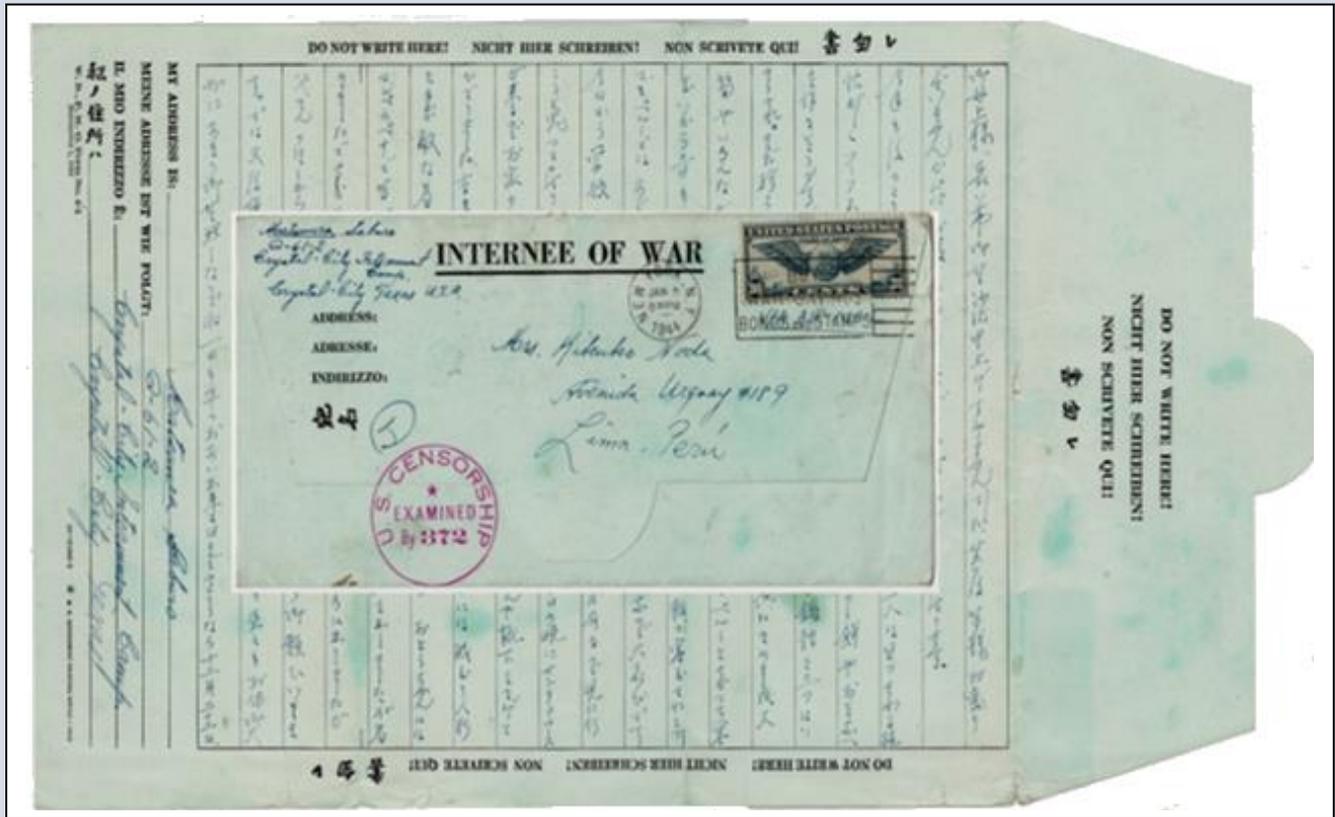


Kurt A. Sanftleben, LLC
Read'Em Again Books
Catalog 18-4 – End of Summer



[INTERMENT CAMPS] [JAPANESE-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY]

A touching Christmas letter from a Japanese-Peruvian who was held at the Crystal City Internment Camp to his parents in Lima. Matsuura Saburo to Mrs. Kikuko Noda. Crystal City, Texas to Lima, Peru: 1943-1944.

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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Catalog Number Index

By Location

Alabama: 6, 16, 31
Alaska: 12
Arkansas: 55
California: 7, 8, 37, 54
Connecticut: 5, 22, 25, 29, 34
Georgia: 2, 56
Illinois: 19
Indiana: 40
Kentucky: 4
Louisiana: 3, 30, 47
Maine: 10, 14, 15
Maryland: 5, 20, 35
Massachusetts: 6, 11, 14, 15, 33, 45,
57, 58
Mississippi: 3, 30, 47, 54
Missouri: 1, 17, 19, 32, 48
New Hampshire: 24
New Jersey: 51
New York: 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 26-27,
29, 35, 36, 43-45, 49, 58
North Carolina: 36
Ohio: 4, 9
Oklahoma: 1
Pennsylvania: 36, 50
South Carolina: 36, 49
Tennessee: 17, 30, 46
Texas: 39, 50-51
Virginia: 31, 35-36, 41-42, 43
Washington DC: 8, 12, 36, 46
Wisconsin: 38

France: 51
Germany: 20, 53
Great Britain: 44, 53
Italy: 51
Mexico: 50
Peru: 39
Russia: 52

By Topic

African-Americana: 1-7, 51
Autographs: 6
Aviation: 8-9
Baseball: 10,
Bicycles: 11,
Biological Weapons: 12,
Bookselling: 14
Boxing: 13,
Business & Labor: 1, 9, 11, 14-20
Chapbooks: 21-28
Conscription: 29
Deaf Culture: 19
Disasters: 30
Education: 5-6, 31-34
Engineering: 35
Express Mail: 36
FBI: 12
Fire Fighting: 17, 29
Fur Trade: 1
Gold Rush: 37
Golf: 38
Hispanic-Americana: 37
Horse-Trading: 15,
Indentured Servitude: 57
Internment Camps: 29
Japanese-Americana: 39
LGBT: 5
Law & Crime: 16, 29, 30, 40-42
Maps: 43,
Maritime: 3, 28, 30, 43-44
Marxism: 7,
Medicine: 19, 20, 34, 45
Mental Retardation: 34
Military & War: 7, 16, 29, 32, 35, 39,
43, 46- 54
Mining: 37
Misogyny: 54
Motorcycles: 51
Music: 14
Native Americans: 1
Philately: 1, 3-5, 12, 14-15, 17, 31,
33, 36-37, 39, 43-47, 52,
54
Photography: 18, 35, 38, 51, 58
Politics: 32, 55-56
Pop-Ups & Movable: 27,
Propaganda: 7, 53
Quack Medicine: 19
Reconstruction: 41, 42, 56
Religion: 31, 32

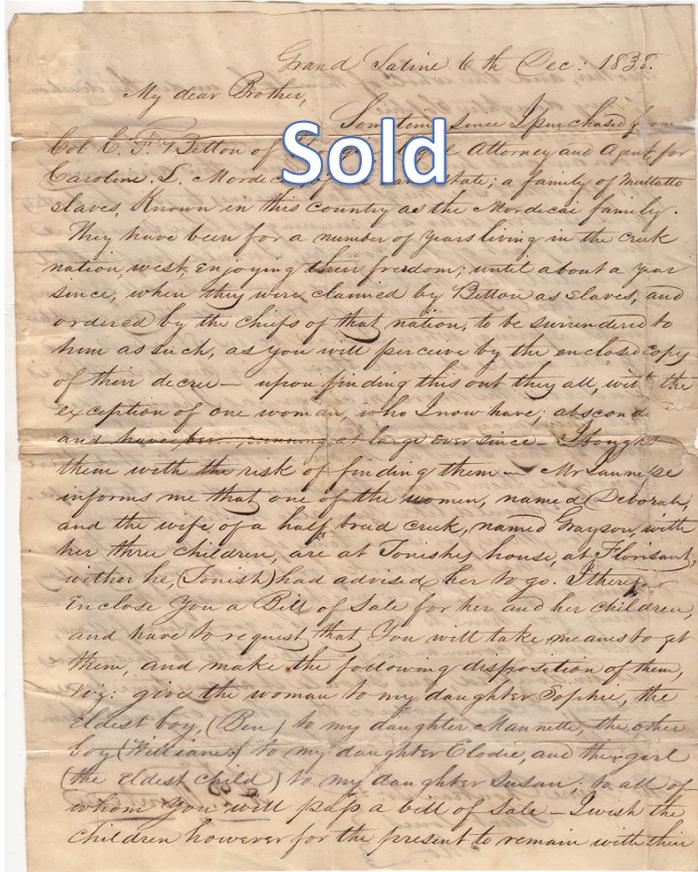
Riverboats: 3, 30
Siberian Intervention: 52
Slavery: 1-4, 57
Terrorism: 12
Transportation: 3, 18, 36, 44
Westward Expansion: 1
Whaling: 28
Women: 5, 6, 38, 40, 45, 54, 58

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

1. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [FUR TRADE] [NATIVE AMERICANS] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION] Letter and document related to an infamous purchase of a large half-Creek mulatto slave family written by two men who were the most prominent and prosperous early residents of the Louisiana Territory, members of the most influential and wealthiest Western family in the 19th century, and sons of one of the founders of St. Louis. Letter written by Auguste Pierre Chouteau and document written by Pierre (Cadet) Chouteau Jr. Grand Saline, [Cherokee Nation] (now Salina, Oklahoma) and St. Louis, Missouri. 1838-1839.

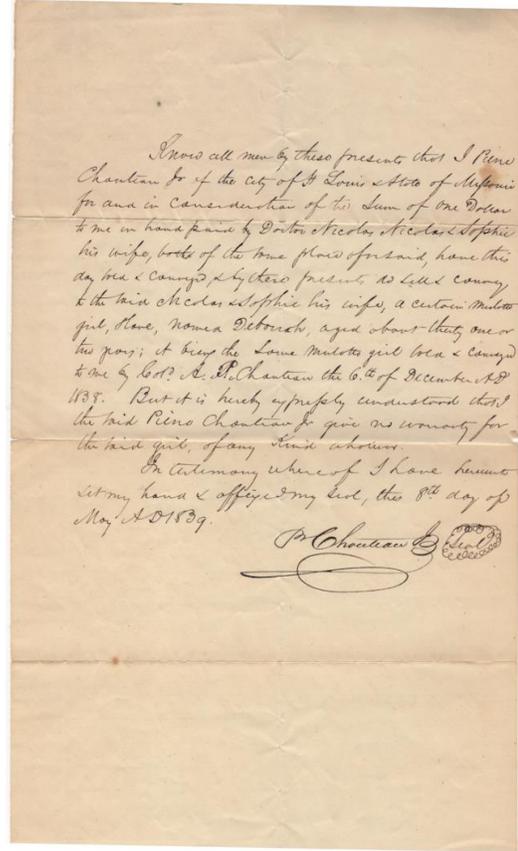
The stampless folded letter measures 16" x 10" unfolded. It is dated "Grand Saline 6th Dec: 1838," signed "A. P. Chouteau," and addressed to "Mr. Pierre Chouteau, Jr: / St. Louis / (Mo.)." It is annotated "Private" in the upper right corner, probably relating to both its contents and its delivery outside of the normal mail. On the reverse, it is docketed "Mordecai family." Some splits along the letter's folds have been neatly and near invisibly mended with what appears to be archival tape. The document measures 7.5" x 12". It is signed "P Chouteau Jr" and dated "the 8th day of May AD 1839." It is docketed on the reverse, "Bill of sale for a Negro from P. Chouteau Jr." There are two 3" splits along its storage folds and some edge wear.

When only 14, Rene Auguste Chouteau journeyed up the Mississippi River from New Orleans with Pierre Laclède and established a trading post at what is now St. Louis, Missouri in 1764; Auguste's older brother Jean-Pierre followed soon after. The Chouteau's had long engaged in the fur trade, and Jean-Pierre became especially close to the Osage tribes and was able to establish a trading outpost in the western part of their lands at the junction of the Neosho River and Saline Creek at what is now Salina, Oklahoma. More importantly for the family's wealth, he joined in partnership with John Jacob Astor to found the American Fur Company. One of his sons, Auguste was among Thomas Jefferson's first appointments to West Point. However following a short tour of service Auguste returned to his father's fur trading business and eventually settled at the Saline outpost while simultaneously maintaining a home in St. Louis where his wife and nine children lived year round. He also had another seven children by at least four women in Saline who were either full-blooded or part Osage. In 1832, Washington Irving—led by a French-Creole trader named Tonish—visited the post and described it in *Tour of the Prairies*



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

While Auguste maintained the family's Osage trading business, Pierre Jr expanded family influence to the north and west by opening lead mines in Iowa and establishing trading posts along the Missouri River including Pierre, South Dakota, and Fort Benton, Montana. Operating from St. Louis, he pioneered the use of steamboats on the Missouri River and became the major outfitter for other western fur companies. After purchasing half of the American Fur Company, Pierre Jr became the wealthiest person living west of the Mississippi, amassing an even greater fortune as the principal supplier of buffalo hides which were used to make winter coats and provided padding and blankets for carriages and sleighs. (See Hoig's *The Chouteaus, First Family of the Fur Trade*.)



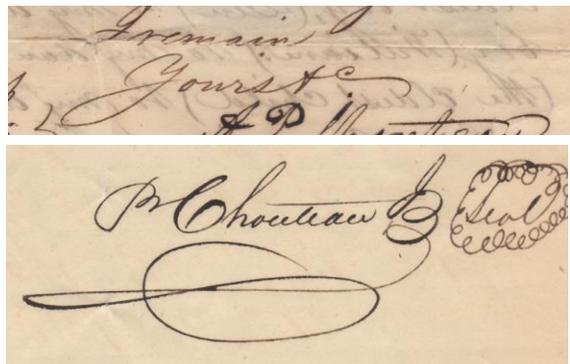
In this letter, written only weeks before his death, Auguste informed Pierre Jr that

"I purchased from Col C. F. Betton of Georgia, legal attorney and agent for Caroline S. Mordicai, . . . a family of Mulatto slaves known in this country as the Mordicai family. They have been for a number of years living in the Creek nation, west, enjoying their freedom; until about a year since, when they were claimed by Betton as slaves, and ordered by the chiefs of that nation to be surrendered to him as such. . . . Upon finding this out they absconded . . . and have been running at large ever since. I bought them with the risk of finding them. [I have discovered] that one of the women, . . . the wife of a half breed Creek, named Grayson, with her three children, are at Tonish's house at Florissant wither he (Tonish) had advised her to go. I therefor enclose you a Bill of Sale for her and her children and have to request that you will take means to get them and make . . . disposition of them [among my St. Louis children.]"

This incident is specifically described in Hoig (see above) to show that, although Auguste was "on the right side of history with his compassion for and commitment to Indian welfare," he held a much less enlightened view of slavery and African-Americans.

In the document, written shortly after Auguste's death, Pierre

"convey[ed] to . . . Sophie . . . a certain Mulatto girl, Slave, named Deborah, aged about thirty one or two years; it being the Same Mulatto girl sold & conveyed to me by Col. A. R. Chouteau the 6th of December AD 1838. "



Unique and historic. An important pair of manuscripts regarding St. Louis history, the "first family of the fur trade," the Creek Indians, and slavery, signed by two of America's most important fur traders and business men.

Sold Read'Em Again Books # 9105

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2. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [SLAVERY] Slave-hiring record. Executed by Shadrach Atkinson on behalf of a minor.
[Thomas County, Georgia]: 1843.

This document measures 9.5" x 3" and is in nice shape.

Hire of negro woman Patience	80 00
Hire of Old woman Mary	50 00
Hire of girl Sal	48 00
	<hr/>
	178 00

Subscribed & Sworne to in open Court
this 6th March 1843 Shadrach Atkinson Guardian

It reads, "Bryan minor of Joseph Bryan dc'd: / Hire of negro woman Patience 80.00 / Hire of Old woman Mary 50.00 / Hire of Girl Sal 48.00 / [Total] 178.00 / Subscribed & Sworne to in open Court / this 6th March 1843 Shadrach Atkinson guardian"

Public records place the Bryan family and Shadrach Atkinson in Thomas County Georgia in the 1840s. It appears that the Bryan and Atkinson families were related by marriage. Accessible court records suggest that it was not unusual for Atkinson to be accused of shady dealings involving slave transactions. Certainly worthy of further research.

\$125 [Read'Em Again Books #9120](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

3. [AFRICAN-AMERICAN] [MARITIME] [PHILATELY] [RIVERBOATS] [SLAVERY] [TRANSPORTATION]. Quarterly invoice for three slaves and other cargo shipped via the *Steamer Music* down the Mississippi to the famous **Constancia sugar plantation**. Samuel Fagot to Buchannon Carrol & Company. Sent from the Constancia Plantation, Louisiana via the *Steamer Music* to New Orleans, 1858.

This partially printed *Steamer Music* invoice was returned with payment from Samuel Fagot, the owner of the gigantic Constancia sugar plantation near Convent, Louisiana to Buchannon Carroll & Company in New Orleans to settle shipping charges for the months of May through July, 1858. The invoice is dated "July 1858." Its envelope is franked with a Type 1, deep-claret, 3-cent Washington stamp with outer frame lines on all four sides (Scott #10) that has received a double-line manuscript cancel. It also bears a sound strike of the oval "Music" steamboat handstamp in red. (See Milgram's *Vessel-Named Markings*. . . #954.) Both are in nice shape. The invoice has marginal splits starting along a vertical centerfold.



Samuel Fagot was the owner of a gigantic sugar plantation, Costancia, located near Convent, Louisiana, and Buchannon Carroll & Company apparently managed shipping accounts for the *Steamer Music*. This shipping invoice, which totals \$10.00, was for the transport of one dozen collars, five barrels of herring, one chest, one barrel of whiskey, two barrels of flour, one box of tobacco, one package of coffee, and the "Passage [of a] negro man and woman to place [and] the Passage [of a] negro woman to N. Orleans. . . ."

It would appear that while the "negro man and woman," foodstuffs, etc. were shipped up-river on the *Music* to Fagot's plantation, the "negro woman" was sent down-river on the *Music* from the plantation to New Orleans. Docketing on the reverse of the invoices states that the bill of \$10 was paid by Fagot on "1859 . . . 30 March." Docketing on the reverse of the envelope states, "We have drawn on you favor Steamer Music for One Hundred and twenty and 00/100 Doll / Oliver A Drake."

The *Music*, the second riverboat of that name, was a 273-ton vessel built in 1850 for Captain Ferdinand M. Shreck who served as its Master. The *Music* operated on the lower Mississippi between New Orleans and the infamous Bends at Greenville, Mississippi just downstream of a series of over 50 miles of dangerous loops filled with snags, partially submerged branches, pirates, and robbers. The Bends covered a distance of less than 15 miles as the crow flies. (See Schuyler J. Rumsey Auction #57, Lot 4137, *The Lakeport Plantation* (online), and Upholt's "Going Deep" at *Between the Levees* (online).)

The Constancia, later known as the Uncle Sam Plantation, was one of the largest sugar plantations in Louisiana with over 1,000 acres and more than a hundred slaves. It contained a slave hospital and a plantation store that served both the local community and the plantation's slaves who were allowed to perform extra work, primarily cutting wood, for pay. (See Follett's *The Sugar Masters*.)

This is a very desirable record from both historic and philatelic standpoints as the invoice provides data regarding the cost of shipping goods and slaves on the lower Mississippi, and the envelope bears a very scarce *Music* handstamp. Louisiana State University is the repository for the Constancia-Uncle Sam Plantation records, and as of 2018 there are no other examples for sale in the trade. Neither are there any records at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub indicating any have been sold at auction, and OCLC shows nothing similar held by any other institution.

Sold Read'Em Again Books #8160

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

4. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY] Letter from a farmer in the supposedly “free state” of Ohio to a slave-seller in Kentucky requesting reimbursement for a slave girl who died soon after purchase. Lewis Smith to George Hamlong Esquire. Ripley, Ohio to Germantown Kentucky: 1862.

This letter measures 4.5” x 7” and is dated “Ripley April 12th 1862.” It is enclosed in its original postal cover (envelope) which is franked with a brown-red 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) that has been cancelled by a small black circle handstamp with eight killer bars. The envelope has a black circular “Ripley O” postmark dated April 12. The envelope and letter are in nice shape. Transcript included.

In this letter, Smith complains that a sick girl slave he had purchased as part of a family group died before he was able to put her to work. His letter reads in part:

I have written to you some four or five times but have not heard from you. Why do you not answer them? . . . I think as I took my family from you a year sooner than our contract and had the girl which was sick, died on my hands without having done me any service, I think it would be no more than justified for you to let me have the money back that I paid for her. I leave it to your conscience however if you don't think I ought to have anything then I leave it to you and your god. I think it my right to demand a part if not the whole.

Ohio, which officially banned slavery in its original constitution of 1802 and enacted a law in 1841 stating that any slave brought into Ohio was automatically freed, was perhaps not so quick to enforce these provisions throughout the state. Ripley, which sits on the bank of the Ohio River—the Ohio-Kentucky border—just southeast of Cincinnati, promoted itself (both then and still today) as one of the most important stops on the Underground Railroad. However, as this letter attests, at least one of Ripley's citizens was still importing and using slaves as late as 1862. Perhaps the reason that Hamlong repeatedly ignored Smith's letters was that he knew Smith would be unable to make a successful legal case against him because of Ohio's laws. However, Smith's neighbors and others in the community certainly must have known he was a slave owner, yet he and who knows how many other Ohioans were allowed to flout the law.

No doubt letters discussing slave sales from slave-owners in free states to slave sellers in the South are exceptionally scarce. As of 2018, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, no auction records are found at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub.

On Hold Read'Em Again Books #9157

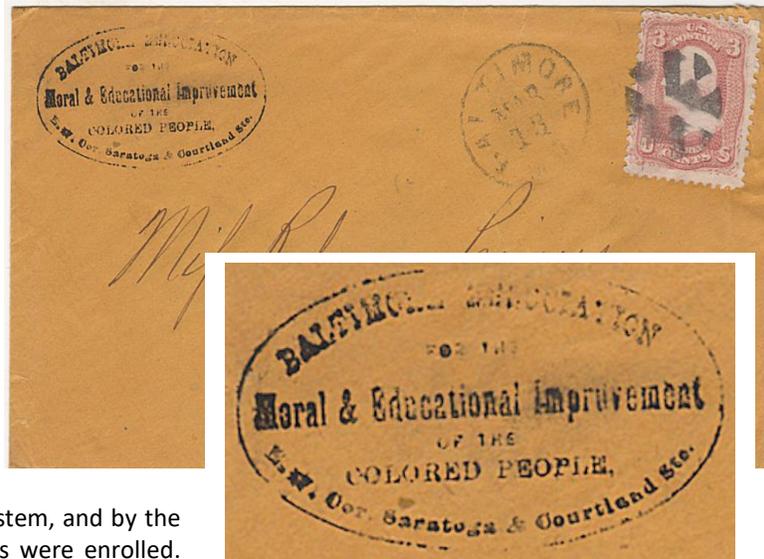


(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

5. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [EDUCATION] [LGBT] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN]. Postally used envelope sent from the Baltimore Association for the Moral & Educational Improvement of the Colored People to an African-American woman who had established a school in Royal Oak, Maryland. Baltimore: 1868.

