Item #4 - [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [SLAVERY] “Slave Bible” with African-American birth and death records from the James P. Wilson family’s Levensworth plantation. Darlington County, South Carolina: 1829-1890.

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

____________________

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1. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [PHILATELY] [PRINTING & PUBLISHING]
The pinnacle of postal advertising: three end-of-the-19th Century Seabury & Johnson “all-over,”

Three all-over chromolithographic Seabury & Johnson advertising covers, all are franked with 2-
cent Washington stamps (Scott #279B) tied by New York machine cancellations dated between 1898
and 1901. Faint illustrations of the S&J factory are in the address field of each envelope. All three are
in excellent shape and worthy of a featured place in a competitive philatelic exhibit.

One cover, printed in nine colors, has a yellow background and features the S&J lady trademark in a red cross logo and labels for Benson’s Plaster. An illustration of a Benson Plaster is on the reverse.

One cover, printed in ten colors, has a dark green background and features the S&J lady trademark in a red cross in a yellow circle surrounded by gold medals. The reverse features two men and one woman using Benson’s Plaster for relief from colds and pain.

One cover, printed in twelve colors, has a grey background and features a youth lifting a radiant crown labeled Seabury & Johnson next to an illustration of the Seabury Building in New York. The reverse features two Benson Plaster labels and the S&J lady trademark.

George “Seabury was the president of Seabury & Johnson with offices in the Seabury Building on
Maiden Lane in New York City. He founded the firm which manufactured ‘antiseptics, medical and surgical supplies’ in 1873 with Robert Wood Johnson. Their partnership was a rocky one with the two men having contrasting opinions for the direction of the firm. So tense was their coexistence that in 1885 Seabury was deliberately absent from the annual stockholder’s meeting. It all came to a head on July 18 that year when Johnson resigned, selling his half-interest to Seabury, who continued using the long-established name of Seabury & Johnson.” (See “The George J. Seabury House” online at Daytonian in Manhattan.) Although Johnson agreed to refrain from marketing competing products for ten years, his two brothers founded Johnson & Johnson the following year in 1886 and were eventually joined by Robert who then led the company to leadership in the medical supply field.

The American Illustrated Cover Catalog notes that Seabury & Johnson envelopes are “the PREMIER illustrated covers of the medical area” and that George Seabury may have created the designs himself. Of the seven different illustrated envelopes used by the company, these three ornate covers (AICC M188, M189, and M191) are the most sought after by collectors.

$2,250 for the lot of three       Read’Em Again Books #9272
2. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [PHILATELY] [PRINTING & PUBLISHING] [TOBACCO] “All-over,” multicolor illustrated advertising envelope for Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company. St. Louis, Missouri: Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, 1898.

This “all-over” multicolor Ligget & Myers Tobacco Company cover is franked with a 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #220) tied by a St. Louis machine cancel dated 1893. The cover features a colorful fantasy illustration of a boy fishing in a river alongside a block of five gigantic plugs of Star chewing tobacco.

The company’s return address is printed in the form of a sign posted along the riverbank. It is in excellent shape and worthy of a feature place in a philatelic exhibit.

In 1849 J. E. Liggett and Brother was established in St. Louis by John Edmund Liggett. In 1873, George S. Myers became his partner and in 1878, the business was renamed Liggett and Myers Company. By 1885, it had grown to become the world’s largest manufacture of plug chewing tobacco at a time when chewing was by far the most popular way to use tobacco.

Plugs were made by pressing tobacco leaves mixed with a sweet bonding agent, like molasses, between large metal plates and the cutting resulting sheets in blocks about 2.75” x 4.5” x 1” that sold for a nickel or dime depending on their quality. Star plug tobacco was Ligget & Myers bestselling brand, and by the mid-1890s, the company had outgrown its original location at 13th and St. Charles Street in downtown St. Louis. In 1896, it began constructing a massive thirteen-building factory on the outskirts of the city in what is now South St. Louis, just north of the vast tract of land owned by Henry Shaw, an English immigrant who had made millions selling hardware goods to regional settlers and pioneers heading west. Liggett & Myers was one of the very few companies that bested the Duke Brothers as they formed their American Tobacco Trust. The Dukes were unable to undercut Liggett & Myers during a long price war and eventually agreed to purchase the firm at an incredibly inflated price in 1898 at the time this envelope was mailed.

A reorganized Liggett & Myers continued operations on the same site after the Supreme Court broke-up the tobacco trust in 1911 until the plant was closed in the 1970s.

An exceptional example of a very scarce and sought after cover design identified as “MAGNIFICENT” in the American Illustrated Cover Catalog (#1504).

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9273
3. [ADVERTISING] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [PRINTING & PUBLISHING] [SKELETONS] An Antikamnia medicinal advertising calendar for 1900 filled with skeletons. Illustrations based on the paintings of Louis Crucius. St. Louis: Antikamnia Chemical Co., 1899.

This calendar consists of six 7" x 10” cardstock leaves bound together with the original string for hanging. Each leaf covers two months and is illustrated by comically macabre skeletons involved in daily chores as if they were still alive. The reverse of each page contains advertising text. In nice shape with light wear.

The January-February leaf shows three skeletal pharmacists in black coats and red tights ignoring a shelfful of opiates and morphine and instead choosing a canister of Antikamnia to use in concocting their prescription. The March-April leaf shows a skeletal editor clipping articles from other newspapers to incorporate into his own journal. The May-June leaf shows a tough-looking skeletal swell parading down the avenue looking for someone to punch in the “button.” The July-August leaf depicts a police officer strutting through a park as a scrawny dog with a tin-can tied to its tail looks on. The September-October leaf shows a skeletal clown in traditional whiteface makeup. The November-December leaf shows an old skeletal woman returning home after shopping.

Antikamnia (from Greek words meaning opposed to pain) was an unpatented, over-the-counter medicine that not only claimed to, but actually did, reduce pain and fever. It was touted as a useful for a wide variety of ailments from headaches to flu and as a preventive treatment before sports or other physical activity. Its principal active ingredient was acetanilide, a coal tar derivative, and the company aggressively promoted it to physicians throughout the country. These calendars, which were distributed to doctors from 1897 through 1901, were its most distinctive advertisements.

Unfortunately, acetanilide, in addition to reducing pain and fever, also caused cyanosis, that is, it impeded circulation and the oxidization of blood that could, and did, cause deaths. After it was banned by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1907, the company altered its ingredients, substituting acetaphenetidin, an acetanilid derivative, and advertising Antikamnia as being acetanilide-free. In 1910, the FDA again ordered the seizure of the medicine, and the resulting legal actions rose all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against the company, effectively shutting it down.

Interestingly, about sixty-five years ago, pharmacologists discovered that another far safer acetanilide derivative, paracetamol, was at least an equally effective against pain and fever and incorporated it as the active ingredient in a drug known as acetaminophen, that is, Tylenol. (See Lovejoy’s “The Deadly Pain Medicine Sold by Skeletons.”)

These calendars are terrific graphic examples of medicinal marketing at the end of the nineteenth century. They occasionally appear at auction or for sale, demand for the eerie skeletal illustrations is high. The Rare Book Hub shows nine lots of Antikamnia calendars have been sold by auction houses in the last 12 years, and many more have been sold on eBay. Prices range widely depending upon condition.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9246

Entries were kept in *The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments* published in New York by Daniel B. Smith, 1825. Contains eight pages of birth and deaths records for slaves living on the Wilson’s plantation known as Levensworth plus one page listing all overseers who worked at the plantation between 1826 and 1850. A 5” x 4” sheet with additional birth records is laid in. 9” x 11” in a modern leather binding. Foxing and wear throughout. Several leaves with archival repairs.

A superb example of a “Slave Bible” used to record the births and deaths of enslaved African-Americans at Levensworth. The entries—in the ‘Family Record’—were likely made by James Pliny Wilson, Jr. who signed the Bible on its original front free endpaper. Overall, 102 births and 22 deaths are listed and span at least two generations. The preponderance of entries were made between 1829 and 1865, however three are post-Civil War. The births are all recorded in similar fashion, mostly in chronological order; some entries identify both parents:

62. Anson child Anson & Lizzy was born about 28th Feb: ‘54.
63. Maria child of Tom & Charity born 6th May 1854.
63. Phillis child of Clarissa & Antony was in June 1853
64. Warren (son of Julia & Willis) in July 1854”

It is the death records, however, that make this Bible especially fascinating. In most Slave Bibles, deaths are record in a simple fashion similar to the births. Some of the death records in this book are like that, but for eight, Wilson provides more information, and in some case, detailed medical information which he was perhaps provided by his brother, James, a physician:
“Stephany died September 15th 1848. His death was caused by a fall from the second to the first floor of the store – the skull was fractured to the extent of 3 inches. He died in 3 hours. . . .

Caroline died October 27th 1848. She was injured eight days previously by falling from a wagon – the wheel ran over the right leg – tore the flesh from near the ankle to the knee entirely from the bone – (the muscles were not separated from the bone) – but little injury to the bone except for the bruise. There were symptoms also of intestinal injury, probably from the wheels passing over the body – She never recovered from the first shock – the system all the time being so prostrated as to forbid amputation. . . .

Pliny – native of Africa – died 16th January 1857 – He suffered for 2 or 3 years with some affectine (sic) of the heart – whether organic or functional unknown – of the Heart. He ultimately died of an affectrin (sic) of the Stomach probably Cancer. He was a member of the Baptist Church for many years. He was honest in deportment and faithful to his owners. . . .

Hannah died the March 1857. Her disease was child bed fever. Aged 23 years. . . .

Isaiah died August 20th 1857. He died of a congestive chill. Aged 30 years.”

Additionally, one page provides a chronological list of the plantation’s overseers:

“The Plantation was purchased in the year 1826 and settled in 1827. Mr. John Young the overseer for that year, and he was succeeded by Mr. Danl Campbell for the succeeding year & 1828, 29 & 1830. And he was succeeded by Wiley W. Prititt for three succeeding years 1831, 1832 & 1833 . . . .”

The plantation land was originally granted to a veteran of the Revolutionary war, Dr. Nathan Leavenworth and, upon his death, bequeathed to his brother and nephew, William and Nathan Levenworth (spelled this way in the sale document referenced below). They, in turn sold the property to one of the wealthiest South Carolinians of the early 1800s, John W. Lide. It is unknown if Lide sold the plantation directly to the Wilsons or if there was another owner in between. A summary with a short sketch tracing the ownership of Levenworth from 1786 to 1891 and a copy of the property plat will be provided.

Since African-Americans surnames were not included in federal censuses before 1870, the only information available to genealogists are the records of slave-owning families. Most of these documents—such as bills of sale or hiring contracts—are short with minimal information. Some—like wills or probate cases—contain a little more. That is why scarce plantation Bibles like this one are so historically valuable; they provide generations of family information and relationships about other ‘invisible’ slaves. This amazing plantation record contains a treasure trove of African-American genealogical information made all the more important by the detailed descriptions of slave deaths.

Unique and rare. As of 2019, the Rare Book Hub shows only two other Slave Bibles have sold at auction, both by Swann Galleries; one for $10,350 in 2005 and one for $27,000 in 2012. This Slave Bible contains far more pages of records and far more detailed death information than either of those.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9225
5. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY] A stampless, folded letter from a slave-trader in Georgia discussing the price of cotton and “negro men” and reporting that business has picked up and he is doing well. From William J. Bryan to James Evers. Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia to Elizabethtown, Bladen County, North Carolina, 1844.

The two-page letter measures 15.25” x 10”. It is dated January 30, 1844 and bears a circular red Forsyth, Georgia postmark dated Feb 3. It has some foxing. It was sent from Bryan to his brother-in-law James Evers (known from online genealogical records). There are splits (some near invisibly mended with archival tape/tissue) along some of the mailing folds; one caused by minor insect predation is unrepaired. Transcript included.

Although there is no record of a slave-trading brokerage at Forsyth, Georgia, the context of the letter strongly suggests that Bryan may have been in that business

“Times are getting much better here than they have been for some time past. Cotton has taken a considerable rise; it is now worth from 8 to 9½ cents per lb. Money is quite plenty and property of all kind has risen considerably... in particular negro men that a few months ago sold for Six hundred Dollars is worth Seven to Seven hundred and fifty Dollars at present. I am at this time selling good at D. Smiths five miles South of Forsyth and expect to remain at it for some time...”

It is possible, although there is no suggestion in the letter, that William J. Bryan was related to the infamous Savannah slave broker, Joseph Bryan, who, in 1859, conducted the largest slave sale ever held in the United States in which all 439 African-Americans from the Butler plantation were auctioned after its profligate owners went bankrupt after years of gambling and wasteful spending.

Certainly worthy of future research.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9238
6. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW & CRIME] [MURDERS & EXECUTIONS] [SLAVERY] An Alabama grand jury conviction of an 11-year-old slave for the murder of his master’s grandson, a four-year old “free person of color.” Robert B. Armistead, Solicitor. City Court of Mobile, Alabama: 1857.

This partially printed indictment measures 8” x 12.75” unfolded. It is dated “June Term, 1857,” and docketing indicates the verdict of the follow-on trial was “Read in open court on June 5th, 1857.” In nice shape with tape mends to two file-fold splits. The document identifies six testifying witnesses: F. Gomes (also the “Prosecutor”), L. Broux, Joseph Broux, Joseph Lenert (?), Thomas Ingram, and B. X. Caleron. It is signed, “A True Bill. A M Griffin, Foreman of the Grand Jury.”

The indictment reads,

“The Grand Jury of said Court, Charge, that before the finding of this Indictment, Godfrey a slave belonging to Mrs. Margaret Stewart unlawfully and with malice aforethought killed Lawrence Gomez a free person of colour by striking or cutting him with a hatchet or axe.”

The subsequent trial resulted in an important Alabama Supreme Court decision regarding the “criminal responsibility of an infant.” Godfrey, the slave of Margaret Stewart [Stuart], was convicted of murdering her grandson, Lawrence Gomez, while Lawrence had been left in Godfrey’s care. Although nobody saw the attack, witnesses reported that when they responded to the sound of screams, they found Lawrence dead with cuts to his face and head, brains protruding from his skull. They also found a partially cleaned hatchet nearby along with a still bloody Godfrey who claimed that an Indian had attacked the youngster. Godfrey later, in confidence, told a 13-year old neighbor, one of the witnesses, “that he had killed Lawrence because he had broken his kite, and he would do it again if they did not hang him.”
Docketing reveals the outcome of the trial:

“We the jury find the defendant guilty as charged in the indictment / Price Williams / foreman.”

