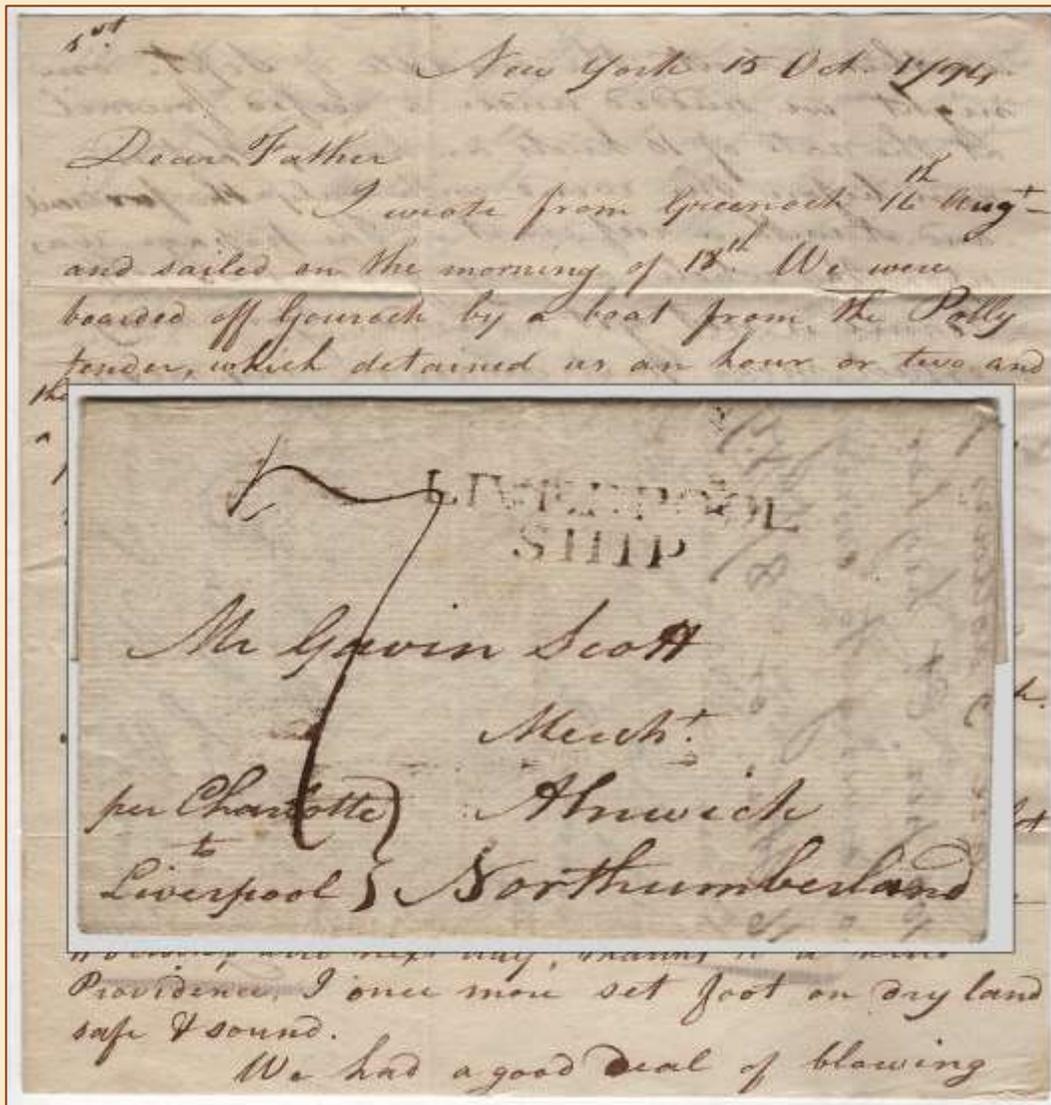
Read'Em Again Books

Catalog 17-4

Fall, 2017

# *With pen in hand, I sit to write*

A Collection of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Correspondence



**Item #2 - ACCOUNT OF THE IMPRESSMENT OF SAILORS  
FROM THE AMERICAN SHIP *FANNY* BY THE BRITISH NAVY, 1794**

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## Read'Em Again Books – Catalog 17-4 – Fall, 2017 – *With Pen in Hand*

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### What do we sell, and why do we sell it?

“So,” we are frequently asked by traditional bibliophiles at antiquarian book fairs, “the items in your booth are fascinating, but does anyone actually collect these things?” Of course, our answer is a resounding, “Yes! . . . if people didn’t buy these things, we wouldn’t be selling them.” Often, after a moment or two, we are then asked, “But why do they collect these things?” . . . a fair question to ask of people who bill themselves as booksellers but actually specialize in selling personal narratives whether they be diaries, journals, correspondence, photograph albums, scrapbooks, or the like.

We have thought a lot about this over the years and have come to realize that most of those who buy from us don’t consider themselves to be book collectors even though they may often buy collectible books. Rather, whether institutional or individual, they are thematic collectors—perhaps they collect topics related to their employment, a hobby, an institution, an interest, a region, a historical period, or even their family—and the things we sell, stories about some facet of their original owners’ lives, provide personal insights into interesting or important aspects of American life, history, or culture. That is exactly what we are offering in this catalog.

### Terms of Sale

Prices quoted are in U.S dollars. When applicable, we must charge sales tax. Standard domestic shipping is at no charge. International shipping charges vary. All shipments are insured. Reciprocal trade discounts are extended. Established customers and institutions may be invoiced; all others are asked to prepay.

If you are viewing this catalog on-line, the easiest way for you to complete a purchase is to click on the Item # or image associated with a listing. This will open a link where you can complete your purchase. We also accept credit cards, checks, and money orders. Bank transfers are accepted but will incur an additional fee.

Any item may be returned for full refund for any reason if the return is initiated within ten days of a purchaser’s receipt and the item arrives back to us in the same condition as when originally shipped. Prior notice of any return is appreciated. Return shipping costs will be paid by the buyer. All items are guaranteed as described. If a recognized authority finds an item or signature not to be genuine, the original purchaser may return the item at any time for a full refund including all shipping costs.

Regards, Kurt and Gail

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Kurt and Gail Sanftleben

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## 1. LETTER DESCRIBING THE PURSUIT AND KILLING OF A DELAWARE RAIDING PARTY BY A FAMOUS "INDIAN FIGHTER" AND HIS BAND OF RANGERS

**Stampless folded-letter from Captain "Indian" Van Swearingen at his fort near Wellsburg [West] Virginia to his cousin, Captain Josiah Swearingen in Berkeley County [West] Virginia. 1791.**

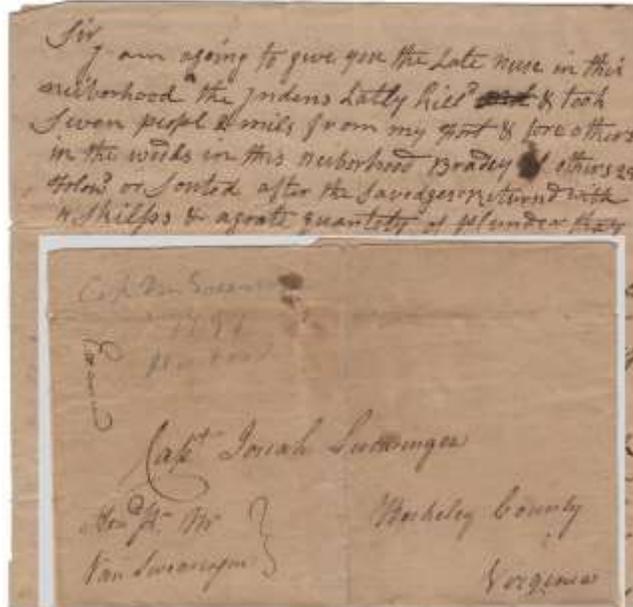
This two-page letter with separate cover measures 7.75" x 12.75". They are dated 17 March 1797 and addressed to "Capt. Josiah Swearingen / Berkeley County / Virginia." Docketing, in various hands, includes: "Van Swearingen / 17<sup>th</sup> March 1791 / J Swearingen," "Examined" (twice), and "Capt Van Swearingen / 1791 / His Fort." In nice shape; mended split along one fold.

Van "Indian Van" Swearingen raised a company of riflemen which at the beginning of the Revolution was attached to the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment and later transferred to Colonel Daniel Morgan's famous Rifle Corps. Swearingen served with distinction, fighting in a number of battles that culminated with the British surrender at Saratoga where he was wounded and taken prisoner at Stillwater. Later exchanged, he returned to command. Following the war, Van Swearingen settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania, where he served as sheriff before emigrating to Wellsburg, [West] Virginia where he established a fort, traded with Native Americans, acquired substantial property, and became quite wealthy. There, his daughter, Drusilla, married the legendary "Indian fighter" Samuel Brady, who had captained a Ranger unit during the Revolution. In this letter, Van Swearingen recounts the famous 1791 raid that Brady led into Pennsylvania in hot-pursuit of a Delaware war party that had slaughtered a number of settlers:

*"I am agoing to give you the late nuse . . . the Indens latly killd & took seven people 2 mils from my Fort & fore others in the woods . . . Brady & others 25 folowd or souted after the Savedges – returnd with 4 skilps & a grate quantity of plunder . . . they wounded Indians that escapd & killd a squaw by accident which thay did not scalp – the Indians likwis killd 17 yankes in a blockhows without loss of a man as it is said – we expect a bludy general Savedg War & Should expect you in the feald if you was as capabl as you was when we was back by Rascall & Macintosh . . . the Indens has burnt cheafly all the corn at the Jarsey Setlment at Miamey . . . the inhabitants chefly escapt into a Stockade & after 24 howers Battle held the fort."*

Accounts of Brady's raid vary. While Ohio River valley settlers found it justified, some – those whose livelihood depended on Native American trade and some who feared reprisal attacks—clamored for Brady to be punished to placate the Delaware. Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Mifflin demanded that Virginia Governor Peyton Randolph extradite Brady to stand trial for murder. During their discussions, documents about the raid were passed between the states, and the varied docketing on this letter, especially the "Examined" markings, suggests that it may be one of them. Brady remained in Virginia until continued Native American attacks upon white settlements, perhaps in response to his raid, forced President Washington to deploy General Anthony Wayne and the United States Legion to protect settlers in the Northwestern Territory. Wayne, who held Brady in high regard and wanted him to serve as chief scout on the upcoming campaign, insisted he first stand trial in Pennsylvania. So, Wayne, together with Van Swearingen, convinced Brady to surrender, and he was brought to a celebrated trial at Pittsburgh. The jury, witnesses, and observers—including the famous Seneca War Leader, Guyasuta, and Jenne Stupes, whom Brady had rescued from the Sandusky Indians years before – were overwhelmingly on Brady's side, and he was soon acquitted.

A scarce original manuscript account of an important event leading up to the Northwest Indian War which was not resolved until the Battle of Fallen Timbers. As of 2017, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, nor are there auction records for similar items. A transcription of this letter (with improved spelling and grammar) is held by Washington and Jefferson College, and some of Josiah Swearingen's records are held by the University of Michigan.



**\$4,500**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8913](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 2. ACCOUNT OF THE IMPRESSMENT OF SAILORS FROM THE AMERICAN SHIP FANNY BY THE BRITISH NAVY

**Folded letter sent by Mather Scott from New York to his father in Alnwick, Northumberland.** New York: 1794. This three-page folded letter, dated 15 October 1794, measures 14.5" x 8.75" unfolded.

The letter was written by Mather Scott, who had just arrived in New York, to his father in England. Mather annotated the letter "per Charlotte (the ship) to Liverpool" in the lower left corner. An uncommon two-line "Liverpool / Ship" handstamp, as opposed to the more common "Liverpool / Ship Letter" marking, was applied when it arrived. It was also marked with a large manuscript "7" indicating a total of 7d postage was required (6d for inland postage plus the additional 1d ship letter fee). The letter is in nice shape, with some minor insect predation.

The ship, *Fanny*, was an American vessel captained by Daniel H. Braine that had sailed from England to New York. In the letter, Scott recounts that the ship was twice boarded by the British Navy:

*We were boarded off Gouroch by a boat from the Polly tender (the HMS Polly was a tender used by the Impress Service) which detained us . . . without taking any person out of the ship. After a passage of 8 weeks we . . . saw the Jersey shore, and soon after we were boarded by the Africa English man of war of 64 guns Capt. Hume, in company with the Resolution and Argonaut of 74 guns each. After insulting and ill-treating Capt. Braine of the Fanny, Cap. Hume took the second mate and seven of the Passengers, and then let us proceed. . . . By order of Admiral Murray, who was at New York when the Passengers were pressed, they were all sent ashore except the second mate who was the only seaman among them. . . .*

During Britain's war with France from 1793-1815, the Royal Navy aggressively used impressment, on both land and sea, to man its warships. Ships at sea, including American vessels, were routinely boarded and sailors suspected of deserting from or having once served in the Royal Navy were regularly pressed into British naval service. Although foreigners and men "not of the sea" were legally protected from impressment, that usually made little difference to the press gangs when seaman were needed. Great Britain's indiscriminate impressment of U. S. citizens was one of the primary causes of the War of 1812.

In this case, it would appear that Rear Admiral George Murray, who was stationed in Nova Scotia and in charge of impressment in British North America, stopped the Captain of the *Africa* from impressing all but the *Fanny*'s second mate, who likely had a prior association with the Royal Navy.

As of 2017, there are no other first person accounts of British impressment of Americans for sale in the trade. No similar auction results are recorded at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows only five held by institutions (one letter, two diaries, and two ship's logs).

**\$1,750**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8894](#)**



The items are arranged chronologically.

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### 3. PLEA FROM A HERO OF THE NORTHWEST INDIAN WARS TO RECEIVE HIS ARMY PENSION

**Folded-letter from Captain Cornelius R. Sedam to the former Secretary of War, James McHenry.** Cincinnati: 1810.

This stampless one-page folded letter measures 15.5" x 12.5". It was sent from Sedam's farm near Bold Face Creek about three miles west of Cincinnati and is dated November 11, 1810. The cover is addressed to McHenry at Baltimore, Maryland. It has a manuscript Cincinnati postmark dated 19 Nov 1810. A manuscript "25" appears in the upper right corner indicating the cost to send a letter a distance of 500 or more miles. The letter is in nice shape with some light soiling.

In this letter, Sedam, asks for McHenry's assistance in obtaining a retirement emolument which he had been promised when the army was downsized in the late 1790s after the Northwest Territory had been secured.

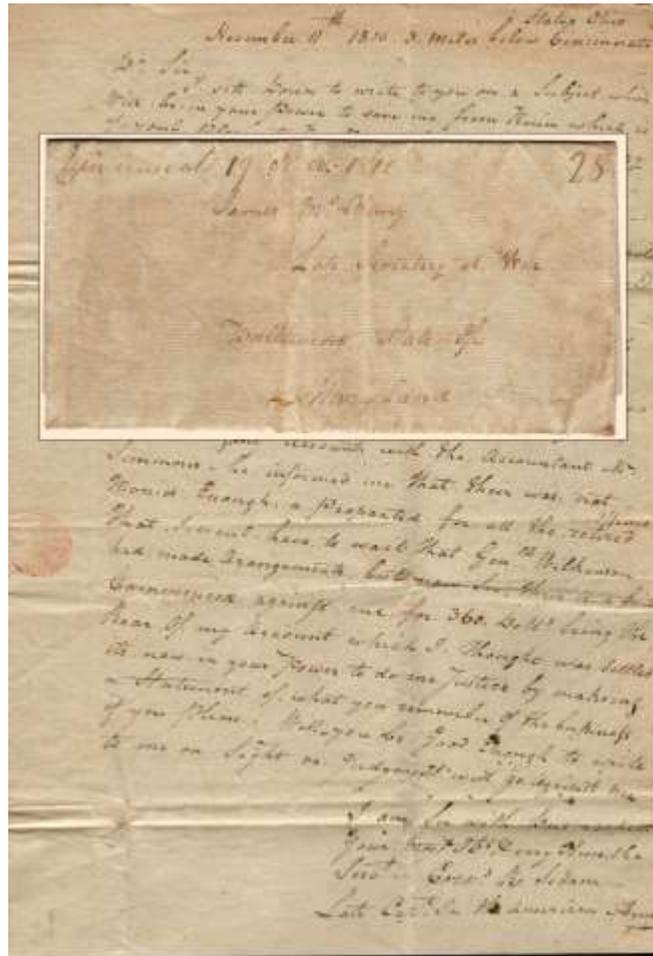
*"I . . . write you . . . to save me from Ruin. . . if you'll please to Recollect when you was Secretary of War you Granted me permission to go to the West Indies and hold my Commission [and] that their would be a Reduction of the Army and would be some Emollements for the Officers that would Retire. Accordingly, I did when . . . the Reduction Took Place. [After] I left Service and Captain Shamburg remained in my Sted . . . the Accountant Mr. Simmons, he informed me that their was not monies Enough appropriated for all the retired Officers. . . . Sir there is a Line commenced against me for 360 Doll's . . . its now in your Power to do me Justice by making a Statement of what you remember of the business. . . ."*

Sedam was a 21-year military veteran and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He enlisted in the New Jersey Militia in 1775 and served throughout the Revolution. Following the war, Sedam received a Regular Army commission as an Ensign under General Josiah Harmar and was assigned first to Fort Harmar along with future President William Henry Harrison and also to Fort Washington (Cincinnati) which he helped build. In the 1790s, Sedam served in the Northwest Indian War. He was one of the few officers to survive St. Claire's massacre at the Wabash and was promoted to Captain in part because of his valorous conduct during the battle. He later fought in General Anthony Wayne's decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers which secured the Northwest Territory from Indian attacks and forced the British to abandon their forts in the United States. The date of Sedam's "retirement" from the Army is hazy, and it is unclear whether or not he actually travelled to the West Indies. However, it is certain that by 1800, Sedam had established a large farm just west of the young city of Cincinnati. Today, Sedamsville, the site of the Sedam homestead, is best known as the childhood home of baseball legend Pete Rose.

An emotional letter with a rare early manuscript Cincinnati postmark from a noteworthy, but now all-but-forgotten, soldier who was instrumental in pacifying the Northwest Territory.

\$750

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The items are arranged chronologically.

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#### 4. TESTIMONY REGARDING A SHARECROPPING LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN A REVOLUTIONARY WAR GENERAL AND EARLY KENTUCKY PIONEERS

**Folded letter and three documents regarding Alexander Spotswood's lease of 268 acres to early Kentucky pioneers, Philip and Ann Drake and Peter Lareu (Larue).** Mason County, Kentucky and Red Sulphur [Springs], [West] Virginia: 1810-1818.

The oldest document, dated 28 June 1810, is a certified statement from a Mason County Justice of the Peace, John Pepper, and the Clerk of the County Court, Thomas Marshall, summarizing the Drakes' statements:

*"Alexander Spotswood did give to them and let to them to farm for the Consideration of Eleven Hundred pounds of tobacco pr year Two Hundred and Sixty eight acres of land to have and hold the farm during his life and Ann his wife, and Peter Larue' life also." It is signed by John Pepper, the Justice of the Peace and Thomas Marshall, the Clerk of the Court.*



There are two official certified documents, identical in content and issued almost six years later on 26 February 1816, once more summarized by John Pepper, but certified by a different Clerk of the Court, Marshall Key:

*"Peter Larue is a Son of Jacob Larue who liv.d at the time of . . . the lease from Spotswood on Mine Run a little below Richards . . . and as Said Drake had no Child at that time he supposes he had the Said Peter Larue's life in the Lease being an infant of about one or two years old and also a connection – an anon brothers Son of Ann Drake his wife and further Says that Peter Larue was at his house. . . . Said Philip Drake is 73 years old last January. And Ann Drake further states on her Oath that the above Statement of her husband is true so far as respects Peter Lareu and knows that he was Named in the Lease and that she her self is 70 years of age las January – and both the old People is well and Harty."*

The stampless folded letter sent by Peter Lareu from "the Red Sulphur [Springs]" in Monroe County, [now West] Virginia to "Mr. George [?]allies, Culpeper County, St[evens]burgh" It has a manuscript postmark, "Monroe CH [Court House], June 26th 1818" with a corresponding rate mark of 18½ indicating the cost to send the letter a distance of between 150 and 400 miles. In it Larue declares that

*"I believe my Self to be the parson mentioned in your Leace with Philip and Anna Drake for Aunt Anna Drake informed me Some years ago that my name was put with tharne in a leace when I was an infant I was born in Orang County in the year 1774 and pass for the Son of Jacob Lareu Decest. . . ."*

The items are in nice shape; sealing wax and rough opening has obliterated some of the address on the folded letter.

Alexander Spotswood was the grandson of the famous colonial Governor of Virginia for whom he was named. The younger Spotswood had inherited his grandfather's massive—but legally entangled—landholdings of over 150,000 acres throughout central and western Virginia, which included property in present day West Virginia and Kentucky. Spotswood, who rose to the rank of Brigadier General, commanded the 2nd Virginia Regiment and served with distinction during the Revolutionary War. It was during this time that he apparently leased the land described in these documents to the Drakes for the duration of their lives and the life of their ward, Jacob Lareu. Apparently by the time of these documents, Spotswood, who died in 1818, had either sold the land in a business deal or given it to a descendent, and the new owner was attempting to pin down the details of the lease.

The LaRue family (spelled in many different ways) was a family of early American pioneers who settled throughout western Virginia, including in what today is eastern Kentucky, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries

\$250

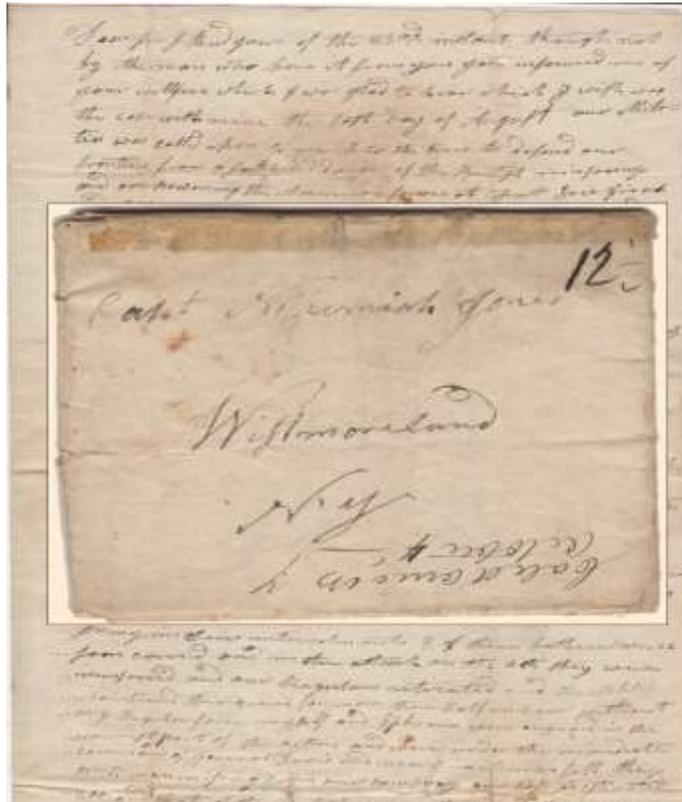
Read'Em Again Books [#8911](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 5. ACCOUNT OF THE SIEGE OF FORT ERIE DURING THE WAR OF 1812

**Three-page folded letter from Joseph Blackmer at Caledonia to Captain Nehemiah Jones in Westmoreland, New York.** Caledonia, New York: 1814. This important three-page folio-sized manuscript letter reports on the American actions at the Siege of Fort Erie during September of 1814 including the sorties attacking British artillery batteries and the death of General Daniel Davis, the leader of the New York Militia. The handwritten letter is complete and legible. It shows some storage creases and has a few small splits along the folds. The manuscript "12½" in the upper right corner of the cover indicates the cost to mail the letter a distance of 90 to 150 miles. One fold has an old tape reinforcement that is beginning to discolor.



*Our Militia was called upon to march to the lines to Defend our frontier . . . and marched for Buffalo by the 9<sup>th</sup>. 3000 militia collected there and volunteered for Canada. Crossed the same night for Fort Erie. . . . Although rainy the Americans went out of their encampment to attack the British works. A low camp filled with old logs and rotten timber lay between the 2 armies. . . . Our troops composed of Regulars and Militia attacked the British Army in their intrenchments. 3 of their batteries were soon carried and in the attack on the 4<sup>th</sup> they were reinforced and our Regulars retreated and the Militia maintained their ground for more than Half an hour. . . . Myself and Ephraim were engaged in the warmest part of the action and were under the immediate command of General Davis and near him when he fell. There are 5 men missing from our company. Our loss is estimated at 200 . . . the British more than 1000. The enemy are now retreating down the river. . . .*

*The prisoners taken in the late battle was 460 and are on their way to Greenburgh with the sick and wounded. . . . Ephraim is in a bad state of health. . . . The Doctor has fear of the typhus fever. . . . The cause of his sickness originated in his taking a bad cold storming the British batteries. The Ditches were knee Deep in water . . . and he was obliged to lie in his wet clothes in a tent without fire.*

*The British . . . marched down River they burnt all in their way to keep it from pursuing Americans. 4000 Regulars are now in Batavia . . . and 3000 more are expected. . . . When this force arrives on the Niagara frontier I think the British must fall into their hands if they Don't run away.*

The American defense of Fort Erie was successful as the British forces incurred heavy losses in their assault on the fort, during the American sorties, and as a result of exposure to the elements. Blackmer was an early settler in Oneida County, New York where after initially constructing a fortified tavern on the road between Onondaga and Westmoreland, he established a large farm and donated land for a Baptist meeting-house and school. In August of 1814 at the meeting-house, the Reverend Solomon Brown read the initial dispatch from Niagara that British forces were beginning to surround Fort Erie. Subsequently, a number of Oneida militia men, including Blackmer's son, Ephraim and Jirah, volunteered to defend Buffalo and help lift the siege. Nehemiah Jones was a well-respected Revolutionary War veteran from Massachusetts who had moved to Westmoreland, New York. His son, Pomroy, served in the New York militia.