This envelope measures 5.5" x 3". It bears a hand-stamped corner card from the "Baltimore Association for the Moral & Educational Improvement of the Colored People," and is addressed to Miss Rebecca Primus at Royal Oak, Maryland. It is franked with 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) that was cancelled with a 'fancy' geometric cork handstamp. The circular postmark reads, "Baltimore / Mar / 13" and docketing on the reverse, presumably in Primus's hand, reads "Recd Mar 19th / 1868." No letter. The envelope is in nice shape.

Soon after a new Maryland state constitution was ratified in November of 1864, a group of philanthropic white men created the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People. The group provided funds and teachers to establish nine "colored" primary schools in African-American neighborhoods starting with one at the African Baptist Church at Calvert and Saratoga Streets which opened in January of 1865. In 1867, the schools were transferred to the city and became the foundation of Baltimore's African-American school system, and by the summer of 1868, about 1,100 students were enrolled. Although, African-American leaders requested that city hire black teachers for these schools, the school board refused employ any until 1889. (See Bronson's *History of the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People*, online.)



That makes this cover addressed to Rebecca Primus especially interesting as she was a free-born African-American woman who came from a well-to-do middle class family in Hartford, Connecticut. During Reconstruction, Primus was sent south by the Hartford Freeman's Aid Society to teach newly freed slaves in Maryland and it is unclear whether the school she is said to have established in Royal Oak was part of the Baltimore Association's network. The relationship between the Association and Primus is certainly worthy of further research.

Over the past 25 years, Primus and her relationship with a domestic African-American servant, Addie Brown, who had been employed by her parents, has become a matter of intense interest among both Black Studies and Gender Studies academics. In 1994, a large cache of letters between the two women was discovered that revealed a long-lasting and intense romantic relationship between them. Although romantic content, not necessarily evidencing homosexuality, was commonly found in correspondence between 19th century white women, this was the first and only record of similar feelings being expressed between women of color. Further, some contend that the letters' content strongly suggests the relationship was erotic as well as romantic and that "naked bosom" contact between Primus and Brown was of special importance to both. For further information see Hansen's "'No Kisses Is Like Youres': An Erotic Friendship between African-American Women During the Mid-Nineteenth Century" in *Gender and History* 7. 2 (1995): 153-182, and Griffin's *Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends*.

A scarce and very desirable philatelic record of a noteworthy free-born African-American woman who devoted much of her adult life to educating former slaves. Quite scarce. Small collections of correspondence sent to Primus are held at Harvard University and the Connecticut Historical Society. No similar material is currently for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub auction results show that a 41-piece collection of correspondence sent to Primus was sold for \$45,000 in 2017.

\$600

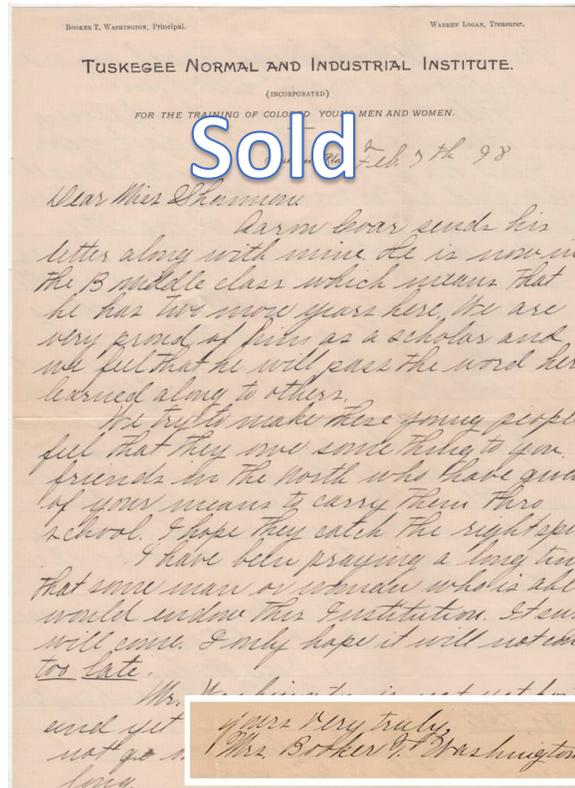
[Read'Em Again Books #9109](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

6. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [AUTOGRAPHS] [EDUCATION] [WOMEN] Long poignant handwritten letter by Mrs. Booker T. (Margaret Murray) Washington to an ardent New England suffragist and social reformer discussing the failing health of her husband and the financial problems of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Mrs. Booker T. (Margaret Murray) Washington. Tuskegee, Alabama: 1898

This two-page manuscript letter on Tuskegee Institute letterhead, dated "Feb 7th 98" was sent to Miss Mary Shannon, an ardent and active suffragist and social reformer from Newton, Massachusetts. The letter is signed "Mrs. Booker T. Washington." A cdv of Shannon is included. The letter is in nice shape with expected mailing folds. The cdv shows some soiling.

Margaret Murray Washington was an important African-American leader in the suffrage movement and served in several important roles in the national African-American community. Of mixed racial background, she was the third wife of Booker T. Washington and the "Lady Principal" of the Tuskegee Institute where she was instrumental in founding its Mt. Meigs School for Boys and an industrial school for girls. Washington was a co-founder of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) and served as its Vice-President and President as well as editing the organization's official publication, *National Association Notes*. When Susan B. Anthony published *The History of Woman Suffrage*, Washington provided an essay that was its sole representation of black women. On a local level, Washington founded the Tuskegee Woman's Club which became the center for education, social, and political work among the elite and educated women of the Institute. (See Wikipedia.)



Although this letter is personal in nature, it is also, no doubt, a well-crafted plea for funding as Mary Shannon was well known for providing financial support to causes in which she believed. In this letter, Mrs. Washington relates what she fears to be the failing health of her husband, Booker, and the dire financial status of the school, as well as her attempts to aid both students and the local African-American population:

"I have been praying a long time that some man or woman who is able would endow this Institution. It surely will come. I only hope it will not come too late. Mr. Washington is not yet forty and yet he is all worn and cannot go on at the present rate very long. This constant strain of traveling and soliciting is sure to kill him.

There has been great suffering in these sections for the past year. First the floods and then the Small Pox and afterwards the Yellow Fever which is still in some of the cities. You cannot conceive of how hungry and clotheless many of these people are. Last Saturday I held a meeting in this village and there were thirty or forty women present and I sent them bread and coffee and if you could have seen how they ate it would have made your heartache. If things do not brighten a little I'll not know how those living in the country and even in the large cities can survive thru the winter."

An important record describing state of Booker T. Washington, the Tuskegee Institute, and the local Alabama African-American population at the turn of 19th century written by one of the most important African-American women of the time. Exceptionally scarce, far more so than letters from her husband. As of 2018, no other Margaret Murray Washington letters are for sale in the trade, and neither ABPC nor the Rare Book Hub identify any other auction results. Per OCLC, the only Margaret Murry Washington letters in institutional collections are held in the Neighborhood Union Collection of the Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library.

Sold **Read'Em Again Books #9114**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

7. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MARXISM] [MILITARY & WAR] [PROPAGANDA] Bilingual broadsheet announcing a “March to Free the Pendleton 14.” San Diego: 1976.

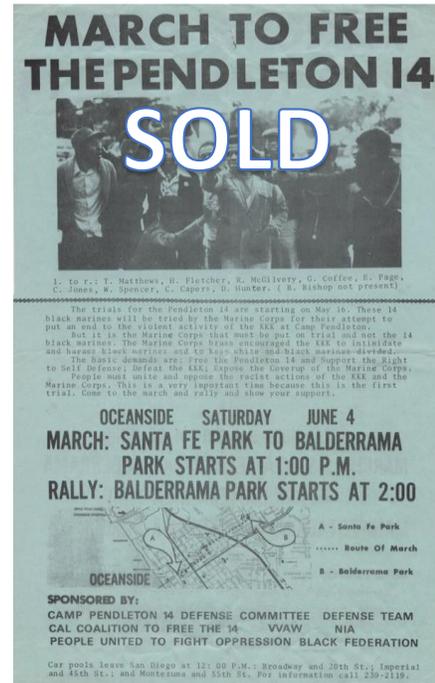
This bilingual, double-sided broadsheet measures 8.5” x 14”. The same information (with the exception of a map) is printed on both sides; one side in English, the other in Spanish. In addition to several short paragraphs of text, the broadsheet features images of the “Pendleton 14” and a map showing the “Route of March.” Two storage folds, one vertical and one horizontal. Minor wear including a one-inch split beginning at the top of the vertical fold.

The broadsheet reads in part, “The trials for the Pendleton 14 are starting on May 16. These 14 black marines will be tried by the Marine Corps for their attempt to put an end to the violent activity of the KKK at Camp Pendleton. But it is the Marine Corps that must be put on trial . . . Free the Pendleton 14 . . . Defeat the KKK . . . Expose the Coverup. . . . People must unite and oppose the racist actions of the KKK and the Marine Corps. . . .”

In fact, as is almost universally the case with propaganda like this, everything printed on the broadside except for the dates and the route of march is a lie. Although the Pendleton 14 did oppose a handful of KKK members—17 to be exact—who were stationed at or lived near Camp Pendleton, they were actually arrested for violently assaulting a completely innocent gathering of white and Chicano marines who had nothing whatsoever to do with the KKK. In their defense, the Pendleton 14 claimed that they mistook the white and Chicano marines for a group of klansmen who may (or may not) have gathered at a different location and upon whom they had intended to launch their surprise attack. As reported in the 10 November 1977 edition of the *Valley News*: “The Saturday night attack . . . occurred in a barracks room where seven white Marines were drinking beer. Six were hurt, five of them hospitalized with injuries that included screwdriver stab wounds. . . . Ultimately the black Marines dubbed the Pendleton 14 were ordered to face court-martial charges that included attempted murder. They described the attack as a ‘pre-emptive assault’ [against] racism on base including the wearing of sheath knives and the display of KKK posters and stickers. . . . One defendant was granted immunity in return for his testimony and one was acquitted. Eleven others were convicted on charges of . . . conspiracy and assault. . . . [This only adds up to 13?] Penalties included fines up to \$600, confinement up to six months, reduction in rank, and bad conduct discharges. Five of the victims of the assault also drew punishment for drinking beer in the barracks in violation of regulations.”

The Pendleton 14 trial greatly exacerbated a major “two-line split” within the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), the major west coast communist organization that was a satellite of the Maoist Communist Chinese Party (CPC), over the best way for “Marxist-Leninists [to] fight U. S. Imperialism.” One faction of the party saw the Pendleton 14 as propaganda tools that could be used to emphasize the party’s “anti-racist struggle.” On the other side, an equally if not stronger faction, felt that such support would detract from the party’s “full-out” revolutionary mission declaring, “We don’t care whether these guys are free or not.” By the end of the 1980s the PLP had become only a ghost of the important leftist organization it had been in the 1960s and 1970; it still exists on a very minor scale today as part of the antifa coalition. (See Dann and Dillion’s *The Five Retreats*. . . . at Marxists.org.)

Although Pendleton 14 newsletters, flyers, or pamphlets are held by several institutions and occasionally appear for sale in the trade and at auction, there appears to be only one other existing example of this bilingual broadsheet; it is in the “Camp Pendleton 14 Defense Committee ephemera collection” at the University of California Berkeley.



SOLD **Read’Em Again Books #9125**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

8. [AVIATION] Early patent for airship "combination of plane and hot-air dirigible. Awarded to Adolph Lubke. Washington, DC: United States Patent Office, 1909.

The six page original patent is printed on thin cardstock with three pages of text and three pages of technical illustrations. It was awarded to Adolph Lubke, a resident of San Francisco, California. The leaves bear patent office file labels in the upper left corner that read, "244. AERONAUTICS / 26" and handstamps in the upper right corner that read, "Draftsman." They are fastened together at the bottom by an old brass paper fastener.

A 1909 issue of *Aeronautics* describes Lubke's proposed airship as follows:

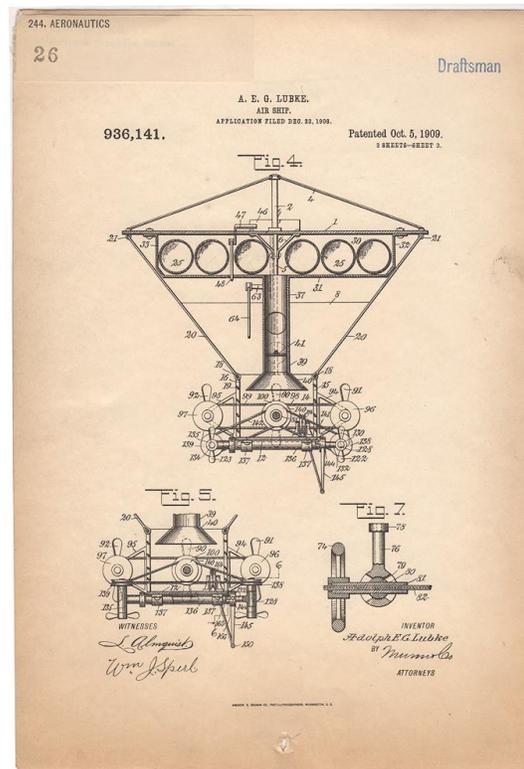
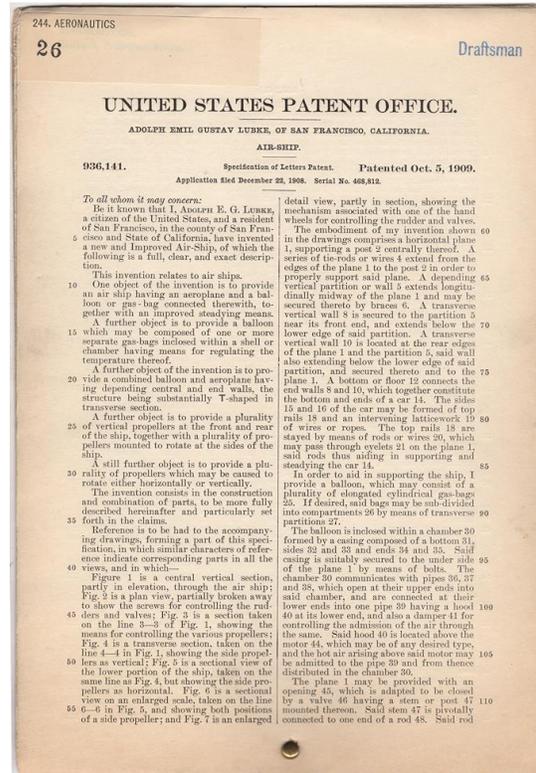
"Device consists of a combination of plane and hot-air dirigible. Under a large flat plane is a gas bag, divided in compartments, with schemes for supplying heated air, changing its temperature, etc. Horizontal and vertical rudders. Motor and propellers in frame hung below bag and plane."

Airships are lighter-than-air aircraft that can navigate through the air under their own power as opposed to hot air balloons which simply float through the sky and must adjust their altitude to take advantage of varying air currents to change direction. The first engine powered airship flight occurred in 1872 and in 1874, the first U.S. airship patent was issued, however whether or not any test flights actually occurred is a subject of debate. Experimentation continued throughout the last years of the 19th century, and in the first years of the 1900s, Count Zeppelin of Germany created the first truly successful dirigibles. The possibility of airship travel captivated the public's imagination, and beginning the 1880s, airship science fiction became quite popular with, perhaps the best known stories being Jules Verne's *Robur the Conqueror*, Rudyard Kipling's *With the Night Mail*, and the Frank Reade dime novel series. Although few successful airships were known to have been built at this time, "mystery airship" sightings—some of which were in California—began to occur with periodic frequency in 1896 and continued until about 1913. Although some were undoubtedly imagined, it is likely that a number of sightings were of aircraft made by hopeful inventors. (See various Wikipedia articles.)

There is no evidence that a prototype of Lubke's airship was ever made, much less flown, however only miniscule information appears on line, making Lubke and his proposed aircraft certainly worthy of further research.

\$200

[Read'Em Again Books #9106](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

9. [AVIATION] [BUSINESS & LABOR] Bank check from the Wright Brothers made out to their principal mechanic and the inventor of the aircraft engine used on the first Wright Flyer. Wright Brothers. Dayton, Ohio: 1909

This Winters National Bank check, dated May 8, 1909, was written for \$18.00 payable to C. E. (Charles Edward) Taylor. It is signed "Wright Bros." and endorsed "C. E. Taylor" on the reverse. The check is in nice shape with some light wear and soiling. It has a small circular 'paid' punch just touching the letter 'h' in Wright.

The Wright Brothers, of course, became the first men to successfully fly in a powered, heavier-than-air aircraft in December of 1903. They were able to do so only because of the relentless work by Charlie Taylor. As noted in Wikipedia:

"When it became clear that an off-the-shelf engine with the required power-to-weight ratio was not available in the U.S. for their first engine-driven Flyer, the Wrights turned to Taylor for the job. He designed and built the aluminum-copper water-cooled engine in only six weeks, based partly on rough sketches provided by the Wrights. The cast aluminum block and crankcase weighed 152 pounds (69 kg) and were produced at either Miami Brass Foundry or the Buckeye Iron and Brass Works, near Dayton, Ohio. The Wrights needed an engine with at least 8 horsepower (6.0 kW). The engine that Taylor built produced 12."

Charlie Taylor had been a toolmaker working at the Stoddard Manufacturing Company in Dayton when the Wright Brothers rented a building from one of his wife's relatives for their bicycle shop. Soon he went to work for them, at first repairing bicycles, but by 1902 he was running their business as the brothers pursued flying their gliders at Kitty Hawk. In 1908, shortly after this check was written, Taylor helped Orville build the first 'Military Flyer' for a demonstration at Fort Myer, Virginia. When the plane crashed due to a shattered propeller, Orville was seriously injured and his passenger, Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge, was killed. Taylor was among the first to reach the crash and helped pull Selfridge from the wreckage. He then attended to Orville, undoing his necktie and opening his shirt for treatment by physicians who had been watching in the crowd. After Orville and Selfridge were taken away on stretchers, "Charlie leaned against an upended wing of the wrecked Flyer, buried his face in his arms, and sobbed. A newspaperman tried to comfort him, but he was past comforting until Dr. Watters assured him that the chances for Orville's recovery were good. Then he pulled himself together and took charge of carting the wrecked Flyer back to its shed." (See Howard's *Wilbur and Orville: A Biography of the Wright Brothers*.)

Although Wright Brothers checks occasionally turn up on eBay and at other auctions, checks made payable to their principal mechanic, store manager, and inventor of the engine used to power their first flight do not. As of 2018, none are for sale in the trade, and none are held by institutions per OCLC. There are no auction results for similar checks made out to C. E. Taylor listed at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub, however this same check sold for \$150 at a 1982 auction at Swann Galleries. The Swann catalog noted that the check was written in Orville's hand, however it is possible that it actually signed by Lorin Wright who handled most business operations for the company.

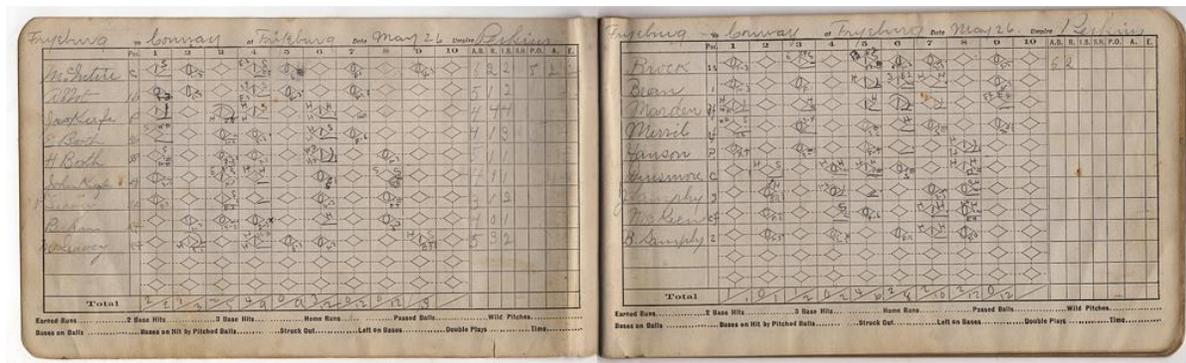
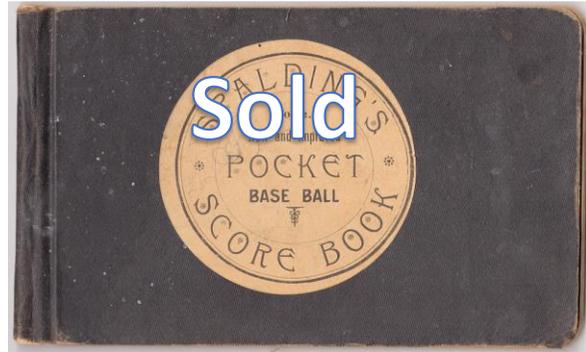


SOLD Read'Em Again Books #9115

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

10. [BASEBALL] Spalding's New Official Pocket Score Book Arranged in Accordance with the New League Rules on Scoring. A. G. Spalding & Bros.: New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, copyright 1887 and used in Maine, 1894.

Approximately 8" x 4.5". Complete; about 26 pages were used to score 13 games. Includes instructions, and rules with a page of advertisements inside the rear cover. It was used to score games in 1894 between small-town teams in Maine from Conway, North Conway, Fryeburg, Kezar Falls, and Bridgetown. In nice shape with some minor wear and soiling. The sound hardcover stapled binding is holding but feels a little loose. The front cover is titled. *Spalding's No. 2 New and Improved Pocket Base Ball Score Book.*

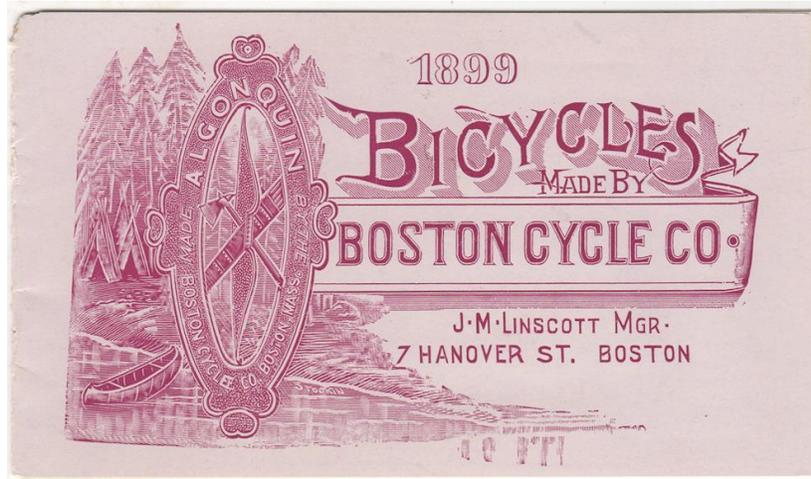


SOLD [Read'Em Again Books #9171](#)

11. [BICYCLES] [BUSINESS & LABOR] Advertising package for Boston Cycle Company, a short-lived bicycle manufacturer. Boston: 1899.