Despite the jury’s decision, the presiding judge referred the case to a higher court noting

“In consideration of the tender years of the defendant say about eleven years old we recommend him to mercy.”

The recommendation was not taken, and the higher court confirmed the jury verdict as appropriate and stated that Godfrey “knew fully the nature of the act done, and its consequences, and that he showed plainly intelligent design and malice in the execution of the act.” Godfrey was hanged on July 16, 1858, in Mobile. For more information about this case including witness statements and court rulings, see *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Alabama*, pp 323-329, copy included.


This is an important testament regarding antebellum Southern thought about the age of competency as well as the dynamics between slaves and free persons of color, made all the more intriguing by the fact that the young slave, owned by a free woman of color, murdered that woman’s infant grandson, also a free person of color. Certainly worthy of more research on many levels.

Unique. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade or held by an institution, and there are no records of any other similar document having been sold at auction.

*SOLD*  Read’Em Again Books #9265

First American Edition. Complete with 72 pages. 4.5” x 7.5”. Sound binding; rear hinge starting. Light soiling to some pages. Sunned cover with gilded, stamped title. Spine covering has all but perished.

An excellent example of an abolitionist play of “exquisite reality of representation” published for the British market. St. Bo (a pseudonym for an unidentified author) may never have intended for his play to be performed, and there is no record of any public production.

This romantic melodrama touches upon many conventions and stereotypes of abolitionist novels and theater: a dastardly overseer, a sympathetic plantation owner with a faithful Uncle Tomish slave who illegally has been taught to read, a coon song, a harrowing escape, minstrel-like dialect and jokes, laws against miscegenation, the Fugitive Slave Act, etc. It centers on Wilfrid, a Georgia widower whose plantation was located near Milledgeville, and his daughter, Mary. Wilfrid has just recently learned that, perhaps through mismanagement or fraud by his evil overseer, Swanston all of his property, including his slaves have fallen under the control of a conniving and lecherous lawyer, Vellum. As the date of sale for the estate approaches, Vellum informs Wilfrid that he knows his hidden secret; Mary is Wilfrid’s daughter by his now deceased beloved “quadroon concubine.” Vellum informs Wilfrid, that Mary will be sold at public auction along with the other slaves unless Wilfrid agrees that he may purchase her in a direct, discrete sale. After Wilfrid informs the very light-skinned Mary, who had no idea her mother had been a slave, of their plight, she runs to her appropriately named true love, Wilberforce, who crafts a successful plan to foil Vellum and allow all three to escape to Canada via Cincinnati. See “Wilfrid and Mary” in MacPail’s *Edinburgh Ecclesiastical Journal and Literary Review*, CLXXV, June 1861 and Collins’s *American Drama in Antislavery Agitation 1792-1861*.

Rather scarce outside of institutional holdings.

**SOLD**

Read’Em Again Books #9234
7. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR] [SLAVERY] [TEXANA]  A splendid pair of letters describing operations against Southern guerillas by the Union’s Army of the Southwest in Missouri and Arkansas including its impact on slaves and plantations. Unnamed author. Houston, Missouri and Helena, Arkansas: 1862.

Both four-page letters on patriotic stationery were written by a trooper in the 5th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment; one to his mother and one to his sister. The first is datelined “Camp Greenwood near Houston, Texas Co Missouri June 2d/62;” the second “Helena Ark Oct 18th 1862.” Both have some minor ink stains. Transcripts included.

The 5th Kansas Cavalry spent the summer and fall of 1862 in Missouri and Arkansas keeping lines of communication and supply open for General Curtis’s Army of the Southwest following the Union victory at Pea Ridge that secured Missouri for the Union. In his letters home, the soldier writes:

“This is a very rough broken country. . . . There is a Guerelia band of two or three hundred secesh hid among these mountains that . . . shoot union men & soldiers when they can find a few by themselves. We have been scouting around after them but it is like hunting a needle in a haystack. They are hard to find. The people here are generaly very poor & most all secessionists & all want to fight for slavery, but they would not see money enough to buy a nigger if they lived to be as old as Methusalah. . . . There is said to be a force of the enemy Texas Rangers on the white river a small party of them cums in on our Pickets about once a week & shoots a few of them & raises a big alarm in camp. When there is a lot of cavalry & light artillery ordered out in pursuit, but they get out of the way somehow & we never catch only now & then a stragler of them. We have these alarms about twice a week. Why Gen Carr does not send a force out to white river to fight them I do not know. I suppose he is waiting for them to attack him. . . .”

The famous Texas Rangers did not operate in Missouri during the Civil War and neither did the 8th Texas Cavalry which was popularly known as “Terry’s Texas Rangers.” The Kansas trooper was probably referring to Texas partisans, perhaps the First Texas Partisan Rangers which formed in June of 1862 and campaigned in Arkansas later that fall. See Matthew’s “First Texas Partisan Rangers,” Procter’s “Texas Rangers,” and Cutrer’s “Eighth Texas Cavalry” in the online Handbook of Texas at the Texas State Historical Association.
The letters also go into some detail regarding the collapse of the region’s plantation system and the use of “contraband” slaves by the Union army:

“There has been built a fortification, here, mounting about a dozen large siege guns. They have employed a lot of niggers to do the work have been at work on it all summer. . . . The cotton fields are going to waste. The planters (few are at home) are not trying to raise their cotton & they could not if they wanted to for they have no slaves left to pick it for them almost every gin has been burnt around the country — by some one not only know who, every nigger that picks any cotton within the lines gets a $1.00 per hundred for it. Now & then a Planter on our side of the lines hires a few niggers to pick for him, but before they get it to market some one burns it.”

A unique eyewitness account not just of military operations in the trans-Mississippi theater where partisan guerillas were the principal threat to Union forces but also of the slaves’ abandonment of their plantations with the approach of the Union Army. Scarce. As of 2019, no similar correspondence is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows only two auction results since 1920, both for large archives containing similar letters. OCLC shows six institutions hold archival collections that include letters written from Union soldiers while serving in this region during this period.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9258
8. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR]. Letter from an Illinois soldier discounting the negative impact on morale of the “Everlasting Nigger” as evidenced by large numbers of Tennessee enlistees in the Union Army. Levi G. Heck. Corinth, Mississippi: June 21, 1863.

Four-page letter from a soldier in the 52nd Illinois Regiment who was stationed near Corinth, Mississippi during the Siege of Vicksburg. The letter is in nice shape. A transcript will be included.

In this letter Heck reports that while there was little for his infantry regiment to do while Grant’s Army was besieging Vicksburg (“everything goes on as usual, no drilling & in fact not much of anything except guard duty” and picking blackberries), the Union cavalry was patrolling though Western Tennessee with surprising results:

“The cavalry went out through that part of West Tennessee between here & Jackson & brought back some 125 or more butternuts, not prisoners but recruits for the army. The fact of our arming the negroes don’t seem to affect the loyal men of South as it was prophesied by the weak kneed democrats, on the contrary, just as many as can do so come to our lines & enlist without any squeamishness on account of the ‘everlasting nigger’”

Although President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January of 1863, the Army didn’t begin enlisting free blacks and former slaves into the U.S. Colored Troops until June of 1863. (The first African-American regiment, the 54th Massachusetts was a state volunteer unit.) Many opponents, mostly Democrats, were certain, that the decision to do so would negatively affect military morale. Heck’s report would seem to disprove that, at least in western Tennessee.

Heck’s sarcastic use of the term “everlasting nigger” is also interesting. The term was used during the Civil War and later during Reconstruction by white Democrats to describe their exhaustion with what they saw as never-ending ending emphasis by the Republican Party on abolition and equal rights for blacks; John Yule, a Democratic member of the State Assembly of California epitomized this frustration—and perhaps coined the expression—in 1862 when he shouted during a session,

“It is the ‘nigger’ in the Hall of Congress, ‘nigger’ in the camps of our armies, ‘nigger’ in the legislature of California, ‘nigger’ everywhere. The everlasting nigger permeates the whole atmosphere of the entire country.” (See California History Series. Monographs, Volume 3, San Francisco Negro Historical and Cultural Society, 1968.)

This two-page sworn statement is handwritten on lined paper measuring 8” x 12” It was written by Captain Henry Van Winkle, the commander of Company A, 1st U. S. Colored Troops (the 1st Regiment of Colored Infantry) and attested to by three of the unit’s non-commissioned officers, First Sergeant Henry Green, Sergeant Robert Bouldin, and Sergeant John Ross. The regimental adjutant, Nathan L. Bishop, administered the oaths and witnessed their signatures. Ross’s signature is a barely legible scrawl. The document is in nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Captain Van Winkle puts his best spin on loss explaining why the company’s soldiers lost 17 haversacks, 13 canteens, two shelter tents, and two pair of great coat straps during its retreat at the Second Battle of Fair Oaks near Richmond, Virginia. The losses occurred

“after a reverse march . . . running considerable distance . . . the men being by the time nearly exhausted [when] the Rebel line . . . opened immediately with a battery against us. We then fronted to the left and charged the wall, which were carried, with two pieces of artillery. We were however ordered to retire as the rebels were massing upon our flank and we had no support. In the charge many of the men were compelled to throw away their extra trappings to keep up while others lost theirs by the breaking of the fastenings. In the charge, two men were killed and one wounded belonging to my company. Our dead and severely wounded were left on the field. Those that were helped off, lost their Garrison equipage as they had to be helped along for considerable distance before any ambulances could be found. “

The equipment losses were apparently written off, as the document is docketed, “List of Articles lost in Action before Richmond Virginia October 27th 1864.” Army records show that Van Winkle, Bishop, and Bouldin completed their service honorably. Green, however, was later court-martialed in July of 1865 for an unrecorded charge and reduced in rank to private. It is unclear if he was then discharged from the service. Ross’s service record concludes with an entry that in August of 1865 he was “in confinement. . . awaiting trial.”

Civil War military documents or letters (except for final pay discharge vouchers) signed by African-American soldiers are very scarce, and when they appear are usually signed with an “X”. Full signatures are even less common. As of 2019, no full-signature colored troop letters or documents are for sale In the trade. Rare Book Hub shows only two have been sold at auction since 1912. OCLC shows no institutions hold physical examples of similar items.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9266
10. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR] Letter from a white officer assigned to an otherwise all African-American Infantry Regiment that trained at the first and only military camp dedicated solely to the training of Colored Troops. 1st Lieutenant Levi Heck. Camp William Penn, Pennsylvania: 1864.

In this four-page letter written on October 26, 1864, the commander of Company K, 127th U.S. Colored Troops writes to his father from Camp William Penn, the first and only military camp solely dedicated to the training of African-American recruits. The letter is in nice shape with some toning at the margins and along the mailing folds. The envelope used to mail the letter is included. Its stamp has been clipped away, however it still bears part of a faint Philadelphia postmark. A transcript will be provided.

Camp William Penn was established in June 1863 on the outskirts of Philadelphia. It was the first Army camp to train African-Americans as soldiers and the only camp during the entire war solely dedicated to do so. Eventually, nearly 11,000 free blacks and former slaves would train at William Penn where they were formed into eleven regiments of Colored Troops including the 127th. At the time, Philadelphians were fearful of having armed black men located just outside of their city, and union officers were charged with keeping a tight rein on their soldiers until training was complete and their regiments could be deployed to the field:

“There is not very many Troops here now. I suppose 500 will include all present. These are good barracks calculated to quarter 2,000 men. It does not do to get too many of those fellows together they will get over the paling & desert. They have to keep them shipped off.”

Heck also provided details of General Phil Sheridan’s decisive victory in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley on October 19th:

“Prisoners Received Three thousand and Six hundred (3,600) Enemies total loss 10,000 Ten Thousand men. No. of small arms gathered on field twelve Thousand (12,000) Lord Lyon of England says the Confederacy is much farther reduced than the north is aware of & in a far worse condition.”

The 127th saw only limited action during the war and only participated in the Battle of Deep Bottom where one of its soldiers was killed and none were wounded. Following the end of hostilities, the regiment was deployed to Texas where it was posted along the Mexican frontier until it was mustered out of service in November of 1865.

For more information about Camp William Penn and the 127th Regiment, see “The Beginnings of Camp William Penn” online at Historic la Mott and in Bate’s History of Pennsylvania Volunteers 1861-5.

A first-hand letter documenting both the training of African-American soldiers and the end of Sheridan’s Shenandoah Valley campaign.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9275
11. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [TEXANA]
Exceptionally scarce, poignant, and historically significant Civil War letter from a well-educated African-American soldier who served in the U. S. Colored Troops informing family at home that he was ministering to a brother who was about to die from scurvy. William Trail to Barzil Trail. Corpus Christi, Texas to Knightstown, Indiana: 1865.

This four-page letter is datelined “Corpus Christi Texas, September 20th 1865.” Its accompanying envelope is postmarked “New Orleans LA / 16 Oct 65”. The letter is in nice shape; the envelope has been roughly opened along its left edge. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, William reports that

“I am quite lame in the left leg with the scurvy but I still go about a little. I went to see James yesterday evening he seemed to take more note of things than he has for a while past, but I tell you I can’t see how he can ever possibly recover he mouth is perfectly rotten one cheek is rotted clear through. I . . . see to having his clothes changed and washed, but that is about all I can do. . . . It is quite an undertaking for me to walk [to the hospital] and back . . . I will tell you . . . long before this letter reaches you he will be gone to his long home.” (James, in fact, died several days later and his passing is recorded in the Descriptive Logbook of the 28th U. S. Colored Troops which is held by the Gettysburg College Musselman Library.)

William continues his letter with a discussion about receiving both his and James’s final pay (a total of $250), attempting to send some money home, local pies and other foods being sold at vastly inflated prices by locals (and presumably sutlers), and his hope to receive mail and postage stamps from home.