**\$3,500**      **Read'Em Again Books [#8471](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 6. MISSIONARY'S LETTER DESCRIBING THE "BENIGHTED HEATHEN" OF INDIA

**Four-page folded folio-sized letter from E. S. Nichols, an early 19<sup>th</sup> century American missionary via the *Ship Saco*.** At sea and Bombay, India: 1817-1818. Four-page folded folio-sized sheet to Betsy Putnam of Danvers, Massachusetts signed by E. S. Nichols. Three separately dated letters are on the sheet: 31 Dec 1817, On board the *Ship Saco*; 2 Feb 1818, Off the coast of Ceylon; 30 Apr 1818, Bombay. Clean and legible with minor wear. Insignificant small tears at of some folds. Very good. Unbound.

At first, Nichols marvels at *"the amazing distance that already separates us!"* floridly summarizing his ship's travel, *"Look at the Saco, floating on the surface of the trackless deep, at the rate of 9 or 10 miles an hour; look at this safe retreat when winds blow, when waves dash & the sea threatens to devour like the voracious Shark. Stand amazed at the goodness and long suffering of our Covenant God."*

Later east of Ceylon, he notes, *"This is farther east than we intended to go. But the winds have been contrary,"* but eventually rejoices that *"Through the great goodness of God, we safely arrived at this place. . . ."*

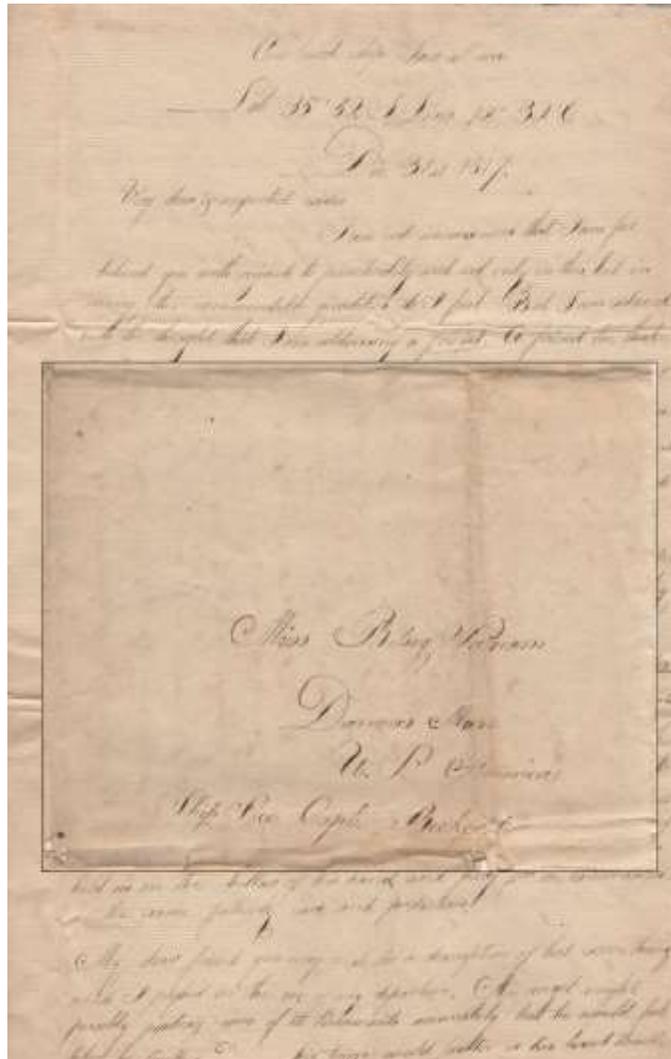
Throughout the voyage, Nichols expressed his enthusiasm to serve the *"benighted heathen,"* and face *"the superstition of the Hindoos,"* and after his arrival, Nichols declares, *"The natives in this native world are in a deplorable state . . . extreme wretchedness,"* and *"our hearts melted into kindness and compassion. . . . Hundreds of thousands, hastening to eternity, ignorant of the way of life and the savior who died to save them. . . . The air is filled with tedious noise . . . of poor deluded females who assemble to do . . . what they call sing. . . . They sit on the ground . . . so sunk in degradation, that some times I cannot realize they have immortal souls. Oh that the light of divine truth might illuminate this vast multitude of heathen souls. "*

In addition to bewilderment that the Hindus continue to worship *"their idols . . . numerous & insignificant,"* he relates his mystification that *"The Parsee (Zoroastrians) worship the rising & setting sun & the sea. . . . I have repeatedly seen them offering their petitions and praying their homage to these objects."*

E. S. was the son of John Nichols, the leader of these early American missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), which was founded in 1810 by Williams College graduates as one of the first American Christian missionary organizations. The ABCFM sent out its first missionary group in 1812, also to India; and, the minutes of the ABCFM show that *"By the brethren and sisters at Bombay they (the Nichols contingent) were welcomed with affectionate tenderness and grateful joy."*

\$750

Read'Em Again Books [#8665](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 7. ASTONISHING PLOT BETWEEN BROTHERS TO PREVENT THE MANUMISSION OF A FAMILY SLAVE AS DECREED IN THE WILL OF THEIR FATHER

**Folded-letter from Thomas Lowry of Kentucky to his brothers in Virginia.** Hardinsburg, Kentucky: 1825. This three-page folded-letter measures 14.75" x 12.25" unfolded. Sent from Hardinsburg, Kentucky to Bedford, Virginia, dated March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1825. It has a manuscript "Hardinsburg Ky / Mar 15<sup>th</sup>" postmark with a "Paid 50" rate marking indicating that postage was paid for a delivery over 400 miles distant. The sender was charged double the single-letter rate because the folded-letter contained a legal form (no longer present). The letter is in nice shape with some wear; splits beginning along some folds. Lots of docketing.

In this letter that will make your skin crawl, Thomas Lowry emphatically encourages his brothers John, William, and Triptell to commit perjury in a pending lawsuit filed by a family slave, Sam. It had been their father's long-time intention that upon his death that Sam would be emancipated, and shortly before his death, he included this provision in a will and informed Sam. Upon his father's death, after Thomas refused to grant Sam his freedom, Sam obtained legal counsel and filed suit against the estate.

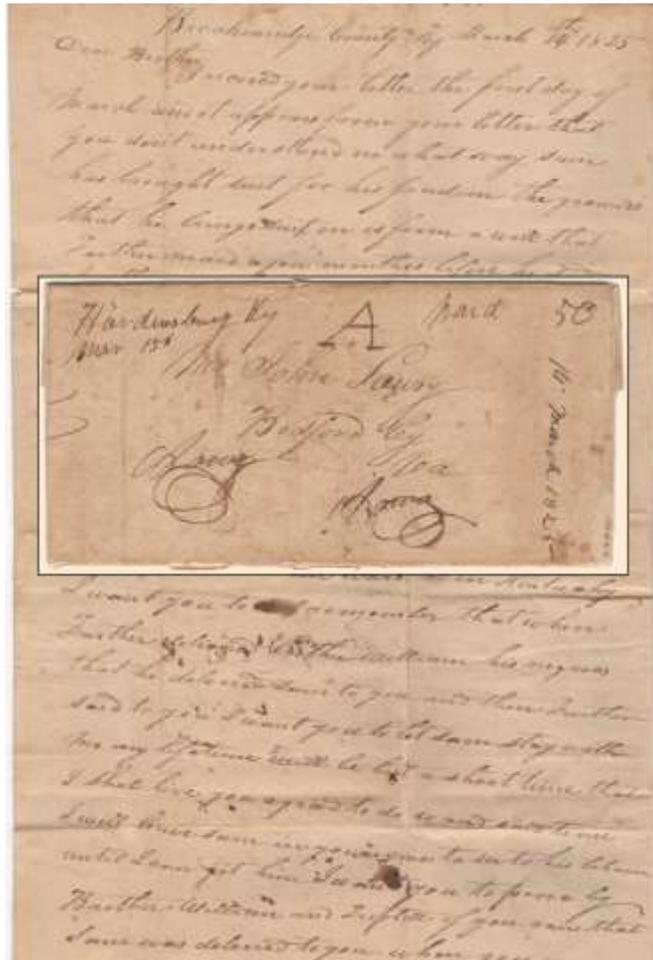
*"Sam has brought suit for his freedom the grounds that he brings suit on is from a will that Farther maid a few months before he died In this will he set Sam free this will were maid onknoing to me as soon as I hurd I went and drew the will . . . and I thought it were all safe [but] Sam advised with the lawyers and thay advised him to bring suit . . . I want you to remember when Farther delivered Brother William his negroes that he delivered Sam to you and . . . said to you I want you to let Sam stay with me my lifetime . . . you agreed to do so . . . I want you to prove by Brother William and Triptell . . . that Sam was delivered to you when you were here. If you can't prove Sam ware your property the case will be very doubtfull . . . If you cant prove [that] you must come and take him in persession and you can prove by me he ware your property at the time the will ware maid. . . .*

*The coarse Ile persew is to try and break the will on the account of farthers being out of his elements. I can prove by 4 or 5 witnesses that he ware out of his natural elements before and after he maid the will [but] Sam can prove . . . Farther ware in his perfect elements . . . William Scanton roat the will and Barrymen Lowry witness to the will and they both say they will sware that farther was in his proper elements at the that time. . . . My attorney says the main chance is to prove that he ware not Fathers property . . . I am yousing every creation within my powerss . . . Moorman is strong evidence against me he says he always herd father say he intended to free Sam at his death . . . You must without fail take the depositions [and] employ some good lawyer to . . . send them on as quick as possible.*

A fascinating letter that not only documents the evil of slavery and one family's greed, but also testifies to the integrity of other white Southerners who were willing to fight in court to ensure Sam was manumitted.

\$1,250

Read'Em Again Books [#8895](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 8. ASSURANCE THAT FEES INCURRED AT THE BETHLEHEM FEMALE SEMINARY BY AN ORPHANED FLORIDA GIRL WOULD BE PAID IN FULL ONCE HER BENEFACTOR RECEIVED PAYMENT FOR SLAVES SHE HAD LEASED TO A NEARBY FARMER

**Four-page folded letter from Isabelle Gibbs to the Reverend Charles F. Seidel.** St. Augustine, Florida: 1828. This four-page, stampless folded letter measures 15.5" x 9.75" unfolded. It is dated June 18, 1828 and addressed to the Reverend Charles F. Seidel at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The cover has scarce oval "St Augustine / E. Flo." postmark in red dated June 19 and a manuscript ".25" indicating the postage rate from mail sent over 400 miles. The letter is complete and intact. Splits have started along some of the folds; and a chip is missing where the wax seal was broken.

In this letter to the Bethlehem Female Seminary, Gibbs repeatedly assures that a newly enrolled orphan's bills will be paid using funds her adoptive widowed mother—a friend of Gibbs—receives from hiring out slaves to a local farmer:

*We hope Margaret will improve knowing as she does the sacrifice her maternal Friend makes to her own personal comforts for . . . the lasting benefits of her adopted child. . . . Be not uneasy as to prompt payment as the parties concern'd have character & principles & you shall receive your next quarter as soon as the Gent to who the Negroes are hired answers Mr. Gibbs letter. The money & more due to Mrs Ashe & will be remitted to you. Be not mistaken Margaret is born of honest Parents, her Father lost his prudence and fell victim to intemperance. Her mother was one among the pious & died a Triumphant Christian, in these last moments the kind & religious Mrs Ashe receiv'd to her bosom this child. . . .*

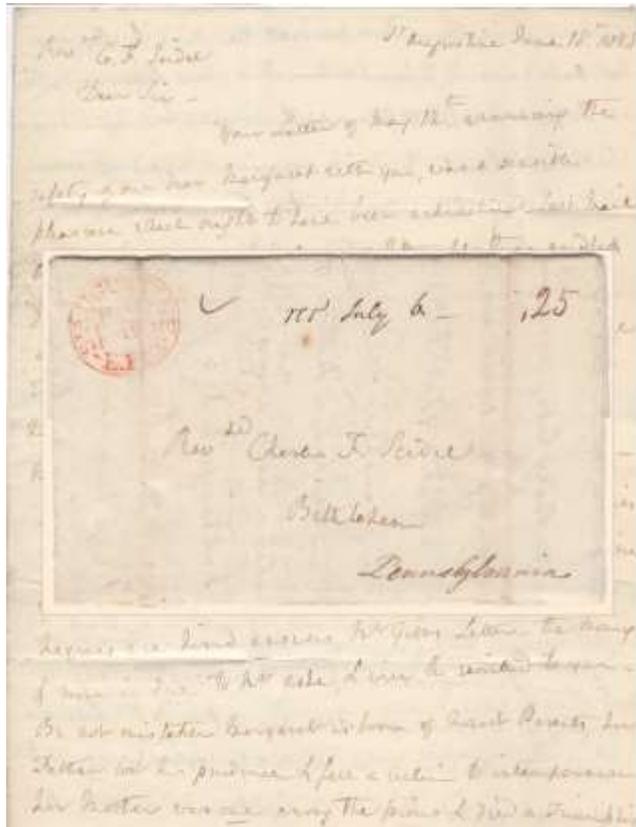
*Mrs Ashe would not give an Education unsupported . . . & unless Death removes the Negroes allotted to her she will have sufficient to maintain her. . . . Had you a person in Charleston to receive there payments, they could be more easily be made as our communication with that City is regular by both Water & Land – Also many robberies are committed by mail that from this isolated spot the risque is great. . . . This evening the Gent who employs the Negroes of Mrs Ashe & who lives about 40 miles from here will be written to. . . . Your seminary reciev'd several children from Brooklyn N.Y. with whose Parents I was intimate & this induc'd me to recommend it to Mrs Ashe.*

The Bethlehem Female Seminary was the first Protestant boarding schools for girls established in what would become the United States and traces its roots back to Countess Benigna Zinzendorf who founded it in 1742. Although it began as an elementary institution, by 1800 it was recognized as one of the finest secondary schools in the country. Its motto was "When you educate a woman, you educate an entire family," and its curriculum included both liberal academics and practical household teachings. Charles F. Seidel served as its director 1822 to 1836. Over time the seminary morphed into several incarnations, and today it is a full-fledge liberal arts college, Moravian College.

Simultaneously heartwarming and appalling: an affirmation of the generosity of neighbors in East Florida, one of the most remote parts of the early United States, who ensured a quality education for a young white orphan girl by using proceeds earned from African-American slave labor. Made all the more desirable by a rarely found St. Augustine postmark.

\$500

Read'Em Again Books [#8896](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 9. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MURDER OF A LOUISIANA WATCHMAKER

**Two-page folded letter sent by the Justice of the Peace from Thibodeauxville, Louisiana to the Postmaster of Iberville.**

Thibodeauxville: 1831. This two-page folded letter measures 16" x 9.75". The cover has no postmark nor rate mark, so it is likely it was carried outside of official post office channels. The letter's paper is supple but it has developed splits along several folds, so quite fragile.

In this letter, the Thibodeauxville Justice of the Peace seeks information about two men, James Stewart and Joseph R. King, he has arrested for horse theft and the probable murder of a watchmaker:

*There was a complaint . . . there were two men James Stewart and Joseph R King . . .of Suspicious Character that there were strong circumstances . . . they were guilty of Murder or horse stealing and probably both. . . .*

*They started from Iberville with an old Dutchman a clock or watch repairer. . . . About two miles below Plaquemine the horse threw the Old man . . . and they took his horse . . . and Saddlebags [and threw] the old mans tools into the Mississippi. . . . The horse was found . . . and King and Stewart were arrested and are now in jail.*

*I shall feel under obligations to any man that will give me information of the Old man whether he is dead or living or any other information that will serve to an expose the crimes which Stewart and King may have committed.*

I could find no record that King and Stewart were ever brought to trial and neither name appears on the historical list of Louisiana executions. This does not mean that the pair were not convicted for murder. In the 1830s, Louisiana was one of three states (Alabama and Tennessee being the other two) that changed their laws to give juries the complete discretion to sentence convicted murderers to punishments short of death. Some (see Banner, *The Death Penalty: an American History*) have suggested that this was so that juries, which at the time were composed only of white men, could take race into account when they handed down sentences. Perhaps . . . but only two men were executed in Louisiana in 1831, one white and one black.

\$300

Read'Em Again Books [#8897](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 10. HEARTFELT AND NEWSY LETTER FROM ONE OF THE FIRST PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA TO A FRIEND IN ENGLAND

**Four-page stampless letter from Charles Bonnycastle to John Knowles.** University of Virginia: [1831]. This four-page stampless folded letter measures 15.5" x 9.75" unfolded. The letter was sealed with a black wax family crest showing a blazon with three suns in splendor, one and two. The cover is postmarked with an oval "University / of Virga" handstamp dated June 21. A manuscript "Paid to N York 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ " is in the upper right corner indicating the sender pre-paid postage to mail the letter a distance of between 150 and 400 miles. A rectangular black receiving mark that reads "Ship Letter / Liverpool" is on the reverse. The front of the cover also has a manuscript British rate mark indicating 1 shilling 7 pence (19 pence) was due upon delivery (8 pence ship letter charge plus 11 pence for the delivery to London from Liverpool). The letter is in nice shape.

In this letter to his friend, John Knowles, Bonnycastle expresses the longing he feels for his friends in London, discusses his planned investments (possibly the James River and Kanawha Canal Company), compliments Knowles on his latest work, *The Life of Fuseli* (published in March, 1831), expresses admiration of his friend Peter Barlow's latest optical inventions, and comments about teaching mathematics at the University of Virginia:

*My own pursuits are pretty well limited to teaching [a] young idea to shoot; & though the Universities of this country have been [aptly] designated as hospitals for incurables, yet here & there a shoot thrives well [enough.] The senior class are just entering the Mécannique Celeste (Celestial Mechanics), & the juniors are learning addition, so, you see, I have a wide range.*

Bonnycastle was one of the University of Virginia's first professors having been lured away from the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich by Thomas Jefferson in 1825. He initially was appointed as the first Chair of Natural Science, but soon transferred positions to become the university's Professor of Mathematics. In addition to his teaching responsibilities some of Jefferson's correspondence suggest that Bonnycastle also assisted in designing an observatory and classrooms. He died young in 1840 and is buried in the University Cemetery. Today, one of the university's residence halls, Bonnycastle House, and one of its streets, Bonnycastle Drive, are named in his honor. A portrait of Bonnycastle is said to hang in the university president's office.

Quite an enlightening and heartfelt personal letter from one of the original University of Virginia faculty members made all the more desirable by an exceptional strike of a very early school postmark (see ASCC).

As of 2017, nothing similar is for sale in the trade nor listed in auction records at ABPC or Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows no similar personal Bonnycastle letters at any institution, although the University of Virginia holds photostat copies of some letters Bonnycastle sent to Knowles. Also, the University of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation both hold some official correspondence between Bonnycastle, Thomas Jefferson, and the university's board and proctor.

**\$2,500**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8898](#)**



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## 11. INFANTRY OFFICER'S WITTY DESCRIPTION OF PLANTATION LIFE NEAR BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA DURING A LULL WITHIN THE SEMINOLE, CREEK, AND BLACK HAWK WARS

**Stampless letter from Lieutenant Benjamin Alvord, serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, to a West Point classmate, Lieutenant George W. Cullum, who was serving on the East Coast. Baton Rouge: 1834.**

This four-page folded stampless letter measures 15.25" x 9.5" unfolded. It is datelined Baton Rouge, La, November 5, 1834 and followed its addressee, Lieutenant George W. Cullum as he bounced between duty stations and leave. The cover bears a number of handstamps and manuscript makings show it was initially postmarked "Baton R." on November 7, 1834 for 25-cents collect to Newport, Rhode Island, where it was forwarded 25-cent collect to Meadville, Pennsylvania, and once more forwarded for 18¾-cents collect to Washington, DC where it was finally delivered (total postage collect 68¾-cent). A color photograph from the 1950s of a plantation described by Alvord is included.

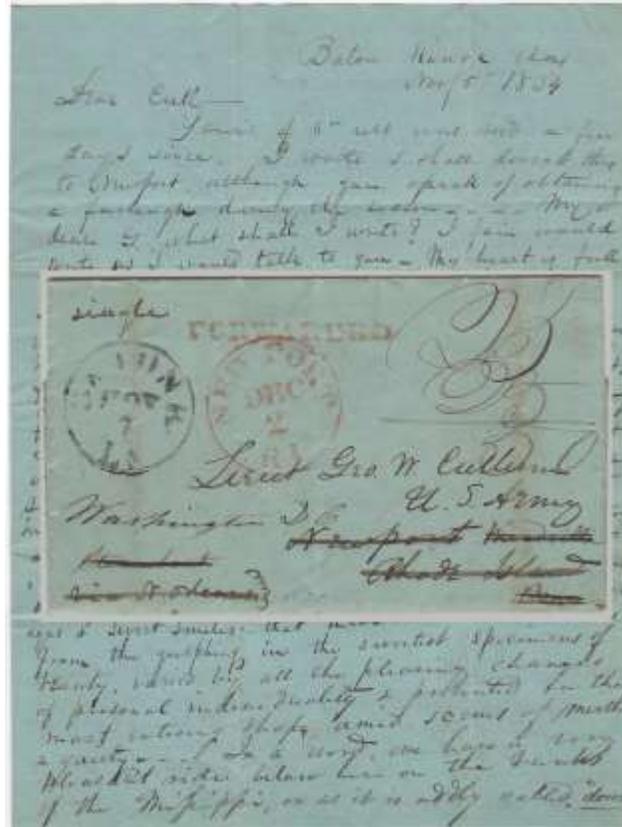
In the letter, Alvord expresses mixed emotions about being stationed in Baton Rouge:

*"I have been dissipating to a very great extent . . . not so much the intoxication of 'strong waters' [but from] bright eyes & sweet smiles . . . the sweetest specimens of beauty . . . the most enticing shape amid scenes of mirth & gaiety. . . In a word we have a very pleasant ride . . . on the banks of the Mississippi . . . & the large & beautiful plantations of sugar-cane [and] the refined society which can be enjoyed at in a very degree especially at one beautiful little place called the 'Cottage,' at present the sanctuary of four lovely young ladies. . . . The gaieties of the winter season have fairly commenced . . . Pic Nics, Fishing parties, Balls, & &c. . . . [but we also have] that mongrel species called French Creoles, who are decidedly the most unenterprising, insipid characters I have ever met. . . . I am tired of it; and return with the utmost willingness to my book & my pen. . . . I pity that man who has not the pursuits of literature and science . . . when he has finished the career of disipations."*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment spent almost twenty years in the early 1800s in constant battle with the Creeks and Seminoles at locations throughout Florida and Georgia until its headquarters was relocated to Baton Rouge in 1833 while two companies traveled up the Mississippi to fight in the Blackhawk War.

Both Alvord and Cullum went on to distinguished military careers. Alvord was repeatedly recognized for gallantry during the Mexican-American War, commanded the District of Oregon during the Civil War, and became Paymaster of the Army in 1872, a position he held for eight years until his retirement in 1880. During his career, he also taught mathematics at West Point and had some of his works published in scholarly journals. Cullum, during his early career, managed a number of engineering projects on the East Coast and supervised the building of Fort Trumbull. During the Civil War, he was the chief engineer at the Siege of Corinth and subsequently became the Superintendent of West Point. He later directed a number of post-war engineering projects that strengthened U. S. coastal defenses.

A terrific example of early cross-country mail service from the southwestern corner of America in the 1830s coupled with a wonderful letter expressing an Army officer's impressions of upper-class life in Louisiana.



\$250

Read'Em Again Books [#8999](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 12. ALABAMA PLANTATION OWNER'S BUSINESS LETTER DISCUSSING THE RECESSION OF 1833-34, THE PURCHASE OF FEDERAL LAND TAKEN FROM THE CHOCTAWS AND CHIPPEWAS, AND TRADING IN NEGRO SLAVES

**From A. Harrison of Pickens County, Alabama, to Nathaniel H. Hools at King Georges Court House in Virginia.** Tuscaloosa, Alabama: 1834. This four-page folded letter measures 8" x 10". It is stamped with a red circular "TUSKA A.T." postmark dated May 1 and has a manuscript "25" indicating postage was paid for delivery over 400 miles away. Dampstains, some minor marginal splits, and what appears to be near invisible archival reinforcement of one fold. Very good. Unbound.

In this letter Harrison commiserates with Hools regarding the Recession of 1833-1834, but quickly moves on to discuss plans for expanding his plantations in Pickens County, Alabama and Noxubee County, Mississippi by purchasing of federal lands (territory that belonged to the Choctaw and Chickasaw before they were exiled to Oklahoma), explaining in detail the strategy of using "floats" and the "Law of Preemption" to increase his holdings and thwart the growth of competitors.

He briefly mentions operating a ferry at Noxubee and goes into more detail about his "rich sandy land" and the number of acres devoted to cotton and corn.