This lot includes a 14-page 6.5" x 3.5" catalog with b/w illustrations, a letter on company stationery, and the envelope in which it was mailed. All are in nice shape.

The Boston Cycle Company was founded in 1897 and originally sold both new and second hand bicycles made by other manufacturers including Victor, Columbia, and Rambler, along with a variety of parts and accessories. It soon began to produce its own models, the Algonquin, Bellingham, and Number Seven. Public records and contemporary newspaper advertisements/articles suggest that the company went out of business around 1903. This catalog features men's and ladies' Algonquin models, fittings, hangers, and sprockets.



\$200 [Read'Em Again Books #9141](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

12. [BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS] [FBI] [PHILATELY] [TERRORISM] Mail sanitized during the response to 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people and infected 17 others. Alaska and Washington DC: 2001.

This NPR-A (National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska) Update newsletter was sent from Alaska to the Department of Energy in Washington, DC. It has a meter postmark dated "11-30-01" and bears a two-line, blue "MAIL SANITIZED" handstamp located between the postmark and mailing address. The newsletter and all markings are in nice shape.

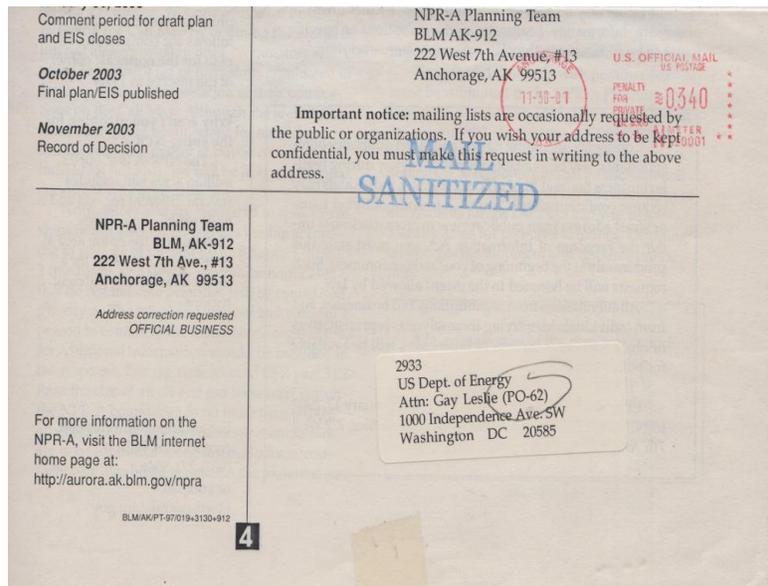
Per Wikipedia, in September 2001, one week after the Islamic terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center in New York City, postal attacks began using a weaponized strain of anthrax. Poisoned mail was sent to Senators Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy as well as several news media offices. Five people were killed and 17 others infected. In response, the U.S. Postal Service immediately began sanitizing all mail addressed to federal offices in Washington, DC. Although initial suspicions focused on Al Qaeda, it quickly became apparent that the anthrax powder would have impossible to create in Afghanistan, and the Federation of American Scientists (a left-of-center lobbying agency) identified Steven Hatfill, a civilian researcher who had worked in an Army program to defend against biological attacks, to the FBI as likely perpetrator.

The FBI focused their investigation on Hatfill--who they found had a phony PhD, puffed -up resume, and questionable employment history--and the attacks ceased. Although the FBI, then led by Robert Mueller, leaked Hatfill's name to the press, and he remained a person of interest for years, Mueller's investigators never found evidence tying him to the attacks. In 2008, the FBI settled a \$5.8 suit for violating Hatfill's constitutional rights as well as the Privacy Act of 1974.

Mueller then turned his attention to one of Hatfill's former co-workers, Bruce Ivins; however despite significant pressure from Mueller, a grand jury refused to indict Ivins based only on the flimsy circumstantial evidence presented by the FBI. None the less, Muller's team again notified the media of the proceedings and claimed an arrest was imminent. In the midst of the resulting media frenzy, Ivins was found dead. The FBI quickly declared his death a suicide and closed the case. A number of expert biomedical scientists have disputed Mueller's findings.

Mail sanitized during the anthrax scare occasionally appears in philatelic auctions with two different markings, a rectangular boxed "Received" and a two-line strike like that used on this envelope. The two-line strike appears to be less common than the other.

Mail sanitized during the anthrax scare occasionally appears in philatelic auctions with two different markings, a rectangular boxed "Received" and a two-line strike like that used on this envelope. The two-line strike appears to be less common than the other.

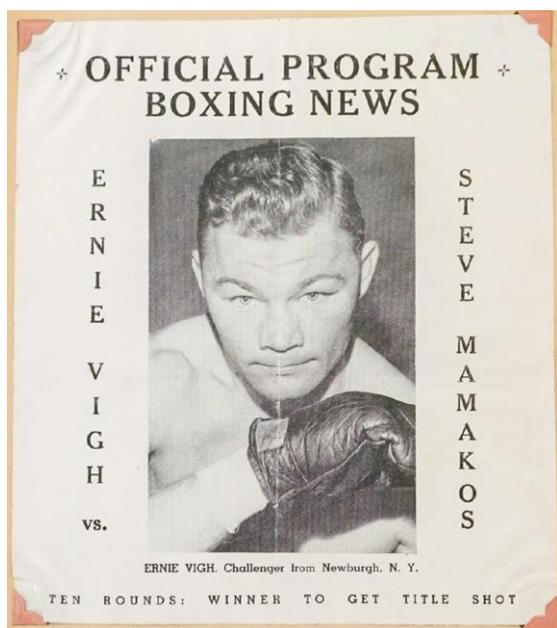


\$100

[Read'Em Again Books #9138](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

13. [BOXING] Photograph Album – Scrapbook for an almost-big-time middle-weight fighter, Ernie Vigh, who really ‘coulda been a contender and shouda had shots at a coupla title fights’. Compiled by Margaret Vigh. New York: 1939-1949.



This 12" x 14.5" album contains 54 pages loaded with about 20 photographs, dozens of newspaper clippings and half-tone pictures, cartoons, telegrams, reservation cards, etc. All of the photos are in nice shape. All are professional, and about half are ringside action images. One photo shows Ernie holding a "heavy bag" while Joe Louis punches away. A couple show Ernie, with a badly bruised face, in a business suit apparently meeting with a promoter. Most of the newspaper clippings are also in nice shape; some of the headlines show some wear. Everything has been mounted using photo corners. Several of the pages have heavily worn edges and the binding holes on some have been neatly mended. The album cover has some light wear. No doubt this album was kept by Ernie's wife, Margaret, as one 8" x 10" photo is signed "To Margaret with all my love for always, Ernie."

Vigh fought professionally from 1938 to 1949 and ended up with a 61-12-1 record. 41 of his victories were by knock-out. He was a New York working-class favorite who was featured in bouts at Madison Square Gardens. He

fought against Georgie Abrams, Steve Mamakos, Johnny Colan, and Anto Raadik. Vigh twice ended up losing bouts on points after nearly knocking out his opponents. The first time was against Coley Welch and the second was against Billy Soose. Vigh fought Soose twice; in the first bout although the crowd and press were certain that he easily bested Soose, for some reason the judges unanimously found Soose the winner on points. In a rematch, although Vigh knocked Soose down in the eighth round, he again lost the bout on points. Soose went on to beat Ken Overlin for the middleweight crown in a match that many thought should have belonged to Vigh. There was just no telling how or why those 1940s boxing judges saw things the way they did.

Vigh served in the Coast Guard during World War II, and made a brief attempt to return to the ring but ended up retiring after a split decision loss in 1949. He used his savings to open a "joint" in Queens, Ernie's Bar and Grill. Unfortunately, he died young in a car crash in 1951 at the age of 31.

(See George's "Ernie Vigh: Worth the Telling" at boxing.com.)

A terrific visual record of a good, but not great, fighter's career and of the New York boxing scene at the height of the sport's popularity in the 1940s.

\$750

[Read'Em Again Books #9145](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

14. [BOOKSELLING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MUSIC] [PHILATELY] Long and polite but damning letter from a Boston bookseller to the most influential music dealer in the United States requesting payment for overdue bills. Thomas Jordan to John Rowe Parker. Boston to Brunswick and Portland: 1823.

This three-page stampless letter measures 16" x 10" unfolded. The letter is dated "Boston 23 June 1823" and bears a red circular Boston postmark that appears to be dated "Jun 25." The cover has a "12½" cent manuscript marking in the upper right indicating the postage cost from Boston to Brunswick, Maine. It has been annotated "forwarded" and rerouted to Portland in a different hand, and assessed an additional postage charge of "6" cents bringing the total cost to deliver the letter to "18½" cents. In nice shape. Transcript included.

John Row Parker was one of, if not, the most important music dealer in early 19th century America. In 1817, he opened a music store, the Franklin Music Warehouse, in Boston where he sold pianos, organs, other instruments, music, and related merchandise. Although not a musician himself, Parker promoted music throughout the country, and in 1820 began publishing *The Euterpiad*, the most influential music periodical of its time. Apparently his music business began to fail in 1823 and closed completely the next year. Parker, undaunted, soon began to pursue other business interests, and he became a partner in two very successful importing enterprises: Smith & Parker, a carpet warehouse, and Parker & Poor, British goods. (See "Biographical Notes" at Social Networks and Archival Context online.) In this letter written just before Parker closed his music business, a Boston bookseller, Jordan, brings him to task for not only failing to settle his account but for also purposely misunderstanding the terms of their agreement and failing to acknowledge the amount of his debt.

A small archive of Parker's correspondence is held at the University of Rochester's Sibley Music Museum.

SOLD Read'Em Again Books #9144

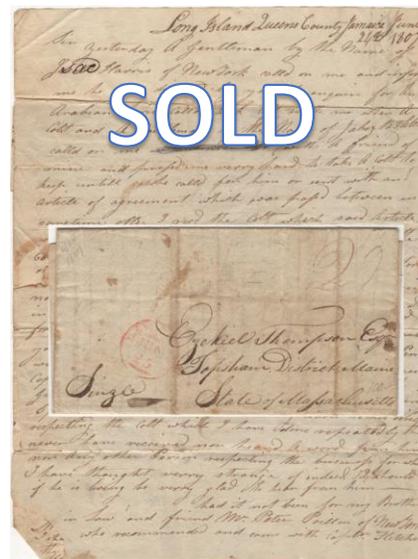


15. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [HORSE-TRADING] [PHILATELY] Engaging letter to a potential buyer in Maine from a New York stable-owner who, after being tricked into caring for a sickly Arabian colt, had nursed it back to health. From Mark Dissoway to Ezekiel Thompson. Long Island Queens County Jamaica: 1807.

This four-page stampless letter is dated June 24th 1807 and was sent to "Topsham District Maine / State of Massachusetts." It bears a circular New York postmark with ornaments in red, dated "June 25." A manuscript "20" is in the upper right corner indicating the cost to send a letter a distance of between 300 and 500 miles. Light wear with split half-way through one mailing fold. A transcript is included.

In this letter, Dissoway recounts how he was "pressed . . . very hard to take a colt to keep" by a Captain Fletcher who guaranteed that he would be paid in full for nursing it back to health. Dissoway explains the amount of care, money, and effort he placed into raising the colt over two years only to find that Fletcher had abandoned it. Dissoway goes on to describe how the colt has grown into a fine horse and compares it favorably to a regionally renowned Arabian stud and suggests that it would soon be able to breed with 50 to sixty mares per year at the price of \$30-60 dollars each. A delightfully detailed business letter depicting early 19th century horse-trading at its finest.

SOLD Read'Em Again Books #9134



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

16. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [LAW & CRIME] [MILITARY & WAR]. Loan request sent to the preeminent retailer and one of the wealthiest men in the United States from a New York business man who had been ruined during the Civil War when the Confederacy seized his entire inventory in accordance with its Sequestration Act of 1861. **J. W. Little to A. T. (Alexander Turney) Stewart.** New York City: 1869.

In this three-page letter to Stewart, Little asks to borrow money to pay off a loan for equipment he purchased to re-establish his business after Confederate authorities in Mobile, Alabama seized his entire inventory. A stereoview of Stewart's four-story, cast-iron, full-block retail "Palace" in New York City is included. The letter is in nice shape; the stereo view has a vertical center crease.

In October of 1861, the Confederate government passed a Sequestration Act authorizing the seizure of any Union property within its borders, and over the course of the war confiscated for use or sale millions of dollars of land and goods from Northern owners. Little, as he relates in this letter to the founder of the first and most successful of all department stores, fell prey to the act:

"In March 1860 I left N York City & went to Mobile Ala engaged in the sale of sash, blinds, doors, builders hardware &c with sufficient means to carry on the trade & was successful until the war broke out. The confederate government took all of my stock (about twenty thousand dollars in value) to build Officers Quarters, Hospitals, &c without remuneration & ruined me. It is a little more than one year since I returned. Since January last I have

been established in my former business here the

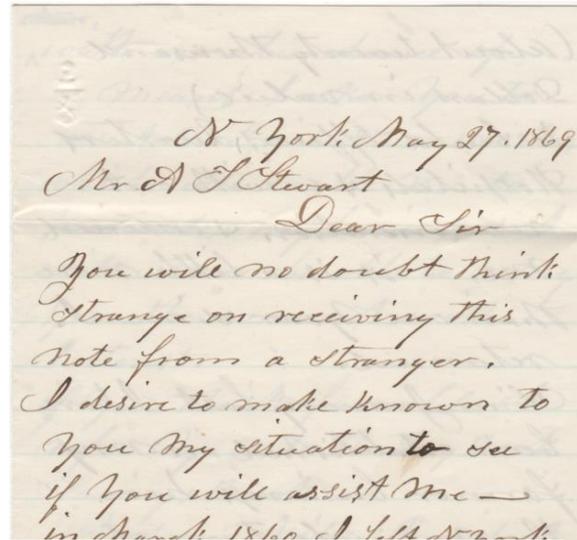
manufacture of sash, blinds, doors & etc by steam & I am in debt for my machines. . . . Knowing you to be charitable with an abundance of means I ask you to assist me to 1000.00 or 1500.00 Dols which will enable me to prosecute my business & will soon be able to repay you the amount with interest."

Alexander Stewart was a New York multi-millionaire who had earned his fortune by creating what was at the time the most extensive and lucrative dry goods business in the world. Beginning with a small inheritance and \$500 in earnings as a grocer's bag boy, by 1848 he had he had built a large marble-fronted store on Broadway between Chambers Street and Reade Street, which was devoted to the wholesale branch of his business, and was the largest retail store in the world at that time. Stewart also had branches of his company in different parts of the world and owned several mills and factories. Stewart had an annual income of US\$1,843,637 in 1863. His business success is estimated to have made him one of the twenty wealthiest people of all time with a fortune equivalent to approximately 90 billion 2012 US dollars. (See Wikipedia.) It's unknown if Stewart loaned Little any money.

An interesting piece of documentary evidence regarding a financially devastating, but now largely forgotten, aspect of the Civil War.

\$200

[Read'Em Again Books #9128](#)



Look all of My Stock

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

17. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [FIRE FIGHTING] [PHILATELY] Sales letter with an illustrated advertising envelope for Rumsey Pumps & Fire Engines, a branch of the Seneca Falls Pump and Fire Engine Works. St. Louis: 1879.

This letter sent to the Knoxville Gas Company in Tennessee from the Rumsey branch office in St. Louis is in response to a complaint regarding the fit of previously purchased pumps. In it Rumsey offers to accept a return of the pumps or an exchange for items that will fit the Knoxville system.

The letterhead and envelope picture the company offices on an impossibly idyllic section of Mississippi River levee at St. Louis. The envelope is franked with a blue-green Washington 3-cent stamp (Scott #207) bearing a circular St. Louis postmark and fancy cork cancellation. The letter is in nice shape; the envelope has a little soiling and postal wear.



\$75 [Read'Em Again Books #9126](#)

18. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [PHOTOGRAPHY] [TRANSPORTATION] Occupational cabinet card photograph of a New York City coachman in winter dress. Patch Brothers. New York, 1885-1890.

This wonderful studio photograph of a New York City coachman in winter dress and holding his whip is complete with fake snow and snowflakes. The albumin image measures 4.75" x 7.75"; the card measures approximately 5" x 8.5". The card is labeled "Pach Bro's 841 B'way, N.Y."

The three Patch brothers became interested in photography in the 1860s while still boys and roamed the streets of New York taking pictures of local residents. They established their business in the Bowery but split up by the early 1870s, and one brother moved uptown in 1877, first to 841 Broadway but eventually settling at 935. He was later joined by at least one brother as by 1881, the city directory lists the firm as "G. W. Patch and Brothers." Between 1885 and 1890, they referred to their business as simply "Patch Brothers."

The New York City Historical Society holds a Patch Brothers photograph collection produced by the studio between its founding and 1947. Most of the images are of nationally prominent people or socially prominent New Yorkers which were assembled by the company for a 1937 studio exhibit and later gifted to the society following the exhibition. Ten years later, in 1947, the company donated an additional group of famous American portraits.

See "Guide to the Pach Brothers Portrait Photograph Collection" at the New York York Historical Society.



A splendid occupational cabinet card of an proudly uniformed New York coachman made all the more appealing by the inclusion of faux snow and snowflakes.

\$200 [Read'Em Again Books #9162](#)

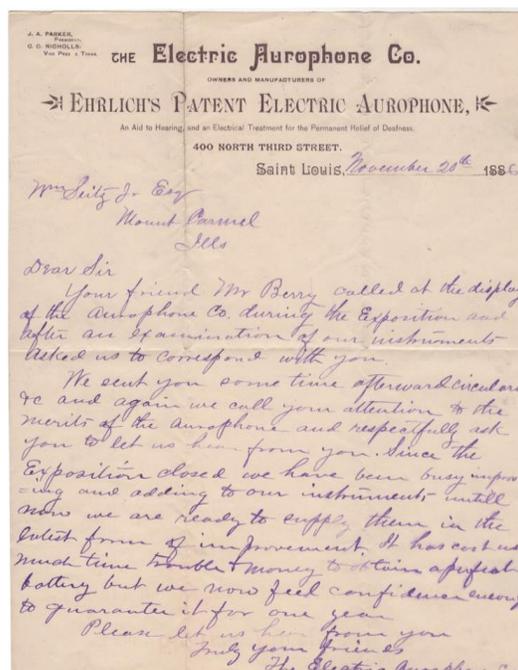
(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

19. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [DEAF CULTURE] [QUACK MEDICINE] Sales letter from the Electric Aurophone Company promoting Ehrlich's Patent Electric Aurophone. St. Louis: 1886.

This letter from the Electric Aurophone Company is dated November 20th, 1886. It was sent from the company headquarters on the St. Louis riverfront to a merchant in Mount Carmel, Illinois. The letter is in nice shape with some light soiling.

The electric Aurophone was a quack product that claimed to be "An Aid to Hearing and an Electrical Treatment for the Permanent Relief of Deafness." It was composed of an electric battery with a coil of wire designed to shock the inside of the ear to improve hearing. In this letter, the company reports that it has improved the aurophone since the merchant's agent last examined the product "during the Exposition, probably one of the huge, annual fairs sponsored by the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association held in Fairground Park at the intersection of Grand and Natural Bridge Avenues.

\$75 [Read'Em Again Books #9122](#)



20. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MEDICINE] Folding die-cut trade card and information pamphlet for Kopfaline "The Great German Headache Cure" and other patent medicines made by the Winkelmann & Brown Drug Company. Baltimore: circa 1890.

Clever die-cut trade card (4" x 4.25" unfolded) in the shape of a Kopfaline medicine bottle that opens to show a humorous illustration of sweating man squeezing his head in an attempt to alleviate a headache. The accompanying eight-page pamphlet (approximately 6.25" square) provides info about Kopfaline and other products made by Winkelmann & Brown (Triple Extract of Jamaica Ginger, Concentrated Sarsaparilla, Blood and Liver Pills, Brown's Nerve and Bone Liniment, Minot's Dentifrice, Winkelmann's Diarrhea and Cholera Remedy, and Procter's Insect Powder). The trade card and pamphlet are in nice shape. The pamphlet has a light dampstain along the left margin.

Kopfaline (a play on the German word for head, kopf) was a short-lived patent medicine produced around 1890. In some newspaper advertisements it proudly touted it contained "no Antipyrine or other dangerous drugs." That is likely because antipyrine, the first highly successful analgesic, was produced under patent to a German firm, D. R. P. Hoechst, and the cost to include it in Kopfaline would have made that product very expensive. (See McTavish's *Pain and Profits: The History of the Headache and Its Remedies in America.*)

SOLD [Read'Em Again Books #9136](#)

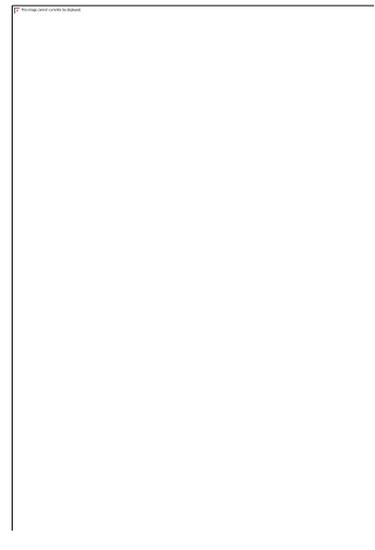
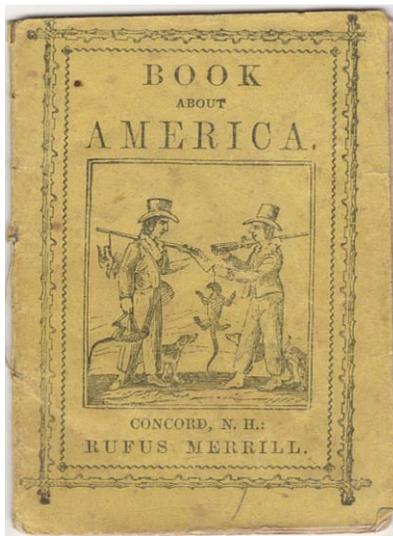


(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

[CHAPBOOKS] A selection of American chap books (sold individually). Various locations and publishers, 1812-1870.