This is an important letter from a prominent and educated family of African-Americans from Knightstown, a vibrant and thriving community in Henry County composed of former Southern free blacks and escaped slaves who settled in Indiana before the war. In total, there were eight Trail brothers, who lived on their parents’ 160 acre farm. Four of the brothers enlisted in the 28th Regiment of Colored troops which was composed primarily of men from Indiana. Benjamin, a school teacher, was the first brother to enlist, and he rose to the rank of regimental sergeant-major, the highest ranking black soldier in the unit. He was killed in action at the Battle of the Crater. After his death, two other brothers, William and James joined the 28th and following General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox deployed with the regiment to the Texas border in response to the French establishment of a monarchy in Mexico. (For more information about the Trail Brothers, see “The Trail Brothers and their Civil War Service in the 28 USCT” online at the Indiana Historical Bureau).

Like many Civil War soldiers, William and James both suffered from scurvy, which is caused by a lack of vitamin C, and results in “emaciation and bloating with excessive diarrhea, unhealed wounds, jaundice, . . . dropsy with swelling and sever pain in the feet, . . . ulcerations with frequent bleeding of the gums . . .
hemorrhages of the skin [and] bowels, [and] gangrene.” 60% to 75% of the Trail’s unit in Texas were severely afflicted. (See Hertzler’s “Scurvy - American Civil War” in Nutrition Today, Vol 41, No 1. The regimental chaplain noted, “I have spent a great portion of my time at hospitals, and I never witnessed such fearful mortality in all my life. I have not seen a lemon, peach, apple or pair . . . over all that part of the country which we have passed. . . .” (See “The War in the West” in The Indiana Historian, Feb 1994.)

The fourth Trail brother, who was drafted late and survived the war, served in another unit.

An important historical letter from a well-educated African-American soldier at a time when very few were even able to sign their name with more than an “X.”

While mail from white officers serving in Colored Troop regiments are scarce; letters from literate black enlisted men are truly rare. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and OCLC shows only two similar letters, one of which was also written by William Trail. Rare book hub reports that only two similar letters have been sold at auction.

In 2017 a post-war letter from a literate former African-American soldier to his old commander sold for $8,612 at a Christie’s Auction, and in 2013 a wartime letter from another literate African-American soldier in the 28th Regiment of Colored Troops sold for $38,400. I’ll split the difference in pricing this letter.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9279
12. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BOOKMARKS & STEVENGRAPHS] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [EDUCATION] [WOMEN] Woven silk bookmark featuring the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth.
Manassas, Virginia: Manufacturer unknown, circa 1910.

This red, blue, and black woven silk bookmark measures about 2.5” x 8”. Its text reads, “Industrial School / Manassas VA”, “Help Educate The Head The Heart The Hands / Help The Negro Help Himself”, “D E Copp / Bull Run Mfg Co / Manassas VA”. It includes a portrait of Copp and images of six school buildings: The Li Trades Building, the Girls Dormitory, Howland Hall, Berwind Hospital, the Dairy Barn, and the Principal’s Residence. The bookmark is in nice shape with only some light soiling and some minor pulls.

The Manassas Industrial School was established in 1893 by Jennie Dean, a self-educated ex-slave who believed in the value of a mix of vocational and academic education for African-American youth. The school operated as a private residential institution until 1938 when it became the only public segregated high school for blacks in the northern Virginia counties of Prince William, Arlington, Fauquier, Fairfax, and Loudon. It continued in operation until the early 1960s.

Dean was a charismatic speaker who used her social skills and contacts as a domestic worker for the northern Virginia gentry to raise funds to build her school. In addition to locals, she obtained funding and support from a number of national figures including Emily Howland, Mrs. C. B. Hackley, Andrew Carnegie, and Frederick Douglass.

By 1902, the school was enrolling about 150 students annually, and its courses included mathematics, English, natural sciences, geography, physiology, music, blacksmithing, carpentry, agriculture, cobblering, laundry methods, household arts, and mechanical drawing. Although students paid a nominal tuition, they were also paid for revenue-producing work on the school farm or in school shops that helped fund operations. Discipline was sobering and strict. Boys wore uniforms and engaged in military drill, and girls were forbidden to wear jewelry and “fancy dress.” All students were required to purchase and read their own copy of a Bible.

Silk bookmarks were often sold as souvenirs or fund-raisers. Whether printed or embroidered, they are often referred to as Stevengraphs after the English ribbon manufacturer who first developed the embroidery process. It would appear that C. E. Copp distributed, or possibly sold, a small number of these bookmarks to advertise or provide funds for the Industrial School while simultaneously promoting his own business. Copp owned and managed two local Manassas companies, the Bull Run Manufacturing Company that produced building supplies and the Southern Furniture & Casket Company. He also donated land in 1916 “for an addition to the school.” More information about the school can be found in public records maintained by the City of Manassas and Prince William County.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, no other examples of this bookmark are for sale in the ephemera trade, and its design is not included in any of the Stevengraph or silk bookmark collector association websites or ‘catalogs’. There are no records of sales at either public auctions or on eBay. OCLC shows none are held in institutional collections.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9802

This oblong, saddle-stapled, softcover photo-booklet measures 7.5” x 5.25” and is “Copiously illustrated.” It contains 26 pages of text and 14 images of the riot, its victim, and some of the perpetrators. The binding is sound; cover and several leaves have some edgewear and short splits at top of spine; otherwise the booklet is in nice shape.

On the evening of 28 September 1919, long simmering tensions between unionized Irish meatpackers and their African-American counterparts, who had first been hired as strikebreakers two years before, exploded following the rape of a white teenager three days earlier. A black man, Will Brown, was arrested and held in the Douglas County Courthouse jail after being identified by the girl as her attacker.

At the time, Omaha had recently elected a “reform” mayor, Edward Smith, who was vehemently hated by the former political machine, its mouthpiece newspaper (the *Omaha Bee*), and white gangsters who controlled illegal prostitution, gambling, and other vices within the city. All three of these groups immediately went to work to discredit Smith for ignoring “black criminality” and urged the city’s white working class to take matters into its own hands. By late afternoon, a mob began to form outside the courthouse which was protected by 50 policemen who had been called in to provide guards. Apparently the mood of the mob at that time was somewhat jovial, and police officers, thinking the situation had been diffused released most of their officers.

Not long after, the situation turned ugly, and the crowd swelled to over 4,000 and attempted to storm the courthouse. The remaining police fought back with fire hoses and discharged their weapons in an attempt to disperse the mob. Their actions, instead, had the opposite effect, and the infuriated mob began to attack in earnest, overwhelming and beating officers until they sought refuge inside the building where they mounted a defense with members of the county sheriff’s office. All prisoners, including Brown, were taken to the upper floors where officers could provide better protection, however the rioters tapped a line at a nearby gas station and set the building alight after saturating much of its lower floors.
Mayor Smith, who had been inside, attempted to calm the crowd, however when he left the building to do so, he was clubbed on the head with a baseball bat, had a noose placed around his neck, and was hanged from a nearby traffic sign. At the same time, after notes from black prisoners were dropped from the upper floors of the courthouse offering to turn Brown over to the mob in exchange their safety, they then attempted to throw him from the building to the mob below. Police officers and sheriffs initially thwarted their attempt, however as smoke and fumes increased and the rioters began to break through the defenses, Brown was handed over by his fellow prisoners into the arms of the frenzied crowd. In no time, Brown was hanged from a nearby light post and rioters, who had stolen over a thousand firearms from city hardware stores and pawnshops, and fired hundreds of rounds into his body after which it was soaked in kerosene, set on fire, and dragged through city streets.

Order was not restored until before dawn the next morning when soldiers from the U.S. Army’s 20th Infantry Regiment arrived and imposed unofficial martial law. Two white rioters were killed during the assault, several police officers and an untold number of rioters as well as many white and black onlookers were injured. Although subsequently hospitalized for several weeks, an unconscious Mayor Smith was saved from death by the intervention of a state agent and three detectives who drove off remnants of the mob after most had turned their attention back to the courthouse attack.

The riot was initially thought to be fomented by communist-inspired members of the Industrial Workers of the World who had actively instigated other disturbances during the “Red Summer” of 1919, but eventually it became clear, it was ignited by the city’s criminal element and the out-of-power political machine. Over 120 rioters were indicted for crimes ranging from arson to murder, however most were never successfully prosecuted. (See Wikipedia for additional information.)

Very scarce. As of 2019, OCLC shows no examples of this important work are held by institutions. None are for sale in the trade, and Rare Book Hub shows only two auction results for this title, both from Swann Galleries; in 2013, an example in considerably worse condition sold for $3,840 and the following year another sold for $768. This very nice example is priced in between.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9280

Both posters measure 8” x 8” inches and include mug shots and fingerprints along with short descriptions of the criminals and their crimes, sentences, and locations of family members. One of the posters has a horizontal mailing fold. Both are printed on stiff paper and in nice shape.

Hunter, who was originally jailed in 1918, was serving 15 years “in each of 2 cases of Murder 2nd Degree” when he escaped from State Road Camp “P” in August, 1930. His mug shots show him wearing a traditional broad striped chain-gang uniform.

Sullivan, who was originally jailed in 1937, was serving 9 to 10 years for Burglary when he escaped from Atmore State Farm in September, 1939. He wears a white shirt in his mug shot.

From 1819 when the territory was established to 1839, there was no standard prison system in Alabama as citizens preferred that criminal matters for whites be handled by local citizens and county officials. (Punishment for enslaved African-Americans miscreants was left to their owners’ discretion until after the Civil War.) Justice was swift, hard, public, and humiliating. Communities staged festivals surrounding hangings, brandings, and floggings for the most egregious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, slave stealing, rustling, etc. Although a state penitentiary was established in 1839, the vast majority of Alabama criminals were leased out as labor to civilian contractors. That changed in 1893 when after a series of abuses, all convicts were returned to state run prison farms, camps, mines, and mills where they were required to earn their keep by working.

In 1928, the state opened the 8,360 acre Atmore Prison Farm (also known as the Moffet State Farm) in Escambia County as a model facility with concrete-floored barracks, indoor bathrooms and toilets, and sports-recreational facilities. It held 850 prisoners. This is the prison from which Sullivan escaped.

At about the same time, the state also began to establish Road Camps where convicts were housed in barracks, mess halls, and medical facilities similar to those at Atmore. Eighteen camps with a total capacity of 1,500 were established and convicts from these facilities performed chain-gang road work throughout the state. Although no statistics are available for the 1930s, records show that in the early 1940s, African-Americans composed two-thirds of Alabama’s prison population.

For more information see “History of ADOC” at the Alabama Department of Corrections website and Langan’s Race of Prisoners Admitted to State and Federal Institutions, 1926-1986.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9268
15. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [EDUCATION] [FRATERNITIES] [MUSIC & THEATER] Three-record set of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Songs. By the Omega Choral Ensemble. Washington, DC: Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, [1949].

This album, which measures 12” x 10”, contains three record sleeves, each holding a 78 rpm record. The cover features the fraternity’s coat of arms. No skips when played; just the hiss and pops expected of a 70 year old record. No visible chips, gouges, or major scratches. There is a small scuff on the album cover and part of its spine covering is missing. Splits are beginning at the bottom of the record sleeves.

Omega Psi Phi was begun in 1911 by three Howard University students and is the first predominantly African-American fraternity to be founded at a historically black college or university. From the Howard University Alpha Chapter’s website:

“In the 1947, a group of gifted Brothers from Alpha Chapter, with song in their hearts and passion in their souls formed the Omega Choral Ensemble. This selective group of vocalists sang at various campus and fraternal events during the course of their existence. The founder of this group was Bro. Valerian Edward Smith (Alpha 1945). The directors of the Choral Ensemble were Smith, Bros. Charles William Baskerville, Jr. (Alpha 1949), George McKeithen (Alpha 1949) and later Alphonso J. Patterson (Alpha 1954). In 1949, they recording and releasing (sic) an album of commemorative songs.”

The six songs in this album, all sung by the Omega Choral Ensemble, are:

- National Omega Hymn: Charles Baskerville, Conductor
- The Omega Sweetheart Song: Charles Baskerville, Conductor
- Lonesome Road: William Rumsey, Tenor and Charles Baskerville, Conductor
- Cherubim Song No. 7: Charles Baskerville, Conductor
- Ghost of a Chance: Howard Davis, Baritone and Charles Baskerville, Conductor
- In My Solitude: Corinne Curl, Soprano and Charles Baskerville, Conductor

Exceptionally scarce and possibly the only extant example. As of 2019, no examples of this album or albums from any other Black Letter Greek Organization (BLGO) are for sale at any of the major vinyl record sites and OCLC lists no institutional holdings. No auction records are found at the Rare Book Hub, Liveauctioneers, or Worthpoint. Google and Bing searches turn up nothing similar in collections or for sale. There may be an example of this album held by the fraternity’s Alpha Chapter as digital recordings of two of these songs are available at its website.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9271

This multi-year diary measures 4” x 5.5” and contains intermittent entries between May of 1949 and March of 1951. The title page is annotated, “This is the trusted property of Mamon Morrison and under no circumstances must you look at it. Mamon L. Morrison”. The pages are clean and supple, however the cover is badly worn and the spine covering is missing. An unopened CD of Morrison’s only album is included.

While the candid and honest entries in this diary, during Morrison’s high school years, are occasionally emotional and morose, most chronicle his life: assisting his mother with the ironing, cleaning, cooking, and baking as well as his choir practices, lessons, and performances. He also recounts some details about school testing and parties as well as the death of a grandmother, dating, radio programs, family members and house guests.

Mamon Lee Morrison was a respected member of the Richmond-Petersburg, Virginia art’s community, as an art collector, concert pianist, and a faculty member at Virginia State University. He was born in Coffeeville, Kansas and attended primarily white schools, graduating from Field Kindley Memorial High School. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in piano and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Colorado, where he was elected as the student body president in the School of Music. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in Piano and Musicology from Western Reserve University and completed additional studies at the Catholic University of America and schools in Vienna and Athens.

He served on the faculties of the Cleveland Music Settlement School, the Philadelphia Music Settlement School, Florida A&M University, and as the chairman of the piano faculty and coordinator of applied music at Virginia State University, where he retired as Distinguished Professor of Music Emeritus. Morrison performed as a concert pianist both in the United States and abroad. At Virginia State, he created a music appreciation television program for children.