He reports "getting boys . . . for running . . . my gin and Horse Mill" and the hiring of another overseer, noting that "in this country he would be worth \$200 per yr; if not encumbered with a family which the employer would have to feed." He notes that "the common price here is for negro men: from 500 to \$550 though they have been sold as low as \$400," and considers possibly purchasing more from Virginia, "Write me if you please the prices for all sorts of Negroes in VA. Richards and myself talk of going on for some if things suit all round. Are there many in your county for sale?"

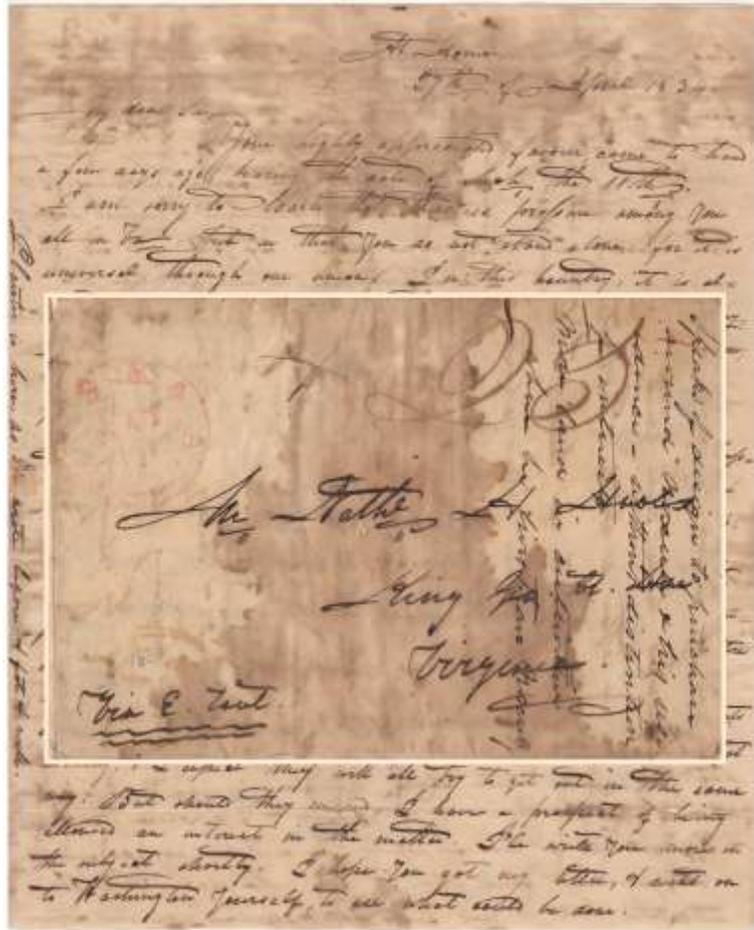
He encourages Hools and his wife to come for a visit and "stay for a month or so," explaining the best way to make the journey "would be to take the steamboat from Norfolk, & then a packet for Charleston, & and then a stage for Pickens County Ala. I don't think you will be more than 10 days on the route."

And he closes by mentioning that he has journeyed from his home to Tuscaloosa "to sell a family of House servants."

Overall, this letter provides exceptional insight into the business mind of a wealthy plantation owner in the Deep South.

\$400

Read'Em Again Books [#8889](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 13. REQUEST FOR A RAISE FROM A LONG-SERVING CIVILIAN CLERK AT THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD IN BOSTON SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

**Free-franked, stampless letter from James Pearson to Congressman Leonard Jarvis.** Charlestown (Boston): 1836. This two-page stampless letter measures 15" x 9.75" unfolded. It was written by James Pearson, a clerk at the Charlestown (Boston) Navy Yard to Congressman Leonard Jarvis, the Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Naval Affairs. The letter is dated February 13, 1836. It is free-franked and bears a very nice strike of the Charlestown oval postmark dated February 14.

In the letter, Pearson rather floridly appeals to Jarvis to raise the pay of Navy Store Keeper Clerks at Norfolk, Washington, New York, and Boston, noting that while a raise of \$150 per year had been recommended by "the Honorable Board of Navy Commissionery, . . . when the appropriation bill came before the Committee of Ways & Means . . . objections were made [and] it was struck off."

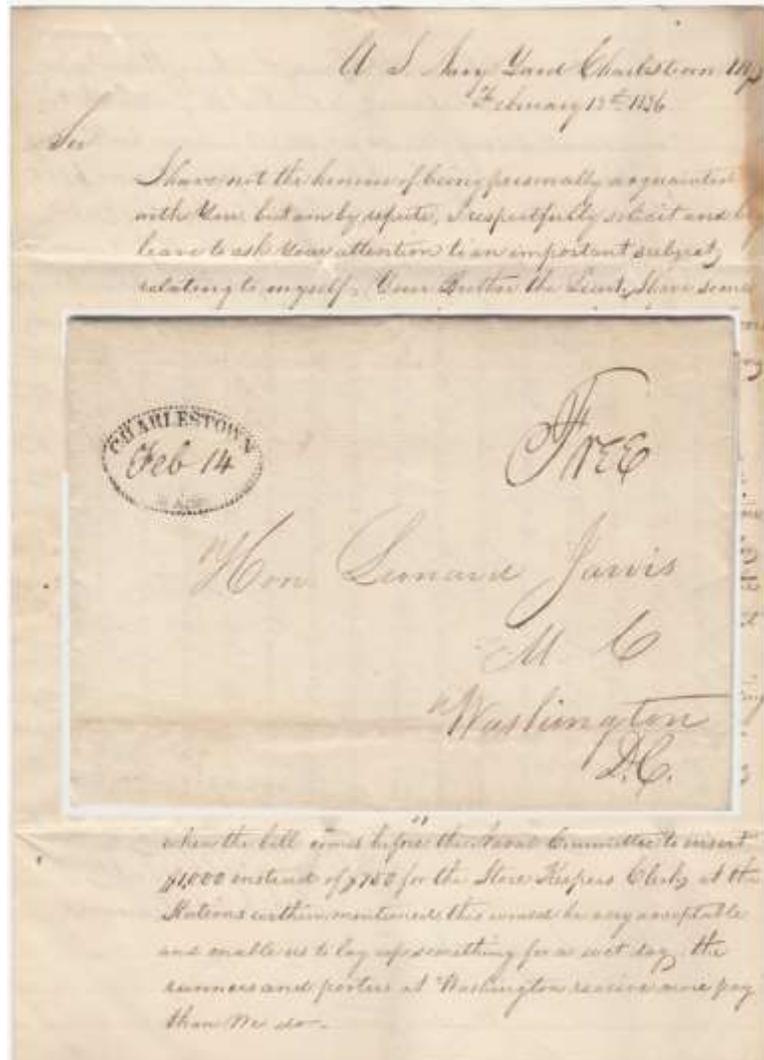
Using himself as an example, Pearson relates that in sixteen years of faithful service, he earned a combined total of no more than \$7,000, "which was all that I had to subsist on [and] it was with great economy that I kept clear of debt . . . as I was required to mingle with society for which my income was not adequate . . . nevertheless I maintained the character of a gentleman."

Continuing, he claims that the time spent working for the Navy was "the most precious part of my life [despite performing] arduous and incessant duties from the rising of the Sun until the going down of the same." The reason, he concludes, that "I am accused of being a bachelor is . . . obvious, poverty prevented me from entering into the Matrimonial contract."

Pearson had, indeed, been a long-time employee at the Navy Yard, and during that time, he had been unwillingly embroiled in the charges and counter-charges between the famous naval hero, Commodore Isaac Hull, and disgruntled senior officers and civilians at the Navy Yard during Hull's command of the facility in the early 1820s. Pearson gave testimony in both the court-martial of Hull on charges of corruption and the counter-court-martial of Lieutenant Joel Abbot on charges of scandalous behavior for making false allegations against the Commodore.

\$200

Read'Em Again Books [#8900](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

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#### 14. PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY REQUESTING A COMMISSION FOR THE SON OF A FRIEND

**One-page personal letter to the Secretary of the Navy, Mahlon Dickerson, signed by Archibald Henderson, the Commandant of the Marine Corps.** Washington, D.C.: 6 July 1837. The letter is in nice shape with only some light soiling; Henderson's handwriting is legible.

Although he was not the first Commandant of the Marine Corps, Henderson was the most important. He held the position for 38 of his 53 years on active duty. He entered the Marine Corps in 1806 and served as Lieutenant aboard the *USS Constitution* during her famous victories in the War of 1812. As Commandant, he thwarted President Andrew Jackson's attempt in 1829 to remove the Marine Corps from under the control of the Navy and combine it with the Army.

This letter requesting a favor from Dickerson attempts to obtain a commission in the Marine Corps for the son of an important Captain in the Navy, and reflects Henderson's continued concern "to draw closer the ties that unite the Corps to the Navy."

*"Capt. Stevens of the Navy is desirous to obtain for his son a Commission in the Marine Corps. . .*

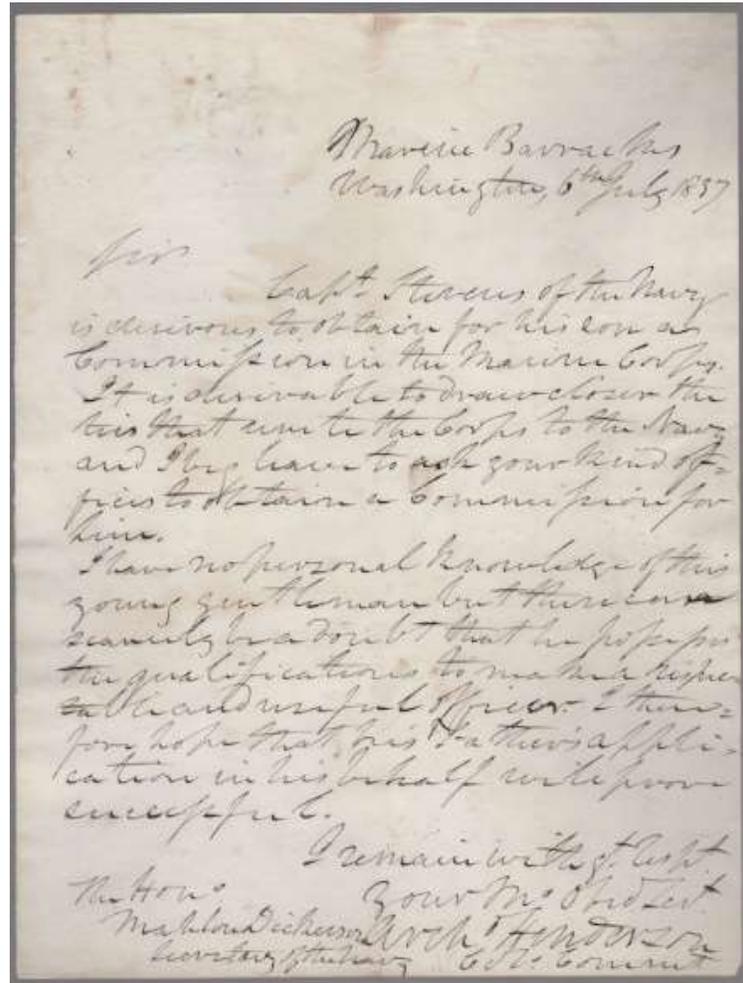
*I have no personal knowledge of this young gentleman but there can scarcely be a doubt that he possess the qualifications to make a respectable and useful officer. I therefore hope that his father's application in his behalf will prove successful.*

The naval officer who asked Henderson to obtain a commission for his son was no doubt Captain Thomas Holdup Stevens, a hero of the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812 and then the commander of the Washington Navy Yard located a scant three blocks from the Marine Barracks. At the time Steven's son, Thomas Holdup Stevens, Jr. had only recently begun attending the U. S. Naval Academy. Apparently, Secretary Dickerson refused the request as Thomas, Jr. went on to a distinguished career in the Navy, commanding several gunboats and iron-clad monitors during the Civil War. He retired as a Rear Admiral in 1881 after commanding the Pacific Squadron.

Outside of official correspondence held in federal archives, letters from "The Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps" are very scarce. As of 2017, OCLC shows no institutional holdings; no others are for sale in the trade, and there are only two auction records listed at the Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint.

**\$1,250**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8872](#)**



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## 15. RIVERBOAT LETTER FROM A PROMINENT NEW ORLEANS MERCHANT TO AN ASSOCIATE IN ST. LOUIS DISCUSSING THE BANKING CRISIS OF 1841

**One-page folded letter from Abijah Fisk sent to an associate in St. Louis by the Mississippi River Steamboat Alton.** New Orleans: 1841. The one-page stampless folded-letter measures 15.75" x 9.75". The cover is unfranked and without postmark, however it is annotated "Alton" in the lower left corner indicating it was transported by that riverboat. The letter is in nice shape with some light soiling and minor wear.

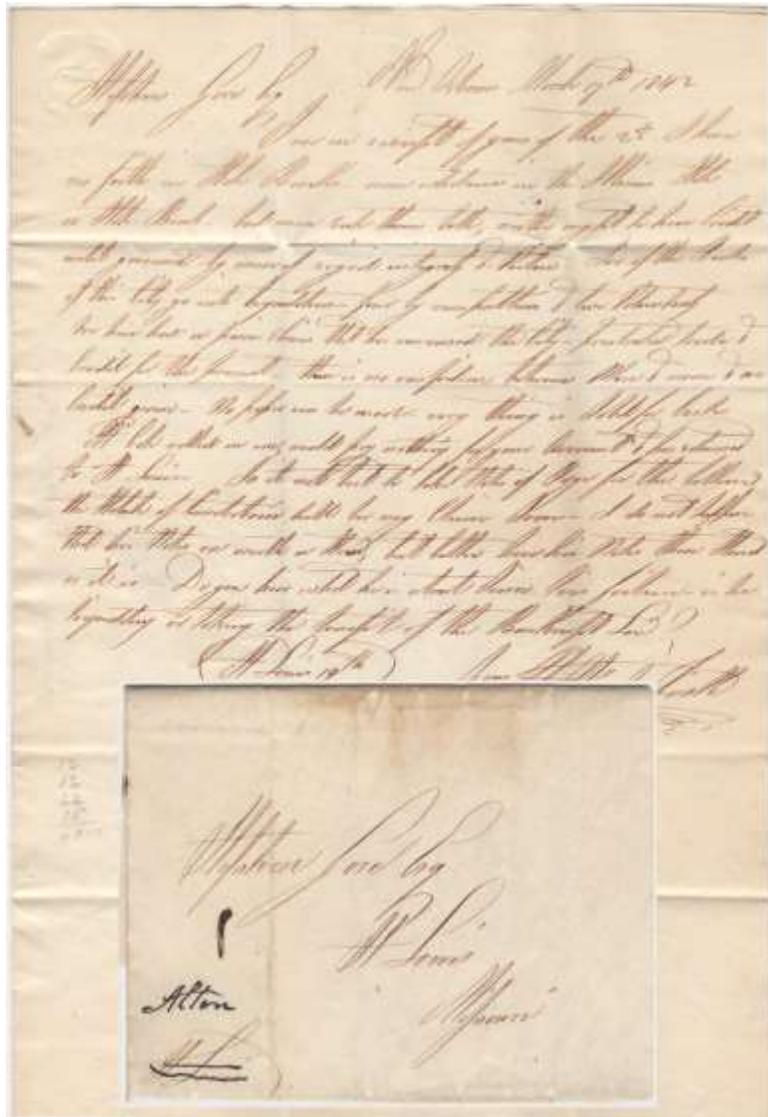
In the letter, Fisk describes the fiscal crisis that had enveloped New Orleans:

*I have no faith in the State Banks – none whatsoever in the Illinois State or the State Banks – bad men rule them both, neither ought to have Credit until governed by men of rigid integrity & Posture. Six of the Banks of this City go into liquidations four by compulsion & two voluntarily. We have had a finance crisis that has convulsed the City from Credit traded & Credit for the present. There is no confidence between Man & men & no credit given. No paper can be used, everything is Gold or Cash.*

The Panic of 1837 and the subsequent Depression of 1839-1843 wreaked havoc upon the American banking system and a number of state governments. In the fall of 1841, eight states and one territory failed to pay their debts after foolishly trying to

spend themselves out of the crisis, many building railroads to nowhere and beginning public projects of negligible or dubious value. This in-turn caused banks to collapse and credit to almost entirely dry up. Louisiana was, as Fisk noted, was especially hard hit. In direct response, Louisiana implemented the Forstall System that stopped the creation of new banks, required the re-chartering of existing banks, and required specie reserve requirements to equal one-third of a bank's note and deposit liabilities with the remaining two-thirds of their liabilities to be in the form of ninety-day paper, thus ensuring a safe ratio of quick to non-liquid assets. The Forstall System became one of the most successful and influential systems of state banking regulations, establishing principles that became standard in banking regulation.

Fisk was a wealthy New Orleans commission merchant who, upon his death, left his home to the city for the establishment of a free public library.



\$250

Read'Em Again Books [#8901](#)

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Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 16. DESCRIPTION OF A “NEGRO CAMPMEETING” HELD IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

**Stampless, folded-letter from Upstate New York about a Negro camp meeting.** [Cayuga Lake, New York]: 1843.

This two-page folded-letter measures 15.75” x 9.75” unfolded. From “J.H.N.” in Jacksonville, New York to Sam Conklin at Lake Ridge [Point], New York, 1843. The letter is dated August 20, 1843. Addressed in rhyme:

*This line I now place in Uncle Sam’s care  
To make the journey around to Lake Ridge  
And when Arrived if Sam. Conklin is there  
Please let him have it by paying postage*

Manuscript Jacksonville postmark dated August 21 with a manuscript rate marking of 6 cents, the rate for post office deliveries of less than 30 miles. The letter is in nice shape, although a 2.5” x 5” piece of blank marginal cover has been removed, and there is small, hard-to-see closed tear at the rate mark.

The letter includes a less than flattering account of an African-American camp meeting held near (or possibly on) the sender’s property:

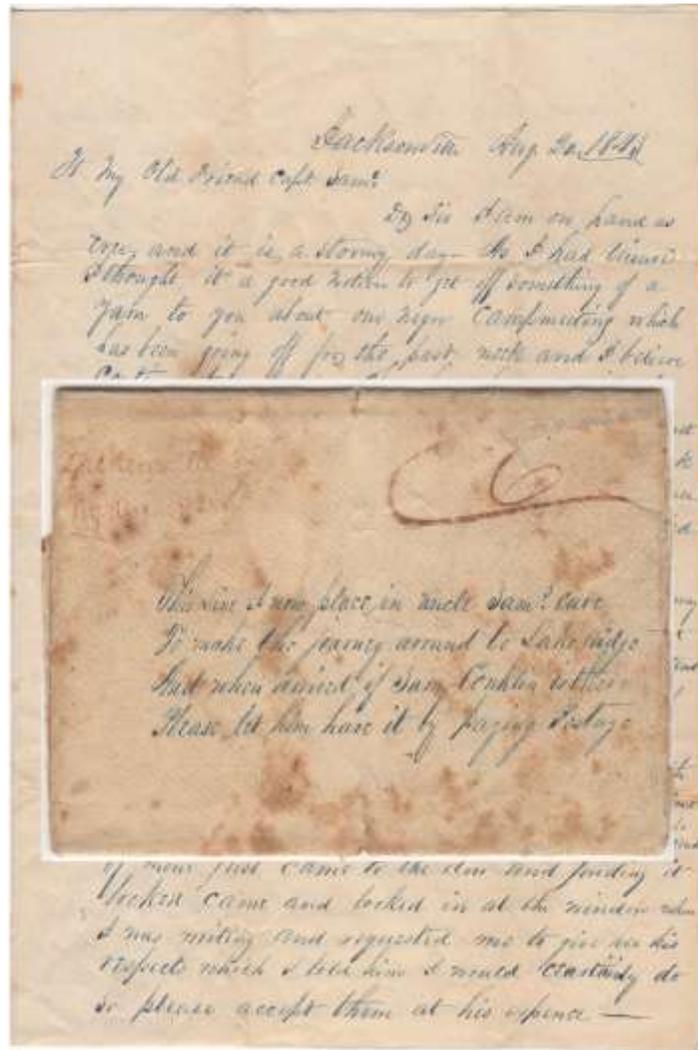
*“As I had leisure I though it a good notion to get off something of a yarn to you about our Negro Campmeeting which has been going off for the past week and I believe to go yet—They have had all sorts of doing there I assure you fight – scratch &c. and last night they had a regular knock down which I think will about break them up—I*

*called on them once and stayed about one hour and was fully satisfied nor have I troubled them more—There goes a full two-horse load of Nigs up to the tavern on their way home from the camp—O how they shine but let them pass—I have as much as I can attend to. . . .”*

Camp meetings were an American religious phenomenon during the Second Great Awakening during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These outdoor gatherings could attract thousands of participants who would spend countless hours over days on end participating in emotionally intensive interactive sermons. Although blacks and whites often attended camp meetings at the same time and same location, their gatherings and sermons would be at opposite ends of the campground. Just as frequently, African-Americans held their own “Negro camp meetings” that were far more boisterous and characterized by seemingly ceaseless shouting, screaming, chanting, singing, jerking, falling, dancing, and other bizarre behaviors. When, on occasion, alcohol entered into the mix, the meetings could quickly transition from rapture to violence. Local whites often visited Negro camp meetings when they were held nearby, not so much for spiritual enlightenment, but for entertainment.

\$350

Read’Em Again Books [#8902](#)



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## 17. BILL OF LADING FROM A ST. LOUIS COMMISSION MERCHANT FOR A STEAMBOAT SHIPMENT TRANSPORTED BY AN IMPORTANT MISSISSIPPI RIVER PACKET COMPANY

**One-page folded-letter bill of lading for 62 bags of wheat sent from the Mathews & Patch Commission Merchants of St. Louis, Missouri to E. Windle of Warsaw, Illinois.** M. Patch. St. Louis: 1846. The bill of lading, dated "Oct 2/46" measures 7½" x 9¾". It is addressed to "Mr. E. Windle, Warsaw, Ill." A manuscript annotation reading "M&P" is in the upper right corner and one reading "Ocean Wave" is in the lower left. Docketing on the reverse reads, "Mathews & Patch / aps Sales / October 7<sup>th</sup> 1846." The letter is in nice shape.

Mathews & Patch was a commission merchant that operated from building along the Mississippi River at 49 Water Street in St. Louis.

The period between 1835 and 1860 was the heyday of river transportation, and a number of packet lines sprang up in river cities along the Ohio and Mississippi. One of the most lucrative was the St. Louis and Keokuk Packet Company, led by its president, Captain

John F. McCune, who ran the line for thirty years between 1840 and 1870. It dominated river traffic on the upper Mississippi until dislodged primarily by railroad competition. There were a number of steamships and riverboats named *Ocean Wave*. This one was built in St. Louis in 1845.

Warsaw, Illinois is a Mississippi River city located just below Keokuk, Iowa. It traces its history to then Major Zachary Taylor, who established a military outpost, Fort Johnson, on the eastern bank of the Mississippi across from its confluence with the Des Moines River. Warsaw soon became an important fur trading center and one of the earliest U. S. settlements in northern Illinois. The citizens of Warsaw joined with those of Nauvoo in the 1840s to expel the large settlement of Mormons who had taken up residence in western Illinois, and this bill of lading was delivered about two weeks after the last Mormons were either killed or forced into exodus.

A very nice record of riverboat commerce from one of the leading packet lines on the Mississippi.

**\$150**      **Read'Em Again Books [#8914](#)**



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Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 18. A REASSURANCE TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT A SERGEANT IN A NEWLY ORGANIZED INFANTRY REGIMENT HAD ARRIVED SAFELY IN MEXCO

**Two-page folded Mexican-American War letter from Sergeant Ralph Hagler of the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Mexico to family at home in 4 Mill Branch, Tennessee.** Vera Cruz, Mexico: 16 June 1847.

The letter, dated “Vera Cruz, the 16 June 1847,” is addressed to Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Hagler and Mr. B. B. Hagler, 4 Mill Branch, Monroe County, E. Tennessee. The cover has a manuscript “10” rate marking indicating the postage required to send a letter more than 300 miles. It is postmarked with a Type 1, double straight-line Vera Cruz handstamp dated Jun 17. The letter is in very nice shape, and the postmark is exceptionally bold and clear.



In March of 1846, General Winfield Scott led the U.S. Army’s first amphibious operation and landed 4,000 soldiers at Vera Cruz besieging the city, which surrendered on 29 March. The army then advanced toward Mexico City, where it outflanked and routed a larger Mexican force from its defense positions at Cerro Gordo on the approach to the capital. While Scott prepared to attack Mexico City, additional U.S. units, including the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment which had been quickly formed with recruits from Tennessee and Louisiana, landed at Vera Cruz in June as Hagler notes with some astonishment in his letter,

*“I am at this time near 1,500 miles from you and having been since we left Athens one month and on day getting to this place. We saw a great many things that none off us never saw before I think that there is know doubt but we will have to fight some for the Mexicans are Scouting and doing some little mischief. . . . We will march for Seragorda to morrow about 75 miles from the Place I . . . will write to you soon again and give you a moore full detail off the movements. . . . If you could see all the plains and sand hilles off this country it would surprise you very much and all that had never been heare would see strange things and wonderes off all kinds that could be seen . . . . I have a great many things to see to I have to Issue Rations for our Cavalary every morning which is a great deal of Trouble . . . .”*

The regiment joined Scott and served with distinction in the Battle of Contreras, where “they held the village . . . under the fire of Valencia’s entire division, the most thorough baptism of fire new troops ever received. That night they marched through a break in the Mexican line . . . directly in rear of the Mexican position. When the charge was made in the morning the battle lasted seventeen minutes and the pursuit four hours. . . . The 14th participated in no less than four attacks that day. It fought also at Molino del Rey, at Chapultepec, and the storming of the San Cosmo gate.” (U.S. Army Center of Military History.)