21. *Book About America.* Concord, New Hampshire: Rufus Merrill, circa 1850. Approximately 2.5" x 4". Complete. Cover shows two top-hatted Brazilian hunters with rifles, dogs, and game (bird, monkey, and lizard). Collection of short essays on South America, Mexico, "Exquimaux Indians," and the United States. No repairs, just a little light wear and soiling.

\$75 [Read'Em Again Books #9148](#)



22. *The History of Little Charles, and his friend Frank Wilful.* [Elizabeth Somerville]. Hartford, Connecticut: Hale & Hosmer, 1814. Approximately 2.75" x 4". Complete, but for its front cover. Woodcuts throughout. A wonderful moralistic tale in which young "mischievous" Frank nearly kills his father with a stolen explosive charge while trying to scare farmers heading home for supper. Old re-sewn spine repair. Light wear and soiling. Chip to upper right corner of rear cover. Very scarce. OCLC shows many digital and microform copies but only two institutions hold physical examples of this title. Faults, so priced accordingly.

\$100 [Read'Em Again Books #9149](#)

23. *The History of Tame Beasts.* New York: Mahlon Day, 1833. Approximately 2.5" x 4". Complete. Cover features a cow with a bird on its back. Wood engravings throughout. Short illustrated essays on the horse, the ox, the goat, the cat, the mastiff, the pointer, the spaniel, the hog, the reindeer, the Arabian camel, and the elephant. Old re-sewn spine repair. Light wear and soiling. OCLC shows seven institutional holdings of this title.

\$75 [Read'Em Again Books #9150](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

24. *The Infant School Alphabet.* Concord, New Hampshire: John E. Brown, 1838. Complete. Approximately 3.75" x 4.75". Cover and title page feature an illustration of a school teacher and students. Wood engravings throughout. An early primer with some interesting illustrated aphorisms, e.g., "Youth forward slips, Death soonest nips," illustrated by a graveyard picture of a skeleton holding an hourglass about to stab a fallen boy with a long spear. Lightly printed. Gift inscription inside front cover. Old neatly re-sewn spine repair. OCLC shows 15 institutional copies although follow-on catalog searches show no results at several of those libraries.



\$150
[Read'Em Again Books #9152](#)

25. *The Sports of Childhood ; or the Pastimes of Youth.* New Haven: S. Babcock. [Undated but 1840]. Approximately 1.75" x 2.75". Complete. Cover features a young boy about to throw a ball. Internal wood engravings of children with hoops (title page), blowing bubbles, playing cricket, walking on stilts, and archery. Old re-sewn spine repair. Light wear and soiling. Bradbury's *Antique U.S. Miniature Books*, describes two variants: one dated (#32), and one not (#44). OCLC shows nine institutional holdings.

\$100 [Read'Em Again Books #9175](#)



26. *Susan and Edward; or A Visit to Fulton Market.* New York: Mahlon Day, 1831. Approximately 2.25" x 3.75". Complete. Cover features shoppers returning home from the market, carrying their purchases. Wood engravings throughout. An informative essay about the streets of old New York and the stalls at the Fulton Fish and Country Markets: butchers "whetting their long knives [and] sawing up meat," "fish jumping all alive," oysters, clams, a "turtle almost big enough to frighten anybody," rabbits, geese, ducks, peacocks, turkeys, and more. Old re-sewn spine repair. Light wear and soiling. OCLC shows eight institutional holdings of this first printing.

\$100 [Read'Em Again Books #9151](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

27. [CHAPBOOKS] [POPUPS & MOVABLES] Dame Wonder's Transformations: Master Rose. New York: Edward Dunigan, circa 1845.

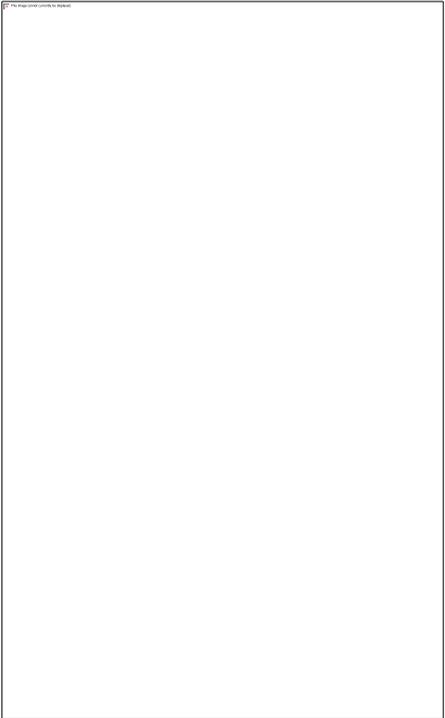
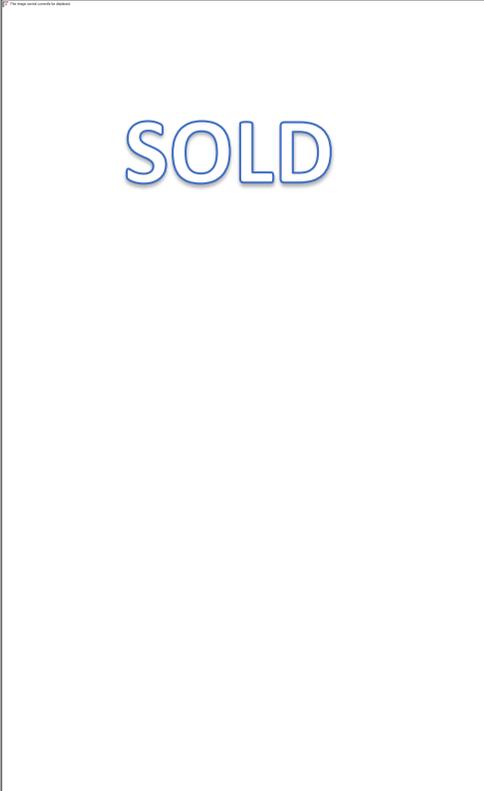
Complete with original cover and six transformation leaves. Approximately 4.25" x 7". The cover features an illustration showing each of the transformational characters contained in the booklet. The rear cover is an advertisement for other Dunigan "Toy Books." The cover and leaves have some soiling and edge wear. The front cover and one leaf have neatly mended horizontal tears. The bottom margin of the first leaf has been trimmed without affecting text or illustration. There is an old, neatly sewn repair along the spine; bottom half-inch of the spine is missing. An 1845 ownership inscription by Volney Vaughn is inside the front cover, "His book bought at Woodstock 1845". Vaughn has also written a cautionary warning on the reverse of first leaf, "Steal not this Book my dearest friend / for fear the rope will be your end./ Amen / Amen".

In this American interpretation of English transformation books published about the same time by Dean and Son in London, the six, hand-colored illustrations (one per leaf) are of young men in traditional clothing of Greece, Holland, Spain, Turkey, Scotland, and America, each in a similar pose. All but the final illustration have holes cut out where the faces should be, allowing the face of the American boy, on the final leaf, to show through. Each transformation is accompanied by a short, related verse.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2018, no examples of any Dame Wonder Transformation Book are for sale in the trade. ABPC and Rare Book Hub show no auction records for this title and only three for other Dame Wonder Transformation Books sold within the last 65 years. OCLC shows this title is only held by the Library of Congress and the American Antiquarian Society.

This book is in far better shape than usually found examples of transformation and movable books from this period.

SOLD **Read'Em Again Books #9153**



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

28. [CHAPBOOKS] [MARITIME] [WHALING] *Sailor Stories and Songs.* Concord, New Hampshire: Rufus Merrill, 1852 on the cover and 1853 on the title page.

Complete with original buff cover and 24 pages. The title page features an illustration of the ship *Essex*. Wood engravings throughout. Tiny "VtHi discard" stamp at the bottom margin of the first text page. No repairs, just some light wear and soiling.

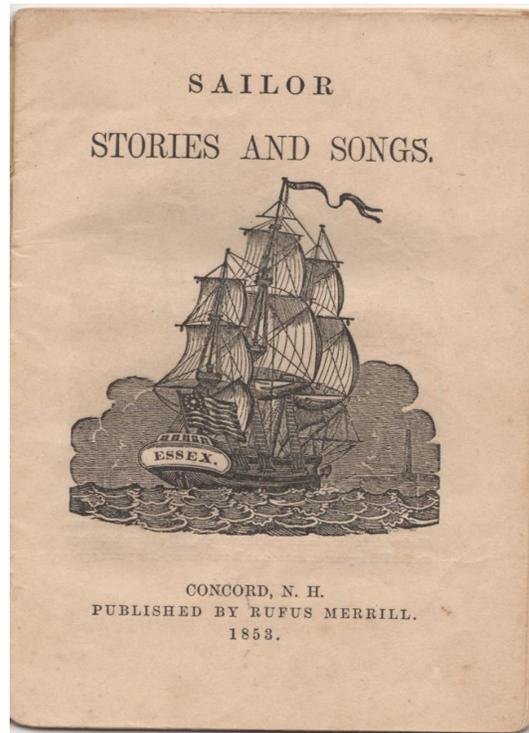
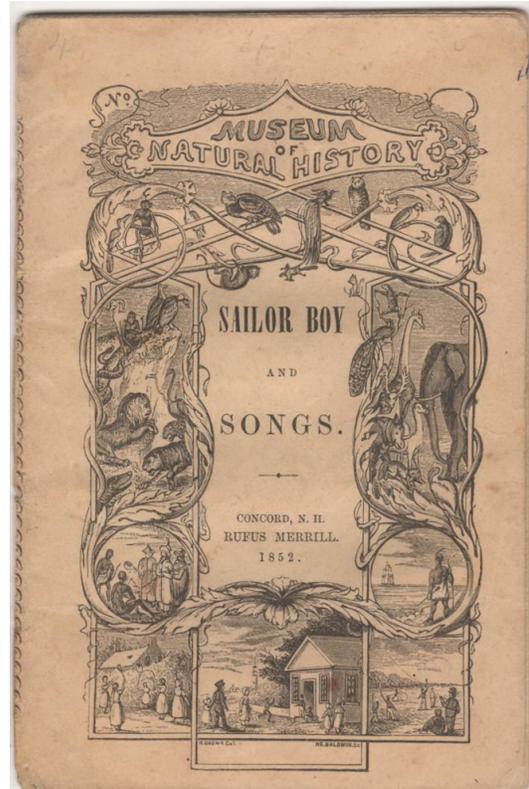
From a 2008 description in a Swann's auction catalog: "Apparently unrecorded edition of a juvenile chapbook of nautical tales and verse, including 2 items of Antarctic interest: 'Story of the Sea,' on pages 5-12, describing a whaling voyage into Antarctic waters; and "Jack Halliard," on pages 18-22, concerning a voyage to the South Shetland Islands. Overlooked by Spence. OCLC locates 2 copies of a variant dated 1854." Additionally includes lyrics to two long, multi-verse songs: *The Sailor Boy* and *The Sailor Boy's Farewell*.

"Jack Halliard" is an abridgement of *The Story of Jack Halyard* by William S. Cardell originally published in 1824.

Not as rare as indicated by Swann, but still very scarce. As of 2018, no examples of the 1852/1853 printing are for sale in the trade. ABPC and Rare Book Hub show four copies of this title have been sold at auction including the Swann auction that closed at \$510. Three other examples have been sold in small lots of chapbooks ranging in price from \$34.50 to \$1,995. OCLC lists 17 institutions that hold examples of 1853 printings of this title but none with the 1852 cover.

\$400

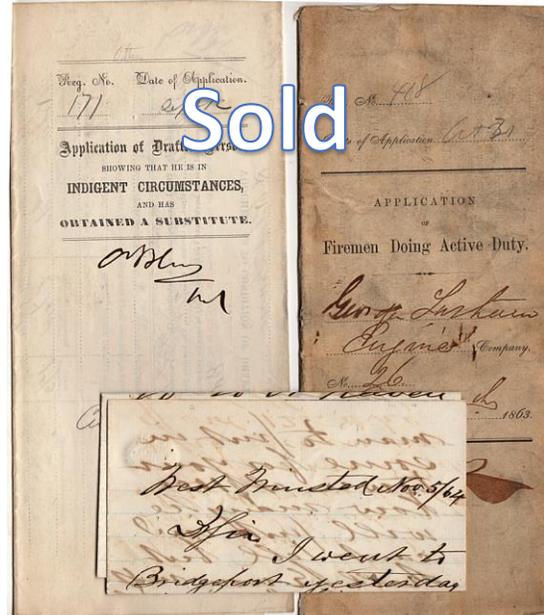
[Read'Em Again Books #9154](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

29. [CONSCRIPTION] [FIRE FIGHTING] [LAW & CRIME] [MILITARY & WAR] Small group of documents relating to Civil War draft substitutions and exemptions. New York and Connecticut, 1863-1864.

This group consists of 1) an "Application of Drafted Person showing that he is in Indigent Circumstances and has Obtained a Substitute," 2) an exemption "Application of Firemen Doing Active Duty" with a voucher attesting to the applicant's service and 3) a letter between 'draft agents' discussing the prices needed to hire draft substitutes. All of the items are in nice shape; the fireman's application is soiled. A transcript of the letter is included.



At the beginning of the Civil War many men, filled with patriotism and the belief that the war would be quickly won, eagerly enlisted in federal service or state militias. However, as the war dragged on and casualties became horrific, fewer and fewer men signed up. So, in 1863 Congress passed the Enrollment Act (also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act) to ensure continuous manpower for the army. It required the "enrollment" of all male citizens and immigrants who had filed for citizenship between ages twenty and forty-five. The act, of course, proved highly unpopular. Two of its elements were especially controversial, commutation and substitution.

Commutation allowed wealthy draftees to buy their way out of service for \$300. Substitution allowed them to purchase the services of another to serve in their stead.

The "Application of a Drafted Person" is dated 13 September 1863, less than two weeks after New York City passed an ordinance implementing the Enrollment Act. In it, the applicant requests permission to obtain a substitute because "he is in indigent circumstances." It was approved "for the sum of \$300" as his substitute had already passed an "Inspection by the District Board of Enrollment, and been mustered into the service." It further notes that his substitute was "to have the said sum of \$300 paid to him on my behalf." What the document does not show is how much under-the-table money was also paid, either directly to a substitute or to a 'draft agent'.

The fireman's exemption request is dated 19 October 1863, and is based on the same city ordinance mentioned above as that ordinance also included a paragraph specifically for firemen that read, "For the purpose of preventing the withdrawal from this City . . . of a considerable number of active, able-bodied citizens whose presence and services are deemed necessary for the maintenance of public order . . . the Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to pay . . . sums of money as may be necessary to procure acceptable substitutes."

The draft agent's letter is dated 15 November 1864 and describes his effort to procure substitutes for draftees in New York and Connecticut, noting that prices were rising (\$135 in New York City and \$150 in New Haven). He reports that substitutes were harder to find in New York as men who were hired to vote in the November election were not yet ready (probably because they were still flush with cash) to become draft substitutes. Several secondary sources report that many draft agents became rich by charging the wealthy high prices to recruit replacements, while paying poor men minimal fees to serve as substitutes. As well, many men known as "jumpers" became wealthy by repeatedly serving as substitutes, collecting their payment, and deserting. (See Wikipedia, etc.)

Very scarce. Although small vouchers certifying a person had obtained a substitute occasionally appear at ebay or public auction, full applications for substitutes, firemen's exemptions, draft agent letters discussing substitute pricing do not. As of 2018, no applications, firemen's exemptions, or agent letters are for sale in the trade, and ABPC and Rare Book Hub show none have been sold at auction. OCLC shows one institution, the Vermont Historical Society, holds similar original documents related to draft substitutes, but no institutions have any material related to firemen's exemptions.

Sold **Read'Em Again Books #9167**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

30. [DISASTERS] [LAW & CRIME] [MARITIME] [RIVERBOATS] 14-page legal "opinion" regarding a court case (J. F. Hicks v. G. W. Truehart) regarding a disastrous Mississippi riverboat fire aboard the Steamer Mary Belle. Sneed J. Vicksburg, [1876].

This undated copy of a court decision measures 8.5" x 14" and contains 14 handwritten pages. The document is in nice shape with a storage fold and docketing that reads, "699 Shelley Law / J. F. Hicks v. G. W. Truehart / Opinion / Sneed J". It is in nice shape with some minor soiling.

In 1876, the *Steamer Mary Belle* was "the largest steamer ever built for traffic on the Mississippi River. . . ." She "took fire and was burned to the water's edge. The boat and cargo of five or six thousand bales of cotton, many thousand sacks of sand, and sundries and baggage of all passengers, numbering about two hundred in the cabin, were a total loss. No lives are known to have been lost, no persons injured." The boat was valued at \$90,000 but only insured for \$30,000; the cargo was fully insured. (See *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* of 28 Feb 1876 and *The York Daily* of 19 Feb 1876.)

This lawsuit involves the owner/master's responsibilities with regard to the forwarding of passengers and baggage from a riverboat's point of destruction to its passengers contracted destination. The opinion is easy to read and cites considerable case law in adjudicating this hitherto unanswered issue:

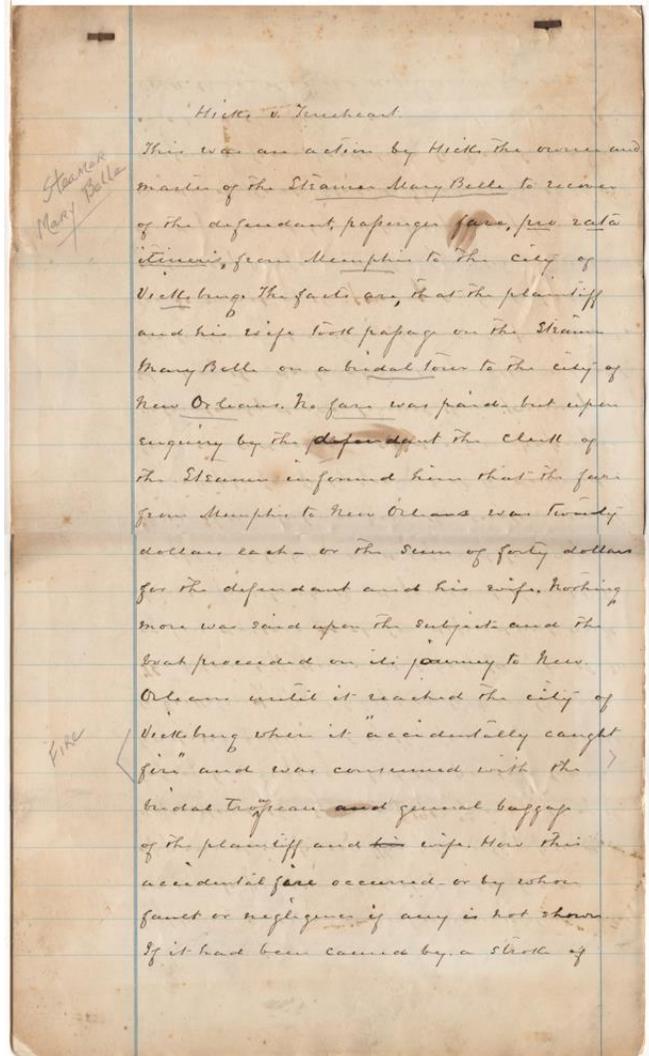
"This was an action by Hicks the owner and master of the Steamer Mary Bell to recover of the defendant passengers fare, *pro rata itineris*, from Memphis to the city of Vicksburg. The facts are, that the plaintiff (sic, should read, 'defendant') took passage on the Steamer Mary Belle on a bridal tour to the city of New Orleans. No fare was paid but upon enquiring by the defendant that clerk of the Steamer informed him that the fare from Memphis to New Orleans was twenty dollars each . . . and the boat proceeded on its journey to New Orleans until it reached the city of Vicksburg when it 'accidentally caught fire' and was consumed with the bridal trousseau and general baggage of the plaintiff and his wife. How this accidental fire occurred or by whose fault or negligence if any is not shown. . . . The plaintiff paid the defendant the sum of \$1900.00 in full of the loss of his baggage but both parties had no settlement of the fare from Memphis to Vicksburg – just halfway to New Orleans. The plaintiff demanded half fare of the sum of ten dollars each for defendant and his wife which the defendant thought he ought not to pay and refused to pay. . . ."

Based on a thoroughly explained review of previous court decision, the case was decided in favor of the ship owner/master.

A well-documented opinion that reviews a considerable body of law regarding owner/master responsibilities following a riverboat disaster.

\$300

[Read'Em Again Books #9179](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

31. [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION] Long letter from a young man to his former pastor in Virginia with a detailed description of Marion, Alabama. James Patrick to A. J. [Albert Johnson] Leavenworth. Selma, Alabama to Warrenton, Virginia: 1841.

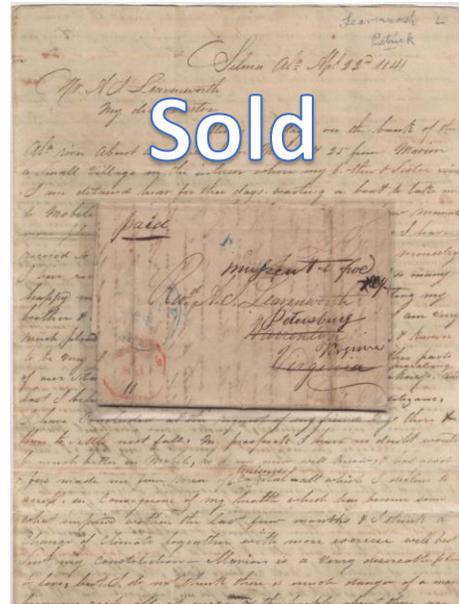
This four-page stampless folded letter measures approximately 15" x 9.75". It was sent by James Patrick from Selma, Alabama to A. J. Leavenworth in Warrenton, Virginia. It is dated "Apr 21 1841" and marked "paid" with a manuscript "25" cent rate mark indicating the cost of postage for letters sent over 400 miles. The letter was sent by riverboat to Mobile where it received a blue circular postmark dated April 24. It also received a rare double-line octagonal Warrenton postmark (see American Stampless Cover Catalog Vol 1, p. 430) dated May 11 when it was forwarded to the Reverend Leavenworth who had moved to Petersburg, Virginia. The letter is in nice shape with minor wear and tiny holes where postal folds intersect; the postmarks are lightly struck. Transcript included.

Although Patrick's letter is filled with expressions of admiration of, devotion to, and longing for his former pastor, it also contains a terrific description of the "village" of Marion, Alabama, where Patrick intended to settle:

"I am very much pleased with that place, its location is high and known to be very healthy, although last year like all other parts of our state they suffered a great deal from the prevailing sickness [Yellow Fever] and lost I believe some 8 or 10 of their most valuable citizens. I have concluded at the request of my friends to go there for there to settle next fall. My prospects I have no doubt would be much better in Mobile, as I am now well known, I have good offers made me from men of business and capital all of which I decline to accept in consequence of my health which has become some what impaired within the last few months & I think a change of climate together with more exercise will best suit my constitution. Marion is a very desirable place to live, but I do not think there is much danger of a man becoming rich all at once as the people about there are generally wealthy & does most of their trading in Mobile the river being convenient, but the greatest difficulty is the Credit System, which is carried on to excess in our southern country.