A unique first-hand account of the high school life of a regionally important African-American classical pianist and music educator.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9233
16. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [EDUCATION] [FRATERNITIES] A Photo-Scrapbook for the Lampados Club (pledge class) of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity at Morgan State College (now University). Unidentified compiler. Baltimore, primarily 1954.

This 12” x 14.5” album contains 21 used page filled with 27 photographs, newspaper/magazine clippings, ephemera (tickets, invitations, ribbons, programs, broadsides, and a gold and purple 3” x 1.75” patch). Most snapshots measure about 2.5’ x 3”, however there are several larger professional images. Most photos were attached with corner mounts and are captioned. Other items were glued to the pages. The photographs are in nice shape. Most of the ephemera has glue or tape staining and show wear, especially on the most heavily worn pages. Some of the material appears to have been re-mounted. The pages are fragile and heavily chipped. The binding is tenuous. Most of the pages are tearing away from the album string; some of the page holes have been sympathetically reinforced with album paper, but even they are separating.

Most of the photographs show Lambados Club members engaged in pledge activities such as

- Holding light bulbs while standing stock-still in heavy topcoats at various campus locations,
- Posing in formations while dressed in matching suits and berets with canes and placards identifying them as “Dog No.1,” Dog No. 2,” etc., and
- Chanting as they march across campus in close, single file with all dressed identically in white oxfords, khaki pants, white v-neck tennis sweaters, dangling chains, and dark billed caps.

Other photos, clippings, and ephemera include a

- Manuscript copy of a probation poem that pledges were expected to memorize, “Summons” to appear at a party in New York City,
- Snippets of gold and yellow ribbons
- Ticket for a “Lamp Leap,”
- Gold and purple felt patch that reads, “LAMPADOS” and has an illustration of an oil lamp,
- Photo from a Morgan-Howard football game with “The ques of Howard & Morgan singing at halftime,”
- Clippings, photos, prints, of “Big Brothers” who became successful in the military, politics, and sports,
- Programs for memorial services (these are the only items dated other than 1954), and
- Two broadsides: one 14” x 19” advertising a charity benefit aboard the Omega Showboat (actually the S.S. Robert Fulton), and the other 14” x 11” advertising a chapter-sponsored “Skating Party”

A unique window into a Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs) of the mid-1950s. Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, no BGLO albums are for sale in the trade, nor does the Rare Book Hub list any as having been sold at auction in the past 45 years. OCLC shows no BGLO albums held by institutions.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9222

This pop-art postcard advertising the Adebar jazz club in Vienna was sent by Hubert “Bill” Dillworth and Buzz to Louis Johnson in care of Damn Yankees at the 46th Street Theater in New York. The “Y” in Damn Yankees is drawn as a stylized baseball bat. The card is in nice shape with a faint vertical crease.

Bill Dillworth’s message reads: “Hello Louis – Well I’ll tell you chile – this ain’t no house of flowers – but things are jumping and the facts are flying. I’m glad to see Buzz and I look to see you in July – Love. Bill Dillworth”

Buzz’s message reads: “Dear Louis – having a marvelous time picking up loads of new steps – show them all to you later. Bill is showing me all the better Vienna places. X Buzz”

Dillworth was an African-American baritone singer who performed in a number of mid-20th Century Broadway plays including Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess, the politically edgy (abolition and women’s rights) musical Bloomer Girl that starred Celeste Holm, Carmen Jones, and Truman Capote’s bordello musical House of Flowers that starred Pearl Bailey and featured Diahann Carroll.

Buzz was most likely Buzz Miller, an openly gay professional ballet, modern dance, and jazz dancer who performed in ten Broadway musicals in the 1950s and 1960s and routinely stopped The Pajama Game when he danced Steam Heat. At the time this postcard was mailed, Miller was dancing as a guest artist in Europe with Roland Petit's Ballets de Paris.

Louis Johnson was an ensemble dancer with Damn Yankees when he received this postcard. He began dancing while in high school and enrolled in the New York City School of American Ballet where he was mentored by Jerome Robbins and George Balanchine. He danced in a number of ballets and musicals including House of Flowers where he was apparently befriended by Dillworth (hence the reference in Dillworth’s message). In later years, Johnson became acclaimed for choreographing several performances of the New York Metropolitan Opera and a number of Broadway shows including Black Nativity, Treemonisha, The Wiz, and Purlie, for which he received a Tony nomination.

Adebar was a Viennese artists’ club created by a group of avant-garde poets, composers, and painters.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9269

There are six programs and flyers of varying sizes. All in nice shape, one with pencil notes.

*Porgy and Bess.* Starring legendary bass-baritone William Warfield and Bernice Fraction. Presented at the Festival Theatre by the University of Illinois School of Music and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Champaign-Urbanna: 21-25 July 1976. 6-panel fold-out program. This was likely one of Warfield’s last stage performances as Porgy (the role that made him famous in the 1950s at the New York City Opera) as he was no longer able to hit the climactic high note in Ole Man River.


*A Black Woman Speaks.* Starring Beah Richards (most famous for her portrayal of Sidney Portier’s mother in *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner*) in a production based on her book of poetry. Three leaves including a flyer, program, and calendar of Black History Month events. Pencil notes on calendar detail the coordination for her day-long visit to the University of Illinois on 2 February 1978 where she met with students, held a press conference, and performed. At the time of the performance William Warfield was a Professor of Music at the university and likely coordinated her visit.

*In the House of the Blues: A Musical Review.* Produced by Val Ward, directed by Buddy Butler, and written by David Charles. Performed at the Kuumba Theatre by the Kuumba Repertory Company, Chicago: [1985]. The review “was devoted to female blues singers who got their start in ‘tent’ shows—also referred to as ‘medicine’ shows—[where] artists would compete to attract the audience’s attention [while] influencing one another.” (See Lacava’s “The Theatricality of the Blues” in *Black Music Review Journal*, Spring, 1992.)


*Po’.* Directed by Chuck Smith with choreography by Wilbert Bradley. Book and lyrics by Dr. Philip Brown, Rufus “Maestro Bones” Hill, and Keithen Carter. A benefit for the National Alliance Against Racist Political Oppression by the Chicago Theatre Company at the Parkway Theatre: 22 September [198?].

Apparently scarce. As of 2019, none of these programs or flyers are listed at OCLC, the Rare Book Hub, or for sale in the trade.

*SOLD** Read’Em Again Books #9270

This notebook measures 3.75” x 6” and contains approximately 210 pages of records identifying purchases of material and services from nine different Nashua blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and carriage dealers. The notebook is titled “Blacksmith” on the front cover and front endpaper. The spine cover is missing as is the rear cover; the front cover has been neatly reattached.

While the company or agency that maintained the ledger is not identified, a number of men who made purchases are identified by last name. A cursory check of the 1880 census shows that at least three of them (Chamberlain, Davidson, and Hale) were “teamsters.”

There is a list of nine individuals and companies inside the front cover: Q.A. Woodward, T. P. Glover, Geo T. Tryon, Tryon & Urguhart, Lovejoy & Houtchins, C. E. Batchelder, H. H. Coward & Lamarsh, Gerward, and Joseph Lamarsh. Contemporary Nashua records and advertisements identify six of these as Blacksmiths, Horseshoers, Wheelwrights, Jobbers, and Dealers in Carriages and Sleighs. Each vendor has a number of separate pages where quarterly or semi-annual purchases from them are recorded.

Some of the entries include:
- Axle oiling,
- Cart, collar, and pail repair,
- Horseshoeing,
- Replacement of side and tail boards,
- Setting wheels, tires, and spokes,
- Snow plow and scraper repair,
- Spring, hook, and chain fabrication,
- Tool sharpening, and more

A unique record of work provided by what are probably all of the blacksmith and related shops operating in Nashua during the 1880s. As of 2019, there are four ledgers for individual blacksmith shops for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows about a dozen have been sold at auction over the last 75 years. Many blacksmith account books are held by institutions.

$900 Read’Em Again Books #9232
20. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Letter from a U. S. mariner held captive in Naples after his ship was captured and condemned during the Napoleonic Wars. Sent by Olphert Tittle. Kingdom of Naples to Massachusetts: 1810.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures approximately 14.5” x 10” unfolded. It was sent by Olphert Tittle in Naples to his parents in Beverly, Massachusetts. The letter is dated “March 11th 1810.” It bears a weak red strike of the circular Boston postmark with stars at the bottom (ASSC #203), a red “SHIP” handstamp, and a faint “16” cent manuscript rate mark (6 cents for receipt of a private ship letter + a 2-cent ship letter conveyance fee + an 8-cent delivery fee from Boston to Beverly). In nice shape with expected postal wear and soiling. Transcript is included.

While the impressment of American sailors during the Napoleonic Wars by the British is well recorded in history books, far less has been written about the seizure and/or destruction of American ships, theft of their cargo, and detention of their crews by the French and their allies. In this letter, Tittle recounts that over 30 U.S. merchant vessels had been captured by the France’s Neapolitan ally and held at Naples in 1810.

“...They have taken our Adventure and all from us, and now we must come home by way of Bussums Corner. I cannot describe the treatment we have suffered... Vessels bound direct... they go out and fetch her in as a prize. If they don’t catch them outside, as soon as they enter the harbor they make a prize of them. There is about thirty sail of us all to be condemned... Capt Larcom has been condemned... and had all taken from him. And I expect [we] will be servic’d the same, but there is no [word] yet. Captain Fairfact was taken 6 month ago. He has compromis’ed and got his vessel again, he expects to sail in the course of a fortnight or three weeks and then I shall state the particulars.”

Although the ships and cargo were never recovered, the American consul in Naples was able to secure the seamen’s release and purchase one of the condemned vessels, the ship Francis, from the Neapolitans to transport the 214 captured sailors back to the United States. The loss of ships and cargo was enormous; from Salem alone it approached $775,000. (See Hurd: History of Essex County, Massachusetts, volume 1 and Williams: The French Assault on American Shipping, 1793–1813.)

Exceptionally scarce, perhaps the only extant example of a letter from a U. S. seaman captured by the French during the Napoleonic Wars. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no auction records are found at either APBC or the Rare Book Hub. OCLC also shows no similar personal correspondence or writings at any institution, however the Peabody Essex Museum holds a ship’s log from a vessel that ends when it was condemned in Lisbon in 1811. While mail from mariners during the earlier Quasi-War with France (1798-1800) appears in philatelic auctions from time-to-time, none of it has been from prisoners describing their captivity. No French, much less Neapolitan, captivity letters from the Napoleonic Wars have appeared at philatelic auctions, although there was one auction lot consisting of a Ship’s Master letter expressing anxiety that his vessel might be taken by French privateers.

Price: $1,250 Read’Em Again Books #9071
21. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Commercial letter from London to the United States discussing the prospect of continuing the War of 1812 delivered by the American privateer, Brutus, just as the British were imposing a blockade on American harbors. From James Pritt & Co. to J. R. Parker. London to New York and Boston: 1813.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 15.75” by 10” unfolded. It is datelined “duplicate London 30th January 1813.” The letter was forwarded to New York after originally having been addressed to Boston. It bears a straight-line “SHIP” handstamp and two receiving postmarks, one from Newport, Rhode Island dated May 15 and one from Boston dated May 19. There are two postage due rate marks. One for “12” cents postage due for delivery from London to Boston has been partially obliterated, and a second for “17” cents includes the additional cost to forward the letter to New York. The letter was carried from London to the United States by the American Brig Brutus as attested to by a manuscript annotation in the lower left corner. The letter is in nice shape with a hole—not affecting any text—where the wax seal was broken upon opening. A transcript will be included.

In this letter, the London merchant asks for Parker’s opinion regarding a recent decree by the Prince Regent (the future George IV who ruled Great Britain during the final years of his father’s, George III, mental illness) that signaled a willingness to allow American merchant ships access to French ports if France would reciprocate with regard to British ports.

“Long before this you will have received the Prime Regent’s declaration, how it may be looked on in America we know not, but it is considered by all parties here, as an admirable state paper, chiefly on account of its truth and moderation. Glad shall we be to learn that its operation in America has been such as to produce something like a reciprocity in the case, then, there would be ground to hope that the unnatural War in which we are now involved would not be of long duration. . . .”

He also cautions that

“if the American Government is determined to continue their present course, till they have conquered Canada, or compelled the British Nation to alter or relax its code of Naval Law, the War must then be a long one, to say nothing of the Government. There is scarcely an individual in the Nation, that would not willingly risk its all in support of its ancient rights.”

When President James Madison declared war upon Great Britain in June of 1812 for its seizure of American ships and impressment of men serving upon them, his act was seen as little more than an annoyance as England was preoccupied with its war against Napoleon. The Prince Regent, who had no appetite for wasting resources fighting a North American war and was also in need of American flour, was more than willing to broker a peace agreement providing the United States did not attempt to seize Canada and recognized Britain’s right to reclaim former English seaman who were sailing on American ships. Pritt’s letter expresses these same sentiments quite clearly and succinctly.

The circumstances surrounding the delivery of this letter beg for further research. First, it is possible that the delivery of this letter to Newport rather than New York is the related to the British blockade of American ports. Rather than deploying British army forces to fight on land, on November 27 of 1812, the
British Navy was ordered to begin blockading American ports and prevent any merchant or military ships from entering or departing those harbors. It did this in four successive phases, and the blockade of New York began in late May of 1813, however the blockade of Rhode Island and points north was not begun until the following April. That this letter is a “duplicate” is also puzzling, as is the ship that carried it. Presumably the original of Pritt’s letter was first sent in January of 1812 and this copy five months later. This is possibly related to British interceptions of American vessels on the high seas, as only licensed ships carrying supplies needed by Lord Wellington’s army and prisoner-exchange cartels went unmolested. British naval records reflect that the American Brig Brutus was seized in early January of 1813, but likely retaken, and American records suggest that the Brutus also operated as a privateer under a letters-of-marque throughout the war. (See The Naval Chronicle for 1813, Vol 29, p 338; Coggeshall’s History of the American Privateers and Letters-of-Marque, Frajola’s The British Naval Blockade during the War of 1812, and Walske’s Collection of North American Blockade Run Mail.

Quite an unusual letter documenting both British interest in quickly resolving the war as well as resolve with regard to ownership of Canada and “Naval Law” made all the more interesting by its timing, route, and mode of delivery immediately before the onset of the British Navy’s blockade of American ports.