Hagler’s letter bears a scarce very early example of the U.S. Vera Cruz postmark. It has been suggested that the U.S. post office in Vera Cruz was probably established soon after the city surrendered, however the earliest known postmark (also a Type 1 handstamp) is on a letter mailed on 3 June; Hagler’s was mailed a scant two weeks later on 17 June. (Pulver, *Handling U.S. Military Mails During the War with Mexico: 1846-1848* and Banchet, *U.S. Military Intervention in Mexico: 1846-1848*)

\$400

Read’Em Again Books [#8954](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 19. DISCUSSION BETWEEN SLAVE-OWNERS (OR PERHAPS A SLAVE OWNER AND SLAVE-TRADER) ABOUT PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED SLAVES

**Letter between slave-owners (or perhaps a slave-owner and slave-trader) discussing slaves previously purchased that worked on the sender's plantation.** Sent by Gray Huckabee from Greensboro, Alabama: 1847.

Two-page letter from Huckabee at Greensboro, Alabama, is addressed to "Bro Lumkin," address unknown.

In this letter, Huckabee responds to questions from Lumkin about slaves that Lumkin had previously sold to Huckabee.

*"Inclosed I send you a check drawn by Mome & Dickey of Mobile of Ala on Messers Brown Brothers & Co., August for \$510.62 five hundred and ten dollars sixty two cents which I think is the amount of interest due on my bond. . . .*

*You mention to me in your last that you [would] like to know what had become of the girl Emly I still own her She has a husband and has had one child but lost it She has one of my men for a husband [He] is my Farmer & the most valuable boy that I own [He] can read and wright weighs my cotten sets down the waits correctly and thinks as much of his honor as a white man could do I also have the Boy Charles him and Emly both are members of the Babtist Church all the [other] Negroes I purchased from you except the Boy Matt are a live and doing well.*

*Br Lumpkin . . . may the Lord bless you and should we not meet again in this poor world may it be our happy lot to meet in the better world when Parting is no more.*

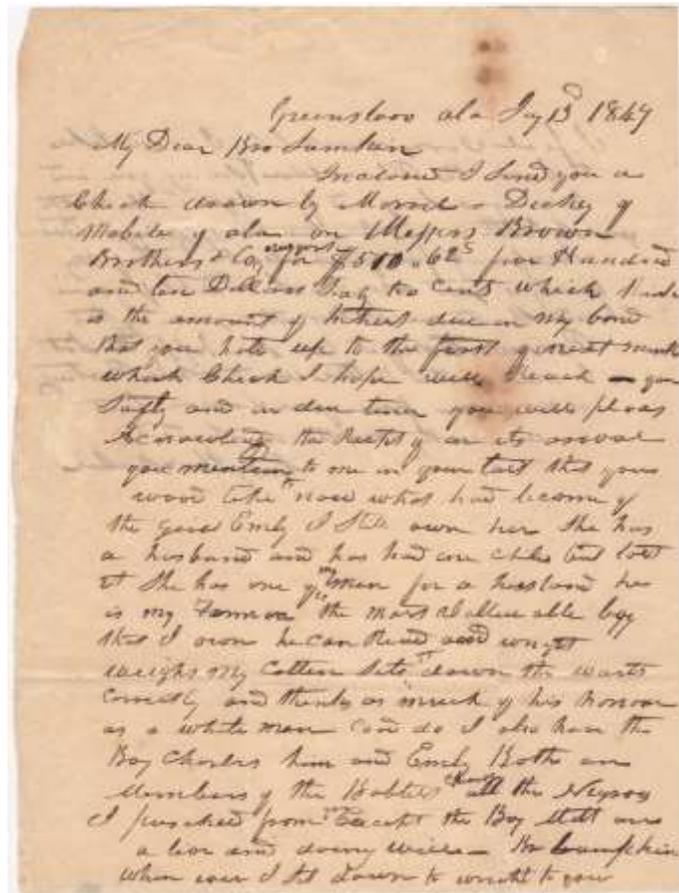
*From you sincere unworthy Brother in Christ."*

Huckabee was a prosperous cotton planter who owned approximately 1800 acres near Newbern, Alabama, about five miles southeast of Greensboro and sold 300 to 400 bales of cotton each year. Some economic historians have suggested that at larger plantations, the ratio of slaves to acres was 1:20 or 30; if so, it is likely Huckabee owned 60 to 90 slaves. He was apparently also religious, as in the late 1840s he was instrumental in funding construction of a church for the Newbern Baptist congregation, which included slaves as well as members of the planter class. It is unclear who Brother Lumpkin may have been, although at the time the honorific "Brother" was commonly used to address Methodist ministers.

The letter provides a unique and candid discussion of the outcome of a slave sale and is certainly worthy of additional research.

\$250

Read'Em Again Books [#8903](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 20. DUNNING LETTER FROM THE NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM TO THE SARATOGA COUNTY TREASURER

**Stampless folded letter from John M. Sly, Steward, to Edmund A. Wetmore, Treasurer, with a partially printed, manuscript invoice for Saratoga County from the New York State Insane Asylum.** Sent by John M. Sly, Steward, and Edmund A. Wetmore, Treasurer. Utica: 1847. This folded letter, dated August 11, 1847, measures 15.5" x 9.75" unfolded. It includes two documents: a letter from Wetmore to the Treasurer of Saratoga County at Ballston Spa and a semi-annual itemized bill, totaling \$710.63, for charges applied against county residents of the asylum. The cover is double-oval postmark and a circular "V" 5-cent handstamp both in blue.

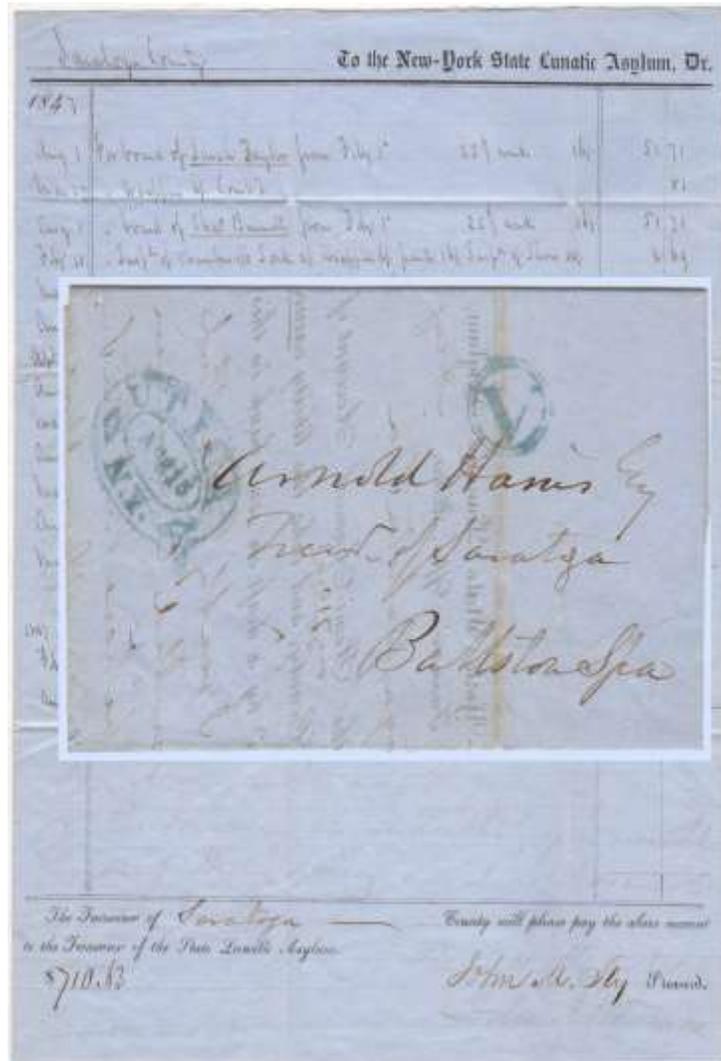
The charges were not for care rendered, but rather for board and clothing (shirts, pants, coats, socks, chemises, etc.) provided to the patients, and it would appear that Wetmore may have had prior problems getting Saratoga County to pay its bills as he wrote:

*"I really hope that this amount will not be permitted to remain unpaid. I cannot but believe that the Supervisors have provided for it. If they have not I trust you will pay it from any money in the Treasury, as undoubtedly you would be justifiable in doing, and as it seems to me the law requires you to do."*

The New York State Lunatic Asylum was founded at Utica in 1843, about the same time Dorothea Dix, who had already successfully lobbied the Massachusetts legislature to establish an insane asylum, was beginning to turn her attention to New Jersey. The New York facility was an early leader in providing mental health care and predated, perhaps even influenced, the Kirkbride Plan that became the national standard for state institutions in the 1850s. It contained three floors and a basement and housed 420 residents, mostly in single rooms. Its forty or so staff members lived on the grounds, many on floors with their patients. Although considered inhumane by many today, at the time, care in these facilities was considered especially progressive. Patients were clothed rather than caged naked in almshouse holding pens, and restraining chairs and Utica Cribs replaced whips and clubs. The Utica asylum remained in operation until 1977.

\$200

Read'Em Again Books #8904



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 21. RECOMMENDATION FOR A FLORIDA PHYSICIAN AND PLANTATION OWNER TO RECEIVE A FEDERAL COMMISSION AS A LIEUTENANT OF DRAGOONS

**Free-franked folded-letter from Florida State Senator James H. T. Lorimer to U. S. Senator J. D. Wescott.** Tallahassee: 1848. This one-page folded letter measures 15.5" x 10" unfolded. It is dated "January the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1848." The cover bears a green "Free" handstamp indicating no postage was required as it was addressed to a U.S. Senator. It is postmarked with a green circular Tallahassee handstamp dated January 19. The letter is in nice shape.

*"I take the liberty to address you a few lines . . . to obtain your support in procuring the appointment of Dr. Washington Parkhill to the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Dragoon Service in the U. S. Army. . . . The recommendation . . . for the appointment to which he aspires was signed by nearly every member of the senate of Fla., as well as a large majority of members of the House. . . . Dr. P. possesses imminently all the qualifications necessary to make a good soldier and officer of high rank."*

Westcott has docketed the letter:

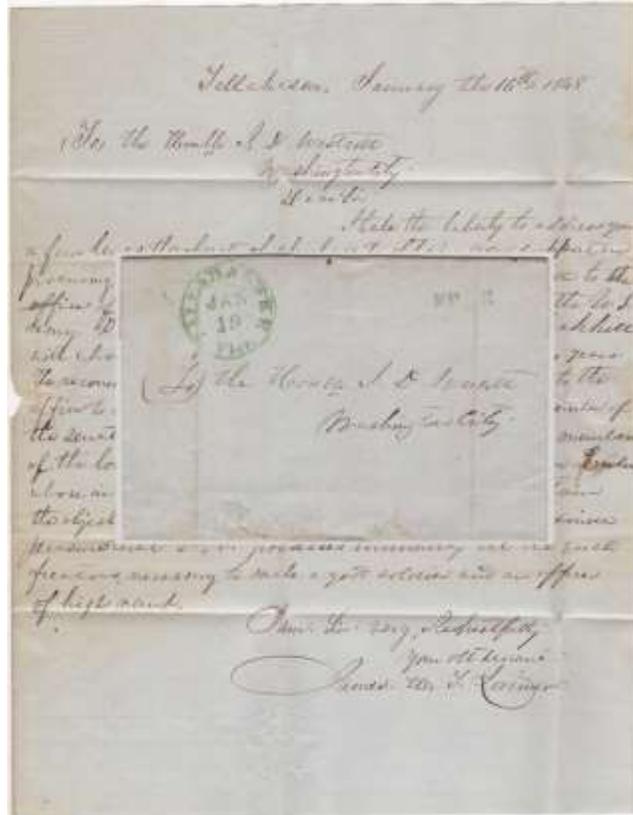
*"Mr. Parkhill will make a good officer. Col Lorimer is the Whig Senator with the Florida legislature from Tallahassee."*

George Washington Parkhill was the son of John Parkhill, a Virginian, who moved to Florida in 1828 with his family and established a homestead in Leon County that eventually grew into a 3,000 acre cotton plantation, Tuscawilla, worked by over 170 slaves. Washington Parkhill was educated in the North and attended the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. Following his graduation, Washington returned to Florida where he apparently decided that he would rather be a soldier than a physician. A neighboring planter, Florida State Senator James Lorimer, spearheaded the effort, soliciting the assistance of still another plantation owner, J. D. Wescott, who was one of Florida's two first U.S. Senators.

Washington was never commissioned in the Dragoons, but remained at Tuscawilla, eventually becoming "Master" of the plantation. His military interests continued, however, and at some point was he appointed to be a major general in the Florida state troops. Although a Unionist, Washington resigned his appointment after Florida seceded and raised a volunteer company, initially named the Howell Guards in honor of Jefferson Davis's wife, which in the fall of 1861 was one of the first Florida units to head north to fight in Virginia. There, it was redesignated as Company M, 2<sup>nd</sup> Florida Infantry.

Washington was killed while leading his company during the Seven Day Days Battle near Richmond. Perhaps apocryphally, it was reported that his slave, Louis, picked up Washington's body from where he was slain and carried it towards Richmond. He was stopped along the way by a man calling from a house, "Whose body do you carry?" When told that it was Captain Parkhill of Florida, the man ordered, "Bring him in here, he was born in this house."

An insight into plantation politics with a scarce Tallahassee postmark that involves four early and important Florida pioneers: both of the Parkhills, Lorimer, and Wescott.



\$500

Read'Em Again Books [#8905](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 22. ONE OF THE FIRST AND BEST SIMILITUDE COVERS – A FAUX ENVELOPE USED AS AN ADVERTISING DUST JACKET FOR A PAMPHLET WRITTEN BY AN IMPORTANT FEMALE POET LAMPOONING NEW YORK LITERARY SOCIETY

**Tromp l'oeil similitude envelope that served as a 'dust jacket' advertisement for Frances (Fanny) Sargent Osgood's booklet, *A Letter About the Lions: a letter to Mabel in the country*. New York: George P. Putnam, 1849.**

Envelope only; no booklet. This envelope was an elaborate tromp l'oeil ploy by George Putnam to market Frances Sargent Osgood's booklet lampooning scandals of the New York's literary scene. The 12½¢ stamp and the backflap seal were Putnam creations, and every part of the envelope was printed: the circular 12½¢ postmark handstamp, the fictitious address in Osgood's hand, Osgood's signature, Putnam's forwarding note, and the docketing by "Miss Montague." (See BAL 15319.)

Some of the similitude's marketing subtleties might be lost on a customer of today:

The postal service was booming in 1849, and the use of a faux envelope for marketing would have attracted attention.

The United States began issuing postage stamps in 1847; before that postmasters would apply a handstamp or manuscript marking indicating the cost of postage, in this case 12½¢. The faux stamp's indicia, which was almost identical to the indicia of the exceptionally popular first two U.S. postage stamps, also shows its cost as 12½¢; perhaps 12½¢ was the price of the booklet.

The alliterative address (Miss Mabel Montague, Montpelier, Montgomery County, Massachusetts) is 'written' in Osgood's hand, and it is 'signed' by her.

Putnam was preparing to release a collection of Osgood's poems the following year, so no doubt Putnam saw the publication of this booklet with its clever envelope as a way to keep her name before the literati.

The 'forwarding' of the envelope through Putnam clearly identified the publisher, and its fictional "Miss Mabel" addressee would have emphasized the single-female market that formed the bulk of Osgood's readers.

Miss Mabel's docketing, the stamp, and backflap seal, all depict or allude to "Lions," and the booklet, *A Letter About the Lions*, was a tongue-in-cheek reference to the "literary lions" of New York, one of whom was Osgood's former love, Edgar Allan Poe.

Francis "Osgood was one of the most popular American poets of her time. She and Poe engaged in a passionate, possibly unconsummated, romance in which they publically exchanged—to the apparent indifference of spouses—indiscreet poems that Poe published in his *Broadway Journal*. Although their spouses may not have cared, another female poet spurned by Poe, Elizabeth F. Ellet, did, and she embarked on a poison-pen campaign to scandalize the relationship. Osgood, considered to be quite the coquette, had a number of other lovers including Rufus Wilmot Griswold, the journalist, editor, and critic who jealously attempted to destroy Poe's personal and literary reputation after his death in 1849. (For more information see DeBlois's "Trump l'Oeil 'Dust Jacket' 1849, Groton's "Cinderellas get a salute" in *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* June 2008, and Benton's "Friends and Enemies: Women in the Life of Edgar Allan Poe" in Fisher's *Myths and Reality: The Mysterious Edgar Allen Poe*.

Exceptionally scarce. Groton and DeBlois report that the Osgood envelope is the first literary and postal similitude and that there are only two known copies of which this is one.



\$2,750

Read'Em Again Books [#8912](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 23. AN ADVENTUROUS WOMAN'S TRAVEL LETTER RECOUNTING A HAZARDOUS JOURNEY BY STAGE AND RAILROAD TO THE ONTARIO FEMALE SEMINARY DURING A HORRENDOUS WINTER STORM franked with A VERY FINE 1847 U.S. TEN-CENT WASHINGTON STAMP

**Four-page folded letter from Abby Wells sent from Canandaigua, New York to her parents in Deerfield, New Hampshire.** Canandaigua, New York: 1849. This four-page folded letter measures 15" x 9.5" and has a red Canandaigua postmark dated January 10. It is franked with a nicely centered, black 10-cent Washington stamp (Scott #2) tied with a red grid cancel. Complete but fragile as some folds have developed splits. There is an old tape stain and remnants of stamp hinges.

In January, Abigail Wells departed Deerfield, New Hampshire accompanied by her older brother, David, on her way to attend the Ontario Female Seminary in Canandaigua, New York. After no more six hours, a massive storm struck the area, snowing them in for six days. On the seventh, their stage reached Albany, where David returned home and Abby continued on one of the country's earliest railroads to Canandaigua.

*"I left Milford in the stage 10 o'clock Friday morning and arrived at Brattleborough at half past ten in the evening . . . and before we arrived the snow had fallen to a considerable depth. . . . the driver stopped and told the gentlemen that the horses were in the snow and they must get out and assist him. . . . Brother D. took the [reins] while the driver and another man trod a path for them.*

*We rode a half a mile and came to a public house, and stopped [as] the storm continued with unabated violence. Monday and Tuesday the roads were so blocked up with snow as to be rendered impassable. Wednesday we . . . rode about 15 miles. Thursday we started early and arrived at Albany at eight. . . . The next morning I started alone . . . from Albany to Schenectady . . . in cars without any fire. . . . At Syracuse we changed cars again. . . . We stopped in Geneva to breakfast. I felt so tired that I thought I would not eat anything. . . . I arrived at Canandaigua at 9 o'clock Saturday just 24 hours [after departing] Albany. . . . I should not be afraid to return alone if necessary. I did not suffer scarcely any with the cold excepting my feet. . . . I have great cause for gratitude to my Heavenly Father for his protection during my long and in some respects dangerous journey."*



The Ontario Female Seminary, one of the country's first women's schools, enrolled about 100 boarders. Its course of instruction included both basic subjects as well as advanced instruction in grammar, botany, chemistry, algebra, and astronomy. In a post script to her letter, Abby noted that *"The studies I shall attend to this term are Geometry, Algebra, Paley's Theology and Grammar."* Upon graduation, Abby returned to Deerfield and taught school until she retired around the age of sixty. She never married but remained single and lived in her family's home along with several siblings until she died at the age of 68 in 1887.

This is a superb example of one of the first and most important U. S. stamps on cover made all the more desirable by an independent woman's narrative recounting her harrowing 8-day journey by stage and early train in the middle of a tremendous winter storm in order to attend advanced schooling.

**\$1,750**

**Read'Em Again Books #8906**

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 24. TWO RIVERBOAT BILLS OF LADING FROM ST. LOUIS HIDE MERCHANTS, ONE FROM THE BOAT THAT CAUSED THE GREAT ST. LOUIS FIRE A SHORT TIME LATER

One folded-letter bill of lading for a grain, lard, and hide shipment sent by D. W. Matthews, Esq. via the riverboat *Ed Bates*, and one folded-letter bill of lading for a hide shipment sent by Charles F. Hendry Forwarding and Commission Agent via the riverboat *Dr. Franklin No. 2*. St. Louis: 1849 and 1850.

The *E. Bates* two-page manuscript 1849 bill of lading, measuring 15.5" x 10 unfolded, is for 40 sacks of oats, 15 hides, and one barrel of lard and includes a letter to the purchaser in Louisville, Kentucky. "B/L" is written in the upper right corner of the cover. "E. Bates," indicating the boat that transported the goods and along with the bill of lading is in the bottom left corner.

The Charles F. Hendry leather wholesalers were located at "No. 54 Water Street, corner Vine," which I believe today would be right along the Mississippi River about midway between Eads Bridge and the Arch.

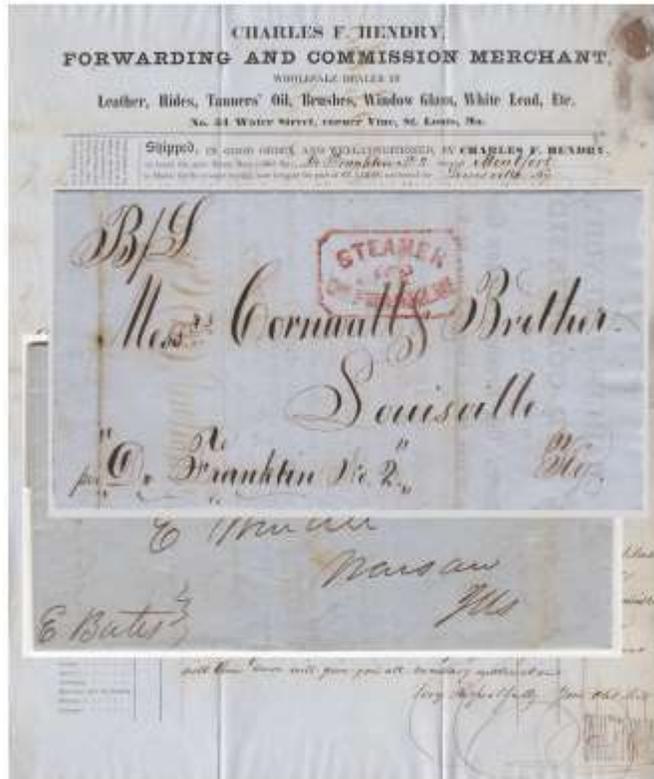
Just one month after this bill of lading, the *Ed Bates* was destroyed in the Great St. Louis Fire of 1849. On 17 May, the paddle-wheeler *White Cloud* caught fire while docked at the St. Louis levee at the foot of Cherry Street. The fire quickly spread to the *Ed Bates*, and when the *Ed Bates* broke free of her mooring she slowly floated down river igniting about 35 other boats and barges along the wharf. Although the Fire Department's nine hand engines and hose reel wagons responded rapidly, they were of no use. The flames jumped to nearby buildings, and soon four city blocks were on fire. The flames spread to Main Street and burned out eight more blocks in the heart of the city. As a last resort, kegs of black powder were used to blow-up six buildings and create a fire break. When the fire was finally contained after 11 hours, 430 buildings were destroyed, 23 steamboats along with over a dozen other boats were lost, and 3 people had died including a Fire Captain. As a result of the fire, the city modernized its water system and revised its building code to require new structures be built of stone or brick.

The *Dr. Franklin No 2* bill of lading from 1850 measures 8.75" x 11"; it is partially-printed on light blue paper and completed in both fine cursive and a calligraphic script that identifies the shipment as "One Hundred", (100) Green Hides" weighing 6367 lbs. Instructions indicate that the receiver, Cornwall & Brothers, was to turn them over in care of A. I. Wilson Esq. of Danville, Kentucky for shipment to Dunn & Adam of Oregon, Kentucky. The cover is addressed to Mess'rs Cornwall & Brothers of Louisville "per 'Dr Franklin No.2'" and postmarked with a bold, "Steamer / No. 2 / Dr. Franklin" handstamp.

The *Dr. Franklin No. 2*, a 189-ton sidewheeler, was launched at Wheeling, Virginia in 1848 and owned by the Harris Brothers who were based in Galena, Illinois, not far from Dubuque, Iowa. In 1852 at St. Genevieve, Missouri, its boiler exploded, apparently killing a number of people. Ned Buntline, the western dime novelist and friend of Buffalo Bill, was said to have been on board at the time. The riverboat was repaired, however it was later destroyed by fire at the wharf in St. Louis.

A nice pair of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century river commerce records. The *Dr. Franklin's* ornate postmark is especially scarce. As of 2017, none similar are for sale in the ephemera or philatelic trade, nor are there any records of institutional holdings. Only two similar examples have been sold at auction in the past 50 years.