The different schools in Marion I consider must be of some advantage as there is many families coming and settling for the purpose of educating their children. there is two female Seminaries with 150 young Ladies En[rolled]. One of these has been built by the Baptists last year & is said to be the handsomest building in the State. It is called the Jourdan Institute. The other the Presbyterian Seminary. Also I am told that the Methodist has commenced building one some 4 or 5 miles from the village. Besides there are three Male Schools (or academies) with about 300 boys & what is most encouraging the principals of these Schools are all Preachers. Besides the regular Pastors of the different Churches--in all there is 8 ministers to a population of about 14 or 1500. (So that I think I shall not be well off from preaching) Mr. Nall as you are aware is a Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and a man that is very highly esteemed by all who know him, & which I regard esteemed above all others--yourself excepted. . . . I sent you by todays mail a sermon on theatrical entertainments by our Mr. Hamilton there is little more I think than one half what he preaches in it. He was one hour & a half delivering it to an audience of 1600 persons. It had a good effect as I know many that was in the habit of attending Theaters before who protest they never shall go again."

Leavenworth was a prominent Presbyterian pastor who, after graduating from Amherst College, studied theology at Andover. He led churches in Bristol, Massachusetts, and Charlotte, North Carolina, before moving to Virginia, where he led a church in Warrenton before moving to Petersburg where he established the Leavenworth Academic and Collegiate Seminary for Young Ladies. He was one of the founding members of the Educational Association of Virginia and served as its secretary for a number of years. A terrific description of 1840s Marion, Alabama, sent to a prominent Virginia educator and minister bearing a truly rare octagon postmark from Warrenton, Virginia.



Sold **Read'Em Again Books #9139**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

32. [EDUCATION] [MILITARY & WAR] [POLITICS] [RELIGION] *Loyalty and Religion. A Discourse for the Times.* By Reverend William Greenleaf Eliot. St. Louis: George Knapp, 1861.

Complete with 12 pages including the cover. (See Sabin 2217.) In nice shape with some light marginal toning.

William Greenleaf Eliot was born in Massachusetts. After graduating from Harvard Divinity School in 1834, he moved to St. Louis where he founded the first Unitarian church west of the Mississippi, the Church of the Messiah (now the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis). Eliot was active in public life and instrumental in founding many civic institutions including the St. Louis Public Schools and the St. Louis Art Museum. A strong proponent of higher education, he co-founded Washington University in 1853, which was initially named Eliot Seminary in his honor, and he served as its chancellor from 1870-1887. He was the grandfather of the modernist poet, T. S. Eliot.

Eliot preached this sermon on August 18, 1862 shortly after eleven Southern states had seceded and while Missouri teetered between joining the Confederacy or remaining in the Union. Although Eliot was a moderate abolitionist and Union supporter, he rarely, if ever, publically announced his political opinions. Rather, he preached generally about freedom, religion, and loyalty, stressing community unity and encouraging his parishioners to refrain from quarreling and instead search for things upon which they had in common. He believed that the ever-increasing extreme political polarization over slavery was unhealthy for the community, prevented any possibility of reaching a peaceful solution, and could only spell disaster for the nation.

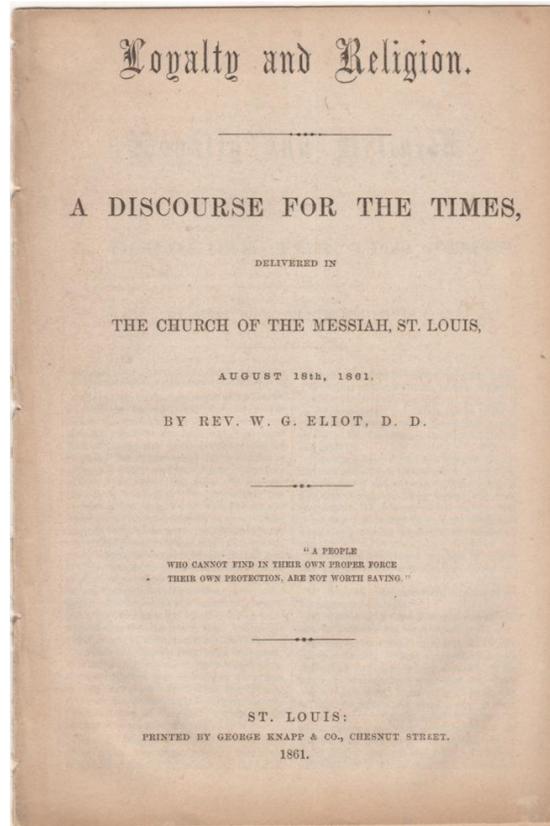
In this sermon, Eliot makes clear that he is a Unionist and argues that citizens have a religious and patriotic duty to their nation that are one and the same. Although, distressed by secession, his optimism shines through: "But the time will come when the community of interest will again be acknowledged, and we shall be yet again ONE NATION . . . and this great experiment of Republican Institutions now on trial will yet succeed." Eliot's efforts along with those of Nathaniel Lyon and Francis P. Blair, tipped public sentiment in favor of the Union and the Missouri Ordinance of Secession proposed by Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, a southern sympathizer, was never passed by a legally assembled quorum of state legislators.

See Wikipedia and Holt's *William Greenleaf Eliot: Conservative Radical* for more information.

An important and rather scarce piece of Missouri's Civil War history. As of 2018, no other examples are for sale in the trade and no auction records are found at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows that the pamphlet is only held by nine libraries.

\$200

[Read'Em Again Books #9123](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

33. [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] Letter reporting on a two-day “teacher’s association” conference that was mailed in an illustrated envelope featuring the two-story Bridgewater Normal School, the first building in the United States specifically built for the education and preparation of future teachers. “Madison’ to “Uncle & Aunt.” Bridgewater to Fall River, Massachusetts, 1861.

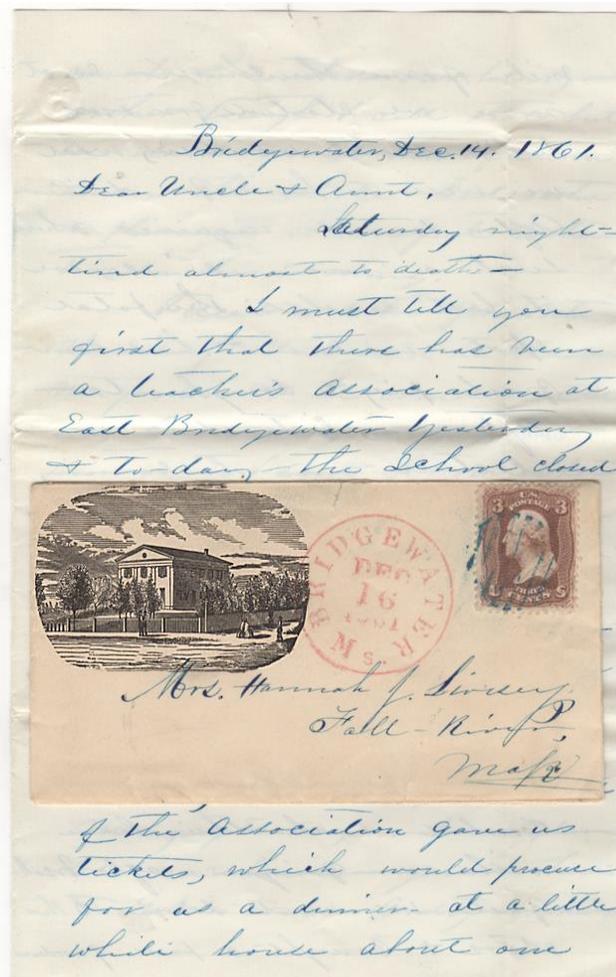
This two-page letter is dated “Bridgewater, Dec. 14. 1861.” It is enclosed in an envelope featuring an illustration of the Bridgewater State Normal School which has been franked with a brown-red 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65). The envelope bears a red, circular “Bridgewater Ms.” postmark dated “Dec 16 1861.” The letter and envelope are in nice shape; the envelope flap was torn upon opening. Transcript included.

Bridgewater Normal School was founded in 1840 by Horace Mann, the first Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education and “father of public education” in the United States, who appointed Nicholas Tillinghast as its first president, charging him to establish a school specifically for the purpose of educating future teachers. After calling the basement of the Bridgewater Town Hall home for six years, the school, moved into a then state-of-the-art two-story facility specifically constructed to meet its needs. The building contained a number of various-sized classrooms, each equipped with blackboards, and supported up to 85 students. (See Boyden’s *The History of Bridgewater Normal School*). The two-story school building is featured on this cover.

In his letter, Madison reports that the school had closed for several days so that its “scholars” could attend a two-day “teacher’s association” held about three miles away in East Bridgewater. Madison and “a gentleman that boards here” walked to the conference and upon arrival enjoyed a free dinner of “pig and doughnuts.” Although Madison notes that there were several lectures, he spends far more time venting his displeasure about the “domicil” arranged for ten attendees that had “no comb or brush in the room, so we combed each other’s hair with our fingers,” although in the end, he reports that “on the whole [I] had rather a pleasant time. . . .”

Bridgewater Normal School, which is recognized today as the “home of teacher education in America,” still exists as Bridgewater State University, the oldest permanently located school of higher education in Massachusetts and the second largest institution in that state’s public university system. (See the Bridgewater State University website.)

Madison’s unique letter reporting on the “teacher’s association” meeting provides historical evidence suggesting that even over 150 years ago, attendees at academic conferences were more interested in the free food and their accommodations than an event’s content. The illustrated “Bridgewater Normal School” cover is truly rare; there are no records of similar covers having appeared at public auctions or on eBay, none are for sale in the philatelic trade, and OCLC shows none are held by institutions.



\$350

[Read'Em Again Books #9159](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

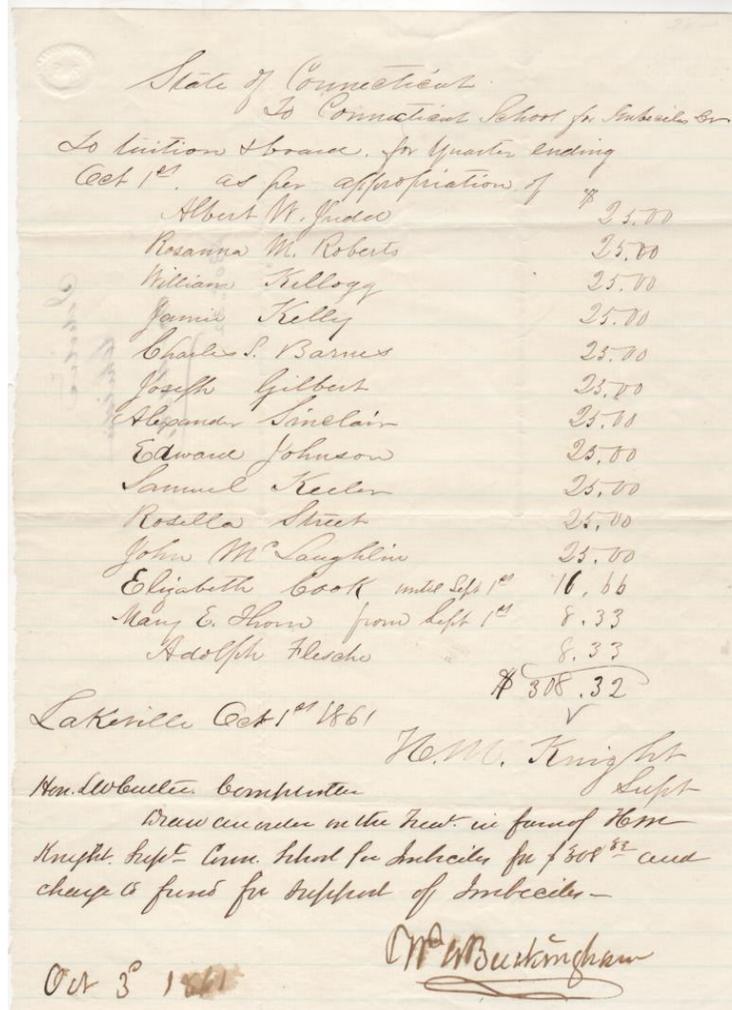
34. [EDUCATION] [MEDICINE] [MENTAL RETARDATION] Manuscript document listing charges for tuition and board submitted by the Connecticut School for Imbeciles and endorsed by the state's governor. Submitted by H. M. Knight, superintendent, and endorsed and signed by William Buckingham, governor. Lakewood, [Connecticut], 1861.

The document measures 7.5" x 10". It was initially dated and signed by Superintendent Knight on 1 October 1861 and endorsed by Governor Buckingham on 3 October 1861. It is in nice shape with some minor smearing to the first three letters in Buckingham's signature and three numbers in the date of endorsement. It is docketed, "Idiotic Children / Oct 4 1861 / \$308.32" on the reverse.

The institution first opened in 1860 at Lakeville, Connecticut, as the Connecticut School for Imbeciles. In those far less politically correct times 'imbecile' was a formal medical classification for individuals with an approximate IQ of 26 to 50. In 1915, the institution's name was changed to the Connecticut School for the Training of the Feeble-Minded, suggesting that its mission changed from a primarily caretaking role to a residential school focusing on training individuals, perhaps even, to be able to earn a living. The school later collocated and merged with the state's epileptic care "colony," expanding its role to become the Mansfield Training School and Hospital. At the height of its use in 1969, it housed over 1,800 residents in more than 50 buildings and ran a small farm to provide occupational therapy as well as food for its residents. Over the next twenty years, a preference toward a less institutionalized care reduced the facility's population and a class action suit brought by the Connecticut Association of Retarded Citizens on behalf of 12 residents alleging the school violated their Constitutional right and federal laws that protected the disabled, accelerated the process. By 1991, only 140 residents remained, and the school shut down in 1993. Today, although some of its buildings remain vacant, a number are being used by other state agencies including the University of Connecticut. (See Wikipedia.)

In this document, created shortly after the facility's opening, Knight identifies the specific charges for "tuition & board [for fourteen students] for the quarter ending Oct 1" which totaled just over \$300. Following the itemized listing, the governor approved the bill and forwarded it to the state Comptroller for payment.

An interesting record attesting to an early effort to provide standardized and subsidized care for members of society with intellectual deficiencies.



\$250 [Read'Em Again Books #9107](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

35. [ENGINEERING] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHOTOGRAPHY] Albumin photograph of the 50th New York Engineers Headquarters at Petersburg, Virginia taken by the famed Civil War photographer, Timothy O'Sullivan. Photograph by Timothy O'Sullivan. Petersburg, Virginia: 1864.

The unmounted photograph measures approximately 9" x 6.75". It shows the elaborate tent headquarters constructed by the unit complete with evergreen lined outside walls and double-arched entrance topped with a large triple-turreted insignia of the U.S. Army Engineers. A tripod-mounted theodolite and the unit's colors stand in front of the structure. The photograph is annotated in pencil "248" on the reverse. It is in nice shape with two small mounting remnants on the reverse and some wear at its lower left tip.



Timothy O'Sullivan began working for Matthew Brady well before the start of the Civil War in Brady's Washington, D.C. studio under the supervision of Brady's assistant, Alexander Gardner. In 1862, he and Gardner first achieved fame documenting the battlefield dead at Antietam when their photographs were exhibited in New York City. However, both men became disgruntled by Brady's megalomaniac instance that only he receive official credit for the images, so the pair parted ways with Brady. Gardner, assisted by O'Sullivan, started his own company in 1863, and they arrived at Gettysburg just in time to capture a stunning series of photographs of unburied Union and Confederate dead on the battlefield. Both men continued to photographically document the rest of the war. (See Wikipedia.)

This photograph was taken by O'Sullivan the fall of 1864 following the fighting at Peebles and Pegrams Farms when of the 50th New York Engineers was garrisoned in a five-acre field on the Flowers Farm by Poplar Springs Church near Petersburg. There, the unit constructed its quarters for the winter. One of the 50th's officers, Captain William Folwell wrote in his diary that "some of the officers are putting up quite elaborate houses. . . . I mean to have as good a house as can be built of the material accessible, viz., green pine timber and canvas."

O'Sullivan may well have been the most prolific cameraman of the Civil War as the Library of Congress has curated about 700 images attributed to him. The glass negative used by O'Sullivan to print this albumin image is located at the Library of Congress (LC-B817-7059).

\$850

[Read'Em Again Books #9116](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

36. [EXPRESS MAIL] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION] Eastern Express mail cover. Sent by Alexander Robertson to Colonel Robert W. Allston. Charleston, South Carolina to New York City and return to Georgetown, South Carolina: 1838.

Between 1836 and 1839, the post office operated several "Express Mail" routes in the Eastern United States where for triple the regular postage rate, letters were expedited using contactors who carried "the mail by the fastest means of transportation, [usually a combination of railroads and] post riders on horseback who carried nothing but the express mail pouch." Initially, mail could be sent collect but beginning in November, 1837, all express mail required prepayment.

This small express cover" measures only 9.75" x 7.75" unfolded. It is addressed to Allston (a former Army officer, future South Carolina governor, and one of the richest plantation owners in the state) in care of E. Saffron, Esq. in New York City. It also bears the sender's name, A. Robertson (Allston's business agent) and the date "27 Octr 1838." When Robertson mailed the cover, he annotated it with a black manuscript "1" (indicating it only consisted of one sheet), "Paid", and "Express mail" markings. This was confirmed by the postmaster who added a red (now faded) manuscript "1" and "75" (the postage rate of express mail carried over 400 miles) in addition to a "PAID" handstamp and circular Oct 27 postmark.



Per the official schedule, the cover would have left Charleston by railroad at 5:30 pm that evening for Branchville and from there it would have been carried by postrider via Columbia and Raleigh to Blakely Depot, North Carolina, where it would have transferred to a train for the 63-mile trip to Petersburg, Virginia. From there, it would have again been carried by postriders to New York via Richmond, Washington, and Philadelphia. The journey would have taken four and a half days, which is confirmed by the 1 November receiving postmark applied at New York.

When the New York postmaster was notified that Allston had returned home, he obliterated the manuscript rate markings, readdressed the cover to Georgetown, South Carolina, and added a new manuscript rate mark. The indistinct marking appears to read "1 ½", which would make sense as the regular rate to send the cover to Georgetown (which was closer to New York than Charleston) would have been 18 ¾ cents or 1 ½ reales.

(See Milgram's *The Express Mail of 1836-1839*.)

A small mystery, however, remains. Both the original and return postal rates were for single sheet mail, yet the cover (made from a single sheet) is blank and contains no message. If it had contained a letter, bank draft, or other item, the postage should have cost twice as much. One explanation might be related to the cover's small size which is only half the size of typical lettersheets used at this time; perhaps a larger lettersheet was originally used, and the letter portion was, for some reason cut away from the cover sheet after its receipt. Of, perhaps, Robertson simply put one over on the postmasters.

\$150 [Read'Em Again Books #9119](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

37. [GOLD RUSH] [HISPANIC-AMERICANA] [MINING] [PHILATLEY] Gold Rush era letter from a miller and farmer living at Sonora, California to family in Michigan. Sonora, California: 1854.

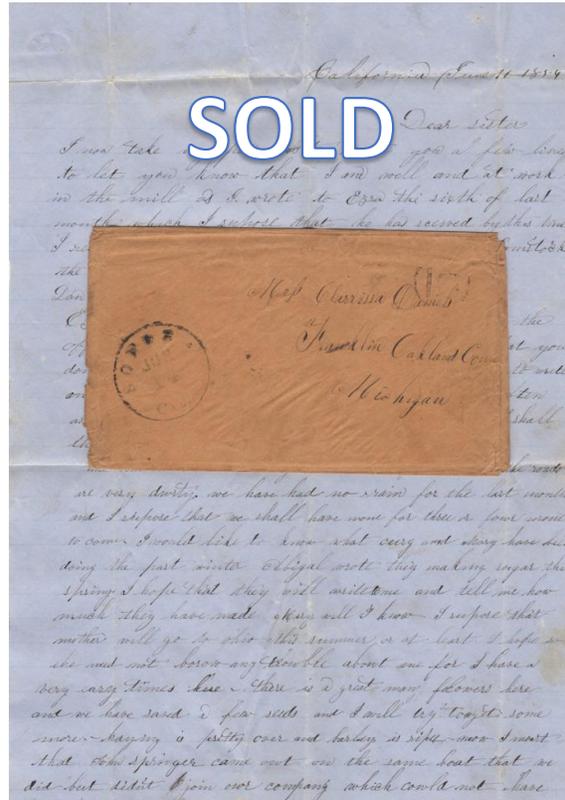
One-page letter with an accompanying postally used stampless envelope. The letter is dated "California June 11 1854" and the envelope bears a circular Sonora, California postmark dated "Jun 14" and a circular "10" handstamp indicating the postage to be collected from the recipient.

After gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, most prospectors began to descend on the foothills above Sacramento, however a few came south and found that gold was plentiful at a creek location first discovered by a man named Benjamin Woods. Camps along Wood's Creek began to blossom and soon a small village named Jamestown was established. Drawn by reports of success, large numbers of Mexicans from Sonora moved into the region and soon the original miners were overwhelmed by immigrants from Mexico augmented by a few from Chile, Peru, Argentina, China, and Australia. As a result the town acquired a strong Mexican flavor with colorful brush houses as well as a central plaza. Gambling, particularly the Mexican national game of Monte was everywhere, as were saloons and liquor. Fandango houses and bullfights were popular. A town government was formed, primarily from U. S. citizens, many of whom were merchants that catered to the Mexican miners.

The situation in Sonora was not unique as many other original mining locations had also been overwhelmed by fortune-hunters from around the world. Seeing a lucrative cash cow, the California legislature imposed a Foreign Miners Tax that required all foreign miners to pay the state \$20 per month. Of course, most miners could not afford the fees and simply left for home. At Sonora, the population decreased from 5,000 to 1,000 creating havoc with local economy. Although the tax was eventually reduced to only \$3 per month, the city never fully recovered although several significant "pocket" mines continued in operation until the 1860s.

(See *The History of Sonora* at sonoraca.net for more information.)

In this letter, G. C. Daniels writes home to his sister in Michigan, informing her that his barley crop and mill were thriving and that he was well. He further reports that two other brothers had gone to Chinese Camp, presumably seeking gold, and another two had left for "fields" in Nevada.



SOLD **Read'Em Again Books #9127**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

39. [INTERMENT CAMPS] [JAPANESE-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Touching Christmas letter from a Japanese-Peruvian who was held at the Crystal City Internment Camp to his parents in Lima. Matsuura Saburo to Mrs. Kikuko Noda. Crystal City, Texas to Lima, Peru: 1943-1944.