$750 Read’Em Again Books #9240
An exceptional letter from a board member of the Burra Burra Copper Mine in Tennessee describing the recent murder of Colonel Ellsworth, expressing doubt that a full Civil War could now be avoided, and reporting the turmoil's devastating effect on sales of copper from the mine. From Lyman W. Gilbert to Thomas Richardson. No. 11 Wall Street, New York City to Portland, Maine: May 24, 1861.

This four-page letter measures 10” x 8” unfolded. It is enclosed in an envelope franked with a choice dull-red, Type III, three-cent Washington stamp (Scott #26) cancelled by a circular New York City postmark dated May 24. Both letter and envelope are in very nice shape. A transcript will be included.

This letter, which was written by Gilbert from the New York Stock Exchange at 11 Wall Street and mailed on the day Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was shot recounts specifics of his murder which were probably obtained by telegraph from Washington, DC:

“I fear that the fight between the north & south has commenced today. Col. Ellsworth with his Fire Zouaves went early this morning to Alexandria to take possession of Custom House & when he was shot dead by a Secessionist who in turn was killed on the spot. What the effect of this will be I cannot even grasp, but as Col. E. was a pet with Lincoln I fear that terrible results may follow. . . . I had hoped that we could avoid having a conflict until Congress met in July & that then some effort would be made to put a stop to all this terrible work. It may be so still; but I fear we must have some fighting.”

Gilbert, who was a director of the Burra Burra Copper Mine in the southeast corner of Tennessee also describes his war-caused precarious financial straits:

“I am ashamed to confess it, but it is nevertheless true, that my Mining interests will not bring me money to live on. I can neither sell stock, nor borrow money on it; or on any Southern security I have, so that I might about as well be propertyless. . . . One of two hundred dollars to me now is as much as several thousand were a short time ago. . . . if you have $75 extra, it would fill a large gap with me just
now. If you can use any stock I have I will send you any amt for long as you want it. Nothing here will bring money except such security as but few have.”

However, he holds out a rather disloyal hope that business can continue:

“I have not heard from Mr. Peet (another board member) since he got back to New Orleans. I fear that his letters do not come forward. I had a letter from W. Cameron of Charleston S.C. yesterday, one a day or two ago from Cap. Raht (the company’s chief of mining operations) from Tenne. The mines are all right & work going forward, but Copper cannot be got to [the northern] market. Cap. Raht will be making Ingot Copper in 60 days & will be able to sell to the southern states – so Cameron says.”

The origin of the Burra Burra Copper Company, which was named after a famous Australian mine, stretch back to 1843 when a gold prospector discovered copper in the southeast corner of Tennessee. By the end of 1853, there were eleven mines operating in the region, and the first smelter was built the following year. Burra Burra was organized in 1860 and consolidated several of the mines. It was operated under the control of its president, William H. Peet (mentioned in Gilbert’s letter), and a young German engineer, ‘Captain’ Julius E. Raht, directed its mining and smelting operations. As all of the company’s output was sold to northern markets, the Civil War proved to be a disaster for the company. Although it continued operations between 1861 and 1863 when it fell under Confederate control, all operations ceased when Union forces captured its supporting southern railhead at Cleveland, Tennessee. Burra Burra reopened after the war but was forced to close in the 1870s as it was never able to secure backing to fully restore its rail service to Cleveland.

An important letter reporting on Ellsworth’s murder on the same day he was shot and documenting the financial predicament of northern-owned businesses that had invested heavily in the south.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9274
23. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MINING] [PHILATELY] Stampless letter describing the earliest commercial mining of coal at the site it was first discovered in the United States by Father Hennepin in 1669. D. Lathrop to J. A. Rockwell. La Salle, Illinois to London, England: 1857.

This 3-page stampless letter measures 15” x 9.75” unfolded. The letter is dated July 22, 1857 and bears a circular July 23, La Salle, Illinois postmark. A circular New York City “5/N.York BR. PKT.” postmark (with a high “R” and “T”, see ASSC Vol II, p 105) was applied indicating the cost of inland postage within the United States before forwarding to London. The two “24” handstamps and the manuscript one shilling rate mark indicate the total cost of postage from the United States to London (5 cents inland U.S. postage + 16 cents sea postage + 3 cents British inland postage). A British receiving mark, dated August 11, is on the reverse. The letter is in nice shape. Transcript will be included.

In 1669, Father Hennepin, the legendary Belgian priest who accompanied La Salle during the earliest French explorations of North America, discovered the first coal deposits found in what is now the United States along the bank of the Illinois River not far from the present day cities of La Salle and Ottaway (see The World’s Cyclopedia and Dictionary of Universal Knowledge and Mineral Resources of the United States, Part 2, 1913, p 832.) Although the deposits were well known, no attempt to mine them was made until the mid-1850s, when D. Lathrop began to drill shafts looking for beds with coal sufficient to make commercial operations profitable. The La Salle shaft struck a vein in 1856, and two additional successful shafts (Peru, and Kentucky) soon followed. The Vermillion shaft proved successful the following year (see Illinois Coal & Coal Mining History & Genealogy, online, and The Past and Present of La Salle County Illinois, Kett: 1877).

In this 1857 letter Lathrop reports the status of those mines to John Arnold Rockwell, a Connecticut politician, lawyer, and land developer who invested heavily in the businesses related to the westward expansion of the United States. One of his ventures was the Rockwell Land Company which was heavily involved with the development of La Salle, Illinois (see the John Arnold Papers at the Huntington Library).

The principle amount of Coal now shipped from this place, is from the Kentucky Shaft, . . . and they have demand for all they can take out, which is about 40 tons per day. . . . I think they find their principle sale on the Miss River. For Steam boats. . . . Field & Rounds have sunk their Shaft through the Coal which is 3 feet 2 inches thick of good clean Coal. The bed is 3 feet 4 inches thick. . . . They are going on with their sinking at Peru, and mining the upper bed. I think they have not reached the middle bed yet. . . . I understand they are getting a new Engine and boiler much heavier than the one they now have, some 4 or 6 times as heavy.

Mr. Loomis is driveing on Entry in each of the two upper beds of Coal, and sinking as fast as he can. I think he is down about 40 ft. below the middle bed. The R.I.R.R. (Rock Island Railroad) take all his Coal to use on the road. . . .

It is said that a large flour mill is to be erected by the west side of Park’s were house. Mr Parks is to be the principle man in the mater. A Co for the manufactory of fine glass is organised here, and the works
is to be erected immediately. A French man who is said to be an experienced glass maker is to take the management of it. Coal is the article that brings it here as it takes 25 tons of Coal to one of sand. The French Man thinks there is no more favorable place for glass making than this in the U.S.

The work on the new barn is progressing finely. . . . Mr. Faceman tells me he has another Coal Co formed for working Coal on the Mongrove farm, but thinks they will not commence the Shaft this year. The Central R R Co are taking out the work from the deep cut in the Vermillion. They have a steam engine to raise the rock with and are doing it finely, but the expense will be enormous. The sides are continuing to fall in. One Man was killed there yesterday. They have also an army of Men at work at the culvert near the Kentucky Shaft . . . Mr. Campbell has abandoned boring on the prairie south of the river. He found no Coal of any account. He went down about 220 feet, and stopped in Coal measures and has not proved that there is not Coal below.

The letter also provides updates on other La Salle projects spurred by the supply of coal including a “gas works” and a large glass factory.

The Illinois Coal Basin is the largest commercial coal bearing region in the United States and during coal’s heyday of the early 20th Century ranked third in production behind only deposits in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

An important document testifying to the origin of coal mining in the United States and the development of the Illinois Coal Basin and the city of La Salle.

As of 2019, no similar first-hand accounts are currently for sale in the trade, nor does the Rare Book Hub contain similar auction records. Although OCLC shows no similar institutional holdings, no doubt some are probably in the John Arnold Rockwell papers collection at the Huntington Library.
24. [CIRCUS] [HORSES] [WOMEN] Personal photograph album-scrabook compiled by the greatest American horse-trainer of the 20th century at the height of her career. Compiled by Hazel Louise Panting King. Various locations: primarily 1940s.

This album measures 10” x 12.5” and contains about 230 photographs ten pieces of ephemera and postcards, and 25 newspaper clippings. The photographs range in size but most measure 5” x 3.5”; two are faded color images. Everything is attached with corner mounts except for one photograph and one piece of ephemera which are laid in. Most photos have captions, and most are from the 1940s; several are from the 1920s and 1930s however a few of the photos from that period may be later reprints.

The photos show King training, riding, posing, and performing with her horses, both individually and in teams in circuses and wild west shows. Some show her in a variety of circus costumes. There are many images of other circus performers, circus wagons, circus trucks, and circus performers. A number of photos show elephants being trained, and it appears that King is involved in several. About ten photos and ephemera pieces are of musicians and non-circus performers.

Hazel Louise Panting was born in 1890 in Seattle, Washington and died at age 91 in Gainesville, Florida. She as a circus performer for much of her life and was the primer American horse-trainer of the 20th Century. She appeared in many circuses and wild west shows as well as at Disneyland. Hazel began her career as one of Ringling’s principal riders where she performed with the popular Frank Miller Dancing Horses. After two years, she left Ringling and joined the Miller Brothers when they formed their famous 101 Wild West Show. There, Hazel met and married Jack “Hoxie” King, a silent movie cowboy star, keeping his last name when they divorced several years later. Hazel spent a number of years as a featured performer and the head trainer (for both horses and dogs) with the Daily Brothers circus, and most of the material in this album is from that period including several photographs of Hazel with her star horse, King. Haze was well-known for her salty language, and on at least one occasion was nearly fired when her cursing while performing in the ring offended members of the audience. After she retired from performing, Hazel settled in Gainesville, Florida and continued training horses for other acts.

A unique and important first-hand visual record documenting the prime of a legendary circus great. Very scarce, no other original Hazel King or similar material is for sale in the trade or held by institutions per OCLC. Rare Book Hub shows no other similar auction records.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9281
25. [DISASTERS] [HURRICANES] Photograph album-scarpbook documenting the destruction caused to the Mississippi Gulf Coast by Hurricane Camille, the second most powerful hurricane ever to strike the continental United States. Unidentified compiler. Mississippi Gulf Coast: 1969.

This 9.5” x 11.5” three-ring binder contains 48 pages of vernacular photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, maps, and a hand-written essay. There are 43 color and black-white photographs in the album. Most measure 4.25” x 3.5 or 5” x 3”. Everything, but the essay, is mounted on black paper sheets which have been inserted into plastic document protectors. The essay is stapled inside the rear cover. Lettering on the reverse of the reused binder indicates it previously held an insurance policy. Perhaps this was compiled as a school project. Everything is in nice shape.

The photographs show a Holiday Inn before the storm, the damage caused by the storm to the Holiday Inn, the destruction of stores and a gas station along a beach highway, damage to and destruction of inland buildings and automobiles, airmen from Keesler Air Force Base at damage sites, images of Allee Hall at Keesler Air Force Base including its dining facility, etc.

The clippings, from an unnamed newspaper, run from 16 to 20 August. The first clippings report that the storm was tracking toward the Florida Panhandle. Later clippings report on the destruction along the Mississippi Gulf Coast including Biloxi, Gulfport, and Pass Christian. One clipping addresses the hurricane’s later impact upon Virginia. The track of the storm from Biloxi to Hattiesburg is shown on a Shell Oil road map. The magazine articles are summaries of the storm from September.

Hurricane Camille was the second most powerful hurricane ever to make landfall in the continental United States. After striking Cuba on August 15, it entered the Gulf of Mexico where it grew into a Category 5 storm. It made landfall at peak intensity at Pass Christian early on August 18, and rapidly moved inland. The hurricane flattened almost everything along the Mississippi coast and caused intense rains and flooding in Virginia after it crossed the Appalachian Mountains. In total, Camille killed 259 people and caused $1.43 billion in damages (equivalent to about $10 billion today).

A unique photographic record of the damage caused by the storm. As of 2019, there is nothing similar for sale in the trade; no auction records for similar items are shown at the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC show no similar holdings at institutions.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9221
26. [EDUCATION] [NATURAL PHILOSOPHY] [PHYSICS] Bound volume of manuscript Natural Philosophy (i.e. Physics) lecture notes and drawings probably kept by a freshman student at Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University). Henry Lewis. Manhattan, Kansas: circa 1870.

This half-leather volume with marbled boards measures 8” x 10.5” and is titled “Lectures on Natural Philosophy.” It contains approximately 140 manuscript text pages and an additional 80 pages with about 150 meticulous hand-drawn illustrations of apparatus and experiments, some in color. The pages are in nice shape. Hinges have cracked and the free endpapers are missing. The cover shows wear; the gilt spine title is legible.

The last page of the notebook is signed, “Henry Lewis / Manhattan / Riley Co. / Kansas”, and a pencil drawing on its first page is titled “Cottage by the Sea” by “H. Lewis.” About midway through the notebook, there is a later pencil inscription that reads “Henry Lewis / A.T.&S.F.R.R.(Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad) / Emporia”. A newspaper clipping announcing Lewis’s 1877 marriage to Jane M. Davis of Big Rock, Illinois is laid in. Online records reflect that Lewis was born between 1852 and 1854 in Arvonia, Kansas.

The text begins with a short introduction to science and the way it was then “separated” into “divisions” and “parts.” The lecture notes then focus on Natural Philosophy and include sections on Somatology (not anthropology but rather the study of material bodies and substances), Comparisons, Impenetrability, Figure, Divisibility, Porosity and Compressibility, Dilatability, Mobility, Inertia, Gravitational Attraction, Electromagnetical Attraction, Molecular Constitution of Matter, Atomic Theory of Boscovich, Capillary Attraction, Chemical Attraction, Elasticity, Laws of Boyle and Mariotte, Mechanics, Friction, and Mechanical Powers.

Manhattan, Kansas was the home of Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University). The land-grant college opened in 1863. Catalogs from its early years show that Natural Philosophy was a mandatory freshman class for students enrolled in both its Classical and Agricultural-Science Courses. By the early 1870s, college publications used the term Physics instead of...
Natural Philosophy. Although Lewis’s name does not appear in a 1914 school-published “Record of Alumni,” that book notes the alumni list only included names of students who “have finished the course,” and did not contain the “thousands of men and women . . . who did not graduate.”