**\$800 for the pair Read'Em Again Books [#8907](#)**



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 25. PHILADELPHIA CITY-VIEW LETTERSHEET SENT TO HANNOVER, GERMANY

**Three-page stampless cover city-view lettersheet.** Philadelphia: Dubois (artist) and Wollenweber (printer), 1850. The lettersheet measures 16" x 10.5". The lithograph of Philadelphia measures 7.5" x 3". The three pages of text are in German. The letter is dated November 2, 1854 and bears two red circular Philadelphia postmarks, one dated November 3 and one dated November 4, as well as a "Paid 15" handstamp also in red. It additionally has a three-line blue handstamp, "America / Uber Bremen / Franco" and corresponding circular stamp, "22 / 11 / A" which were applied when the letter was received at the port of Bremen on November 22, indicating postage had already been paid. The cover also shows a small, blue, circular "Landbote M / 27 / 11" handstamp indicating the letter was dispatched to the addressee from Bremen by a rural messenger on November 27. The lettersheet is complete with some wear, soiling, and mailing folds. It is missing two 1" square pieces where a wax seal was removed upon opening.



Lettersheets were created as an economical way to send mail because, despite their size which allowed for up to four pages of text, they were designed to be folded into a compact letter, and post offices considered them to be only one sheet of paper.

Milgram, in *American Illustrated Letter Stationery 1819-1899*, notes that the city-view illustrations like this were reminiscent of European city-view prints and especially popular among German immigrants. This lettersheet is type PH-LS-1 to which Milgram has assigned a "rarity estimate" of R-3, meaning less than five examples are known.



\$400

Read'Em Again [#8908](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 26. LETTER FROM ONE QUAKER TO ANOTHER BEMOANING THE EFFECT OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH UPON THE MEN OF HIS COMMUNITY

**Three-page letter, sent in a stampless temperance envelope, from one Quaker to another bemoaning the fact that many men were departing for the gold fields of California.**

Winslow-North Vassalboro, Maine: 1852. This letter, written by C. G. Pinkham of Winslow, Maine to J. H. Osborne of Weare, Maine, is headed with a Quaker date: "1<sup>st</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1852" (January 29, 1852). It is enclosed in a "Maine Law" temperance propaganda envelope printed and sold by Thurston & Co. of Portland. The envelope has two circular "Paid 3" handstamps and a very scarce circular North Vassalboro, Maine postmark dated February 6. The envelope and letter are in very nice shape.

Pinkham's letter is filled with "thees, thous, and thys" and begins with a short acknowledgement of several deaths. He soon, however, begins to discuss the God Rush fever that had gripped the country:

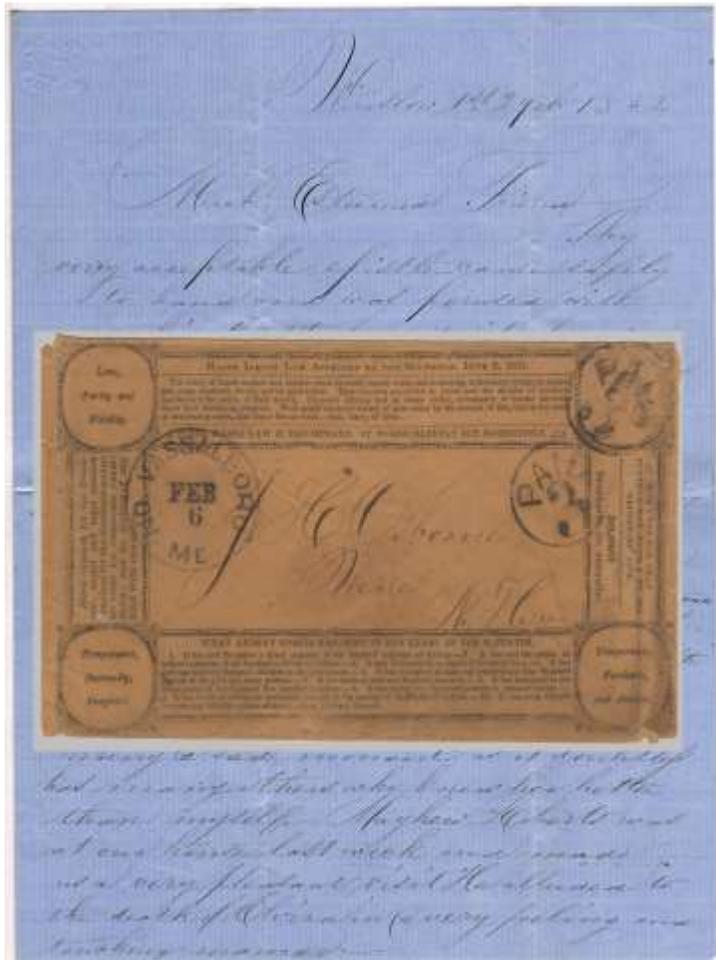
*"Mayhew is just upon the eve of starting for Calafornia. He told me that he had been to see Nathan and Phelie, he said they appeared very happy. George Jenkins has just left here for the last time before starting for Providence where he is to meet Mayhew. They are to sail for Calafornia from New York the 7<sup>th</sup> of next month. There are a number of young men from this region going with them and about the tenth of third month there are about thirty from this vicinity going to that land of adventures. I think it nothing short of a Calamity that so many of our useful and valuable citizens are leaving us prompted I fear by a vain hope of obtaining gold. What say thou about it? Brother Williams is designing to start for the Gold region in about two months this so says he. He is married again to a sister of his former wife."*

The qualities one may achieve by abstaining from hard drink are listed in the four corners of the classic Temperance envelope, and the fine print between them discusses the Maine Liquor Law of 1851, the use of moral suasion to reform drunkards and liquor sellers, and statistics describing the negative effects of alcohol on the people of the United States.

A superfecta of desirability: a letter written in Quaker vernacular, a discussion of the impact of Gold Rush fever on young men, a hard-to-find Temperance propaganda cover, and a scarce Maine postmark.

**\$600**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8909](#)**



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 27. A YOUNG TEACHER'S RECOUNTING OF A SLAVE'S VIOLENT ATTACK UPON THREE CHILDREN IN A LONG ISLAND SCHOOLHOUSE

**Schoolteacher's letter by Clarissa T[rubee Terry] of Wading River, Long Island, apparently to her aunt in Bridgeport Connecticut.** Wading River, Long Island, New York: 1853. This 4-page letter measures approximately 6.5" x 8.5". It is in very nice shape.

Much of the letter concerns news about family and friends, however Clarissa notes that

*"My school is not yet out but will be soon, and then I shall feel my self quite at liberty. I usually have 9 scholars, more than half must to be read in words of one or two syllables, which makes it quite tiresome and dull to me. But I have very little trouble to make them mind; most are very good."*

However, she devotes two paragraphs to: *"quite a scene [that] occurred at school. While myself and the elder children had gone to the beach for a walk, a colored boy belonging to Mr. Paynes came into the school room and began to beat three little children I had left there—two of them was not much hurt, but Laura Ann Hulse was badly injured. Her back was fairly black & blue, and the skin was broke in many places. Her head was all bloody and her hand and arms much swollen where he had beat her with my ruler which he took from the desk. The children were too small to offer any resistance, and he told them if they attempted to make any noise, he would kill them.*

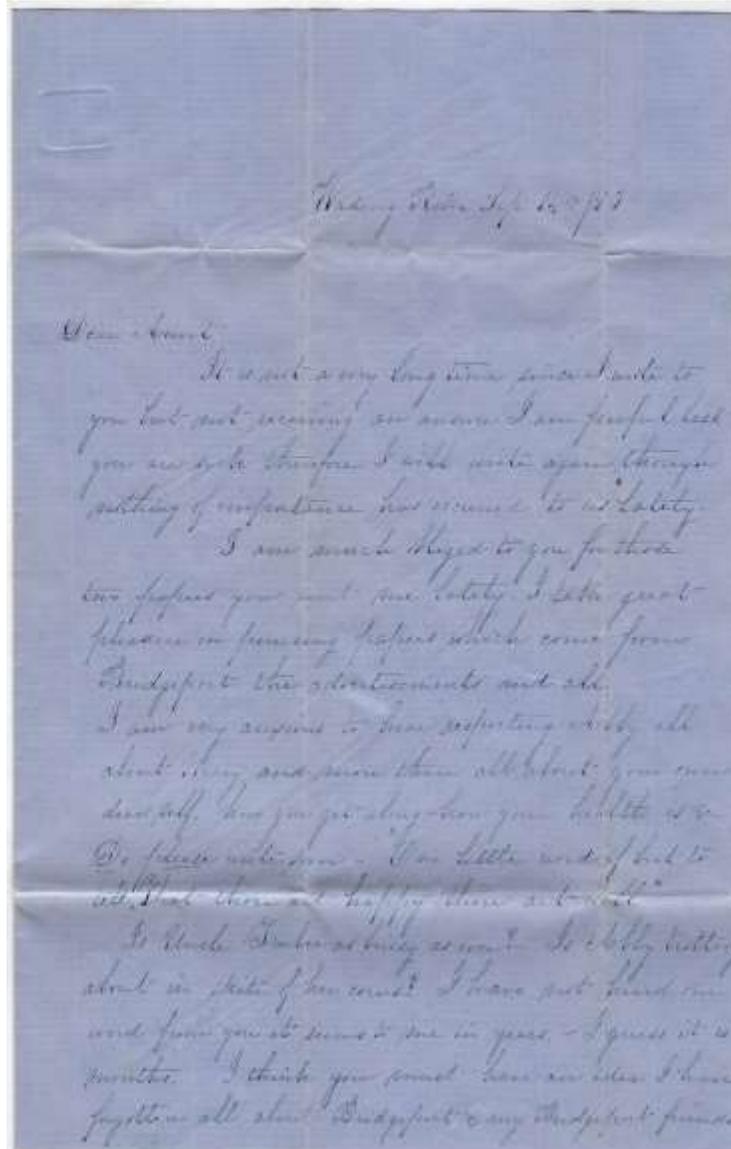
*Mrs. Hulse took the child before the 'village squire' and obtained a warrant for his apprehension. Accordingly, on Monday afternoon, he was carried to jail, where he is to stay three months."*

This, of course, calls to mind Nat Turner's massacre of ten white children at Waller's School, and even though Long Island in 1853 was a far cry from Southampton County, Virginia in 1831, it's quite surprising that Mr. Paynes' slave received such a light sentence for his violent and bloody attack upon these young students.

As of 2017, other than the testimony associated with Nat Turner's rebellion, no other first-hand manuscript accounts of such attacks are held by institutions per OCLC. None are in the trade; and no similar auction records are found at Rare Book Hub or ABPC.

**\$750**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8824](#)**



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 28. ONE OF THE BEST AND CERTAINLY THE FUNNIEST ILLUSTRATED GOLD RUSH LETTERSHEET

***The Miner's Ten Commandments.*** Composed by Forty-Nine (James M. Hutchings), and illustrated by Harrison Eastman. San Francisco: Sun Print, (1853). This lettersheet is printed on light blue paper measuring approximately 9.25" x 11.25". The text of the commandments is printed in three centered columns bordered on the right, left, and bottom by ten corresponding vignettes that satirically illustrate each. An eleventh vignette, at the top center, features an elephant using its trunk to call a miner's attention to a Ten Commandments broadside that has been posted to the wall of "a clapboard shanty." Unused and clean with two horizontal and three vertical folds. Minor edge-wear and pinholes at three of the fold junctions.

The humorous, tongue-in-cheek, proscriptive *Miner's Ten Commandments* addressed bad habits, inappropriate behavior, and temptations associated with Gold Rush life: claim jumping, stealing, fighting, gambling, drinking, cheating, lying, etc. (A transcription of the commandments is included.)



James M. Hutchings, who had made a fortune in the initial Gold Rush of 1849 but lost it all in a bank failure, first published his parody in the *Placerville Herald* newspaper in 1853. After it was reprinted as a lettersheet, it proved quite popular with the miners and was so profitable for that he was able to begin publishing his *Illustrated California Magazine* and amass a fortune once more. An early settler in and fierce promoter of the Yosemite Valley, Hutchings operated the Calaveras Big Tree Grove Hotel.

Milford (B-167) notes that this was probably the most popular of the Gold Rush lettersheets. He also notes that the elephant was an allusion to an American idiom popularized during the Mexican-American War, "If one has seen the elephant, one has seen it all," which refers to gaining worldly experience at a significant cost. Rather scarce in nice condition.

Yes, we realize that this lettersheet was never mailed, but it is such a fun piece that we just had to include it.

**\$1,850**

**READ'EM AGAIN BOOKS [#8910](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 29. LETTER DEMANDING PAYMENT FOR DAMAGE DONE TO THE STEAMER EXPRESS BY THE STEAMBOAT JANE FRANKLIN DURING A COLLISION ON THE OHIO RIVER

**Letter from Charles David to Captain Benedict.** [Cincinnati]: circa 1855. One-page undated letter from Master Charles David of the *Steamer Express* to the Captain Benedict of the *Steamboat Jane Franklin* at Cincinnati, Ohio. The letter is in nice shape; the envelope has some wear and soiling.

As the envelope is unfranked and not postmarked, the letter was probably hand-delivered to the *Jane Franklin* outside of the postal service shortly after it was rammed by the *Express* near Cincinnati:

*We send a bill pricing cost of damages done Steamer Express by the collision on the evening of the 17th which you will much oblige us by paying. As we were in our night plan and stopped and backed as soon as we saw you coming at us. We are glad that it was no worse, as it would have been had we not used every exertion to avoid it, while your boat did not back at all.*

The *Jane Franklin* had a similar collision with the riverboat *Ben Courson* in 1854.

The *Jane Franklin* was a 169-ton wooden hull packet launched at Freedom, Pennsylvania in 1851 that operated primarily out of Cincinnati until it was destroyed in 1859. The *Express* was launched at Pittsburgh in 1851 and operated between Cincinnati and Marietta, Ohio.



\$250

Read'Em Again Books [#8915](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 30. HUMOROUS LETTER TO A STUDENT AT THE CLINTON LIBERAL INSTITUTE FEATURING A DRAWING OF HIM WHEELBARROWING BACK TO SCHOOL

**Letter with a hand-illustrated envelope sent to a student at the Clinton Liberal Institute by John P. Cannod.** Sent from Mohawk, New York to Clinton, New York: circa 1857. This envelope is illustrated with a hand-drawn pen illustration of a young man trudging along a road, pushing a wheelbarrow with a large crate addressed to "James Johnson, Clinton Liberal Institute, Clinton, N.Y." It is franked with a 3-cent, plum or deep claret, Type III or possibly Type IV Washington stamp (Scott #26) that is tied to the cover with a circular Mohawk, N.Y. postmark. The envelope is lightly soiled.

The three-page, humorous letter to the Clinton student is from a friend in nearby Mohawk. It reads in part:

*Having closed the crib I now squat myself excuse the expression to answer your epistle. . . . I was glad to hear you arrived at the Institution all sound. I hope that Society you have lately entered will flourish and keep its name in unblemished reputation. I hope you will raise the D—l as high as he can be raised by a party of boys full of the devil. I would like to be with you a week to aid you to the extent of my ability. . . . I hope also you will enjoy your last visit to the Ladies Seminary. . . . Last night I was out and had some fun raising hell and chuck full of Tod We have got a new lager Beer Saloon here down were Harvey Lyman used to keep market . . . and a person are provided with all the Lager and bologna sausage they may kneed at New York prices. . . . I suppose you know the Mohawk dam Liberal Institute (no such academy existed) is about up the term this week. The boys are getting up an expedition when Rodney Mat & Juce [drawing of a shoe]maker will take active parts in sustaining the expectations of the Institute if has got any. . . . I will bring this thing to termination.*



The Clinton Liberal Institute was a coeducational preparatory school established by the Universalist Church in 1831 "not only for general purposes of science and literature, but with a particular view of furnishing an education for young men designed for the ministry [as other academies were] hostile to the doctrine of Universalism." (See Eddy's *History of Universalism*.) The Institute was housed in four-story, gray stone building of four stories tall with a base 96 by 52 feet and a separate, two-story women's building measured 40 by 25 feet. The Institute relocated to Fort Plain, New York, in 1878 and became a military academy in 1893. It was destroyed by fire in 1900.

An interesting take on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century advanced education and an unusual usage of this stamp that is rather scarce on cover.

\$500

Read'Em Again Books [#8916](#)

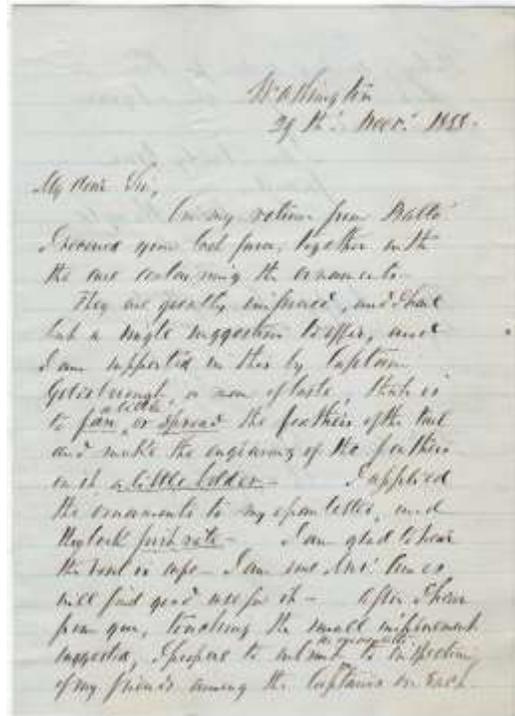
The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 31. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING UNIFORM EPAULETTES FROM A FAMOUS NAVAL EXPLORER AFTER HIS RETURN TO DUTY FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF “INSANITY”

**Two-page letter from Captain Cadwalader Ringgold to James T. Ames.** Washington, D.C.: 1858. In this letter, measuring 5” x 8” and dated “29<sup>th</sup> Dec’r 1858,” Ringgold provides detailed guidance to Ames, a major arms manufacturer, regarding the details of eagle devices, signifying the rank of captain, that attach to a naval officer’s epaulettes along with a promise to aggressively market the new devices to his fellow officers if they were produced.

*“I received your last furn. . . . containing the ornaments. They were improved, and I have but a single suggestion to offer and I am supported in this by Captain Golarburgh (probably Golarborough), a man of taste, that is to fan a little or spread the feathers of the tail to make the engraving of the feathers on it a little bolder. I applied the ornaments to my epaulettes, and they look first rate. . . . After I hear from you . . . I propose to submit the ornaments to the inspection of my friends among the Captains in each station inviting orders for them.”*



Between 1838 and 1842, Ringgold commanded the USS Porpoise and served as the third in command of the U. S. Exploring Expedition that explored and surveyed parts of Antarctica, the South American coast, the Tuamotu Islands, Tonga, New Zealand and the Northwest Pacific coast of North America. During the expedition, the ships anchored of Fiji to arrest a local chief who had, several years prior, led his people in butchering and feasting upon the crew of a visiting American vessel. While there, two naval officers were murdered while bartering for food, and Ringgold led a reprisal raid that killed 80 Fijian warriors and razed two villages. Despite the violence, the expedition was a resounding success and instrumental in the growth of American science; 280 islands were explored, over 800 miles of Oregon were mapped, more than 60,000 plant and bird specimens were collected, and 254 live plants were placed in a special greenhouse that later became the U.S. Botanic Garden.

Subsequently, Ringgold was promoted and in 1849 deployed to complete a definitive survey of San Francisco Bay just as the Gold Rush began. In 1853, he was placed in command of the Northern Pacific Exploring Expedition, and began to exhibit strange behavior while his five vessels were in China, and reports referencing his “insanity” reached Commodore Perry who convened a board of medical officers that found Ringgold “unfit for duty” and removed him from active duty. Surprisingly, Ringgold recovered and, after a long procedural fight, was reinstated and stationed in Washington in 1858 where he was tasked with refining surveys from both the Exploring and Western Expeditions into usable navigation charts. He later served afloat and distinguished himself during the Civil War.

James T. Ames was the president of the Ames Manufacturing Company in Chicopee, Massachusetts, a giant arms manufacturer that produced artillery pieces, carbines, side arms, munitions, and, most famously, swords. Apparently it also produced metal uniform accessories, possibly commercially or perhaps only as a favor for this distinguished officer.

**\$300**      **Read’Em Again Books #8917**

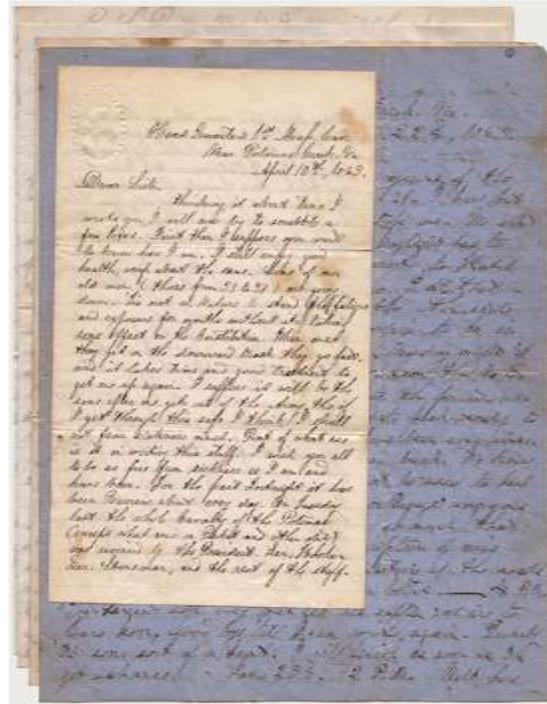
The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 32. LETTERS FROM A UNION SOLDIER WHO FOUGHT HIS WAY THROUGH BALTIMORE TO DEFEND WASHINGTON AND WAS LATER KILLED IN ACTION

**Six Civil War letters from George A Spinney who served from April of 1861 until he was killed in action in June of 1863. All complete except for one missing a final page. All are in nice shape; three in ink and three in light pencil.**

Spinney enlisted just four days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter and was assigned to the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. The next day, the 6<sup>th</sup> boarded a train bound for Washington to defend the capitol which was surrounded by the slave states of Maryland and Virginia. When the unit arrived in Baltimore, it was met by a mob of hostile citizens. Worse, it found that city ordinances prohibited locomotives in the city, so its train cars had to be pulled across town by horses. After the mob blocked the tracks, four companies dismounted and began to march their way to safety. The officers ordered the soldiers to load their weapons but not use them unless attacked. The soldiers found that obstacles had been laid in their path, and they were soon bombarded by rocks and struck with clubs. Eventually, pistols were fired into the ranks by the rioters, and the soldiers returned fire while continuing their march. Twelve civilians were killed along with four men from the regiment.



Although, Spinney does not mention the Baltimore fight, it is clear that he was affected by the bloodshed, "I'm probably . . . yellow as you call it." Later he remarks, "We have the satisfaction of knowing by our forcing our way through Baltimore and getting in the Capitol on Friday night, that we saved it from the Secessionists . . . In 6 hours more there would have been a force sufficient in Washington to have disputed our entrance."

Spinney's letters contain a wealth of detailed information about receiving his Zouave uniform, camp-life, needs of a soldier, and medical care. He also laments alcohol's widespread use:

*We have plenty who will do most anything for liquor . . . who are allways in want of it. They take all sorts of risks and means to get it. . . . Some sell shoes, shirts, etc. I did not join any Sons of Temperance, or such like and I might not have refused to take it when offered. . . . I have laid in the mud and water, wet through, been overboard, been in the sun, when it was 125° in the shade and yet I have passed through it all as well, if not, better than those who drink. . . . Liquor is not needful for a Soldier. So it has been proved to me by my own experience.*

Spinney eventually transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry and was initially very proud of his unit:

*The whole Cavalry of the Potomac . . . was reviewed by the President. . . . The 1st. Mass. took the palm, as usual. . . . Our Regiment is said to be the finest one in the Service. However he becomes despondent about the quality of replacement officers and their detrimental effect even to the point of fantasizing about the death of his commander: Nigger Andrews [Massachusetts Governor John Andrews] has sent us a lot of Lieuts that don't know as much as some of our Rams at the present time. . . . There are any quantity of Privates that can learn the Pups of Nigger Andrews. Well it is of no use to complain, but it is hard to trust a man who knows less than you do. If any of them has charge of me in action, I shall look for myself first. One would suppose we would be proud to belong to the 1st. Mass. . . . Bah! the way things have been going on far a while past are enough to discourage any man. . . . The one who gets "Gobbled up" (taken prisoner) is considered lucky. . . . Never mind, the Caps may run against a small piece of lead if we get into a brush [and] perhaps get a furlough home [in a coffin by] Adams Express.*

Spinney's assessment of his leadership was proved correct as on June 17, 1863, during one of the major cavalry battles of the war, eight regimental companies were trapped in an ambush along the Snicker's Gap Turnpike near Aldie, Virginia. 198 of their 294 men were killed; Spinney was one of them.