This internee's letter was written in Japanese on a pre-printed "Internee of War" airmail letter sheet (W.D., P.M.G. Form no. 4-1 / November 1, 1942) that measures 8" x 14". It is dated 22 December (in Japanese) and bears a large circular "U. S. Censorship" handstamp in magenta on the front flap. It is franked with a blue 30-cent Transport Plane airmail stamp (Scott #C30) that was cancelled with a patriotic New York City machine postmark ("Buy War Savings Bonds and Stamps") on January 5, 1944. There are two receiving handstamps from Peru on the reverse; one a straight-line marking that reads "Ene [Jan] 10 1944" and the other a circular Lima, Peru postmark dated Ene 10 1944]. The letter is in very nice shape. An English translation is included.



The Crystal City camp (about 100 miles south of San Antonio) was originally built before World War II by the Farm Security Administration to serve as a temporary home for migrant workers who seasonally harvested the area's spinach fields. Following the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor, it was converted to an internment camp, the Crystal City Alien Enemy Detention Facility (also known as the U.S. Family Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas) and became home to over 3,000 German-Americans (the first to arrive), Italian-Americans, and Japanese-Americans who were deemed potential security threats. Additionally, twelve Latin American countries sent German, Italian, and Japanese nationals that they deemed security threats to Crystal City, accounting for more than half the camp's population. Many were Latin American Japanese from Peru, but there were also Germans and Italians from Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua. During the war, many of the internees were repatriated to Axis nations often in exchange for Allied civilian internees held there. Following the war, some of the foreign internees returned to Central and South America, however many received permission to remain in the United States. Peru refused to accept the return of more than 600 deportees who were subsequently transported to Japan. (See "Crystal City (Family) Internment Camp" at the Texas History Commission website and Wikipedia.)

This letter from Matsuura Saburo, a Japanese-Peruvian businessman, is written on a pre-printed War Department-Postmaster General letter sheet. It contains usage instructions written in English, Japanese, German and Italian. The forms were chemically treated to blur and discolor if written on with invisible ink. Although this letter has no such writing, several blotches appear where sweaty fingers handled the paper. In this letter, Saburo informs his parents about his son's progress in kindergarten, and the family's preparations for Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

U.S. and Peruvian public records show that Saburo, his wife Kiyoko Noda, their son Yoshihiko, and their daughter Atsuko were expelled from Peru on 24 February 1943. A second daughter, Kuniko, was born at the camp hospital in 1944. It is unclear whether, after the war, the family remained in the United States, returned to Lima, or was forced by Peru to move to Japan.

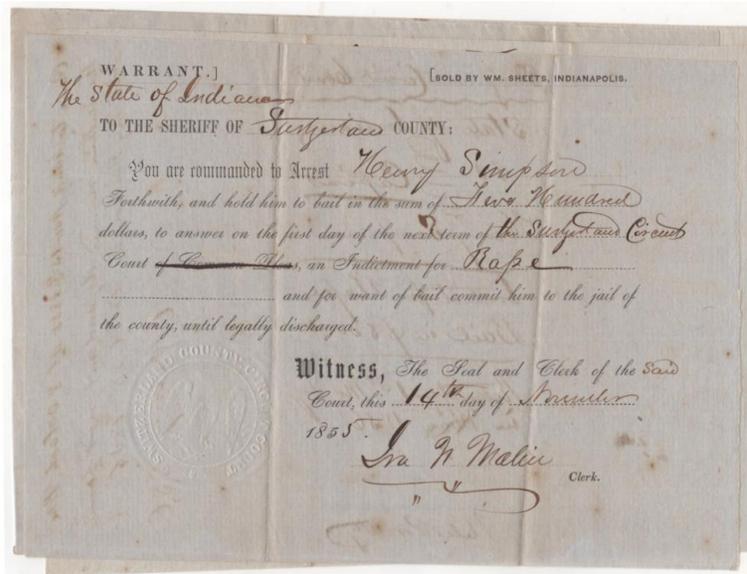
While all World War II Japanese-American relocation camp mail is scarce, censored mail written in Japanese by Japanese-Peruvians shipped to the United States for internment is rare. This letter is from a small cache of six originally sold on ebay by the same seller during 2016-2017. As of 2018, no similar letters are for sale in the trade, and none have been sold at public auctions per ABPC and the Rare Book Hub. Although OCLC reports no similar letters held by institutions, some may be in the "Mochizuki (Yukio) Collection," a small archive of notes, articles, correspondence, photographs, and term papers collected by a student at California State University – Dominguez Hills while researching Japanese-American and Japanese-Peruvian internment during World War II.

SOLD Read'Em Again Books #9161

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

40. [LAW & CRIME] [WOMEN] Small group of legal documents regarding the indictment of two men for rape and burglary. Switzerland County, Indiana: 1856.

There are eight documents in this group. Three of the documents are warrants for the arrest of Henry Simpson and Thomas Level for the robbery of Charles Seamback and the rape of Teclaw Smith issued in November of 1855. Three of the documents are apparently later reissues of those warrants in May of 1856. One of the documents is a grand jury indictment of Henry Simpson and Thomas Level for the robbery. One of the documents is a grand jury indictment of Henry Simpson, alone, for the rape. All are in nice shape.



The rape indictment states that Simpson "on the 24th day of September 1855 with force and arms . . . did upon the body of one Teclaw Smith did make an assault and her the said Teclaw Smith did then & there unlawfully & feloniously touch strike beat and wound, and her the said Teclaw Smith, a woman, did then & there Carnally Know unlawfully feloniously forcible and against her will."

The robbery indictment states that Simpson and Level "on the 24th day of September 1855 with force and arms . . . forcibly and feloniously took one gold Coin commonly called an Eagle the value of ten dollars, the property of Charles Seamback from his, Charles Steamback's, person and against his will by violence to his person."

Both Smith and Steamback testified before the grand jury against their assailants.

Interestingly, each of the warrants sets bail at \$500, which would appear to indicate that the total combined bail for the two men stood at \$1,500 or \$750 each. This would have been an enormous sum in 1855, equal to over \$40,000 or \$20,000 each in 2018 dollars. Clearly the county did not want these men out of jail before their trials. The penalties facing the men were just as severe. At the time in Indiana, robbery was punishable by whipping, fines, and imprisonment for up to thirty years, and the mandated punishment for rape was death. No records reporting the outcome of the eventual trials were located.

\$150 [Read'Em Again Books #9121](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

41. [LAW & CRIME] [RECONSTRUCTIONS] File copies of post-Civil War petitions from a Virginia family to recover their plantation which had been seized by the Union Army and which was being used as a settlement for freed "negros." Submitted by Sidney Smith on behalf of members of the Curtis family. Williamsburg, Virginia: 1865.

File copies of three legal documents submitted to Brigadier General B. C. Ludlow, Commanding General of the Peninsula District immediately after President Andrew Johnson issued *Proclamation 134—Granting Amnesty to Participants in the Rebellion* and restoring their property. Transcripts provided.

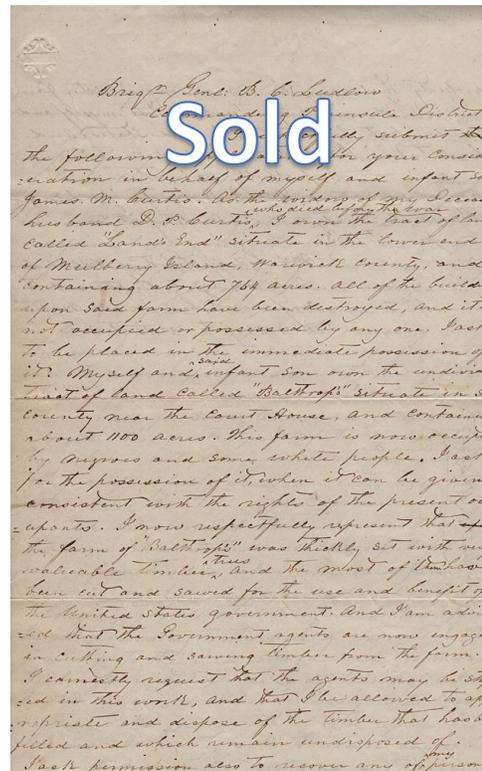
The Freedman's Bureau was established in March, 1865 to manage the transition of former slaves into freedmen. One of its programs was to house freedmen on properties seized from Southern citizens during the war. The initiative was short-lived as President Johnson issued the Amnesty Proclamation on 29 May 1865. Immediately after, Sidney Smith filed three petitions on June 1st for the Curtis family (Mrs. E. R. Curtis, H. H. Curtis, and Wm H. Curtis) requesting the return of family property which had been seized, probably during General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. The petitions read in part:

"As the widow of . . . D. P. Curtis . . . I own the . . . land called 'Land End' situated in . . . Mulberry Island, Warwick County, and containing 764 acres. All of the buildings . . . have been destroyed, and it is not occupied or possessed. . . . I ask to be placed in immediate possession of it. [I also] own the undivided tract of land called 'Baltrop's' [near the county courthouse] containing about 1100 acres. This farm is now occupied by negroes. . . . I ask for possession of it, when it can be given consistent with the rights of the present occupants. I now respectfully represent that the farm of 'Baltrop's' was thickly set with very valuable timber trees and most of them have been cut and sawed for the use and benefit of the United States Government. And I am advised that the Government agents are now engaged in cutting and sawing timber from the farm. I earnestly request that the agent may be stopped in this work, and that I be allowed to appropriate and disposed of the timber that has been felled [and recover any of my personal property that may be remaining on either farm.]"

"[Wm H. Curtis] owns a tract of land called 'Water View' . . . containing about 500 acres. It is now occupied by negroes. The houses are greatly injured and need repairing. [He] asks permission to . . . repair the necessary buildings for his comfort, to seed a crop of wheat, and to recover possession at the end of the lease. On this farm the Government has been running a saw mill for some time and it is still engaged. The greater part of the timber trees have been cut down and used and [Curtis] asks that said mill be stopped from sawing up any more. . . . There are now at the mill 60,000 feet of lumber . . . taken from the farm [and] 140,000 . . . from Baltrop's."

"[H. H. Curtis] is the owner of a tract of land called 'End View' containing about 500 acres situated near . . . Lebanon Church. Said farm is now in possession of seven families of negroes . . . and the dwelling house and out house are much abused and out of order. . . . [He] asks permission to repair his dwelling and make it habitable . . . and to be repossessed of his farm when the rights of the present occupants shall have expired. . . . [Curtis] is also the owner of a small tract of land called "Davis." . . . If it be occupied by negroes, which he believes to be the fact, he asks to recover the possession of it when their rights expire."

An important set of documents attesting to what must have been among the very first attempts by Southerners to have the federal government return property seized by the Union Army and later distributed to former slaves by the Freedman's Bureau. Extremely scarce. As of 2018, nothing similar is for sale in the trade nor held by institutions per OCLC. No auction records for similar documents are listed at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub.



Sold **Read'Em Again Books #9111**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

42. [LAW & CRIME] [RECONSTRUCTION] Draft copy of a legal complaint against a creditor attempting to stop him from selling a family farm that had been seized by General McClellan in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign and was later used by the Freedmen's Bureau to settle former slaves. Submitted by Sidney Smith on behalf of Samuel C. White. Williamsburg, Virginia: 1866.

This four-page draft legal complaint was prepared for submission to John A. Meredith, Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Virginia. In nice shape with a few splits just starting at some file folds. Transcript included.

In 1862, during General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign when the Union army laid siege to Yorktown, Samuel White and his family were forced to abandon their farm which laid between the two opposing armies. Following the siege, White was prevented from returning to the farm during the war. Late in the war, the Freedman's Bureau was established to manage the transition of former slaves into freedmen. One of its programs was to settle freedmen on properties seized from Southern citizens during the war. As noted in the complaint at the time it was filed, White,

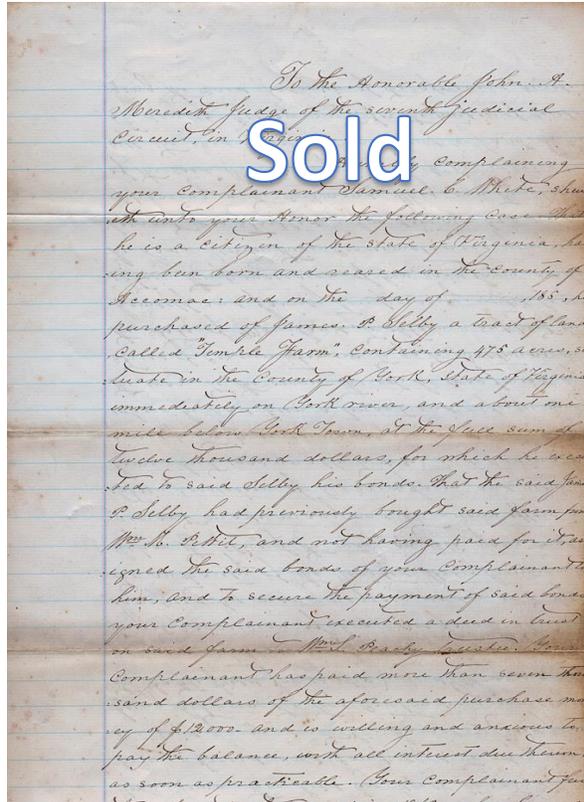
"a refugee, [was not] able to get possession of his said farm, it being occupied by many negroes under and by the authority of the United States Government [despite] many and strenuous efforts to obtain possession of his said farm, and return home." . . .

White had purchased the farm before the war for \$12,000, however he still owed about \$5,000 at the time it was seized by the federal government to a "trustee," William Peachy. The complaint continues:

"[White] was startled a few days ago, by a notice appearing in the *Richmond Whig*, over the signature of said Wm Peachy, in which he proposes to sell the said tract of land 'Temple Farm' . . . for the purpose of discharging the said balance of the aforesaid purchase money. . . . Wm. S. Peachy well knows [this] is contrary to the law made and provided by the last legislature of Virginia staying the collection of debts for a limited period, and contrary to justice equity and good conscience. . . . Said farm has been more than three years in the possession of a great number of freedmen by the authorities of the United States, who still possess, occupy, cultivate and enjoy it . . . and [White cannot] obtain the possession thereof. . . To sell the farm as the said trustee proposes, and which he most unjustly and pertinaciously proposes, insists upon would be contrary to the plain letter of the law, and tend to the manifest wrong, injury and oppression of your complainant. [He asks that] Wm. S. Peachy . . . be restrained by the order and injunction of your Honor, from selling the said tract of land 'Temple Farm.' . . .

An important document that at once attests to the injustice subjected upon Southern civilians by the federal government during and after the war as well as economic hardships placed upon them both as real estate owners and creditors. Very scarce. As of 2018, no similar documents are for sale in the trade, none could be found to be held by institutions per OCLC, and no auction records for similar documents are listed at ABPC or the Rare Book Hub.

Sold **Read'Em Again Books #9112**



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

43. [MAPS] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Four-page Civil War letter from a soldier aboard a troop transport to his daughter written on a lettersheet featuring a hand-annotated map and birds-eye view of Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort and the Hygeia Hotel. W. B. Eager, Jr. to Miss Mary F. Eager. On board the *City of Bath* at Hampton Roads to New York City, 1862.

This four-page letter, dated November 30, 1862, is written on an illustrated lettersheet; the first page features a birds-eye view titled *Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort and Hygeia Hotel, Va.* and a map titled *Map of Fortress Monroe and Surroundings*. Although the map states “Published by C. Bohn,” Postal historians suggest that this is actually “a Mangus sheet because in style it is just like other sheets which are definitely by Mangus.” (See Milgram’s *American Illustrated Letter Stationery 1819-1899*, Magn.Lg.F.L.S.-9) The sheet is enclosed in a plain envelope franked with a 3-cent rose Washington stamp (Scott #65) and canceled with a circular “Old Point Comfort, Va” postmark dated Dec 1 1862. The lettersheet and envelope are in nice shape. A transcript is provided.

Eager’s letter is especially informative and provides exceptional detail—apparently in answer to a question about them raised by his daughter in an earlier letter—about the tent stoves used in union camps at Old Point Comfort.

“The stove is an oblong sheet from one about twenty inches long and fourteen wide in the two extremes with four feet riveted to the bottom about two inches long. On the top at the back part is the pipe we have two elbows one we put on the stove, other outside the tent the two collars I told you about one on the outside and one on the inside of the tent cloth and are bolted together by three small bolts the collars are concave like the pot covers and have a hole in the center just the size of the pipe. . . (and on, and on, and on).”

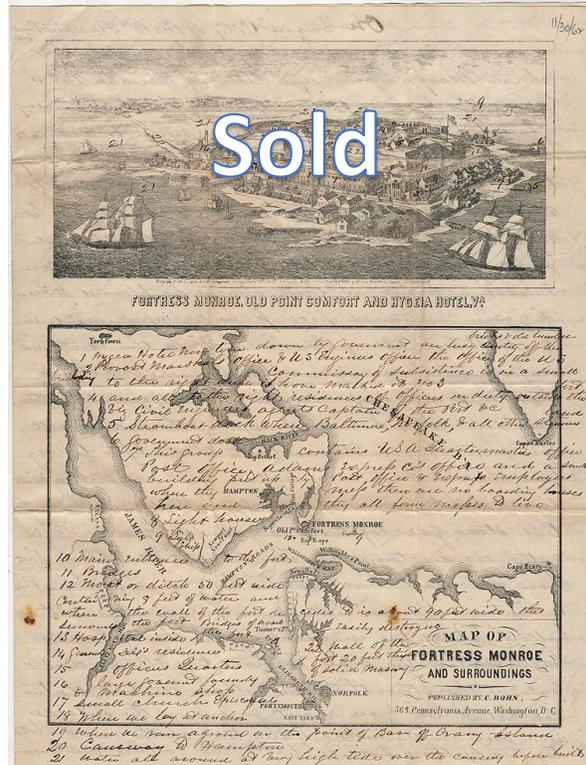
More importantly, he has numbered 22 locations on the birds-eye view and map and provided a key that describes each, e.g.

“Steamboat dock where Baltimore, Norfolk, & all other steamers land,” “Moat or ditch 50 feet wide containing 8 feet of water and where the wall of the fort recedes it is about 90 feet wide this surrounds the fort Bridges of wood Easily destroyed,” “This group contains USA Quartermasters offices Post Office, Adam’s Express Co’s office and a small building put up by Post Office & Express employees where they sleep there are no boarding houses here and they all form messes to live,” “Where we ran aground,” etc.

The *City of Bath* was a propeller-driven Navy steamer. It was used as a troop transport during the Union’s attempt to capture Charleston in January of 1863, shortly after this letter was written. In June of 1863, it was captured by the Confederate raider *CSS Georgia* off the Brazilian coast.

This letter sheet is exceptionally scarce. Although Milgram assigns it a rarity rating of “R-2” suggesting that there are only 5-25 extant copies, it appears they are much less common. As of 2018 there are no other examples for sale in the philatelic or ephemera/book trade. There are no records at ABPC, Rare Book Hub, or Worthpoint of any other examples having been sold at public auctions or via ebay, and OCLC shows that although several similar but larger birds-eye view lithograph prints are held by institutions, no institutions have examples of either used or unused lettersheets with both the view and map. A google search disclosed that one example of this lettersheet is located at The Winterthur Library.

Sold **Read’Em Again Books #9163**



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

44. [MARITIME] [PHILATLEY] [TRANSPORTATION] Letter sent from Liverpool, England to New York City via an early voyage of the S. S. *Great Western*. From John Cummings to Arch[ibald] Russell. Liverpool to New York City: 1838.

This three-page, stampless, folded letter measures approximately 16" x 10" unfolded. It is addressed to New York City with manuscript markings indicating "via Bristol" and the "Great Western." It bears a circular, unframed, Ship's Letter crown postmark dated 26 October 1838 indicating the postage to New York had been paid in advance. There are two additional manuscript rate markings: 1 shilling in red indicating, I believe, the cost of the postage, and 6 pence in blue indicating, I believe, the additional charge for a Ship's Letter. The letter is in nice shape.



The *Great Western* was the first steamship specifically built for crossing the Atlantic and the first vessel of the Great Western Steamship Company. The *Great Western* was the largest passenger ship in the world until 1839 and the model for all later successful wooden Atlantic paddle-steamers. Its first trans-Atlantic voyage began on 8 April 1838 after a delay due to an engine-room fire. An attractive b/w print (8" x 4") of Walter's famous aquatint of the *Great Western* departing Bristol on her maiden voyage accompanies the letter. (See Wikipedia.)

\$200 [Read'Em Again Books #9129](#)

45. [MEDICINE] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN] Affectionate friendship letter from a rural New York woman to a dear childhood friend in eastern Massachusetts whom she has not seen in 25 years describing her family's health woes. From Sarah M. Menton to Harriet Reynolds. Kinderhook, New York to Boxford, Massachusetts, 1839.

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 15" x 10" unfolded. It bears a scarce 31mm red circular Kinderhook post mark dated March 2 and a manuscript "18%" postage rate showing the cost to send a letter between 150 and 400 miles. In nice shape with a 4" split to one mailing fold. A transcript is included.



In this letter Menton reconnects with a childhood friend. There is considerable detail about old times and their close childhood relationship ("I have often in my sleeping hours visited . . . to spend the night with you which you recollect was often the case.") More interestingly, she describes the medical misfortunes that have struck her family of twelve.

"My husband has been very much troubled with the rheumatism. . . My children were attacked with St. Vitus dance [and] two are still afflicted. One of them (a little girl 5 years old) has it very bad. The other (a boy of 14) has it slightly. No doubt it appears strange & you to hear me speak of so many children, but I have had 10!! . . . I lost two in infancy. . . The eldest son is 16. He is troubled with the rheumatism [too]."

Rheumatism was a generic term used to describe a wide variety of joint issues to include those stemming from infections, arthritis, gout, etc. St. Vitus Dance, now known as Sydenham's chorea, was a disorder characterized by rapid, uncoordinated jerking movements primarily affecting the face, hands, and feet. It is now associated with Streptococcus infections and rheumatic fever, so perhaps the ailments of her children and husband were all related. (See Wikipedia.)

An interesting letter that is at once both hopeful and melancholy.