Lewis apparently took a position with the Santa Fe Railroad. Although the first 75 miles of the railroad were not completed until 1871, its tracks reached Emporia in September of 1870. (See Snell and Wilson’s “The Birth of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad” in Kansas Historical Quarterly, Autumn 1868, and A geographically correct county map of the states traversed by the Atchison Topeka and the Santa Fe Railroad and its connections, 1880.)

A fascinating record of the birth of Physics education for the common man and woman at one of the first U.S. land-grant agricultural colleges. As of 2019, an unillustrated book of Chemistry lecture notes from Brown University is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows that only three sets of Natural Philosophy notes (all from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland) have been sold at auction in the last forty years. OCLC shows only seven institutions hold similar Natural Philosophy lecture notebooks; none of those notebooks are from land-grant schools and only two are noted as being illustrated.

$1,000

Read’Em Again Books #9267
27. [EDUCATION] [FREEMASONRY] [WOMEN] This young woman’s elegiac essay, *Furlow Masonic Female College*. “*All that is bright must fade,*” is, no doubt, her reflection upon the closure of the school, the deaths of her father and stepfather, and the dimming of her immediate future. Miss Jessie W. Pittman. Eufaula, Alabama: circa 1879.

This nine-leaf manuscript measures 5” x 8” and has a calligraphic cover. Text is on rectos only. Light wear with occasional soiling/foxing.

“Allas! tis true, too true, that ‘All that’s bright must fade’. . . how perishable and vain is the pomp of human greatness. . . . The opening beauties of spring, summer and autumn are but heralds of decay. . . . The architect[s] . . . gilded dome and lofty minarets, rise before his eyes [but] time must lay its cold and unsparing fingers upon them, that the burnished dome and gilded spire must be dimmed by the blight of the destroyer. . . . [When] childhood has passed. . . . The sparkling eye loses much of its brilliancy. The gayety of former days takes its flight: the autumn of life comes on. . . . Day after day is the death pall is thrown over the young, the beautiful, and the beloved. . . . How delusive and vain are dreams of ambition. . . . ‘All that is bright must fade.’”

When Jessie wrote this essay, she had reason to be morose. She was born in Quitman County, Georgia in the early 1860s and lost her father at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Her widowed mother subsequently remarried, and the family relocated to Eufaula, Alabama. Although her half-siblings remained in Alabama, Jessie was sent to a Georgia boarding academy, the Furlow Masonic Female College in Americus, as a teenager. Although her exact attendance dates are unknown, the school closed in 1879, and she returned home. Shortly thereafter her stepfather died, and nothing from his estate was left to Jessie. It would appear that Jessie wrote her essay while at Eufaula, probably while planning her departure as the 1880 census shows she lived in the household of a Georgia widow. Her name is listed after family but before African-American servants, so Jessie may have served as tutor for the widow’s grandchildren. (See *Alabama Wills and Probate Records for Barbour County 1873-1943, Quitman County [Georgia] Court Records online, Find A Grave records for Jessie Pittman Whitaker, A Chronology of Americus and Sumter County Georgia online, and “Biographies of Quitman County” at Genealogy Trails History Group online.)

The Furlow Masonic Female College was founded in 1859 by Americus Lodge No. 13 of Free and Accepted Masons. Between 1844 and 1892, Masonic lodges founded over thirty colleges and universities as “part of the Masonic tradition of meeting the community needs.” (See “Emessay Notes May 2010” at *Masonic Service Association of North America* online.) During the Civil War, the Bragg Confederate hospital occupied the college beginning in August, 1864 following the Fall of Atlanta.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9260

The album measures 10” x 7” and contains over 280 photographs ranging in size from 1” x 1.5” to 7” x 5”. The photos are glued to the pages; all are captioned. There are several newspaper clippings attached to the pages and laid-in. A program for the 1923 football game against Otterbein (Capital’s biggest rival) is attached inside the rear cover. Everything is in nice shape.

Capital College (today Capital University) was founded in 1830 as the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Ohio over forty years before The Ohio State University began to take shape. It is the oldest university in Central Ohio and the largest Lutheran college in the United States. Freick is the likely compiler of this album as tick-marks have been placed by his name in many of the newspaper clippings. It began accepting women in 1918, the year Feick began assembling this album. Three of the 32 members of Feick’s graduating class were female, and they are included in the cameos of the graduates apparently removed from a school yearbook.

The album contains photos of the campus, faculty members, students, and all aspects of college life. There are many team and individual portraits of football, tennis, baseball, basketball players. There are numerous photos of other extracurricular as well including the band, a fraternal organization, the glee club, and cheerleaders. Several images show the Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.), a World War One forerunner of ROTC. One image shows the college May Pole and another shows three coeds studying under a tree. Several photos show students preparing to build tennis courts for the school and another group documents a visit to the campus by Warren Harding.

Of special interest are a series of about 20 photographs of class rushes. While today, the term ‘rush’ refers to an aspect of Greek life that was not the case in the past. Class rushes were all-out organized, school sponsored fights or battles between students. At Capital, apparently two different rushes were held, a “cane rush” and a “sack rush.” In cane rushes, usually a member of one class would brandish a cane at a large school event, perhaps right after chapel on Sunday, and shout something like “The freshman have the cane and the sophomores don’t.” This challenge would then be taken to the quad or other open area one campus where the students would beat each other’s’ brains out until one class retained the cane and the other acknowledged defeat. A “sack rush” was slightly less violent. Generally, a number of large canvas sacks would be arranged on the ground and two classes would face off against each other. When the contest began, the students would rush to the sacks and attempt to drag them to their class’s goal line and multiple tugs-of-war would be fought.

$500 Read’Em Again Books #9228
29. [FOOD & DRINK] [MILITARY & WAR] Civil War account book kept by a sutler traveling with the 94th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Morgan Bond. Circa 1862-1865

This 3.75” x 5.75” notebook contains 77 pages with about 540 entries. In nice shape although its string binding has perished. Entries are in faint pencil but legible; the cover title “Morgan Bond / Account Book Sutler 94th Il Reg,” has faded but can be read with a magnifying glass.

During the Civil War, sutlers, i.e., licensed civilian merchants, accompanied Union regiments and stocked a variety of foods, usually desiccated or canned, and supplies that weren’t furnished by the army.

In this account book, Bond has recorded goods sold to regimental soldiers. The most popular purchases were raisins, crackers, tobacco, and G-nuts (either ginger snaps or peanuts). Other purchases were bread, herring, oysters, peaches, pepper, pickles, sardines, sugar lemon (lemon drops), sweet oil, tomatoes, cigars, smoking tobacco, ink, emery paper, matches, oil, sandpaper, soap, thread, boots, hats, shoes, shirts, etc. One entry reads, “Oysters per nigger” suggesting a servant made the purchase.

Sutler prices were always excessive; Bond sold peaches (probably a pound) for $1.25, quite a sum when privates were paid between $12 and $16 per month. Yet, sutlers held monopolies within their regiments and could charge whatever they liked. Most demanded immediate cash or pre-purchased script payments, since soldiers could die without settling debts. However, as pay was often delayed, at times agreements were made with paymasters to cover purchases made on credit. That may have been the case in the 94th Illinois as these entries are all uniformly overwritten with slashes, possibly indicating they were paid later. Dealings between soldiers and sutlers were contentious, and in truth, sutlers were usually hated by officers and enlisted men alike. (See Delisi’s “From Sutlers and Canteens to Exchanges,” Army Logistian, Vol. 39 #6 and Lord’s Civil War Sutlers and their Wares for more information.

The 94th Illinois Infantry was mustered into service at McLean, Illinois in August of 1862. It initially campaigned in southern Missouri and Arkansas, and then participated in the siege of Vicksburg. Following the city’s surrender, the 94th served with expeditions to Yazoo City, Morganza, and Morgan’s Ferry, and later occupied Brownsville, Texas. Its final actions were while participating in the Mobile campaign, after which it returned to occupation duty, this time at Galveston.

An important record of a relatively undocumented element of regimental life during the Civil War that provides insight into the types of foods and supplies campaigning Union soldiers purchased to improve their daily lives. Although records from permanent post and camp sutlers are not uncommon, those from mobile sutlers who traveled with regiments are scarce. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Although Rare Book Hub reports no other auction results for sutler account books, one sold on eBay in 2013. OCLC shows only four Civil War regimental sutler books are held by institutions.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9237

Two wonderful examples of Huntley & Palmers famous figural biscuit tins (i.e., cookie tins in Americanese). The creation of British biscuit tins is credited to Owen Jones, a consultant to the printing firm of Thomas de la Rue. Jones, who designed the first transfer-printed tin in 1868 for Huntley & Palmers. After offset lithography was invented in 1877, the firm began to print multicolored designs on complexly shaped containers.

Multi-book tins are titled Literature in Huntley & Palmer references. This tin measures approximately 6.5” x 6.25” x 4.75” and is in the shape of eight bound books strapped together by a belt. All the books are by different authors. Company information “Huntley & Palmers Biscuits / Reading & London” is stamped on the base. Almost no wear. This is an example of the first Literature tin produced by the company. The included “books’ reflect some of the most popular authors and titles of the time: Thomas Macauley’s History of England (the full set is represented by one volume), John Bunyan’s The Pilgrim’s Progress, a collection of works by Robert Burns, Charles Dicken’s The Pickwick Papers, Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe, Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels, Samuel Smiles’s Self Help, and a volume of Shakespeare’s works. Interestingly, only Smiles’s Self Help, with its emphasis upon hard work as the foundation of creativity and success, is almost unheard of in today’s world. Literature tins proved to be one of the company’s most popular tins and were produced, in ten different variations until 1924.

The single-book tin measures approximately 10” x 7” x 1.5”. The tin is the shape of a book with a hand-tooled cover. Almost no wear. This tin is often misattributed as being based on a book in the British Library, Het Boek Der Gebeden. Actually, it is a facsimile of a Grolier design of a book held in the Princeton library: Fragmenta aurea by Sir John Suckling, London: Printed for Humphrey Moseley, 1646. The Princeton catalog notes it was “bound at the Club Bindery, New York City, in the late 19th century. Red crushed morocco, gold-tooled with onlaid black hollow-lozenge.”

These tins have become popular collectibles, even in worn or shabby condition. They are especially scarce in condition as nice as these examples.


SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9239
31. [GOLD RUSH] [MINING] [PHILATELY] Detailed letter from a miner at the most infamous of all California Gold Rush camps, Mokelumne Hill. From Henry B. Holmes to Southworth Barnes. Moquolumne Hill, California to Plymouth, New Hampshire: 1851.

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 15.5” x 9.75” unfolded. The letter is datelined “Moquolumne Hill Oct the 22nd 1851.” It bears no postmark so undoubtedly ‘favor carried,’ probably by a returning miner. It is complete with a few small holes that do not hinder legibility. Some light dampstains. A transcript will be included.

In this letter to his uncle, Holmes describes in detail life at Mokelumne Hill and the dangerous mining method used by prospectors there:

“I reside at Moquolumne Hill and . . . if the rains sets in this winter the prospects will be very good for the miners they have got there dirt out of there holes and are laying it deep in piles to wash when the rain comes on. Some I suppose will get amply paid for their labor the holes here run from seventy to a hundred and twenty five feet deep. It would aston you if you would decend one of them and see the wonderful work of man. They have tore the gulches up and ravines and have gone into the hills there they find richer than ever there is trouble though and more time and expense in sinking these deep holes and a grate many of them get disappointed sinking them for some do not make enough to pay their way through whilst some get their piles and return home to the states. The hills around this vicinity have proved very rich but then they have not been half worked . . . and it is very dangerous to work in them when the ground is damp and wet on account of the bank caveing in but then there is some though big fools enough to work in them if they thought they was to be killed the next minute so eager are they for the precious metal but I consider my life worth more than all the gold ther is in Calafornia . . . .

There is now in this town about four or five thousand inhabitants where a year ago their was scarcely five hundred this place is improving fast houses are building here now every day Not cloth ones but good substantial frame buildings such as we have at home . . . There is now under way at the time of my writing two large frame buildings and one meeting house the latter will be much used here I hope by the people for there is plenty who ought to have the word of God preached to them . . . Lett me tell you how a Sunday is spent here, there is agenal thing more people in town on a Sunday than any other day the come in from all quarters from three and four miles off and by two o’clock the streets are crowded with men some are buying their weeks Provisions others are drink and curousing and other Playing into people that is loseing their money at Gambling and by night through the influence of Liquor they have a pretty noisye time of it here at sundown, these houses have a band to play for them to entice men into their houses to spend their money at the lower end of the town it is mostly inhabited by Mexicans and Spaniards and carry on their shouting and singing till Midnight I hope I shall reach home soon so I shall get out off this den off sin and inequity.”
Gold was first discovered at Mokelumne Hill in 1848 during the Mexican-American War by a member of the New York Regiment of Volunteers, and soon a party of miners from Oregon descended upon the region. The original placers were so rich in gold that the first miners were said to have risked starvation rather than travel to Stockton to replenish supplies. Soon, it was discovered that the hills surrounding the original claims were filled with gold, and ‘Moke Hill’ became one of the largest towns in California. Its population mushroomed to almost 15,000 miners from the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Mexico, China, and Chile, whose 16 square foot claims were packed tightly together. The town was a haven for criminals and filled with gambling dens and bordellos. Violence was ever-present and during 1851, at least one murder a week occurred over a four-month period.

This is possibly the earliest extant letter from Mokelumne Hill. Although the American Stampless Cover Catalog suggests a letter from 1850 may exist, no earlier mail than this example is identified in searches of OCLC, Rare Book Hub, Frajola’s PhilaMercury database, or major philatelic auction house records. Additionally, Durham’s California Geographic Names gazetteer reports the town’s post office opened in 1851, and Homes reports a change in his mailing address: “I told Lydia to direct them to stockton. direct no more their as there is a Post Office here in this town and if you direct them here, where I am I should be most likely to get them safer and at less expense. Now let me tell you how to direct them. Moquolumne Hill. California. Calaveras, County word these the same as I have worded them.”