**\$2,500**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8680](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 33. AN EXAMPLE OF VERY SHORT-LIVED PRIVATE “ACROSS THE LINES” EXPRESS MAIL THAT WAS PERMITTED EARLY IN THE CIVIL WAR

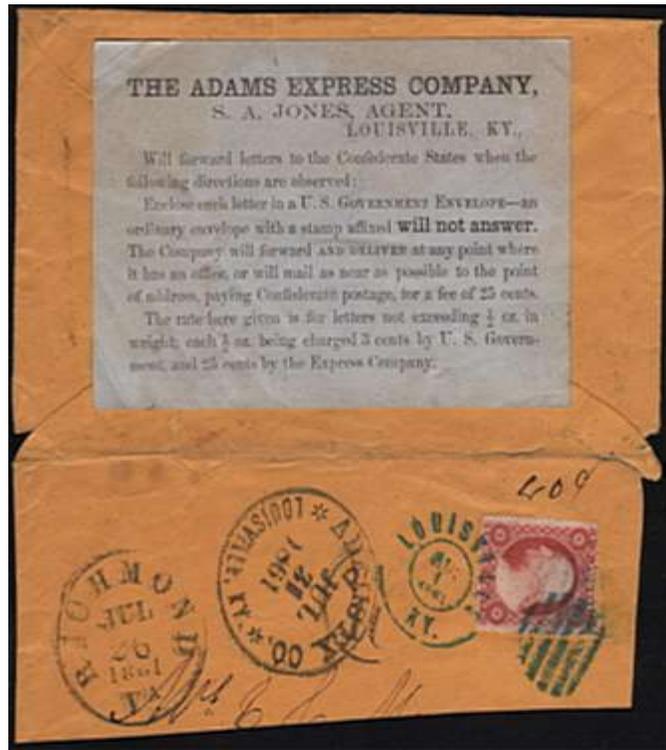
**Civil War “Across the Lines” private express mail envelope with the very scarce special instructional label.** Richmond, Virginia: 26 July 1861.

This 5.5” x 3.25” envelope has two Richmond, Virginia postal markings: a circular city postmark dated “Jul 26 1861” and a circular “Paid 10” handstamp indicating Confederate postage was paid at the time of mailing.

There is also a bold strike of circular datestamp that reads, “Adams Ex. Co. \* Louisville, Ky. \* Jul 31 1861”.

The envelope additionally has a 3-cent Dull Red, Type II (Scott #26) postage stamp tied with a blue grid cancel and matching blue double-circle blue postmark that reads Louisville KY. Aug 1 1861.

A light blue label headed “The Adams Express Company, S. A. Jones, Agent. Louisville, Ky.” provides instructions to northern recipients for sending letters to the South. The stamp, postal markings, and labels are in nice shape.



The envelope has been split at the sides and bottom to facilitate display of the blue label. The lower third of the envelope front containing most of the address has been removed. The reverse of the flap fold has old tissue or archival tape reinforcement. Very good. Envelope or Cover.

In June of 1861, federal North-South mail routes were suspended, creating opportunities for private express companies to carry letters for higher fees (usually 15¢ -25¢ per letter) than formerly charged by the post office. Adams Express Company had been the primary express service throughout the South and Middle Atlantic States before the war, and it captured almost 80% of the relatively small “across the lines” mail service after the post office abandoned its North-South routes.

Northbound letters, like this one from Richmond, needed to be enclosed in a plain unstamped envelope and addressed to the Northern recipient. They were then delivered by hand to an express office in Nashville, Tennessee. Confederate postal fees were paid at the express office or enclosed in the outside envelope. From Nashville, express couriers carried the mail across the lines to an express office in Kentucky, in this case the Adams Express Company office in Louisville where U.S. postage was applied and letters were dispatched through the postal service to their destination. Express companies provided this service for less than three months for on 26 August, the Louisville Daily Journal reported President Lincoln directed that “Officers and agents of the Post Office Department will . . . lose no time in putting an end to the written intercourse with [the Southern states] by causing the arrest of any express agent or other person who shall after this order, receive letters for transmission to or from said states. . . .” (See the Spiegel catalog of 27 May 2010.)

This is an important documentation of written communication between Northern and Southern civilians during the Civil War. All “across the lines” express mail is exceptionally scarce, and mail with the blue instructional label is truly rare as only four known examples have survived. (See Knowles at the Frajola website, 2017.) The last envelope with a blue instructional label (albeit in better condition than this one and with an equally rare provisional postmark) sold for \$16,000 at Spiegel’s auction of the Stephen C. Walske Collection in 2010.

**\$3,500**

**Read’Em Again Book #8713**

The items are arranged chronologically.

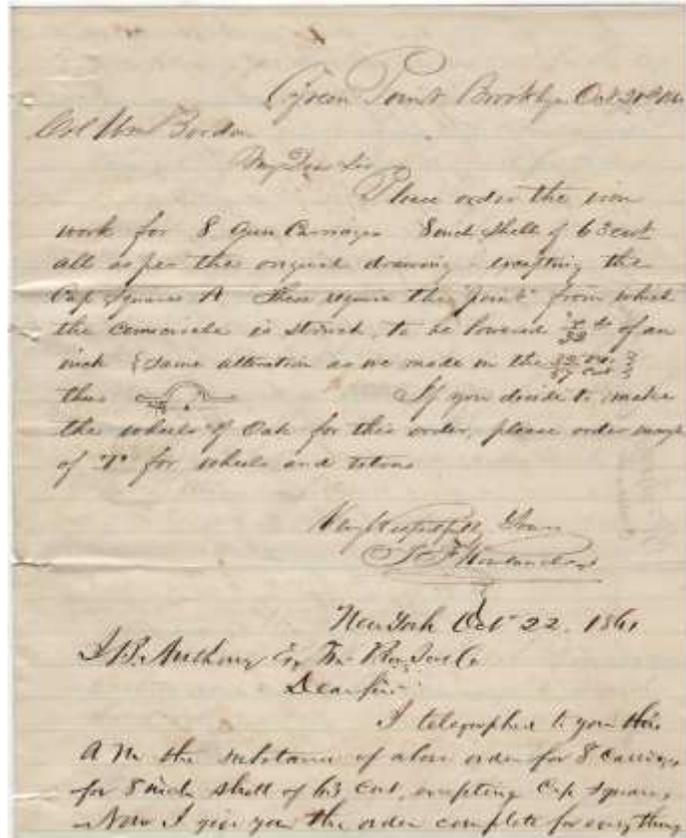
Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 34. FABRICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTS NEEDED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE OF THE FIRST UNION IRONCLADS BUILT DURING THE CIVIL WAR

**Correspondence between Thomas F. Rowland, Colonel William Borden, and J. B. Andrews regarding the fabrication of ironwork parts needed in the construction of the ironclad U.S.S. *New Ironsides*.** Greenpoint (Brooklyn), New York, 1861. This 3-page letter and endorsement measures approximately 8" x 9". As there are no postal markings, it was apparently delivered by courier between Thomas F. Rowland at the Continental Iron Works and the Providence Tool and Armory Company, which employed both Borden and Andrews. The letter has two horizontal folds and the cover is docketed, "W. Borden Order. - Oct. 22d/61." It is in nice shape with some small splits beginning at the folds.

The Brooklyn shipyard—particularly Rowland's Continental Iron Works—was an especially bustling place when this order was placed. The U.S. Navy had recently learned that the Confederacy was soon to launch the C.S.S. *Virginia* (better known as the *Merrimac*) and had contracted the rapid construction of three ironclad prototypes with three different firms. Maxon, Fish and Company began what was to become the

U.S.S. *Galena*. Merrick & Sons designed what would become the U.S.S. *New Ironsides*, and Battery Associates led the conglomerate that would build the U.S.S. *Monitor*. Rowland's firm was subcontracted to build the *Monitor*'s hull at the Greenpoint shipyard and apparently elements of the other two vessels as well.



In this document, Borden urgently forwards Rowland's order to Andrews to fabricate fittings for carriages to hold eight 8" guns and ten pivot or slide carriages for Parrot guns. In Rowland's order to Borden, he includes a sketch and detailed specification of fittings for the 8" gun carriages. The archivist at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, the official repository of the Monitor Collection, believes these parts were used in the construction of the *New Ironsides*, although that cannot be positively confirmed as no archives of Merrick & Sons company records exist.

A unique record of a critical shipbuilding project in the middle of a Civil War arms race.

\$1,000

Read'Em Again Books [#8823](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### **35. PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL MADE FROM WALLPAPER AND SENT FROM THE MOST BRUTAL AND INFAMOUS CONFEDERATE PRISON**

**Prisoner-of-war adversity envelope made from wallpaper and sent from Andersonville Prison by First Sergeant Henry G. Knowles to his wife in East Greenwich, Rhode Island.**  
Andersonville, Georgia: January, [1865].



The cover measures approximately 3” x 5.5” and is made from wallpaper. It is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) that is tied to the cover by a cork cancel. The envelope has a double-ring hand-stamped postmark that reads, “Old Point Comfort VA Jan 16” with a later manuscript “1862” added inside the center ring.

There is a manuscript censor’s mark “Exd” (for Examined) in the upper left and a manuscript “61” on the reverse, probably indicating this was the 61st letter sent by Knowles to his wife. The soiled, worn envelope is missing its flap and split along the right side where the corner has been turned to show the wallpaper inside. It was stored in a larger envelope with an annotation that reads, “Envelope made from paper of Libby Prison by Mr H G Knowles 1862.”

At this time, northbound Union prisoner-of-war mail from most of the Confederate prison camps was transported in bulk to Hampton Roads where it was transferred to Union forces for placement into the regular mail system at Old Point Comfort, Virginia. Although he had no envelopes, Knowles must have been in possession of the U.S. stamp that he used for postage because if he did not have one, his envelope would have been marked with a hand-stamped “3” indicating that 3 cents postage was due upon delivery. The storage envelope annotation is in error both with regards to location and date. The added “1862” date inside the Old Point Comfort postmark is also in error. Both mistakes were likely made by Mrs. Knowles well after the war when, with clouded memory, she saved it for posterity.

Here is how we know that the envelope was mailed from the infamous Andersonville Prison in 1865:

Knowles's military records reflect that he was captured at the Second Battle of Drewry’s Bluff fought in Virginia during May of 1864. All captured Union enlisted soldiers from that battle were sent to Andersonville, however, some may have been staged at Libby Prison awaiting the trip south. There is nothing in Knowles’s military records to indicate that he was ever held prisoner at Libby prison in 1862 or at any other time.

In the winter of 1861-62, Knowles was serving with his unit, the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which was garrisoned at Annapolis, well away from any conflict, combat, or Confederate units.

This envelope’s manuscript “Exd” marking exactly matches other “Exd” markings found on Andersonville mail. While similar markings were used at the Danville and Camp Sorghum prisons, the marking was never used at Libby.

In January 1865, when Confederate Commissary General John H. Winden inspected the Andersonville Prison, he found a backlog of prisoners' mail and ordered that it be immediately dispatched to Hampton Roads. It was processed at Old Point Comfort during 16-19 January 1865. The hand-stamped postmark and cork cancel on this envelope match examples positively identified as having been sent from Andersonville during this period.

For more information about Civil War prisoners’ mail see Galen Harrison's *Prisoners’ Mail from the American Civil War*, James Milgram's *Federal Civil War Postal History*, and Steven Walske's *Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War*. Many thanks to Galen Harrison for helping identify this envelope as coming from Andersonville Prison.

While all prisoner of war mail is uncommon, prisoner of war adversity envelopes made from wallpaper are truly rare. As of 2017, no examples are for sale in the philatelic, militaria, or ephemera trade, and there are no records showing that any examples have ever been sold at auction.

**\$3,500**

**Read’Em Again Books [#8815](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 36. ADVERTISING ENVELOPE FOR VAN AMBURGH'S MAMMOTH MENAGERIE AND GREAT MORAL EXHIBITION WITH A LETTER FROM ITS MANAGER AND FUTURE OWNER, HYATT FROST

**Two-page letter from Hyatt Frost to his business manager, W. W. Thomas, discussing financial matters related to the family farm and his brother, Eli.**

From New Philadelphia, Ohio to Harrisburg, Indiana, 1862. This two-page letter, written by Hyatt Frost of Van Amburgh's Circus, discusses financial matters related to the Frost family farm and Hyatt's brother Eli, who also—on occasion—worked for the Van Amburgh show. The letter is enclosed in a Van Amburgh advertising envelope that features an ornate circus bandwagon drawn by a dozen horses. The letter is dated 25 August 1862. The cover is franked with a 3-cent rose Washington stamp (Scott #65) that is tied to the envelope by a circular "New Philad. O." postmark dated August 26.

Isaac Van Amburgh, who started out cleaning animal cages, became the world's first lion tamer and made a fortune by the age of twenty-three. He used his money to establish a traveling menagerie of his own, and by the early 1860s it had become one of the largest, and arguably the best, circuses in the United States.

Some accounts claim that Hyatt and Eli Frost first became involved in circus work when in 1838 they assisted their cousin, Albert Townsend, an elephant keeper for June, Titus, Angevine & Company. By

1849, Hyatt was running a one-wagon sideshow for Van Amburgh that, capitalizing on the Gold Rush, featured a "big bug of California" (actually an armadillo). Hyatt and Eli Frost eventually held a variety of jobs in the Van



Amburgh show. Eli, who continued to run the family farm in Harrisburg, Indiana, spent a number of years maintaining Van Amburgh's equipment and taking tickets. Hyatt served as Van Amburgh's press agent and show manager. It's possible that by the late 1850s Hyatt had become part-owner of the menagerie, and upon Amburgh's death in 1865, he became the show's sole proprietor. In 1866, Hyatt entered into a partnership with P. T. Barnum (whose New York museum had just been destroyed by fire) and together established a combined Barnum and Van Amburgh Museum and Menagerie at 539-541 Broadway. Tragically, almost all of the show's animals and equipment were destroyed by another spectacular fire in 1868.

\$650

Read'Em Again Books [#8918](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 37. HUMOROUS CIVIL WAR LETTER TO THE WIFE OF A WOUNDED UNION SOLDIER FROM ONE OF HIS CAMPMATES

**Letter to the wife of a Union soldier wounded on picket duty while guarding approach to Washington, DC. Sent by E. T. Lamerburton.**  
Camp Vermont near Hunting Creek, Virginia: 5 December 1862. Two-page letter with envelope. Envelope is franked with a three-cent stamp (Scott #65) canceled with a circular Washington, DC postmark. The letter and envelope are in nice shape; clean and legible. Good. Unbound.

This charming letter, sent to the wife of a soldier who was wounded on picket duty while guarding the approach to Washington, D.C. by one of his campmates, is addressed:

*This is for Augusta, Wife of H.W.C, the Vt. Soldier who was shot on Picket near the Po-to-mac. Daughter of Capt. King. In keeping of the Doctor. Snow's Store, Vermont.*

After admonishing Augusta for not writing, the sender continues "You don't seem to answer my letters very well . . . if you can't do better, just copy off a verse or two of scripture – or anything else," and he goes on to inform her that: "Your man is doing splendidly. The Surgeon dressed the wound day before yesterday, and said it looked much better than he thought it would. I was surprised that such a wound should trouble him so little."

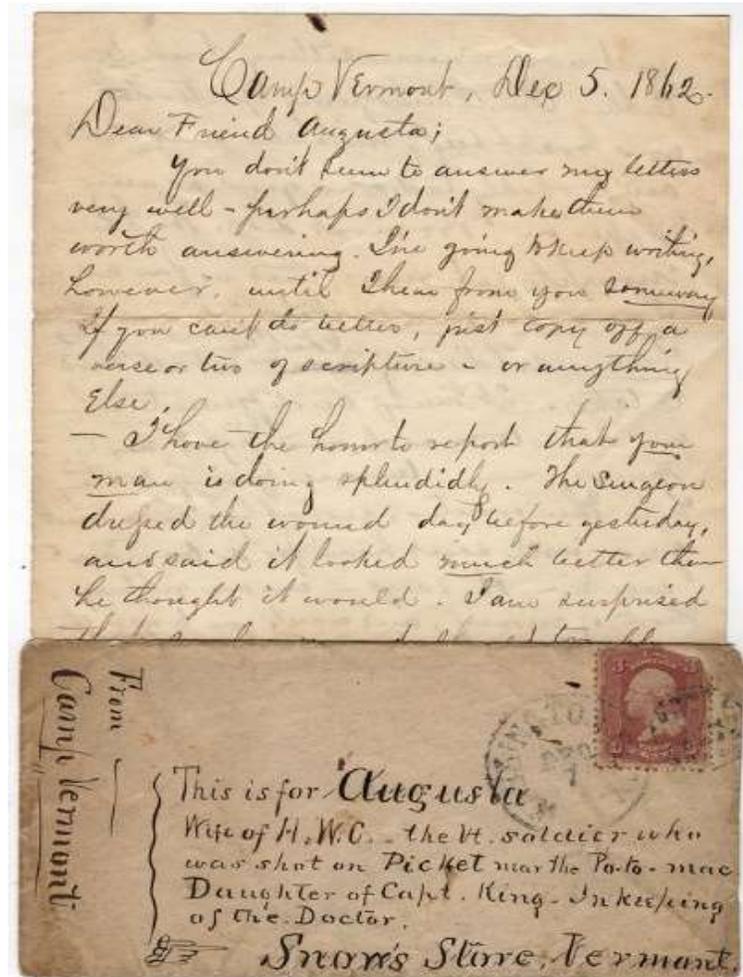
He continues, telling her that despite the December weather: "Our huts are as warm and dry as need be, and we five fellows are having an uproarious time – that is we are happy and jolly. The cigars you sent came last night – the cheese tonight, just in season for supper. . . . Our thanksgiving yesterday was roast beef, molasses and bread, and probably tasted as good as any supper in Vermont did. . . . as far as I am concerned, if the girls were only here, soldiering wouldn't be at all hard to take."

And finally, he passes on word from her husband: "Don't let anybody have that sleigh. Also – don't go up to Capt King's to sew – not a bit! Also – send your miniature, and Em's too, as soon as you can – probably means that for me."

The 13<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry was a "nine-month" volunteer unit that served from October 1862 to August 1863. Although its tour was short, its service was distinguished. In late June, 1863, the unit marched north after Robert E. Lee's Army of Virginia, arrived at Gettysburg, and entered the fray, saving an artillery unit from capture. It then advanced and captured two rebel guns and 81 prisoners. The next day, it played a pivotal role in stopping Pickett's charge, leading General Abner Double to stand in his stirrups, wildly wave his hat in the air, and shout, "Glory to God, glory to God! See the Vermonters go it!"

\$300

Read'Em Again Books [#8671](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

### 38. AN ILLUSTRATED ENVELOPE WITH A HAND-DRAWN MAP OF A NEW JERSEY FARM

**Envelope illustrated with an all-over hand-drawn map showing a New Jersey farm.** Sent from Elizabethport, New Jersey to Brooklyn, New York: circa 1862. This illustrated cover is completely covered with a hand-drawn map of a small farm. It shows a farmhouse, animal pen with pigs, access roads, fences, orchards, etc.

Addressed to a Miss Maggie Weddle, so perhaps a touching reminder of her family at home.

An unusual and unique piece of cartographically philatelic folk-art.

**\$300** Read'Em Again Books [#8919](#)



### 39. WONDERFUL METAMORPHIC PATRIOTIC CIVIL WAR VALENTINE

**Civil War Patriotic Movable Tent Valentine with Its Original Patriotic Envelope.** 1862. Card and Envelope. The valentine features a flag draped tent with movable flaps that open to reveal a soldier writing a letter to his sweetheart at home. Both card and cover are unused. The card is clean with some light edge wear and one light dot of foxing. The envelope has some light soiling and is missing the top flap and one side flap. Very Good. Item #007739

*Often referred to as "The Soldier's Farewell," this set of envelope and movable card is the second hardest Civil War patriotic to find and is identified as "Extremely Rare" in Walcott (see number 2380).*

*Again, we realize this card was not mailed, but it is such a classic that we felt it deserved to be listed.*

**\$975** Read'Em Again Books [#7739](#)



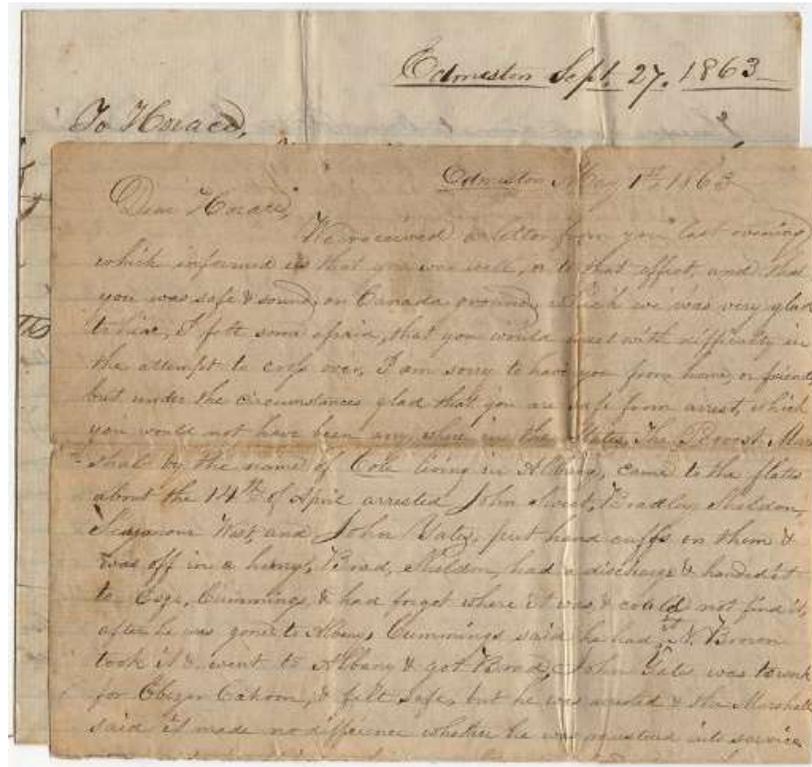
The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

#### 40. LETTERS OF CAUTION TO A UNION DESERTER IN CANADA FROM MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY

**Two letters to Horace Burlingham, Civil War deserter who escaped to Canada from his father, Waterman, and other family members.** Edmeston, [New York]: 1 May and 27 September 1863. Two letters: one two-page letter and one four-page letter. Both have mailing and storage folds. Clean and legible. Centerfold of one has a split mended with what appears to be archival repair tape.

Both letters were written by Waterman Burlingham, a New York farmer, to his son, Horace, in Canada. Horace deserted from the 9<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment in April, 1863 along with 43 other men. One letter also includes notes from Horace's mother and sister. While the letters provided Horace with family information, it was the desertion information that is significant:



*We received a letter from you last spring which informed us that you was . . . safe and sound on Canada grounds, which we was very glad to dear. I felt some afraid, that you would meet with difficulty in the attempt to cross over. I am sorry to have you from home . . . but under the circumstances glad that you are safe from arrest, which you would not have been any where in the States The Provost Marshal by the name of Cole living in Albany, came to the flats [and] arrested John Sivcet, Bradley Sheldon, Seymour West, and John Yates, put hand cuffs on them & was off in a hurry. . . .*

*The Marshall said to Coons that he had 200 names of Deserters on his list, & orders to take all that he could hear off he said his territory went as far west as Rochester, . . . now a word of advice to you don't you be enticed by no man or woman to cross back into the states, a man in some office of the government, left with a large amount of money and went into Canada a short time ago. Some of these city officers that understand catching men tracked him to Canady & . . . and got him to cross over into this States, & then snapt him and if they find out where you are, they will play sharp in some way. . . .*

*Don't you write to anyone, anything that will hurt Richard E. Seill, you know the law makes him accountable for any breach of trust if he is Post Master, don't let any body know that he harboured you, or informed you what was agoing on, or any one else keep everything to yourself, for if Barrett or Tresdell should find out that any one helpt you or done any act that they could get an advantage of they would probably take it, so be very careful when you write to any one.*

Desertion and draft dodging were significant problems for both sides during the Civil War, but it was especially prevalent among New Yorkers, and one source estimates that about one-quarter of all Northern deserters and draft dodgers were from that state. Although Canada was a strong supporter of the Union cause, and at one point threatened to draft the men into the Canadian army, it tended to ignore the problem, and the hotels in Windsor and other southern Canadian cities were filled with draft dodgers and deserters.

\$750

Read'Em Again Books [#8667](#)

The items are arranged chronologically.

Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

#### **41. CONTENT-RICH CIVIL WAR LETTERS ABOUT GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE'S INVASION OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE NEW YORK CITY DRAFT RIOTS FROM A FEMALE CONFEDERATE SYMPATHIZER LIVING NEAR BROOKVILLE, MARYLAND**

**Two letters from Mrs. Cor. R. Disoway, a female Confederate sympathizer in Pennsylvania or Maryland to her aunt in New York City.** Greenwood, [Pennsylvania]: 23 June and 18 July 1863. The two letters are postmarked at Brookeville, Maryland; one is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65), and the stamp is missing from the other. The letters, from a Confederate sympathizer to her aunt are in nice shape and contain exceptional information regarding the New York City draft riots and General Lee's campaign throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania that culminated with his army's defeat at Gettysburg:



*There are no cars now running to Hood Hills. The Confederates have possession of Frederick [Maryland] and have burned one of the railroad bridges, consequently the cars advance no farther than Ellicotts Mills. . . . I was [on] the last train that came as far as our station, we are now entirely cut off from Balto. . . . The excitement in the city was intense, streets barricaded with Logheads of tobacco, flour barrels, etc. anticipating a cavalry raid. Have not the Confeds behaved as true Southerners in Pennsylvania! The contrast is so great between their conduct and that of the federals on Virginia soil. Gen. Lee is near Leesburg threatening Hooker and 'tis said, determined to take Washington. On Sunday there was an incessant roar of cannon. . . . There must have been a severe battle though the papers spoke of it as mere artillery skirmishing, a true sign the Federals gained no advantage. As we sat upon the portico listening to the dreaded sound, I sadly thought of the many poor fellows lying in agony. . . . We anticipate with foreboding . . . the appearance of either army here. . . . A letter just received from Ester . . . the excitement is intense. Madison St. barricaded up to Aunt Glenn's door. The city being rapidly fortified. . . . We are at a loss to know where is a place of safety. The papers think Lee intends marching on Pittsburgh. . . .*

*Through the papers we have terrible accounts of the scenes enacted in your midst. . . . Some of these horrors must have been perpetuated almost before your door but we trust none of you have been in anyway injured. Ma desires me to say that while such excitement prevails in [New York City] you and your family had much better pay us a visit. . . . I do not wonder many poor fellows object to the draft, but tis sad to read of the fiendish delight with which vengeance has been wreaked on many innocent. . . . I see the rioters have undisputed sway on Staten Island..*

*A wagon train gathering up all the Confederates left in their raid through our country, broken down horses and mules, old wagons, harness, etc. passed us on Wednesday. Halted a while before our gates, old contraband drivers, who in loud tones with terrible oaths expressed their detestation of their former mode of life to our servants, had no respect for the white officers with them and seemed to be on perfect equality. How it made my blood boil! The change of position of the armies will I suppose rid us again from such annoyance. . . .*

*I saw in a Baltimore paper the marriage of Lieut. Clem Disoway to Miss Mary Lyber. . . but think during such a fearful times [it] could not have been a joyous wedding. . . ."*

Of course, the armies did not change position as after Gettysburg as General Lee's forces never marched north again. No doubt, Miss Rebecca was even more distressed when she learned that Lieutenant Disoway had been murdered at Fort Magruder, Virginia by a private (perhaps a draftee) who served with him in the First New York Mounted Rifles.