\$125 [Read'Em Again Books #9135](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

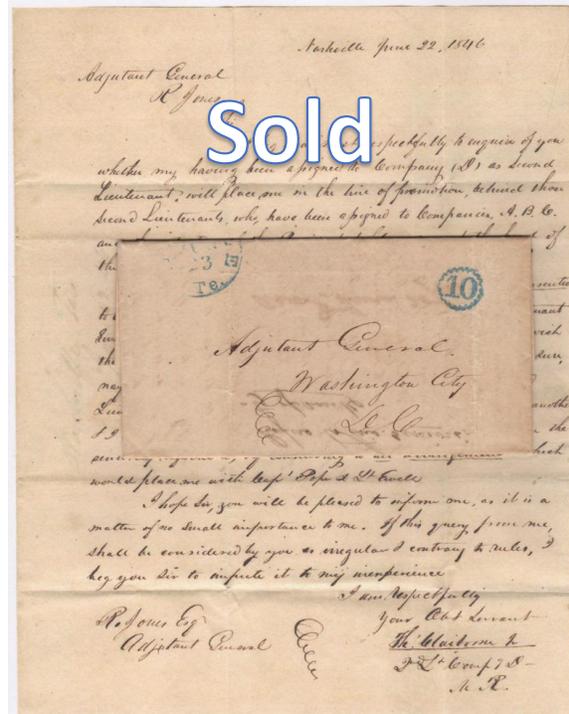
46. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Mexican-American War letter from a newly minted officer in Tennessee questioning the Adjutant General of the Army regarding what he believed was an injustice regarding his place in the seniority list. From 2nd Lieutenant Thomas Claiborne to Adjutant General R. Jones. Nashville, Tennessee: 1846.

This one-page folded letter from 2nd Lt. Claiborne to R. Jones, the Adjutant General of the Army, measures 15" to 9.75" unfolded. It bears a circular Nashville, Te. Postmark dated June 23 with an accompanying scalloped circle paid "10" handstamp in the upper right corner; both in blue. The letter is in nice shape.

In the letter, Claiborne rather impertinently demands to know if he has been placed at the head of his Regiment's promotion list as was "the intention of the President." He then expresses his fear that he had lost seniority over other regimental second lieutenants in Companies A, B, and C by accepting an assignment to Company D where he served with Captain Pope and Lieutenant Ewell even though it was "the Presidents wish that we three should be in one company."

The Pope and Ewell mentioned in the letter would, of course, become rather infamous generals during the Civil War: Pope, a Union general, for the defeat at the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) and Ewell, a Confederate general, for his timidity that was a major factor in Lee's defeat at Gettysburg.

Although it is unclear where Claiborne, a native of Tennessee, was finally placed on the promotion list, he truly did receive a direct appointment as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Mounted Rifles from President Polk, and he went on to serve with distinction in the Mexican-American War as a company commander in the attack on Cerro Gordo and as the Regimental Adjutant at Humantla where he directed the American artillery. Claiborne continued his service in New Mexico until the outbreak of the Civil War when he resigned his commission and offered his service to the Confederacy. During the war he rose from the rank of Captain to Colonel while serving under in the commands of Generals Joseph E. Johnston, Albert Sidney Johnston, P. T. G. Beauregard, S. B. Buckner, and E. Kirby Smith. Following the war, Claiborne took up farming not far from Nashville.



SOLD

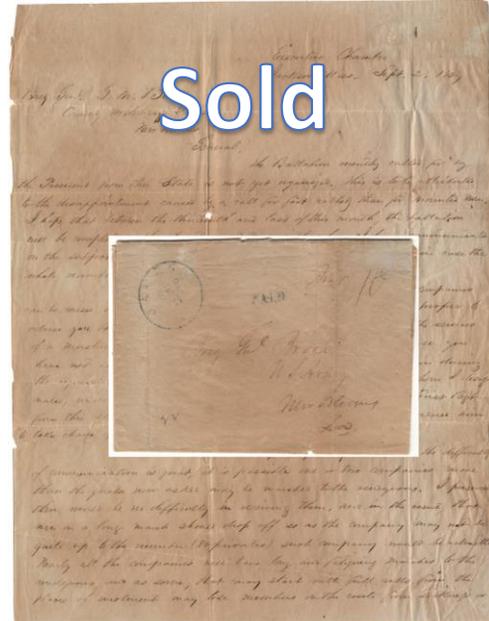
Read'Em Again Books #9118

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

47. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Mexican-American War letter from the Governor of Mississippi to the Commander of the Western Division of the United States Army explaining that a unit President Polk had directed the state raise would be delayed as martial interest had plummeted when recruits found that they would serve as regular infantrymen rather than mounted on horseback. Albert Gallatin Brown to Brigadier General George M. Brooke. Jackson, Mississippi to New Orleans, Louisiana. 1847.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures approximately 18¼" x 11¼" unfolded. It was sent by Mississippi Governor Albert Gallatin Brown to the Commander of the Western Division of the United States Army, Brigadier General John M. Duffield. Dated "Sept. 2, 1847" and bearing a blue circular Jackson postmark dated "Sep 3" with a blue straight-line "PAID" handstamp. A manuscript "10" is in the upper right-hand corner indicating the cost of postage. A manuscript "Prvt" annotation is also in the upper right corner. Docketing indicates Brooke received the letter on September 7th. In nice shape with expected light wear. Transcript included.

By the time Governor Brown received an order from President Polk to furnish a battalion of ten rifle companies to rendezvous in Vicksburg, the state had already sent two highly regarded regiments to Mexico that included two crack rifle regiments, one commanded by John A. Quitman and the other by Jefferson Davis, the future president of the Confederacy. As noted in Rowland's *Military History of Mississippi 1803 – 1898*, this third request was met with apathy which the Vicksburg *Sentinel* attributed to "the dictatorial and capricious, almost contemptuous, course which the Secretary of War has pursued towards our State in refusing the wishes of our people. The great wish of Mississippi has been to furnish a mounted force for the war."



This letter by Brown attests to accuracy of the *Sentinel's* reporting

The Battalion recently called for by the President from this State is not yet organized. This is to be attributed to the disappointment caused by a call for foot rather than for mounted men. I hope that between the thirteenth and the last of this month, the battalion will be complete. . . . As some time may elapse before the companies can be raised and marched to the rendezvous, I have deemed it proper to advise you thereof and as I cannot tell when and how long the services of a mustering officer may be needed, I would suggest . . . Genl J. M. Duffield . . . whom I designated under authority from the Secretary, to muster in the First Reg't from this state to be charged by you with that duty. I have ordered him to take charge of the troops until received into service. As our country is sparsely settled and the difficulty of communication is great . . . nearly all the companies will have long and fatiguing marches to the rendezvous and as some, that may start with full rolls from the place of places of enrolment may lose numbers on the route from sickness [or] insufficient physical force to bear the fatigue. . . .

General Duffield once again proved to be an excellent recruiter as on November 25th, the *Sentinel* reported, "'Two companies of the battalion called for from this State left on the Old Hickory last evening. There were three completed and encamped here, and we learn that a fourth is now on the way from Pontotoc. This will leave but one company yet to be raised to complete the battalion. The companies which have been encamped here are made up generally of fine, intelligent looking men.'

General Brooke was promoted to Major General and later commanded the Army's Department Number Eight which controlled eastern Texas. He died in San Antonio in 1851.

Certainly a unique and important letter documenting not just Mississippi's contribution to the war effort nor simply the reliance upon militias by President Polk to pursue the war with Mexico, but one that also reflects the federal-state tensions such an arrangement created.

Sold Read'Em Again Books #9155

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

48. [MILITARY & WAR] Union soldier's Civil War letter on patriotic letter head informing his family in Illinois that he had been deployed to St. Joseph, Missouri where his unit would soon begin enforcing martial law. Sent by Erber Shelton. St. Louis and St. Joseph, Missouri: 1861.

This four-page letter from Private Erber Shelton of the 52nd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers to his family at home is dated "St. Loose Misoura / December the 13." Its accompanying envelope bears a 3ct rose Washington stamp (Scott #65) that has been cancelled with a target handstamp and a circular St. Joseph postmark dated Dec 14 1861. The letter and envelope are both in nice shape. Transcript included.

Not long after the South Carolina militia fired upon Fort Sumter, the United States flag was torn from the roof of the St. Joseph post office and destroyed by a secessionist mob. A small contingent of Union troops was soon sent to keep the town under Federal control and protect the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad as the city was an important transportation hub connecting east and west. After the town appeared to be secured and the Union contingent departed on another mission, Confederate militiamen, perhaps assisted by local sympathizers, raided the town stealing over 25 wagons of supplies and equipment. At this point a larger force of Union soldiers was deployed, and by the end of 1861, St. Joseph had been placed under martial law and remained so for the rest of the war.

Shelton's letter attests to the deployment of Union forces from St. Louis to St. Joseph via the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad to ensure the city remained under Federal Control. (See "St. Joseph, Missouri" at the Civil War on the Western Border website.)

"We started from St. Louis Just at night and got two St Charles at twelve Oclock then I was detailed two help about unloading . . . and it took two morning two get it Aboard of the Cars we had to cross the river in a ferry boat it was the Misoura river in the Morning we started from there for the Conductoer said that he did not like two run in the night on that road that night we got to Hanible and staid ther all night that night and the next morning we start for this plaice and got here about half past 1 o'clock that night we are in our tents now but expect two go into quarters in town pretty quick. Co B and Co C was called off last night about twelve oclock two guard a bridg about 20 miles from here that the Rebils tried to birn. . . . I saw twelve Rebils braut in here Prisoners and one Captain. . . ."

This is a nice first-hand account of a little known but important action that helped ensure Federal lines of communication to California, New Mexico, and the West remained secure.

\$300 [Read'Em Again Books #9131](#)



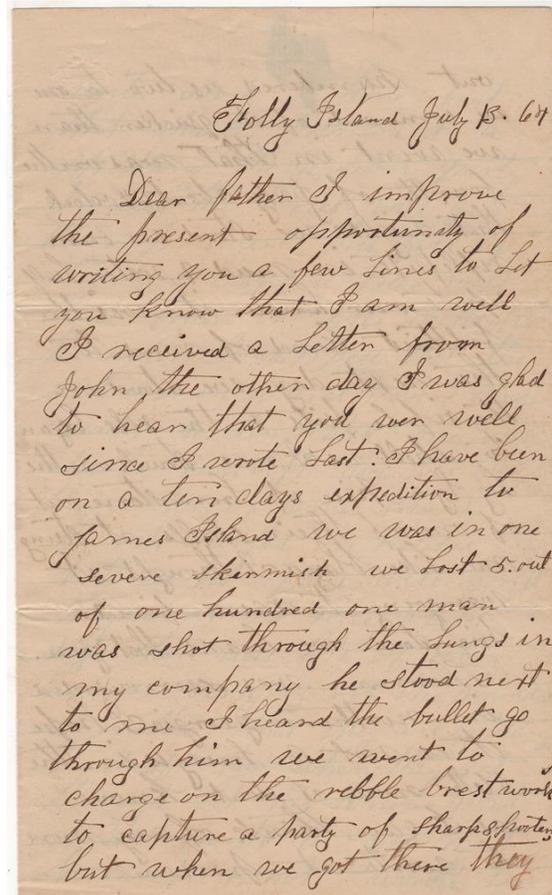
(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

49. [MILITARY & WAR] Union soldier's detailed Civil War letter describing combat during the Battle of Bloody Bridge outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Folly Island: 1864.

This four-page letter was sent by Private Atwell B. Leavenworth of the 57th New York Infantry to his father. It is dated "Folly Island July 13. 64". The letter is in nice shape with splits beginning at the ends of its mailing folds. Transcript included.

In it Leavenworth relates his personal experience in the unsuccessful Union attempt to dislodge the Confederate defenders of Charleston from their positions on James and Johns Islands that was subsequently known as the Battle of Bloody Bridge. The letter is in nice shape and reads, in part:

"I have been on a ten days expedition to James Island. . . one man was shot through the lungs in my company he stood next to me I heard the bullet go through him we went to charge the rebel breastworks to capture a party of sharpshooters but when we got there they outnumbered us two to one we come out of it quicker than we went in . . . that night we stood in our rifle pits in mud and water half way up to our knees it was the filthiest kind of mud to the next day we stood in the rifle pits & the rebels began to shell us I was struck on the Leg by a piece of brimstone out of one of their shells it stung me like blazes I thought it was going to rain fire and brimstone . . . the 56th was in several engagements. under Hatch one was close to our Left . . . the rebels charged on hatches batteries but paid well for it they went off like whipt dogs there was lots of rebel women carrying off the wounded."



Leavenworth also briefly discusses "Charley" Fremont's split from the Republican Party, the draft law, Sherman's march in Georgia, and the 55th Massachusetts, "a colored regt [with] the best band I ever heard. . ."

Leavenworth's military records show that he died at his regimental hospital on Folly Island later that fall from disease and "improper use of vinegar," perhaps the result of an infection from his shrapnel wound while fighting in the muddy rifle pit.

In addition to the 55th Massachusetts, other regiments of U.S. Colored Troops participated in the Battle of Bloody Ridge, and the 26th New York Colored Troops was given the honor of leading the assault on July 7th. Although their attack was initially aggressive, when the unit began to take fire "they stopped still. Their lines begin to break and they ran in retreat. . . The Confederates won the day." The artillery fire that injured Leavenworth probably occurred during a Confederate bombardment on July 8th. After minor skirmishing on the 9th, the Union force withdrew to its stronghold on Folly Island. (See *The Battle of Bloody Bridge* at battleofchas.com.)

\$500

[Read'Em Again Books #9143](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

50. [MILITARY & WAR] Three letters from a young 2nd Lieutenant assigned to the 7th Infantry Regiment during the Mexican Border campaign. From Charles M. Parkin to his wife. Ft. Bliss (El Paso), Texas: 1916.

These three letters are written on illustrated stationery from El Paso's Hotel Paso del Norte and dated between July 15 and August 9, 1916. Each is enclosed in a matching envelope franked with a red 2-cent Washington coil stamp (Scott #455) and postmarked with a circular "Fort Bliss Tex." Handstamp. A newspaper clipping about sending candy, tobacco, etc. to Regular Army soldiers on service on the border accompanies one letter; it is annotated in ink, "7th INF. U S Army". The letters are in nice shape; the envelopes have some postal and opening wear. Transcripts of the letters are included.

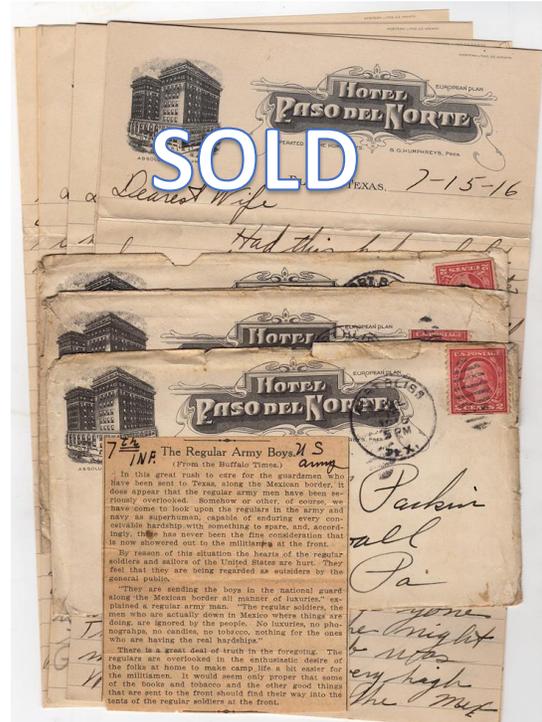
Parkin was a recently commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 18th Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard which had recently arrived at Fort Bliss when he was assigned to temporary duty with the 7th Infantry, a Regular Army regiment. In his letters home Parkin's enthusiasm for army service, especially service with in the Regular Army as opposed to the National Guard, is readily apparent, and he sings its praises to his wife recounting how the wives of the 7th's officers love Army life. He also proudly reports of leading a patrol in an effort to capture a Mexican who had been signaling across the Rio Grande. They read in part:

"I had the first detail of men that went out under loaded arms. We were sent to get a Mexican that was signaling across the border from Mt Franklin back of our camp. We followed up the Rio Grande and got in the rear so Mt Franklin was between us & Camp. We then climbed it & came down the other side towards the Camp. We were gone all day & most of the night. The mountain climb was most strenuous & very high We did not get the Mex Found his dobe hut but he had beat it. . . . The mountain is as dry as a bone big rock and cactus growing between, Not a drop of water & very dusty. . . . I have not heard from you as to what you think of Army life. There are some fine families here. . . . This regiment is an old and honorable unit. Its home is Leavenworth Kansas and they have fine quarters & Post there. I don't know how I stand in this regiment other than I am still a member of the 18th but acting here. Now if I want to stay I hear I will have an exam to take & then after that time I will have a permanent commission. The army needs officers badly. If I would get in now as a ranking 2nd Lieut I would be a captain in 1919. What do you think. The ladies here like the life. "

Parkin was right on the money when he noted that he was serving with an "old and honorable unit." The 7th Infantry has served in more campaigns than any other infantry unit in the army. It has fought in 12 wars, been awarded 78 campaign streamers, and received 14 unit decorations. Its role in the Mexican Border Campaign, however, was limited. It did not go into Mexico with General Pershing chasing Pancho Villa during the Punitive Expedition, rather it remained in reserve at Fort Bliss, defending El Paso. See "7th Infantry (Cottonbalers)" at the U.S. Army Center for Military History website and Harris and Sadler's *Bastion on the Border: Fort Bliss, 1854-1943*.

Parkin did decide to stay in the Army. He became a Regular Army Officer in 1917, and was wounded in World War One during the Meuse-Argonne Campaign while serving with the 55th Infantry Regiment. He later commanded the 135th Infantry Regiment, and during World War II, he received the Soldiers Medal in Algeria for risking his life while personally leading a rescue effort that tunneled under the ruins of a hospital to save the lives of a number of French Senegalese soldiers who had been trapped in the rubble after being bombed by German aircraft.

A nice first-hand account of life at Fort Bliss during the Mexican Border Campaign that includes a description of a young officer's first armed patrol.



SOLD **Read'Em Again Books #9168**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

51. [MILITARY & WAR] [MOTORCYCLES] Photograph album documenting the organization of the first 'regular' U.S. Army motorcycle companies, "Uncle Sam's Hurdlers of Death," which includes one image of African-American Buffalo Soldiers who were awaiting trial for the Houston Race Riot of 1917. Ray W. Charlton. Texas, New Jersey, Italy, and France: 1917-1918.

This 11" x 9" album is filled with 89 photographs. 13 of the photos measure approximately 9.5" x 7.5"; most of the remainder measure 3" x 5". There are also five newspaper clippings. The photographs are affixed to the pages by both glue and mounts. Most are captioned. All but two of the large photographs appear to be aerial views of the area around Ft. Sam Houston and San Antonio; they are worn and have vertical creases from album storage; one is missing a half-inch vertical strip along one side. Two of the large photos show seated groups of officers. The smaller photos are all in nice shape. The newspaper clippings are badly worn with considerable insect predation. Severe insect predation has also damaged the rear cover and last few album leaves.



Although a 'provisional' motorcycle company was part of the U.S. Army contingent deployed in 1916 to protect the southern border from Mexican insurgents, it was not until the following year when the U.S. entered World War I that three 'regular' units were organized as part of the Ft. Sam Houston Motor Truck Unit. They were initially identified as Motor Cycle Companies #1, #2, and #3, but later renumbered. The army had already determined to form a number of similar companies for dispatch duties and purchased thousands of motorcycles (equal numbers of Harleys and Indians) and was recruiting cyclists by running advertisements in magazines. (See *Motorcycle and Bicycle World*, July 26, 1917, etc.)

The units received considerable local coverage in the *San Antonio Light* and *San Antonio Examiner*, and the stories were run nationally as well. (See newspapers.com.) The articles christened the riders "Hurdlers of Death" and likened them to "rough riders [with the] grit and nerve to open the throttle wide, dash for the trench or some obstruction and get by with a whole skin and no broken bones . . . All of them have been trained to pick up objects from the ground or take anything handed without stopping and can speed up to seventy or seventy-eight miles an hour. Some . . . have made splendid records . . . Private Kitsos makes a jump of six feet in the air on his motorcycle. . . . Private Crane holds the second place for world's record of broad jump . . . 14 feet.



Captain Ray W. Charlton was the Group Adjutant when he began compiling this album and later became the commander of one of the renumbered units, Motor Cycle Company 303. Among his many photos of camp life, truck convoys, and bivouacs, are 16 that show the cyclists, including Private Crane, in group formations and training as well as in individual contests.

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

One photo, showing marching soldiers, is captioned “Negro rioters taking exercise on 3rd Cavalry Parade under guard of the 19th Infantry during their trial at Fort Sam Houston, Nov, 1917.” In one of the most ignominious events in the history of the U.S. Army, 156 soldiers from the 24th Infantry Regiment, who had had more than their fill of hostility, discrimination, and harassment by the citizens and police of Houston, went on a murderous rampage killing 17 people during one night: nine civilians, five police officers, and three black soldiers from their own regiment. (For the most detailed, unbiased, and straightforward account of the event, see Haynes’s “The Houston Mutiny and Riot of 1917” in *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* Vol. 76, No. 4, Apr, 1973.)



Two of Charlton’s photographs also show the motorcycle company at Camp Merritt, New Jersey awaiting transport to Europe. It’s unclear where in Europe the unit was located, but at least one motorcycle company served with the Italian Army (See Smucker’s *History of the U.S. Army Ambulance Service*) and several pictures immediately following the Camp Merritt photos show officers and enlisted men in Italian uniforms participating in an awards ceremony; they have handstamps on the reverse that read, “Italian Bureau of Public Information In the U.S.A.”



Charlton eventually was assigned to the General Staff in France where he met and married Cora Keesecker, a pediatric nurse, who had volunteered to serve with the Army’s Base Hospital #47, which initially organized at San Francisco Hospital and trained at Camp Fremont, California. About 25 photos show the couple out-and-about in France. In many they are accompanied by children, presumably Cora’s current or former French patients. Several include a young boy wearing a miniature U.S. Army officer’s uniform.

This is a unique historical record with exceptionally scarce photographs of three significant aspects of the U.S. Army’s participation in World War One: the organization and deployment of the first motorcycle companies, the in-theater marriage between an army officer and an army nurse, and the imprisonment of African-American soldiers who rioted in Houston. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no other similar items have been sold at auction per ABPC or the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows no similar items held by any institution.

SOLD **Read’Em Again Books #9178**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

52. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [SIBERIAN INTERVENTION] Letter from a U.S. Army officer serving in Siberia during the Allied Intervention following World War I notifying a friend that he had been shot in the head. Lieutenant Sylvian Kendall. Spasskoe, Siberia: 1919.

This letter, written on YMCA-provided stationery, is dated "Spasskoe, Siberia / June 30, 1919" and signed by 2nd Lieutenant Sylvian Kendall. Its envelope is postmarked on July 10 with a small steel #1 handstamp that was only used in Vladivostok. Kendall self-censored his letter and a type C-2 censor's stamp is applied to the envelope's lower left corner. Both the letter and envelope are in nice shape.