A scarce, detailed, first-person gold mining account with both historic and philatelic value.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9244

The archive is contained in an 11”x11.75”x3” Kempco file box.

Its principal component is a two-volume, unpublished manuscript in two binders, each measuring 9”x11”. Together they contain approximately 100 pages of manuscript text, eight pages of hand-colored charts, one card of ribbon samples, and approximately 41 U.S. ribbons accompanied by meticulously drawn design schematics. The samples include a Medal of Honor ribbon.

A separate document protector contains an additional 25 pages of working papers along with a “U.K Ribbon Colours Identity Chart” containing 36 samples, one page of 13 primarily U.S. ribbon samples and color drawings, a hand-colored planning chart for the proposed multi-volume work, a letter from the U.K. with an advertisement for “The Gale & Polden Chart of Decorations and Medals” enclosed, and an advertising flyer for a German medal collector service.

Other items include

A 1956 press photo of DuBois showing a newly designed U.S. Army flag to a general,

Two National Geographic Magazines from 1943 and 1945 with articles about U.S. military insignia including “The Traditions and Glamour of Insignia” by DuBois,

A xerographic copy of an article about DuBois from a 1945 article in Yank magazine, and

Recently downloaded copies of two articles DuBois wrote for The Quartermaster Review (1928 and 1954).

The file box is worn but the hinge is holding and the clasp works as it should. The ribbon samples are all in nice shape. Some of the text pages have toned and a few have dampstains. One binder is missing its front cover.
In a draft preface to his unfinished work, DuBoise wrote that “This index of ribbons is the result of approximately 35 years” of work. He first began to work as a civilian for the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps in the very early 1920s just as it was being organized. A legendary stickler with regard for heraldic rules, he soon became its dominant force and eventually director of what was to become the The Institute of Heraldry which was expanded in 1954 to include the responsibility for developing and managing the symbolism associated with all federal services and departments. Not only did DuBois ensure heraldic rules were scrupulously followed, he personally designed many insignia, medals, flags, and other items including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the U.S. Army’s marksmanship badges.

DuBois apparently retired around 1960. Unfortunately, for unknown reasons, he did not complete this work. Although the draft does not consistently follow his plan as laid out in the table of contents, the work is extraordinary, especially his alphabetical listing of every medal or ribbon in the world—as of 1949—with annotations regarding its colors and issuing country.

Unique. With some additional research and elbow grease, DuBois’s plan and his remarkable compilation of organized data could be used to publish a relatively easy-to-use guide to facilitate the identification of world-wide military medals and awards by the colors of their ribbons.

$1,750  Read’Em Again Books #9223
33. [INSANITY] [LAW & CRIME] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MINING] [MURDERS & EXECUTIONS]

Two-page typed letter, unsigned. The letter is datelined, “Morningside, Hospital. / Montaville, Station. / Portland, Oregon. / Sept, 23, 1948,” and is in nice shape.

Eino Mack was the son of a Finnish emigrant who worked for the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Company. Beginning in 1939, he was repeatedly committed and released from a psychiatric hospital for a variety of issues including “somatic ideas . . . schizoid make up . . . hypochondriasis . . . fear . . . depression” and a “malignant” threatening attitude. As Eino laments in this letter to his sister, Aune, he was finally committed for life due to the ‘treacherous’ testimony of his brother before a jury that found him to be "a person who is so mentally unbalanced as to have taken the life, of a person without a reason or a just cause." Eino died on 23 November 1963 after he “fell into a convulsion and died when he heard President Kennedy had been assassinated.” (Morningside Hospital Patient Records, Find A Grave, and 1940 United States Federal Census.)

Eino describes his father’s murder and justification for his action in chilling detail:

“The old man [was] takeing it out on mother, on till I just about had a had a nervous breakdown from listening and watching that moron abuesing her. . . . I made up my mind he was not going to abuse me or mother anymore. . . . He came home by cab [and] started down the trail [and] I step out on the porch with the rifle, and warned him not to come home . . . but he came on, and I fired a shot over his head, he stop at the report [and] I warned him the second time, but he came on at a slow walk I fired the second shot through a bag of grocies he held in his left hand, the third and last warning he took no heed, but told me that he is comeing, I fired and killed him instantly. . . . [He] had no right to have any jurisdiction over us, as he was color or race conscience, and had the intelligence of a moron who would champion a negro above a white race, although we from our mother’s side are white. He had no right to marry a white person.” [Eino’s father was actually a white man who had been born in Finland.]

Eino closes his letter by proclaiming his sanity, although he acknowledges that “the right side of my brain is infected, from bone decaying the right side of the skull [and] the psychiatrist in charge here . . . told me that I was here for life.”

Prior to Alaskan statehood, there were no mental health services in the territory. Alaskans who were committed by family or jury were sent by a combination of dogsled, train, and boat to live at Morningside Hospital (a contracted, private, psychiatric facility) in Portland. By the time Morningside closed after Alaska became a state, it had held over 3,500 Alaskans as patients during its sixty years of business.

Not only does this letter provide insight into the thinking of a patricidal schizophrenic, it is also a testament to an often forgotten chapter in pre-statehood Alaskan care for the mentally ill. Very scarce. As of 2018, no other letters from Morningside Hospital patients are for sale in the trade or held by institutions per OCLC, and Rare Book Hub shows no auction records for similar items.

$750 Read’Em Again Books #9245

The album measures 12” x 14.5” and contains 35 pages filled with advertisements, broadsides, posters, photographs, and correspondence related to a 1930s swing orchestra. The material is mounted in chronological order. The contents are in nice shape. The album leaves are brittle with edge-wear and nine have become detached.

The first page in the album features a newspaper clipping showing a half-tone portrait of Linkenfelter titled, “Presenting Virgil Linkenfelter and his Society Swing Orchestra” which is followed by a 5” x 7” photograph of the band members posing in a nightclub.

The band first performed as “Bobby Link and His Orchestra” or “Bobby Link and his Southern Gentlemen” in Dayton, Ohio. One page contains three advertisements at another Dayton venue, where “Miss Fay Norman and her Gay Boy Review” headlined a nightclub show. The review consisted of “14 Clever Female Impersonators . . . World’s Largest . . . Chorus of Female Impersonators.” Featured performers included “Tangara, the Bombshell of Rhythm,” “Bobby Allen, Premiere Danscanse” and “Funny Fanny, M.C. and Comedienne.”

The band later changed its name to “Lynn Belasco and His Orchestra” and performed at an upscale Dayton venue, Club Blesaco, followed by an engagement at a similar nightclub in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where it was billed as “Lynn Belasco and His 6-Piece Wing Band from Sunny Tennessee.” During this time, Linkenfelter received an offer for a six-month engagement at The Imperial Hotel in London.

About the same time, Linkenfelter apparently requested the Consolidated Radio Artists—at the time the second largest booking agents in the country—to represent his band. Their reply advising him that he must first partially fund an audition is mounted in the album. In their letter, they also state, “we would be rather reluctant to book your orchestra under the name ‘Lynn Belasco’ – on account of the confusion with the nationally known ‘Leon Belasco’, who is a very good friend of our organization.” From that time on, the band appeared as several variations of “Link and His Society Swing” and became regular house bands for several Louisville, Kentucky “nite clubs”: Richmount, Club Joy, Bluemeadow, and Halcyon Hall, a popular spot for University of Kentucky students. A terrific 5” x 4” photograph pictures the a bright and shiny Halcyon Hall four-door sedan emblazoned with advertising, “Music by Virgil Lingenfelter and his Society Swing Orchestra Featuring Bruce “Preacher” Munson . . . And Lexington’s Own Jennie Wells.” It’s unclear when the orchestra disbanded, however an advertisement in a Danville, Kentucky newspaper shows it was still performing in 1939.

A unique visual record of a regional swing orchestra popular in the 1930s.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9220
35. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [PHILATELY] [VIRGINIANA] Letter recounting the deaths from Typhus Fever in Lynchburg, Virginia during the summer of 1845. Robert Johnson to Mildred Johnson. Lynchburg, Virginia to Short Creek, Harrison City, Ohio: 1845.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 7.5” x 12.25”. The letter is datelined November 11th, 1845. It bears a circular blue “LYNCHG VA” postmark dated November 11 and a bold “10” postal rate mark indicating the cost to mail a letter over 300 miles. The letter is in nice shape with short partial slits along three mailing folds. A transcript will be included.

In this letter, which was written over several months, Robert informs his sister, who lived in Ohio with their father Jonathan, about a severe outbreak of Typhus Fever that had occurred in Lynchburg during the summer and killed a number of people.

“I can inform thee I am well at Present. Brother Newbey has bin in a bad Condishon with his feet & legs a swelling and Brakeing out . . . he got a doctor to come & see them & gave him something to anoint with. . . . Thomas Moormans family has all Bin Sick. Virginia was taken down first then the old woman & then Samuel all with the Typhus fever. Samuel is dead the old Lady hant left her bed yet – Micajah has bin a drooping a bout but hant taken his bed yet – James is very Porely but Started to the Springs a few days a go over the Mountains. It has ben Myty sickly in the Country this summer more so then in town a bundance of people has Dide a bout in the Country a good many has dide in town this summer. . . . I believe all our Relations are well at present. Old Betsy Moorman has got well James Moorman is mity porely – Docter Moorman Dide with the fever This docter moorman was a son of little John moorman well Little John Moorman had a Son in law the name of Robinson he Dide & the Brought him down to our Grave yard & Buried him with Military honour firing guns in the grave. John Percivel dide with the fever. Young Zack Waide dide with the fever few weeks sence. The fever was worse in the Country then in the Town Some half a Dozen I suppose. But the fever is pretty well over since the hard frosts has come.”

He also bemoans the lack of corn liquor (“Times here is Gloommey little or no Corn made neare a bout here. What few Corn makers a bout here Sese before augst Come in the wood not make on Barrel of Corne”), reports on a money crisis (“There is no selling of Land now Every body wants to sel there Land & there is nobody to buy money is so scare.”), and passes on regards from some family slaves (“Old black Betsey Roberts Remember her love to old Master Jonathon & Mis Judah”).

Although foodborne Typhoid Fever was endemic to the Lynchburg region, louse or flea-borne Typhus Fever was not. The Typhus mini-epidemic described in this letter is not recorded in local or state histories.
36. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Correspondence from a volunteer serving with an American Field Service in France that supported the 2nd and 10th French Armies. Harold Wiswall. [Dugny, France] 1917.

Two letters sent on consecutive days by Wiswall to his family in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The first is to Wiswall’s mother and was written on a 5.25” x 7” soldier’s mailing sheet. It is franked with a blue 25-centime Sower stamp (Scott #168) and bears a circular Tressors et Postes postmark dated 15 August 1917. A circulare S.S.U. XXX handstamps is also on the font. A return address on the reverse reads “H. C. Wiswall / S.S.U. 30 / convois automobiles / Par B.C.M / Paris, / France.” The second letter, a longer letter to his mother, is in a plain envelope free-franked “F. M.” (Franchise Militaire) has the same S.S.U handstamp, but it is postmarked on the 16th. Both are in nice shape. Transcripts included.

Well before the United States entered the war, approximately 2,000 American volunteers were manning ambulance sections for the French Army. Collectively known as the American Field Service, men and ambulances were organized into 33 sanitary service units. S.S.U. 30, which supported the French 2nd and 10th Armies, assembled in Paris before deploying to Dugny, near Verdun, in mid-July of 1917. During the time that these letters were written, it served the areas of Valdelaincourt, Chaumont, and Montharian. Before transferring to the American Expeditionary Force in the fall, it served at Rambluzin, Soissons, Vauxrot, Malmaison, and Saint-Remy. In them, Wiswall discusses his life in an American volunteer ambulance unit in the French army noting:

“At present I am off duty . . . having just returned from a hurry call for 13 ambulances for victims of gas, 64 in all, some have lost eyes, etc. . . . There is a good deal going on here and it seems at times almost as if there were more Boche shells dropped around us than anywhere else. They put us to bed with their whistling and wake us up with their smash regular and lord but you should see some of the holes – I measured one over thirty feet across and half as deep. . . . I tell you some of the big shells sure would be good for digging holes for cess pools. . . . One man was within 20 ft. and never got touched everything going over his head. . . . We see any number of planes and sonics up, last night there were 34 planes right around. The Boche go in squadrons and follow like flocks of ducks, although there are lots of single ones up also. . . . I just heard from Pre [and] it seems as if most everyone was drafted or is in service now. . . . Do you know mother, these boys haven’t the faintest idea of what it is like and I’m sorry to think of them in conditions such as I’ve seen some here. However, war is war.”

Mail from U.S. volunteer ambulance drivers serving in the French army is decidedly scarce.

For more information about the American Field Service volunteer ambulance units, see Seymore (ed.), The History of the American Field Service Told by its Members and Van Dam’s The Postal History of the AEF with regard to French ambulance markings on volunteers’ mail.

$400 for the pair Read’Em Again Books #9247
37. [MEDICINE & NURSING] Photograph album documenting the training of a male nurse at the William Mason Memorial Hospital during the 1920s. Compiled by John L. Upton. Murray, Kentucky: circa 1935.

The album measures 11” x 7.5” and contains over 120 photographs documenting the time Upton was training to become a nurse at the William Mason Memorial Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. Most of the photos measure about 3” x 4”, some are larger. In addition to the photos, there is a color postcard of the hospital and a laminated newspaper clipping about Upton entering the nursing program at 34 years of age. Everything has been glued to the album pages.

Upton was born in Arkansas in 1900 and had no education at all when he enlisted in Army at the beginning of World War One. While serving in France, he decided

“that ignorance could get him no place and he determined to to ‘get an education’ [and eventually did so.] Most of it through self-instruction.”

After finally earning enough high school credits he enrolled in the nursing program at the hospital and upon graduation worked at the Toledo State Hospital (also known as the Toledo Insane Asylum) in Ohio.

The photos in this album show

Upton and his female colleagues in uniform and mufti, in group poses and candid shots, caring for newborn babies, working in the kitchen and eating in the dining room, in surgery, at a nurses station, using a microscope at the laboratory-pharmacy, operating an ex-ray machine, writing on a blackboard, etc.