As of 2017, no similar correspondence about the Gettysburg Campaign and New York City Draft Riots from a female Confederate sympathizer living in the North is recorded in OCLC, the Rare Book Hub, ABPC, or for sale in the trade.

**\$1,250**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8776](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 42. A REPORT BY A FORMER GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE ON THE CONFEDERATE DEFEAT AT THE BATTLE OF CHATTANOOGA AND AN ATTEMPT TO RAISE AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN REGIMENT

**Four-page letter from Neill S. Brown, a former Tennessee governor, to John Reid, a volunteer aide of General Price.** Cartersville, Georgia to LaFayette, Alabama: 1863. The letter and envelope are both dated Dec 3, 1863. The envelope is addressed to John Reed at LaFayette, Alabama and franked with a 10-cent blue Jefferson Davis stamp (Scott CSA#12) that is canceled with a circular Cartersville, Georgia postmark also dated Dec 3. The letter and stamp are in very nice shape; the letter has some minor wear and soiling.

Brown describes the South's defeat at Chattanooga, expresses remorse at being unable to return to his home in Tennessee, and announces an effort to raise a Confederate African-American regiment.

*"[Nathan Bedford] Forest has gone to west [actually, east] Tennessee with his command where he expects to recruit & make Okolona his head quarters. . . . You will have heard of our disaster at Chattanooga. . . . it is not so bad as at first supposed. We lost 30 or 40 pieces of artillery & a great deal of camp furniture, but the loss in men was not so great, probably three thousand. . . . The slaughter of the enemy was severe. The whole thing resulted from the weakness at one point of our line where we had but one man for every five feet . . . it was not cowardice or treachery. The army made good its retreat & repulsed the enemy with every attack & . . . the troops are fast recovering. . . . Longstreet still [has] Knoxville invested. . . . reinforcements will be sent up soon. Two brigades have already gone up . . . Georgia state troops, 15000 strong, are . . . occupying a supporting position.*

*There is unacceptable disinformation by our papers & people give the highest coloring to our misfortunes. Whether we succeed or not depends upon the people themselves. . . . I am not going back home until peace is made. Nothing could induce me to go under present circumstances. . . .*

*It is said that James Trimble [Brown, Neill's son] is engaged in making up a negro regiment this summer."*

Neill Brown, a founding member of the Tennessee Whig Party, served as governor in the late 1840s. An ardent Unionist and still politically influential at the onset of the Civil War, Brown initially campaigned against secession and even offered to lead fellow Unionists in battle, but in the face of secessionist fervor, he soon reversed his position and became an ardent Confederate. When the Union occupied Nashville in 1862, Brown was temporarily jailed, and his house was burned. The *Nashville Union* newspaper of December 1, 1863 reported that following his release, Brown reversed position once more and gave a speech in federally-occupied Columbia proclaiming imminent defeat for the Confederacy and encouraging citizens to "return to the Union." His blatant opportunism infuriated Columbian Unionists and, the paper also reported, Brown "vamoosed for Dixie [where he began] imploring old men and youths, and even the women, to take to the field for Dixie and 'Drive the Vandals from the soil of Tennessee.'"

James Trimble Brown's attempt to form "a negro regiment" died on the vine; the *Encyclopedia of Virginia* reports that "In December 1863, Confederate general Patrick R. Cleburne wrote a memorandum advocating the emancipation and enlistment of black men as Confederate soldiers. He circulated the proposal among his peers and gained fifteen additional signatures before sending it to his commanding officers, Secretary of War James A. Seddon, and President Davis. The Davis administration, receiving the proposal in January 1864, not only declined to present it to Congress, but also ordered Cleburne and his colleagues to cease all discussion of the subject."

A unique account from an influential—though politically expedient—Southern politician.

**\$2,500**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8820](#)**



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### 43. DESCRIPTION BY A UNION SOLDIER OF THE FEROCIOUS CONFEDERATE DEFENSE ENCOUNTERED DURING GENERAL SHERMAN'S MARCH ON ATLANTA

**Four-page letter from J. D. Wardlew, an Illinois soldier, written after the Battle of Resaca and in the midst of the fight at Dallas during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.** Dallas, Georgia: 30 May 1864. This four-page letter is written on partially printed lettersheet featuring a poem that begins, "I'm thinking, fondly thinking". The letter is from a member of the 111<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The letter is in nice shape with a little soiling. While the writing is dark, clear, and mostly legible, this is one of the most difficult-to-read Civil War letters we have encountered because the spelling and grammar is incredibly poor. A transcript of the letter as written and as modified to make it intelligible will be provided. I've used the intelligible translation in the quotations below. Wardlew wrote this letter to his wife following the Battle of Resaca while the 111th Illinois was still fighting during the follow-on engagement in Dallas.

*We have been hard on the march until we got here and we was stayin' by 80 thousand Rebels, and you better think that there has been some heavy fighting done since we came here, but we held our own. The Rebs made 8 charges last night on the 10th Corps on the right and the left, but they was repulsed both times and every time with heavy loss. We have lost a good many men but nothing like the Rebs has for they say the canon and musketry thundered all night last night but they are still tonight. Killed: Bill McClane, John Durrell, Sergeant Copland. . . . Charley Meliney is wounded very bad shot in the jaw the bullet coming out of . . . the mouth while eating. There*

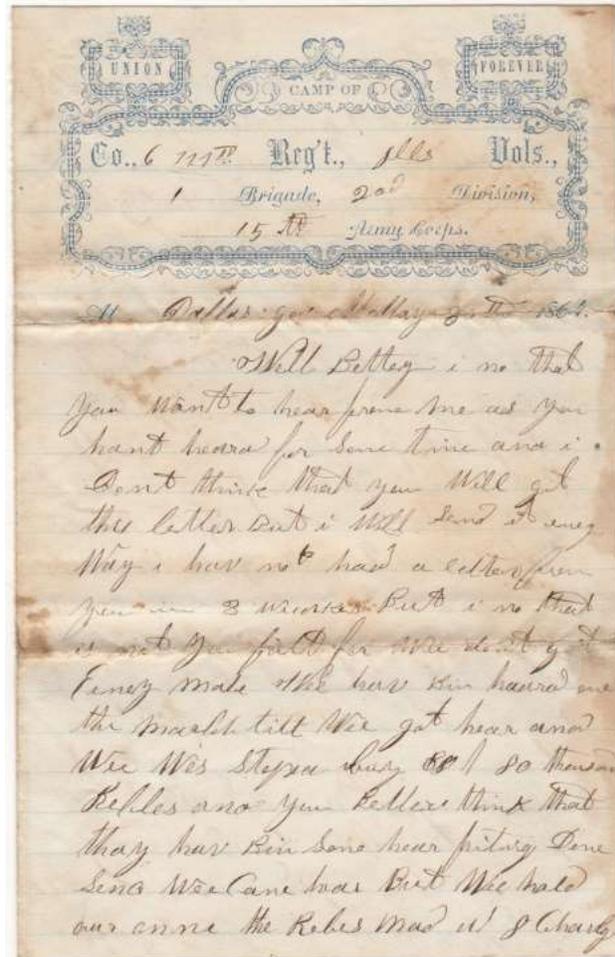
*is terrific more wounded but I have not got time to tell you as I am driving a Division team. . . . I have seen sights and wonders since I have been on the march, such sights I never want to see again. The wagons and ambulances is going night and day. They have been fighting here 6 days. We have not gained easy ground. . . . I think the Rebs is trying to cut their way through get away but we don't intend to let them come through if we can help it.*

Although the Union suffered between 7,500 casualties in the two engagements, the Confederate Army was unable to thwart the Union advance toward Atlanta as Sherman's maneuvering forced the Southerners to retreat and establish defensive positions at Marietta. Wardlew's estimate of "80 thousand Rebels" isn't far from the actual number as over 60,000 Confederate soldiers fought at Resaca. His description of the fighting is accurate as well. Although the 111th had been on active service since it organized in the summer of 1862, it had never engaged in combat until Resaca when it charged and turned back an attack of advancing Rebels. At Dallas, it helped repulse repeated probes and a full attack by General Joseph Johnston's Army of Tennessee.

A poignant and event filled letter by a semi-literate Union soldier in the midst of his first combat.

\$500

Read'Em Again Books [#8858](#)



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#### 44. URGENT REPORT OF THE THEFT OF SLAVES FROM A CONFEDERATE OFFICER'S ESTATE IN ARKANSAS

Letter sent by J. N. Embres (Embrie) to Josiah Nichol, Esq. at Washington, Arkansas notifying him of three slaves who had been “stolen” and would soon “be lost” if taken across the [Ouachita] River into Union held territory. Bates [Bluff], Arkansas: July 25, 1864. This letter on blue lined paper measures 7” x 9.5” unfolded. It is franked with a pair of 5-cent blue Confederate stamps (Scott #7-Richmond printing) and cancelled with a circular “Camden Ark” postmark dated Jan 26. The stamps and letter are in nice shape with a few spots of light foxing and a small tear at the wax seal where it was opened.

In a rather frantic tone, Embres informs Nichols that:

*I wrote Maj Peay to inform you in regard to 2 Negro Boys that were stolen from Maj. John Easton & a girl from Mrs Williams. . . . I am fearful the letter was not put in the PO. The thieves are about here & I have no doubt the negroes will all be lost. . . . The girl is gone now. The Boys of Eaton are on this side of the River & placed with some woman who is instructed to keep them as her own if no one calls for them – But I fear they will be taken away unless you come for them without delay.*



By 1864, the Union Army controlled much of Arkansas, and the state's Confederate government had established its Capitol at Washington. Bates' Bluff was located on the Ouachita River about twenty miles north of the Camden, a Confederate stronghold. No doubt, Embres feared that whoever had stolen the slaves (likely members of the Underground Railroad) would soon spirit them across the river to Union territory and their freedom. Nichol's relationship to the slaves' owners is unstated, however, docketing on the letter notes that it is “concerning Agnes.” Perhaps, he was a friend of Ms. William and “Agnes” was either her first name or, more likely, the name of her girl slave.

Although written after the heyday of the Underground Railroad, this letter gives testimony that even late in the war, Southern abolitionists were risking their lives to lead slaves to freedom as the Union forces advanced.

Civil War Confederate letters discussing slave stealing are extremely scarce. Also, the two stamps that frank this letter are rather scarce as most of this issue was printed in England, and the British printings out-number those made in Richmond by a factor of nine to one. As of 2017, although OCLC identifies a handful of letters that mention runaway slaves, none appear to have the urgency or perspective from Southerners concerned that stolen local slaves are about to be spirited away to freedom. Nothing similar for sale in the trade and no auction records on file at ABPC, the Rare Book Hub, or Worthpoint.

**\$1,500**      **Read'Em Again Books [#8890](#)**

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#### 45. SMALL ARCHIVE OF CIVIL WAR LETTERS WRITTEN TO A WOUNDED MEMBER OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT, THE GARIBALDI GUARD, ALONG WITH THE SOLDIER'S DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE

##### Collection of nine letters addressed to Stephen H. Gregory along with his discharge certificate.

Various locations: mostly 1865. Nine letters written to Stephen H. Gregory; eight were written during April and May of 1865 while Gregory was recovering from wounds at the Homewood Hospital in Washington D. C. The ninth letter is pre-war. Two of the letters are enclosed in mailing envelopes with indistinct postal markings; one of the envelopes is franked with a 3-cent rose Washington stamp (Scott #65), the stamp is missing from the other. Gregory's discharge certificate is also included. The letters are all in nice shape; the certificate has some storage folds and minor wear.

The Garibaldi Guard was organized in New York City in the Spring of 1861 by Colonel Frederick George D'Utassy under special authority from the War Department. Initially, the unit was divided into eleven companies each primarily composed of men of different national heritage; three companies were Hungarian, three were German, one Swiss, one Italian, one French, one Spanish and one Portuguese. In the summer of 1864 four companies (A through D) were mustered out, however a new D Company was mustered into service that October from upstate New York. Gregory, was from Lisbon, New

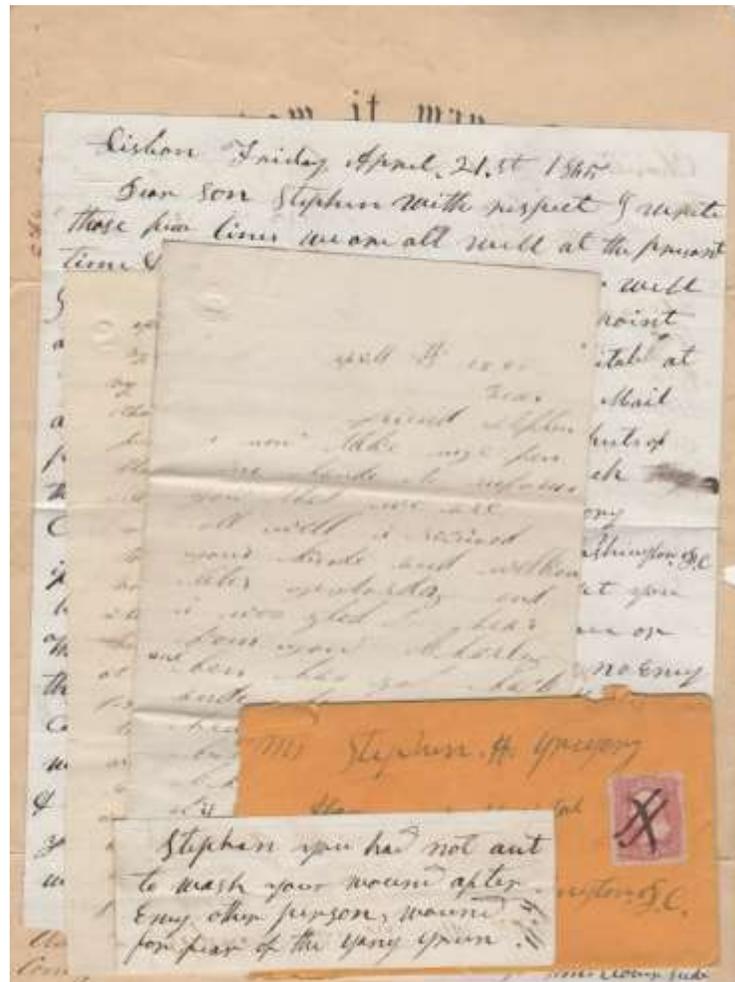
York and joined D Company while it was being organized at Malone, New York. D Company fought in the Appomattox Campaign during March and April, and it was during this time that Private Gregory was wounded. Gregory's military records are sparse, but they do confirm that he was hospitalized for four weeks although they do not specify where or how badly he was wounded, but, based on the dates of the letters, it must have been sometime in April shortly before General Lee surrendered.

The letters are primarily queries from family and friends about his wound ("Stephen you had not aut to wash your wound after eny other persons wound for fear of the gang green"), his general health, "shugar making," and the death and wounding of other local soldiers, mixed with considerable hope that Stephen would soon be able to return home. One letter, however, also references the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the hunt for John Wilkes Booth:

*"las Friday they is a corpral and three privates to the depo looking for the man kiled abraham linkin and they say that they git 3000 if they git him"*

A nice collection of letters to a wounded soldier, clearly evidencing the love and concern of his family.

**\$500**      **Read'Em Again Books [#8921](#)**



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#### 46. A LOVE LETTER FROM A WHITE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE ALL-AFRICAN-AMERICAN 25<sup>TH</sup> CORPS AS IT SAILED ON BOARD THE SHIP *EUTERPE* TO NORTH CAROLINA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ASSAULT ON FORT FISHER

**Four-page letter from Lt. J. R. Goodard to his sweetheart.** On board the *Euterpe*: January 5, 1865. Lightly soiled with some doodling at the upper corner of the first page. In this letter, Goodard expresses heartfelt sorrow to “Eva” that he would not be able to take leave for a visit. The reason he explains as follows:

*“We landed from our Wilmington expedition on New Years day and went into camp. I immediately made application for a leave of absence but before it could get through the proper channels we were ordered to re embark for a second expedition so I shall have to wait a while longer. It is supposed that our destination is Wilmington again and I hope this time with better success than before. It is very probable that some weeks may elapse ere I have an opportunity to send you another letter. Meantime you may hear of hard fighting but do not enable yourself unhappy by worrying yourself about me. Remember that there are not one fourth so many killed in battle as is general supposed. If it be my fate to fall it is my desire that you should be happy remembering that our ‘father in heaven’ doeth all things well.”*

Goodard was one of the white officers that led the 30<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry, which was part of the then recently assembled all African-American 25<sup>th</sup> Corps that had been formed the month before. Its first intended engagement was to be an assault on Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina. The

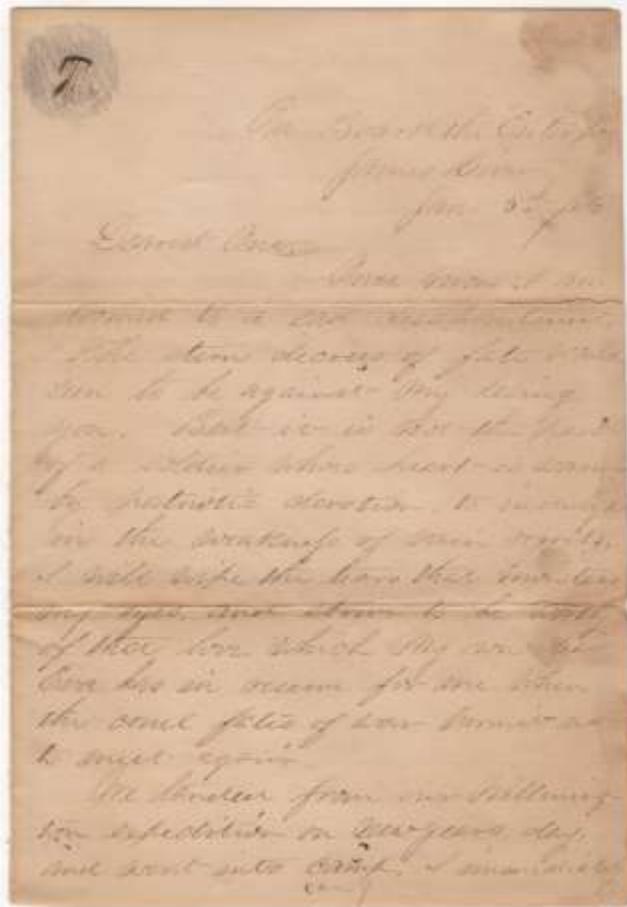
notoriously incompetent political general, Benjamin Butler, commanded that expedition in late December, but abandoned the assault shortly after it began on Christmas Day. Following the fiasco, the troops returned to Fort Monroe and Butler was relieved of command. Three weeks later in mid-January, General Alfred Terry led a second attack on the fort that was successful, sealing off the last Confederate port open to global trade.

The *Euterpe*, was a commercial clipper used as a transport toward the end of the war. It had previously been used by the U. S. Sanitary Commission as a hospital ship and spent most of 1862-1863 at anchor in Hampton Bay as a receiving vessel.

Quite scarce; correspondence from the all African-American 25<sup>th</sup> Corps, which wasn’t organized until very late in the war, is seldom found.

\$400

Read’Em Again [#8922](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

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#### **47. LETTER IN A TWICE-USED “TURNED-COVER” FROM A CONFEDERATE OFFICER TO HIS SISTER DISCUSSING BLOCKADE RUNNERS AND THE DEFENSE OF GALVESTON**

**Two-page letter sent by Lieutenant Henry A. Landis to his sister in Chappell Hill, Texas.**

Galveston, Texas: 1865. This two-page letter from Fort Bankhead is written on thin blue paper and dated January 28, 1865. The inside cover is addressed to Lt. Landis at Galveston and is franked with a blue 10-cent Jefferson Davis stamp (Scott CSA#12); indistinct manuscript cancel. The outside cover is addressed to Landis's sister in Chappell Hill, Texas and franked with a blue 10-cent Jefferson Davis stamp (Scott CSA#12) cancelled with a poor strike of a circular Galveston postmark. The back of the envelope has been partially opened so the interior cover can be seen. The letter is in nice shape; the envelope is lightly soiled.



In his letter, Landis discusses the panic that had seized the city and its defenders when a number of Union ships appeared off shore, and he also notes the impact upon blockade runners as a result of their expected attack:

*'Furloughs' have been stoped for several days past, but I believe will be resumed again shortly as the excitement of an Attack wears off. For several days there has been from Ten to Thirteen Vessels off but today there are only nine. . . . Four steamers are now in port. They were working night & day discharging and loading so as to leave before the fight commenced But the Scare has all worn off and they are not 'working' and 'drinking' at pleasure. No arrivals since the 'Denbeigh' which was last Saturday night. Several were expected in during the past week but it is supposed that the rumor of a 'fight at Galveston' has reached Havana. Some of these vessels which have run lately have brought full & valuable Cargoes of 'Clothing' and 'Coffee' all for the Government but none of it was finding its way to this soldier as yet."*

Landis was originally commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 14<sup>th</sup> Texas Light Artillery Battery in 1862, but had been reassigned to 20<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment and was defending Galveston harbor from Fort Bankhead. Over the course of the war, Galveston had been blockaded, besieged, captured, occupied, recaptured, and subsequently defended until the last vestiges of the Confederate Army formally surrendered on 2 June 1865 when terms were accepted by General Edmund Kirby aboard the *USS Fort Jackson* in Galveston Harbor. On 18 June, 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston to begin the occupation of Texas under the command of General Gordon Granger. The following day, 19 June, Granger formally announced the surrender.

Southern letters discussing the blockade and blockade runners are quite uncommon, and 1865 mail from Galveston, the last Confederate bastion to fall, are scarce.

**\$850 SOLD Read'Em Again #8923**

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#### 48. FIVE PIECES OF EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-DRAWN, HUMOROUS POSTAL ART

**Five hand-illustrated envelopes by an artist identified only as “F. R.” that were sent to members of the Allen family of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.** Various New England and New York locations: 1860s to 1910s. The envelopes range in size from 4.25” x 2.75” to 5.75” x 3.75”. All of the artwork is in black ink, and two of the designs incorporate the cover’s stamp into its design. Stamps include two 3-cent Washingtons from the mid-1860s (Scott #65), a 3-cent locomotive from 1869 (Scott #114), a 3-cent Washington from the 1870s (Scott #147), and a 2-cent Washington from the 1910s (Scott Type A140). All are in nice shape; two of the envelopes were trimmed along the right edge when opened.

The clever artwork appears to have drawn by the same person over a span of 50 years.



The first shows a panicked rider on a runaway horse and is captioned “No exercise I find is milder, more charming and stirring to the intellect of a student than Horseback-Riding.’ ride Chesterfield’s letters.” (No doubt a reference to Lord Chesterfield’s letters to his son.)

The second is of a scholar in top-hat and tails absorbed in a book while walking down the middle of a railroad track oblivious to a freight train that is rapidly approaching from behind. It is captioned, “Theoretical Theology.”

The third has a drawing of a man dressed in somewhat tattered clothes carrying a large bundle under his arm. It is captioned “Ye ‘Job Lot’ man ‘hopeful.’”

The fourth features a pugnacious sailor in a boxing stance next to a postmarked Washington stamp which is affixed so it appears to be lying on the deck of a ship. It is captioned, “See Here Now!! Stop That! It is bad enough to give Geo. Washington a licking without then stamping on him.”

And the last shows a wagon, with a stamp affixed crookedly behind, being chased down by two men who are shouting, “Hi! You’ve dropped your stamp!”

A very nice collection of postal art drawn by a witty and skillful artist.