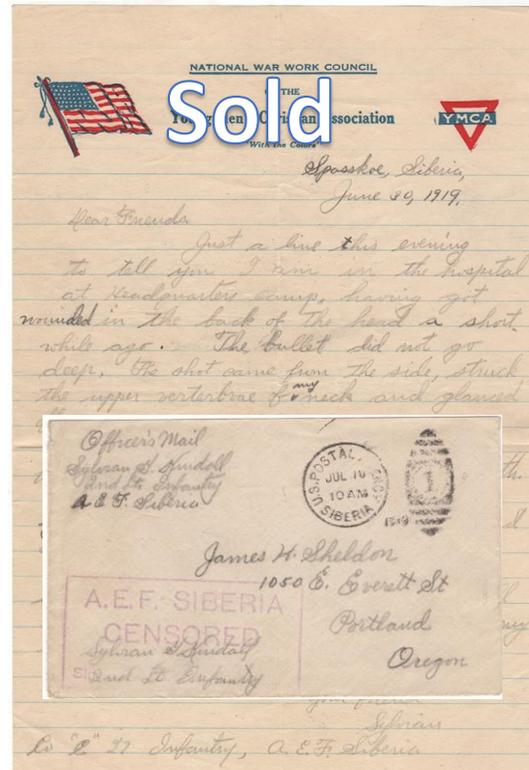
In this letter addressed to a friend living in Portland Oregon, Kendall reports:

"Just a line this evening to tell you I am in the hospital at Headquarters camp having got wounded in the back of . . . the head a short while ago. The bullet did not go deep. The shot came from the side, struck the upper vertebrae of my neck and glanced off. . . . I don't know how long I will be laid up. I am anxious to get well and get back into the field with my company."

Kendall was almost certainly wounded during the Battle of Romanovka. In May, 1919, after the Red Army unit operating the Suchan Valley instigated a miner's strike severely reducing coal production needed by the Trans-Siberian Railroad, a small detachment of U.S. soldiers from the 31st Infantry Regiment was dispatched with orders to remain neutral and restore stability without interfering between the Bolshevik-inspired miners and the White Russian mine administration. Rather than alleviate the tension, the deployment only angered everyone. The anti-Bolsheviks accused the Americans of harboring Communist sympathies, and the Bolshevik leader Yakov Triapitsyn, who had organized and inspired the miners, pledged to kill every American soldier in Suchan if they did not abandon the valley. In response to Triapitsyn's threat, the American detachment began forcefully removing Bolshevik miners, and after the communist unit quickly abandoned the area, coal production resumed. However, Triapitsyn did not forget his pledge to murder American soldiers. During the changing of sentries at 4 a.m. on 25 June, a Bolshevik force, estimated to number perhaps as many as 1400 men, attacked a 72-man detachment of Americans that had been camped near the base of a hill near Romanovka. Firing into the tents of sleeping Americans, the Bolsheviks killed about 25 soldiers in their sleep and wounded many others including the detachment's leader, Lieutenant Butler, who somehow managed to form his remaining men into a defensive position that held the Russians at bay. Facing near certain annihilation, two corporals volunteered to brave the no-man's land between the lines and attempt to contact nearby American units for help. Although one of the messengers was badly wounded, he flagged down a supply train guarded by an American platoon. Some of those soldiers were immediately sent to Romanovka and a relief force, dispatched from headquarters, attacked the Bolsheviks, driving them out the region. Kendall was a member of the relief force and later recalled in his 1945 history, *American Soldiers in Siberia*, that

"The ground was strewn with blood-soaked bodies of American soldiers. Splintered bones and flesh torn with ghastly holes told plainly that dum-dum bullets had been used. Half the men were dead; others were dying or were too injured to rise from the ground. Only a few of those engaged had come through the slaughter without a wound of some kind."

Accounts of soldiers wounded in Siberia are exceptionally scarce. This one written by a wounded member of the Romanovka relief force and future author of a history of the intervention is especially noteworthy.



SOLD Read'Em Again Books #9108

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

53. [MILITARY & WAR] [PROPAGANDA] Collection of 20 different World War II propaganda leaflets distributed by either airdrop or artillery fire. Primarily U.S., but some British and one German: 1940-1945.

These 20 different leaflets range in size from 4.5" x 7.5" to 8.5" x 12". One is a four-page pamphlet. Most are printed in black and white; several are printed in red, black and white or red, black, white, and blue. All but one were produced by the Allies and distributed by airplane or artillery over German lines or in German cities. One is a translated (into German) reference copy of a leaflet distributed to Russians during the German invasion. All are complete but many have significant wear including large chips and marginal paper loss. A detailed identification list will be included.

All but two have been identified by the offices that prepared them, when they were distributed, and their method of delivery. (See the "PsyWar Leaflet Archive" at psywar.org.) Although a few of the leaflets in the collection show up at auction with some regularity, many are much scarcer. The leaflets include:

- Roosevelt speaks . . . America Demands (January 1941)
- Now it's the American Flying Fortress (November 1943)
- Catastrophe on the Dnieper (November 1943)
- In America every five minutes a new plane! (December 1943 – January 1944)
- Stalingrad . . . Ten German Divisions Uselessly Sacrificed (March 1944)
- Two words save you 850,000 lives . . . I surrender (February – March 1945)

The translation of the German leaflet distributed in Russia is titled, "Call! To all citizens of the Soviet Union to all decent commanders and soldiers of the Red Army!" It is filled with anti-Semitic and anti-Communist rhetoric and encourages Russian workers and soldiers to revolt against their government. An English translation is included.

\$400

[Read'Em Again Books #9165](#)



(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

54. [MILITARY & WAR] [MISOGYNY] [WOMEN] World War II letter from a foul-mouthed, misogynist who hated serving in the Marine Corps. P.F.C. John A Bonaparte to Joseph F. Bonaparte S 2/C. M.C.A.S. Goleta California to Armed Gd School, Gulfport, Mississippi, 1944.

This two page letter is written on U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara stationery is dated "Jan. 25 - 44." It is enclosed in a free-franked, Marine Corps envelope and postmarked at Goleta, California on January 26, 1944. It was originally addressed to the naval station at Great Lakes, Illinois but forwarded to the Naval Advance Base Depot in Gulfport, Mississippi; directory assistance handstamps from both installations have been applied to the envelope. The letter and envelope are in nice shape. A transcript is included.

In this letter, probably to a brother, John Bonaparte vents his disgust with the Marine Corps, especially relating to broken promises of training, preferential treatment of younger marines ("kids between the ages of 17-25"), and rapid promotions for females. It reads in part:

"Can't say that much for the Marine Corps. I think the Corps has forgotten about me. All those promises that the fucking sgt. gave me in Milw. Is full of that well know brown-stuff. In plain English Shit. Giving me a line about sending me to . . . Navy Pier Machinist School. . . . All the boys in Sta. Hqdr. Sqd. feel like I do. . . . Aviation overseas is suppose to be a good deal. . . . the only way I can work myself into . . . more cash. I believe that's what we are all looking forward to. What a fuck-up Marine Corps getting no place fast. . . . The more I think of the dirty dealings we older ass-holes are getting, the more I think of going over the hill. . . . About 25 of us older bums were put into Officers Mess. . . . The work is like being a slave. I thought Abe Lincoln freed the slaves. . . . The cooks & bakers are "Bams" female marines. Most of them are Cpl. & Sgt., only three months out of boot camp. Bosses as all hell. I think most of them need a good piece of ass. Maybe they wouldn't be so tough then. Right now there are 200 "Bams" at the air station that is one reason we have to sleep in tents." (BAM is a derogatory marine acronym; it stands for Broad Assed Marines.)

Bonaparte and his "boys" at Marine Air Station Santa Barbara seem to give lie to the "few good men" propaganda, and the content of this letter makes one wonder how common such sentiments were among the Marine Corps at large.

\$100 [Read'Em Again Books #9170](#)

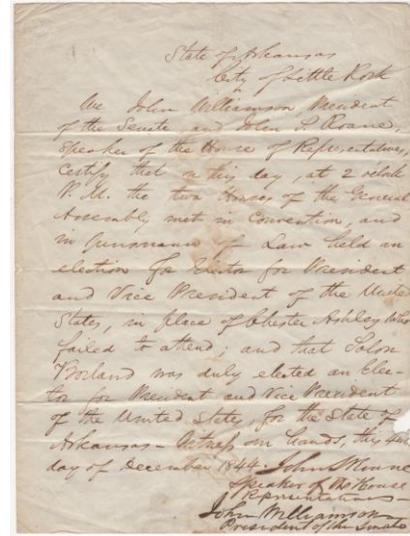


(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

55. [POLITICS] Presidential Elector's personal copy of his appointment as such for the election of 1844 for the State of Arkansas. Signed by John S. Roane and John Williamson. Little Rock: 1844.

This document certifies that the Arkansas legislature appointed Solon Borland as 1844 Presidential Elector in the contest between Henry Clay and James Polk. It is docketed, "S. Borland's certificate of election as Presidential Elector, by the Genl Assembly of Arks Dec 4th, 1844. Signed Jno S. Roane Spr Ho. Reps / Jno Wlmin Prest. Senate." In nice shape.

Following the Mexican-American War, Borland became one of the most unpopular members of the Senate, as well an unpopular figure at home in Arkansas. In a debate about Southern rights he physically attacked Mississippi Senator Henry Foote, and he opposed sending Commodore Perry to Japan. He later served as an equally unpopular Minister to Nicaragua where he publically wished to see the country "forming a bright star in the flag of the United States." After being reprimanded, he interfered with the arrest of an American citizen and created an international incident that ultimately led to the shelling of Greytown by an U.S. gunboat. Soon after, he was returned to Little Rock. (See Wikipedia.)



John Selden Roane was a lawyer, planter, soldier, and governor of Arkansas. He is best known for his service in the Mexican war when his unit, the First Arkansas Mounted Rifles performed badly at the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican-American War, which subsequently led to a duel between Roane and another officer in which neither man was hurt. John Williamson served as an Arkansas state senator for 18 years and as the Acting Governor of the state in 1844. (See Wikipedia.)

\$200 [Read'Em Again Books #9130](#)

56. [POLITICS] [RECONSTRUCTION] Letter from a Georgia sugar-cane planter bemoaning the outcome of the 1888 presidential election which he was certain would result in "niggers in all places." D D Gunn to Mrs Luke. La Villa, Houston County, Georgia: 1888

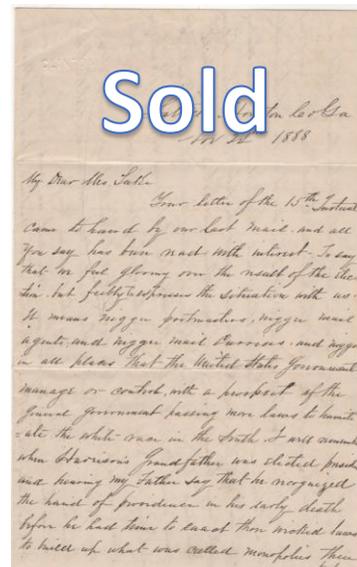
This four-page letter sent by a Georgia sugar-cane planter is in nice shape. Transcript included. In it Gunn, bemoans the election of the Republican Benjamin Harrison as President over the incumbent, Grover Cleveland, noting

"To say that I'm feeling gloomy over the result of the Election, but feebly expresses the situation with us. It means nigger postmasters, nigger mail agents, and nigger mail carriers, and niggers in all places that the United States Government manage or control with a prospect of the general government passing more laws to humiliate the white-man in the South. I well remember when Harrison's Grandfather was elected president and hearing my Father say . . . that they would have to pick their flints and try them again. We'll try the Rads again in 1892, the Lord be willing."

Gunn also relates family news including the educational progress of his daughter and of his sugar-cane and cotton farm.

Although the primary campaign issues during the Presidential Election of 1888 centered on tariffs, Harrison's vocal support for African-American voting rights also had an impact in the South.

An interesting letter that captures the political feelings of the South in the latter days of Reconstruction.



Sold [Read'Em Again Books #9142](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

57. [SLAVERY & INDENTURED SERVITUDE] Group of 13 indentures binding poor children to masters who were citizens of Reading, Massachusetts. Reading, Massachusetts: 1769 – 1813.

Each of these two-page indentures measures approximately 8" x 13". All were prepared under the authority of "Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Reading," and all have official rhomboid seals attached. One indenture is dated 1769, one 1770, one 1786, one 1804, one 1805, three 1806, one 1811, one 1812, and three 1813.

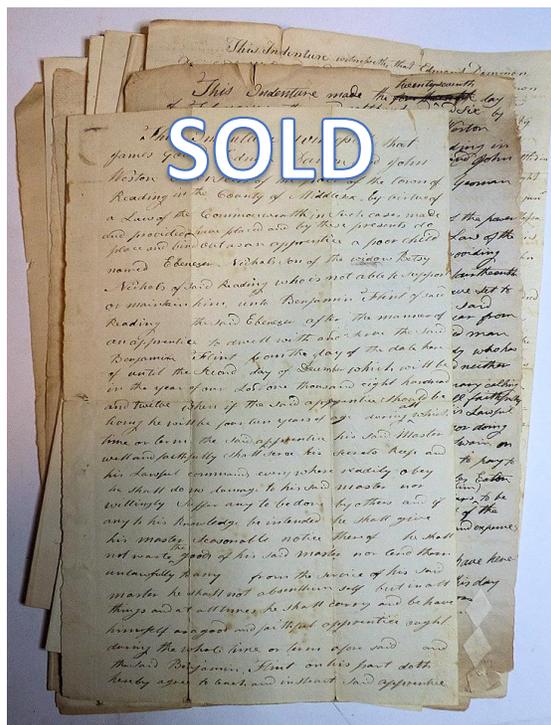
Despite protestations by Snopes.com and other "fact checkers," indentured servitude was a form of slavery, and it is today so recognized by the Article 4 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* adopted by the United Nations in 1948 and Article 1(a) of the United Nations 1956 *Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery*.

David Galensen in *Rise and Fall of Indentured Servitude in the Americas* determined that between one-half and two-thirds of the early European immigrants to British North America were brought here to become indentured servants. In exchange a remission of debts or for the cost of passage, they agreed to be sold to masters upon arrival for a period of mandatory service; children until they reached the age of 24 and most adults for a period of three years. Many, like the debtors, were brought against their will; some were kidnapped. Once here, their lives (unless they possessed some valuable skill) were especially harsh, and Garret-Hatfield in "How Were Indentured Servants Treated by the English?" estimates that 40% died before their indenture was completed. Punishment for disobedience was at the discretion of masters and could be violent. The indentures in this lot, however, are somewhat different than those of immigrants.

In Colonial America and the early United States, if children did not receive adequate parental care, "overseers of the poor" were empowered to seize them for indenture to local masters until they reached adulthood. In return, the masters were required to treat them as apprentices and teach them a trade so they could eventually support themselves. (See Mason's *Masters and Servants: The American Colonial Model of Child Custody and Control*.) While these apprentices were required to obey their masters' commands, not damage his masters property or allow others to do so, not to unlawfully lend his masters property, not to be absent from work, refrain from playing "cards or dice or any other illegal games, etc. Masters, in addition to teaching a trade, were required to provide room and board (although not necessarily equal to that of family members), clothing (usually two set per year, "one for Lord days and the other suitable for working days." (See Wikipedia.)

With one exception, the children named in these indentures were either orphans or came from parents too poor to provide for their support in the opinion of the overseers. The exception was a young "married man upwards of twenty years of age able of Body who had no visible means of support, lives idly and neither uses or exercises any lawful trade or ordinary calling."

All but two of these indentures required the masters to treat their indentured servants as apprentices and "induct them into a mystery" of a trade. The trades referenced in these documents include cordswain (shoemaker), farmer, cooper, taylor (tailor), husbandman, and in the case of the one indentured girl, needle spinning. One of the indentures required the master to teach his servant "to read and write . . . if capable to learn."



SOLD **Read'Em Again Books #9169**

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

58. [WOMEN] Small archive of family letters and photographs kept by a Stockbridge, Massachusetts woman. Assembled by Mrs. John Kimball. Various locations: 1845 – 1871.

This family record contains five letters, five cdv photographs, and three manuscript stories and poems. All are in nice shape.

The first letter is a “love-letter” that was sent to Mrs. Kimball in Brooklyn from her husband in Boston. From the content it would appear Mrs. Kimble was waiting to rejoin her husband who was completing arrangements to move the family’s possessions to a new home, “I think we will let all our furniture & boxes remain at the cottage ‘till just before 1st May. I presume you will get everything in readiness before you leave. . . . I hope however that you will come on this week.” It’s easy to see why Mrs. Kimball saved this letter expressing her husband’s love:

“I am going to say . . . as much as I can in a few words about my hearts longing desire to see you, & press you to my bosom. I love to think of the fair one who captured my heart. . . . How happy I am in knowing I have [you] for my wife who was the delight of my earliest vision, & was the only one that I ever wanted to be by my own. . . . Amor, I do love you & you do me. . . . I lay thinking of you an hour ‘till I fall asleep only to miss you from my side when I awake. . . .”

The second is also from her husband, sent while on a business trip in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1853. In it he notes that he is in “the garden land of the West & I am really . . . charmed with the beauty of the landscape. . . . Here we could have lands & houses & farms & cattle & stock of living things almost innumerable for what at the East would be a trifle.” He relates that since weather prevented him from taking a lake steamer from Chicago, he took “the stage . . . a long & hard & disagreeable journey [and] I shall not be able to reach home for 5 or six weeks. . . .” After describing a variety of upcoming rail and stage trips he must take to continue his trip, he closes with sentiments as lovingly expressed as in the first saved letter.

The third letter from Mr. Kimball’s brother humorously describes in detail his new Stockbridge home “which is neither so spacious nor so airy as a gentleman of my . . . importance would desire [and which] is near a schoolhouse [that] favors with a pretty series of serenades from urchins, by day, . . . & by a nice little company of cats, by night. . . .” He follows with a long description of a newly established academy where he apparently taught school.

The fourth letter from 1857 is a copy of a missive Mrs. Kimball sent to her son in 1857 after he had married and moved, apparently to Iowa, and the fifth is her copy of another that she sent to a granddaughter in 1871 to reassure her of her father’s love and calm her anxiety with regard to attending a boarding school.

Three of the cdv photographs (two of Mrs. Kimball and one of Mr. Kimball) were taken by Boston photographers. A cdv photograph of the couple’s son, John, Jr., was taken by a photographer in Charles City, Iowa, and a cdv photograph of Josephine Kimball (probably a granddaughter) was taken in Woburn, Massachusetts.

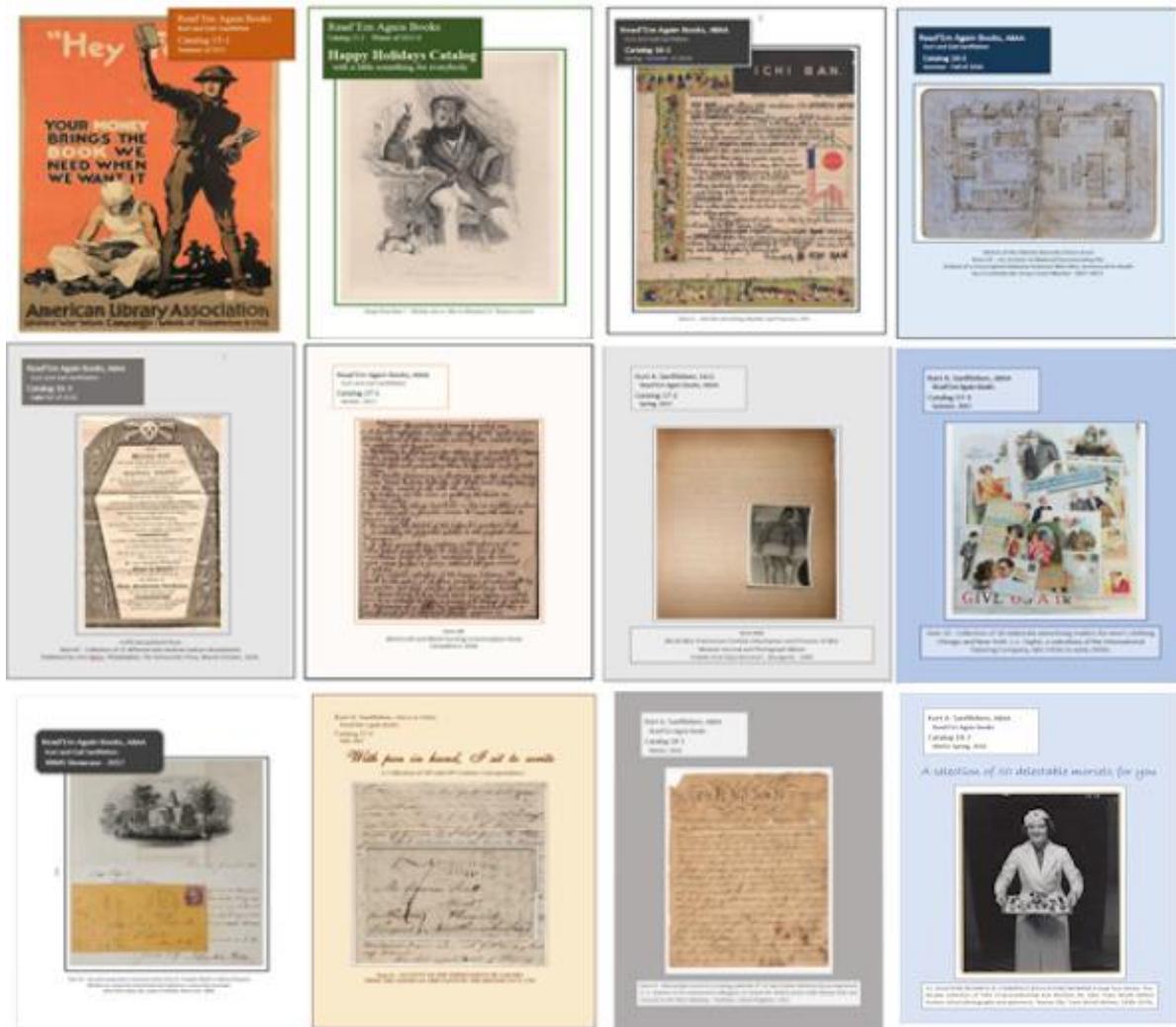
Also included are undated manuscript copies of two poems (“I have thy love – I know no fear” by Edward Lytton Bulwer and “The Last Night in the House” by O. W. Firleins) and one untitled “Story” by Phinehas Adams.



\$175 [Read'Em Again Books #9173](#)

(To place an order or to see enlarged or additional images, please click on the inventory number or first image in each listing.)

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



We hope you'll be able to visit us at one of these remaining 2018 shows:

Georgia Antiquarian Book Fair at Decatur, Georgia – 1-2 September

Brooklyn Antiquarian Book Fair at Brooklyn, New York – 8-9 September

Washington Antiquarian Book Fair at Rosslyn, Virginia – 28-29 September

Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, Massachusetts – 16-18 November