\$950

Read’Em Again [#8924](#)

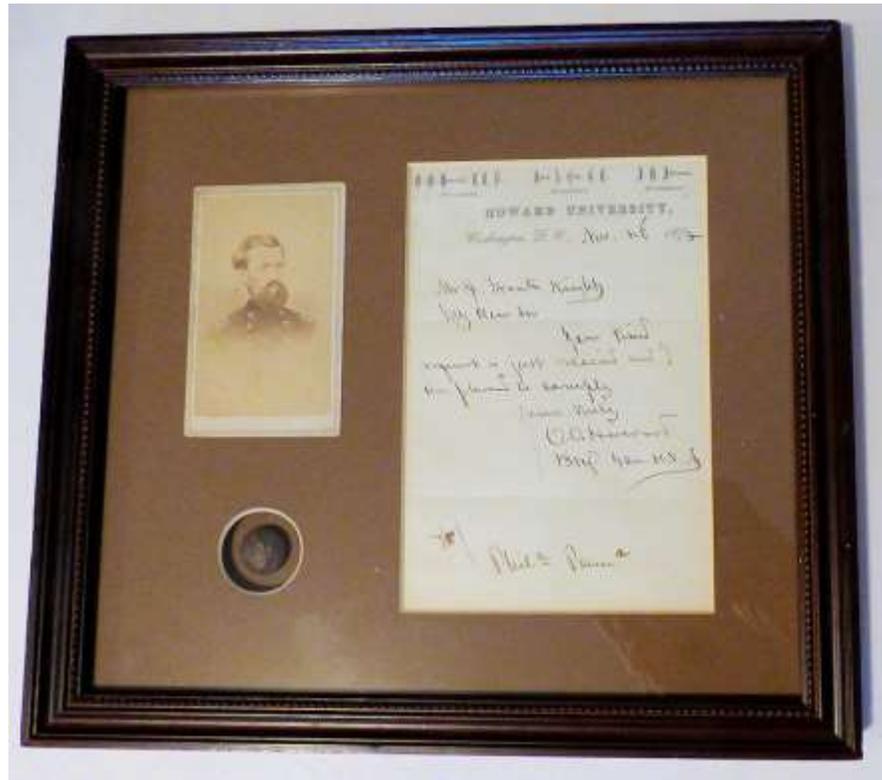
The items are arranged chronologically.

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#### 49. FRAMED DISPLAY RELATED TO THE FOUNDER OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY

**Letter signed by General O. O. Howard along with a portrait CDV and one of his uniform buttons.**

Philadelphia: Obtained by J. Frank Knight, 1872. The letter, cdv, and button are all arranged and matted in an 11" x 12" frame. The letter is written on Howard University stationery and dated Nov. 26, 1872; it reads: "*Mr. J. Frank Knight / My Dear Sir / Your kind request is just received and I am pleased to comply / Yours truly / O.O. Howard / Brig. Gen. U.S.A.*" A note on the reverse of the frame reads, "Photograph and uniform button sent to



great grandpa Frank Knight by General Oliver O. Howard in 1872." All three items are in nice shape; the button is tarnished. Not examined out of the frame. Very good. Framed.

O. O. Howard, a career Army officer, who led corps at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg and commanded the Army of the Tennessee during Sherman's March to the Sea, is best known today as the Commissioner of the Freedman's Bureau where he played a major role during the Reconstruction and was in charge of integrating freed slaves into American society. He was one of the principal campaigners to establish a theological and normal school for African-Americans, and when Congress finally established such a school in 1866, he served as its first president, and the school was soon renamed Howard University in his honor.

**\$600**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8580](#)**

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## 50. LETTER RECOUNTING DETAILS OF THE BASIN DAM WAR AT SEBAGO LAKE, MAINE

**7-page letter written by E. B. Newcomb.**  
Chillicothe, Ohio: 1877. Letter. 7-page letter dated April 29, 1877. Clean with light wear. Legible. Partial transcript included.

In this letter Newcomb recounts details of the now largely forgotten Basin Dam War in Maine over Sebago Lake and Presumpscot River water rights.

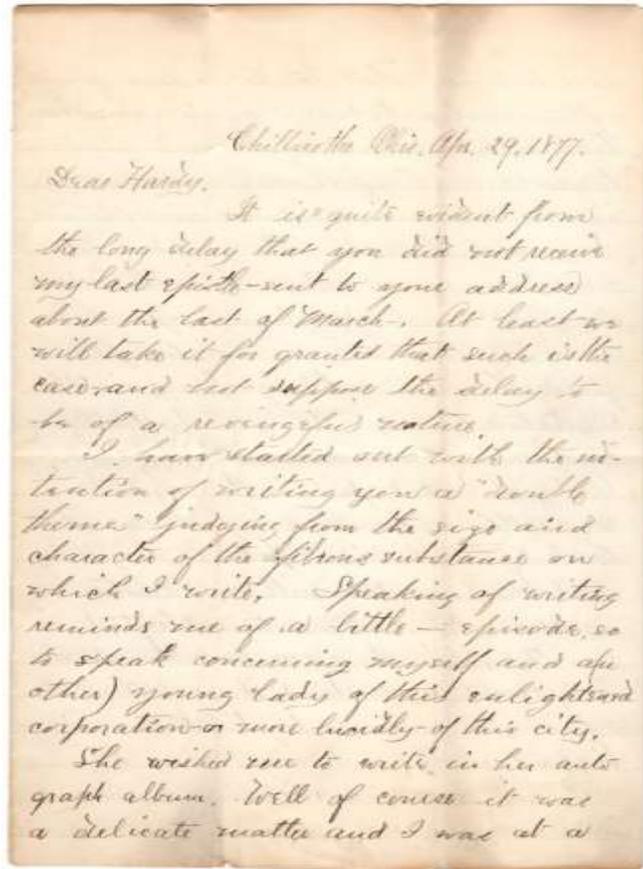
Newcomb's father, a Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad (later the Maine Central Railroad) employee had taken a temporary job with Cumberland Mills (at the time the largest paper maker in the world) at Westbrook, Maine. The mills were dependent upon water from Sebago Lake by way of the Presumpscot River, however another company, the Oriental Powder Company (at the time the fourth largest gunpowder manufacturer in the United States), was located near the Sebago Lake Basin Dam and, although neither owner of the dam nor of the water rights, had traditionally controlled the flow of water.

During the drought of the winter of 1876-1877, Oriental severely curtailed the flow of water downstream.

After negotiations between the companies failed, Newcomb's father was one of the leaders of a force of Cumberland men that drove off the Oriental employees and seized the dam. They then built a house above the dam's gates, and the Cumberland men (sometimes Newcomb's father alone) lived there until the courts finally decided the issue in favor of Cumberland.

Newcomb also describes the then famous railroad bridges built by Cincinnati Southern over the Kentucky and Ohio Rivers for its mainline to Chattanooga.

**\$175**      **Read'Em Again Books [#8553](#)**



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Click on any inventory # or the first picture in a listing for more information, additional larger images, or to make a purchase.

## 51. "THANK YOU" CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE AMERICAN FEMALE GUARDIAN SOCIETY AND HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS

**Thank-you grouping consisting of a Female Guardian Society advertising cover, a two-page letter written on the organization's stationery, and a religious tract.** New York: 1879. All are in very nice shape.

In 1834 a group of women established the Female Moral Reform Society of New York with the goal of reforming prostitutes in New York City and improving the morality of the population in general. Society members visited the city's slums and prisons to distribute tracts, preach, and counsel the poor. By 1840, the society had established a "respectable" women's employment agency, begun to distribute food and clothing in the slums, and changed its name to the American Female Guardian Society.

Members often took destitute women and children into their homes to remove them from the streets, but in time, the effort became overwhelming, so in 1847 they opened a Home for the Friendless and House of Industry in a rented building on First Avenue until they were able to build a facility of their own on 30<sup>th</sup> Street just east of Madison Avenue. Most residents were widows, mothers with dependent children, and adolescent girls seeking employment. The Home also accepted orphaned or abandoned children, both girls and boys. Their residence was never intended to be permanent, and many children were placed on the orphan trains first established by the Children's Aid Society and sent west for adoption or employment. Still, demand for space at the home far exceeded its capacity, and a new facility was built in the Bronx in 1901.

**\$200**      **Read'Em Again Books [#8925](#)**



The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 52. SALES PITCH FOR HORSE-DRAWN FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

**Advertising envelope with an illustration of a horse-drawn fire engine containing a sales pitch on similarly illustrated letterhead.** Chicago: E. B. Preston & Co., 1881.

This all-over illustrated advertising cover for the Preston fire-fighting equipment company features a light green print of a hose wagon on the front and b/w scene showing a fireman hitching two horses to a pumper wagon on the reverse. It is franked with a 3-cent brown Washington stamp (Scott #146) and canceled with a Chicago duplex postmark dated 28 April 1881.

The sales letter has the hose wagon illustration at the top and a product list printed along the left margin. Both the envelope, which was neatly trimmed along the right edge when opened, and letterhead are in nice shape.

This sale pitch touting the company's equipment was mailed just a few months before the Great Chicago Fire in early

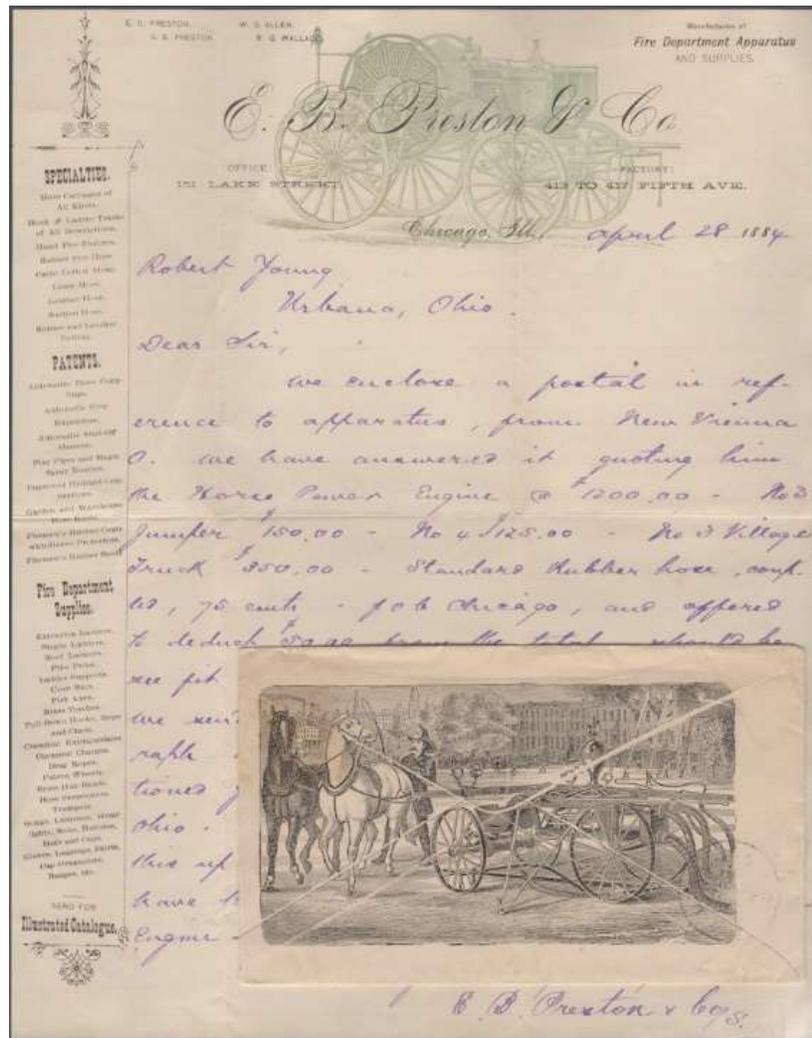
October of 1881. In it the company notified a sales representative in Urbana that they had sent a package of advertising materials to a fire-department representative of New Vienna, Ohio

*“quoting him the Horse Power Engine @ \$1200.00 – No 3 Jumper [hose cart] \$150.00 – No 4 \$125.00 – No 3 Village Truck \$350.00 – Standard Rubber hose, coupler, 75 cents – job Chicago, and offered to deduct \$50.00 from the total, should he see fit to give us the complete order. . . .”*

An impressive and seldom-seen piece of fire-fighting ephemera from well before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

\$250

Read'Em Again Books [#8869](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

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### 53. AN ELABORATE 1885 MARDI GRAS BALL INVITATION



**Krewe of Rex *Ivanhoe*-themed New Orleans Mardi Gras invitation.** Paris, Illinois: F. Appel, 1885.

This ornate invitation measures 12” x 13.5” unfolded. Folded the card appears to be a blue and gold striped medieval tournament tent. When all nine panels and pieces are unfolded, six multi-colored vignettes from Sir Walter Scott’s novel are revealed. The invitation is in very nice shape with only some minor edge-wear. Invitation only, no envelope, admit card, or ducal proclamation. In nice shape; near invisible reinforcement to one of the tent-roof folds. See Schindler’s *Mardi Gras Treasures* and [historicmardigras.com](http://historicmardigras.com) for more information.

The online photos don’t do this invitation justice.

Founded in 1872, the Krewe of Rex (officially The School of Design and also known as The Rex Organization or simply Rex) is one of the first New Orleans Mardi Gras krewes, and

it is the oldest parading carnival krewe. Its presiding king, Rex, and queen are acknowledged as the King and Queen of the Carnival, and its colors, purple, green, and gold have been adopted as the Mardi Gras colors. Rex began parading in 1872 to welcome Grand Duke Alexis Romanov, the son of Czar Alexander II, to New Orleans and continued to hold the event annually in an effort to boost tourism for the city.

Once more, we’ve included an item without any writing upon it, however like the Gold Rush lettersheet and the Civil War valentine, its intent was to communicate a message by the mails.

**\$600**

**Read’Em Again Books**

[#8935](#)



The items are arranged chronologically.

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#### 54. VERY EARLY COCA-COLA LETTER WRITTEN BY AN EMPLOYEE AT ASA CANDLER'S ATLANTA DRUG STORE

**Four-page letter sent by “Willie.”** Atlanta: 1889. This very early Coca-Cola advertising envelope, dated October 5, 1889, contains a four-page employee's letter. It shows “Asa G. Candler & Company, Wholesale Druggists, 47 Peachtree St. Atlanta, Georgia” as the return address and has one of the earliest Coca-Cola script logo advertisements on its back flap: “The Brain Tonic and Intellectual Soda Fountain Beverage, Coca-Cola, Recommended by all who have used it”. The envelope is rough at the right edge and split along the left. Very good.



Coca-Cola was invented by John Pemberton in 1886. Candler bought the rights to the product in May of 1889 and turned the drink into the best-selling soft drink in the world. Willie was hired by Candler to take over management of his retail operation in early October, 1889 and immediately wrote his “dear Sis” (perhaps a pet term for his wife based on the address and contents of the letter):

*Mr. Candler made me an offer of \$50 for the month, with the understanding of raising my wages when he had found me out, & what I would be worth to him. . . . What do you think of my taking this position? . . . I have charge of the Retail Department. I put up all the Prescription work & take charge of the retail trade. Hope I will like it.”*

He goes on to plead for her to come to Atlanta where they can together visit the 1889 edition of the Piedmont “Exposition.”

Early Coca-Cola correspondence is almost never found today. As of 2017, there are no similar early employee letters listed at OCLC and none are for sale in the trade. There are no auction records at ABPC, the Rare Book Hub, or WorthPoint, however an Asa Candler letter from 1909 sold at auction in 2014.

**\$3,000**

**Read'Em Again Books [#8810](#)**

The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 55. COLORADO SILVER BOOM LETTER FROM ONE MASON TO ANOTHER

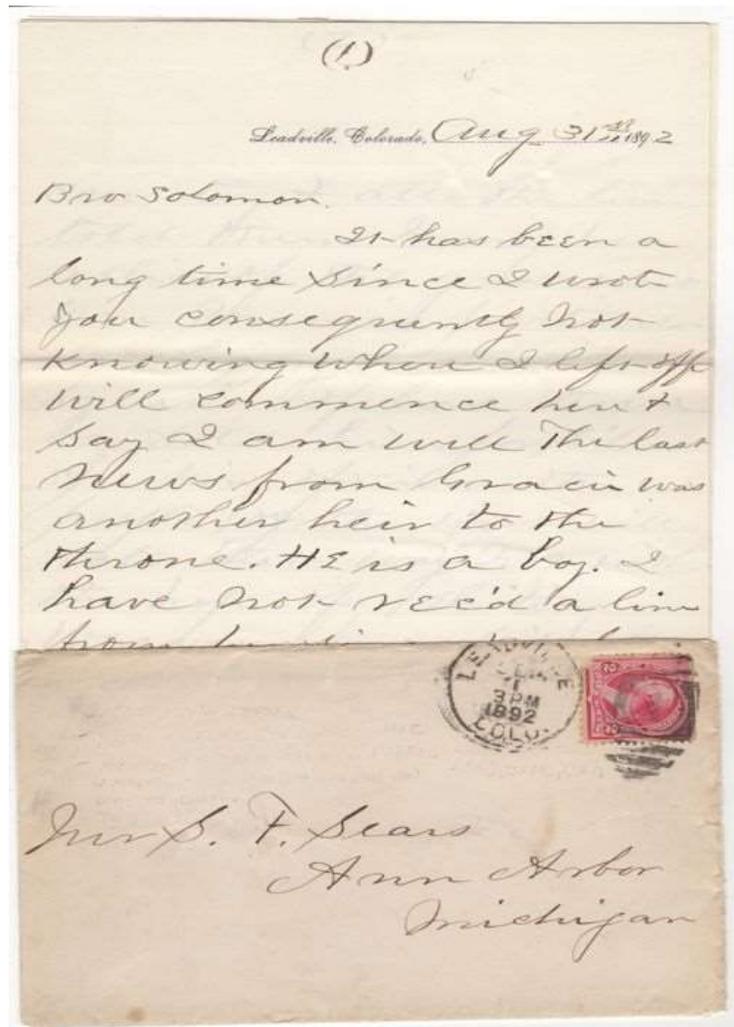
**Four-page letter to fellow Mason, Solomon F. Sears of Ann Arbor, Michigan from "Bro John."** Leadville, Colorado: 1892. This four-page letter to fellow Mason Solomon F. Sears of Ann Arbor from "Bro John" recounts the conclusion of the 1892 Conclave of Knights Templar in Denver and the return of attendees to their homes.

The author jokingly notes that one man was happy to have been able to purchase what he believed to be small squares of silver from a boy on the street, which were actually nothing more than lead. He also expresses his support for the Free Silver movement and claims *"the people of the west will vote that way, not with the hope of electing [James] Weaver [the Populist Party's presidential candidate] but"* to show their dissatisfaction for President Cleveland and the Democratic Party's opposition to *"free silver"* which was already having dire economic consequences in Leadville: *"I met seventy (70) men within the last few days out of employment. We do nearly as well with Silver at eighty two cents as you would with apples at a cent a barrel. If England & Wall Street consent we will hope for better times. Free Coinage."*

He additionally mentions a mutual friend who has been working at the Holden Smelter, then the newest and largest silver processing mill in the country, and the robbery-murder of another who *"had done quite well in Texas (perhaps Leadville's Texas House which was the fanciest gambling parlor in America) and sold out to go to California & Washington but he was robbed & killed as he was about to start."*

An interesting commentary written just before the silver boom totally collapsed following the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893.

**\$100**      **Read'Em Again Books #8084**



The items are arranged chronologically.

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## 56. DISPARAGING LETTER ABOUT FLORIDA WRITTEN BY AN UNHAPPY NORTHERNER LIVING IN THE STATE

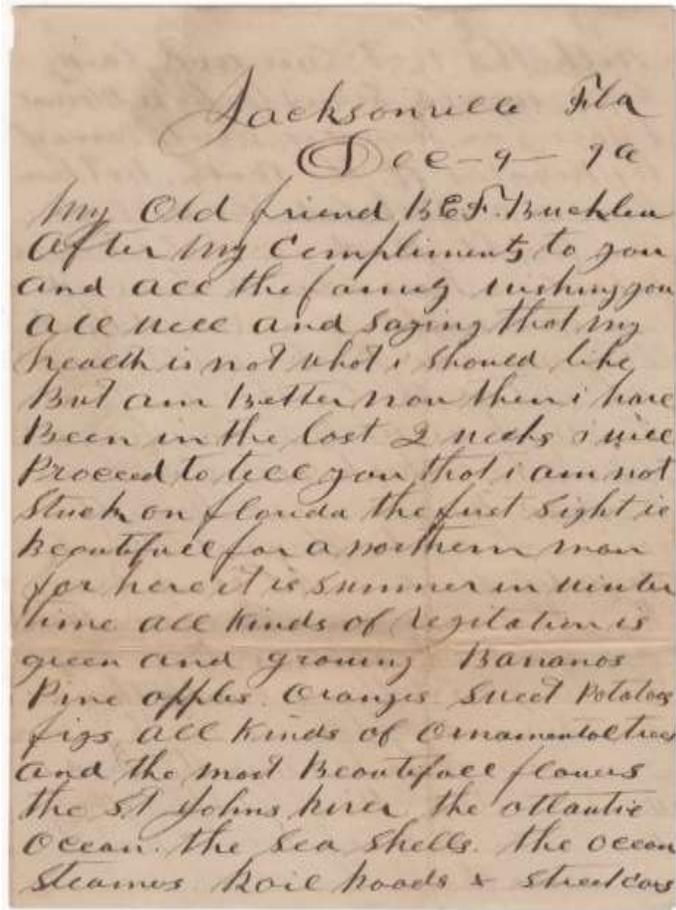
**Four-page letter written by John G. L. Shaffer.** Jacksonville, Florida: 1896. Toned with light soiling. Although Shaffer begins his letter with a long list of things a “northern man” will enjoy about the state (summer when winter time, fruits, sea shells, the ocean, etc.), he soon delves into what he dislikes as well:

*First it is a nigger county. I have seen 11 thousand in one night. You would think they grow on bushes and spring out of the Earth. They do all the work. . . . They get drunk, murder, steal, fight, anything that is mean.” Although, he notes life would be good for a white man who “is rich and can own a good business and hire the niggers to work . . . [It is] not place for stock or grain. A cow’s bag is no bigger in this county than a good sized apple so milk is scarce. No grass grows here for the sand is 40 feet deep. . . . The weather, it was cold and wet last week. The sun did not shine for 5 days. This week is warm. The sun shines hot enough to burn a blister on a niggers butt.*

He also relates encounters with some of Florida’s wildlife, a manatee, a rattle snake, and a ‘bear’: *Seen a sea animal 12 feet long with a head like a hog, breast like a woman, and tail like a fish. I was not afraid of the darned thing. . . . I was out in the brush and met a rattlesnake 7 feet & 6 ½ inches long and as thick as a gals left leg. . . . My hair stood up and am not sure if that was all the thing. . . . O yes, I forgot to tell you that I seen a bear. It was an old nigger wench that fell in the fires and they took her out feet foremost.*

A period letter reflecting the culture of its time from a northern transplant who certainly was “not stuck on Florida.”

**\$200**      **Read’Em Again Books [#8884](#)**



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## 57. ILLUSTRATED SOLICITATION LETTER FOR A TRAVELING AERONAUT SHOW

Illustrated advertising envelope and letter promoting “Professor” Edward Rush’s balloon “aeronauts and parachute artists.” Clay Center, Kansas: 1898. This advertising envelope features an illustration of a man hanging by his feet from a parachute attached to an ascending hot air balloon. It is addressed to “Secy of Fair, McPherson, Kansas.” The letterhead contains illustrations of “The Balloon Ascending, Leaving the Balloon, Parachute Falling Through Space, [and] The Parachute Open.” The envelope is franked with a 2¢ carmine postage stamp (Scott # 250,251, or 251) and postmarked at Randolph, Kansas on 11 Aug 1898. The letter is legible.

Professor Rush’s balloon and parachute show toured Kansas and the surrounding states in the late 1890s. Additional printed text in the letterhead includes a

recommendation attesting to the quality of his shows which had performed for three years at St. Joseph, Missouri. It also includes advertising copy that reads:

“Prof E. Rush Madam Estella Rush / Leading Aeronauts and Parachute Artists. / Greatest Outdoor Performance on Earth. / Doing all kinds of Balloon Work. Single, Double and / Triple Parachute Leaps from one Monster Balloon. / Also Balloon and Parachute Racing”.

The handwritten letter inquires as to whether the McPherson, Kansas fair would be interested in hiring his troupe for the season and includes pricing for various types of performances, e.g. balloon ascensions and parachute leaps, multiple person and dog ascensions and leaps, parachute races “for hight (sic) . . . and from clouds to the earth.”

Rush died shortly after mailing this proposal. He was killed during a failed balloon ascension at Grenola, Kansas on 8 October 1898. This is a rare visual record of early American balloon and parachuting shows. Nothing similar is for sale in the ephemera or philatelic trade. Not listed in The American Illustrated Cover Catalog, and there are no auction records of other similar items besides this example.

\$900

Read’Em Again Books [#8685](#)



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Please [let us know](#) if you would like to receive our electronic catalogs of diaries, letters, ephemera, postal history, photographs, and sometimes even books.



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We hope you'll be able to visit us at one of these upcoming shows:

**2017 - 2018**

- 11 November Boston Book Print & Ephemera Show  
(Marv Getman's Satellite Show)**
- 8 -11 March New York Antiquarian Book Fair  
(The ABAA Fair)**
- 17-18 March Ephemera 38 at Old Greenwich, Connecticut - tentative**
- 6-7 April Virginia Antiquarian Book Fair at Richmond**
- 20-22 April Florida Antiquarian Book Fair at St. Petersburg**
- 8-9 June NAPEX at Tysons Corner, Virginia - tentative  
(National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington, D.C.)**
- 20-21 June Bookseller's Showcase at New Orleans - tentative  
(Rare Book and Manuscript Section, American Library Association)**