Wards, some with patients in beds,
Hospital corridors and wall lockers,
Exterior hospital views and three 5”x7” images of part of the hospital (or a previous hospital building) being destroyed by fire,
Funeral services, and a few of
Friends or family.

Prior to the Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton era, men were commonly involved in care for the sick and injured, and in the United State a number of men served as nurses in the Spanish-American War. However, by the early years of the 20th century, nursing had become an almost entirely female profession, and very few nursing schools admitted male students. The William Mason Memorial Hospital was one of the few that did, even advertising that males were welcome in religious newspapers. Of the very few men who became nurses, most worked on male wards or caring for mentally ill patients at asylums for the insane, as Upton did upon graduation. See Judd and Stitzman’s A History of Nursing in the United States and “Wanted. – Nurses for training school” in the Southern Union Worker, Volume XIII, #25, June 19, 1924, (a Seventh Day Adventist newspaper).

Very scarce. As of 2019, no similar items are for sale in the trade or held by institutions per OCLC. The Rare Book Hub shows none have been sold at auction.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9230

This comb-bound album measures 12” x 9” and contains approximately 225 images and several additional pieces of ephemera. About 170 of the images are vernacular photographs; the remainder are a mix of postcards, professional photographs, and half-tone prints. Most of the snap-shots measure approximately 4.5” x 3.75”. All are mounted with photo-corners; the ephemera is laid-in. The cover of the faux-leather album features the seal of the Hawaiian Territory. Everything is in nice shape.

The inside of the front cover features a postcard of the ship and names of all of its ports of call: Corregidor, Bataan, Manila, South Hampton, Cherbourg, Cuba, Azores, Panama, and Hawaii.

About 135 of the photographs show the USAHS Louis A. Milne and members of its crew, both ashore and afloat while traversing the Panama Canal and in port at Honolulu. Most are captioned and many of the crewmembers are identified. There are no photos of patients, wards, or treatment facilities.

The ephemera includes orders promoting Corcoran from Private First Class to Technician 5th Grade (the equivalent of a corporal), a liberty pass, a ration card, and a newspaper photo of the ship immediately before its commissioning.

In 1944, the Army purchased an inter-coastal merchant steamer, the S/S Lewis A. Luckenbach, and began converting the vessel into a 1,000 bed hospital ship, the largest hospital ship of its time. It was commissioned in March of 1945, and immediately began shuttling patients from hospitals in the European Theater to hospitals (primarily Stark General Hospital) in Charleston, South Carolina. In August of 1945 it was transferred to the Pacific and arrived in Pearl Harbor on 22 September where the ship underwent some minor repairs for nine days. As there were no patients on board, the crew was allowed to enjoy some down time and tour Honolulu and the surrounding area. This album documents those nine days.

Once the ship was repaired, it continued on to the Philippines and began to shuttle wounded from the Pacific Theater to hospitals in Honolulu, Oakland, San Pedro, and eventually Yokuska, Japan. The ship was decommissioned in August, 1946.

Very scarce. As of 2018, there are no similar photograph collections of the USAHS Milne or other World War II hospital ships for sale in the trade or (per OCLC) held by institutions. Rare Book Hub shows no auction records for similar items.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9226
39. [MILITARY & WAR] Civil War soldier's letter from an atrocious speller describing the layout of the massive complex of forts and camps in Northern Virginia where tens of thousands of Union soldiers lived in tent cities, some on top of Union graves from the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). Private Moses B Aldrich. Alexandria, Virginia: 1862

This two-page letter is datelined “Near Alexander va Nov 13th 1862.” It is complete with an inch of toning along the top edge. Short .5” splits starting at the ends of one mailing fold. A transcript will be included.

Aldrich was a member of the 12th Rhode Island Infantry. The regiment mustered into service on 18 October 1862. It was immediately deployed to Washington, DC and assigned to Casey’s Division. It encamped near Arlington Heights and Fairfax Seminary in Northern Virginia as part of the Union’s defense of the Capitol following its defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).

In his letter, Aldrich reports:

“as to the country it is all ruin and hear if the North was in the same shap as the south is I think they might began to grumble for all you can see har is tents for a fur as you can see and the ground is all trampd up wee are a mile beyond fair fax cenmery and 2 miles this side Alexandor on the East fort Elsworth on the south fort lions on the west fort Worth on the north fort Blancker we are about in the midle of them sence I left Washington I have not seen a fence nor a stoon wal nor cant see one for as far as I can see and I can see for 20 miles. . . . you think that five hundred are a good meney but if you bee on revue where thare is 25000 as thare was last Sunday you might think tham was a fine. they say that foks don’t sleep with dead focks but I don’t bleeve it for I have sleep with ded focks thay were fixen our tent and the ground was uneven and in digen it level wee dig one foot deap we dug out a man that was bared in a fue days after the battle of bull run under where I sleep but all of the ground is full of Dead hear”

He also mentions that he visited Alexandria where he saw the place of Colonel Ellsworth murder, purchased some song sheets, and was horrified by the number and condition of the sick and wounded:

“I was yesterday to Alxandr and see where Col Alwerth was kiled in the Marchall Hotell and when I come by the north of Alxander and see the wounded and sick and disabled solgers thare is 16000 of them the most disgraded beans that I ever see in my life. . . . You can tell the girls that I bot some songs for them when I was to Alxander but lost them out of my pocket but I will get some more for them”

The occupation of Northern Virginia was peaceful, with the sole exception of Alexandria, where Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth was killed at the Marshall House hotel while removing the Confederate flag flying above it. For seven weeks Union forts were built along the Potomac River and planning was begun to construct a ring of camps to protect Washington. Following the Union defeat at Bull Run, makeshift camps and forts were built throughout the Arlington region to defend direct approaches to the Capitol. Forts Ellsworth, Lyon, Worth, and Blenker (later renamed Reynolds) were some of the most significant.

$300	Read’Em Again Books #9263
40. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [PRINTING & PUBLISHING] [RELIGION & BIBLES] Collection of American Tract Society, Philadelphia Tract House Civil War patriotic envelopes (covers) used by a soldier in the 31st Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry. 1862-1864.

22 postally used envelopes, each with the same imprint on the reverse, “Tract House, 929 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.” Large vignettes with either a Bible verse or encouraging aphorism are printed in the front of each, and related smaller vignettes and short pithy phrases are on the reverse. All are franked with 3-cent Washington stamps (Scott #65) postmarked at various locations, and all are in much better shape than usually found. Unfortunately, there are no letters.

During the Civil War, a number of printing houses sold patriotic envelopes and lettersheets, often as ‘kits,’ for use by civilians and soldiers alike. They were most popular during 1861 and 1862, when Union confidence was high and the horrors of war yet unrealized. The American Tract Society was already a long-time publisher of religious tracts that were distributed by colporters and at Tract House in several cities. The Tract House of Philadelphia produced less jingoist, religious and temperance designs, however as noted philatelist, Richard Frajola, determined, it “evidently came late to the game and few of their envelopes were used and have survived.” It appears that their printing life-span was quite short as they are not listed in the Society’s House catalog, *Publications of the American Tract Society, September, 1864*. See *Ten Years of Colportage* by the American Tract Society, “Dating American Tract Society Publications through 1876” by S. J. Wolfe, and “Tract House Patriotics” by Richard Frajola. Not listed in Weiss.

This collection of Tract House covers were all sent by Musician Oliver Shibley of the 31st Iowa Volunteers to his wife at home in Clarence, Iowa. Although the regiment served from October of 1862 to June of 1865, Oliver’s use of these covers ends in March of 1864, probably when he used the last from his kit. The letters are dated in pencil on the reverse and postmarked from Illinois (Cairo), Tennessee (Memphis, Nashville), or Mississippi (Vicksburg), and follow the path of the 31st’s campaigns which included the Battles of Chicasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Snyder’s Bluff, Vicksburg, and Lookout Mountain. Docketing on one of the Memphis envelopes reads “Received July 11th / Vicksburg”. It no doubt contained news of the fall of the city on July 4th.

This is the most complete group of these exceptionally scarce envelopes known. In 2010, Frajola created a philatelic exhibit using 21 of these exact envelopes. In it, he noted, “Quite probably the covers represent a nearly complete set of the different designs. . . .” The covers are from the Floyd E. Risvold Collection, which was sold during a Spinks-Shreves Galleries Sale 121 in January of 2010. While none of these envelopes are currently for sale in the book-ephemera trade, individual examples occasionally show up in philatelic catalogs with sales prices exceeding $300. OCLC shows that nine examples are held by the Free Library of Philadelphia, and an unreported number by the Library Company of Philadelphia. The American Antiquarian Society has 14 examples in its holdings.

**SOLD**

Read’Em Again Books #9236
41. [MILITARY & WAR] [POLITICS & PRESIDENTS] An “Unconditional Union Man” Protection Bond certificate handwritten and signed by future President Andrew Johnson while serving as the Military Governor of Tennessee along with a partially printed, Army-issued “peaceable citizen” identification document.  
Nashville: Tennessee Executive Department and the Army of the Cumberland, 1862.

The “Unconditional Union Man” certificate measures 7.5” x 10” and is dated December 12th, 1862. It is complete with its Executive Department envelope. Both pieces are written in the same hand as Andrew Johnson’s signature. The Army “peaceable citizen” document is signed by the Army of the Cumberland’s Provost Marshall and dated “the 15 day of Nov. 1862.” The document and certificate are in nice shape with some storage folds; there is some edgewear to the envelope.

The “Unconditional Union Man” certificate signed by Johnson attests that:

“Geo. R. Abbott . . . is entitled to the full protection of the Federal Government in his person and property [and orders] that no person, citizen or soldier will commit depredations upon or take possession of [his] property . . . unless ordered so to do by written orders.”

The “peaceable citizen” document measures 5” x 7”. It describes Abbott and contains his oath that:

“during the war with the so-called Confederate States . . . I will truly and strictly behave as a peaceable citizen [and] by word, writing or act do [nothing] prejudicial to the military forces of the United States, nor give information about them which will enable others to do them harm or interfere with their operations. . . .”

The term “unconditional Union man” was widely used by Union officers in the border states and occupied Confederate territories to indicate someone who had opposed secession and could be fully trusted by the federal forces. Use of these documents was apparently begun around December 3, 1862, as the Nashville Union newspaper of that date describes the various “Forms of Bonds . . . for loyal citizens only. . . .”

Abbott’s address is listed on the documents as “115 North Market Street,” which at the time was the center of Nashville’s industrial and warehouse district along the Cumberland River. In 1903, the street name was changed to 2nd Avenue and is now the main entertainment thoroughfare of the city. 115 North Market was located near its intersection with present day Commerce Street only a couple of blocks from the famed Ryman Auditorium, the former home of the Grand Ole Opry.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. OCLC does not locate any similar items in institutional collections, and the Rare Book Hub shows no auctions for similar items.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9277
42. [MILITARY & WAR] Civil War soldier’s letter on patriotic stationery describing the disastrous defeat of the Union Army at Fredericksburg, Virginia and prophesizing General Burnside’s relief from command. I. J. Sperry. Camp opposite Fredericksburg: 1862.

This four-page letter is written on stationery emblazoned with a red and blue slogan “The Banner of the Free, 1776-1861” featuring an illustration of Lady Liberty bearing a U.S. flag. It is enclosed in a patriotic envelope (Weiss D-B-35) featuring a strutting rooster under the slogan “Taking the Oath of Allegiance.” The letter is datelined “Camp opposite Fredericksburg Dec 11th” and additional paragraphs dated up to 21 December. The envelope bears a circular Crafton, Virginia postmark dated Jan 31. The letter is in nice shape with 1.5” splits at the ends of one mailing fold. The cover shows some wear, and its stamp has been excised. A transcript of the letter will be included.

Isaac Sperry, a private in the 73rd Ohio Infantry, wrote this letter to his wife, Hulda, over a ten-day period. He began the letter on the day Union forces first attacked Fredericksburg began finished it in the aftermath of the defeat.

“Tuesday Dec 11th Dear wife as the letters won’t go out now I will write a little every day Keep kind of Journal we moved our camp in the morning to the top of the hill it is half a mile pitched our tents made nice beds out of leaves and cedar brush built a comfortable fire before it was just laying down for the night when we were ordered to march instantly we until midnight through mud and slush when we halted for the night we laid on the ground until day. Thursday 18th Darling this is a fine clear day we are here in camp dont know how soon we will be called out we are on one side of the river and the Rebels on the other looking at one another . . . Burnside had a terrible battle last Saturday he charged on their batterys three times but was repulsed every time we lost about ten thousand men and had to cross the river so we gained nothing Friday Dec 19th Dear Hulda we are still laying on our oars all quiet I dont know what will be the next move This was an awful slaughter storming those batterys somebody will be accountable for . . . I presume we will not try to take their forts without we can flank them Honey I durst not write what I think about this war we may whip them but it looks doubtful to me our officers are fighting for the money and the honor not for patriotism but I must not write just what I think”

General Burnside was, of course, relieved from command of the Army of Potomac following the Union defeat at Fredericksburg and his humiliating follow-on attempt to launch a second attack through the mud and slush that had made travel on Virginia roads impossible.

Sperry also attempts to allay his wife’s anxiety by humorously ending his missive, “don’t be alarmed about you old ugly man I will not get killed if I can help it.” Well, in war, you can’t always help it, and Sperry was shot through a lung on July 2, 1863 during the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg and died in the 11th Corps Hospital three days later.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9248
43. [MILITARY & WAR] [NATIVE-AMERICANA] [SIOUX UPRISING] Two letters from a Minnesota militiaman who fought against the Sioux follow their barbarous attacks upon settlers and witnessed the mass hanging of the warriors who had committed the worst atrocities. William Stephens. Camp Sibley (Henderson) and Fairmount, Minnesota: 1862 and 1863.

Stephen’s first letter—on campaign stationery featuring John Fremont—was written from Camp Sibley, Lower Sioux Agency. Its patriotic envelope was postmarked at Henderson, Minnesota on November 5, [1862]. The letter is in nice shape with short splits and minor repairs at some folds; a stamp has been removed from the envelope. The second letter, was written on patriotic stationery featuring Columbia holding a flag, was sent from Henderson, Minnesota on January 4th, 1863. It is in nice shape.

Stephens, apparently a recent Minnesota settler, first reports to his niece in Pennsylvania:

“The Indian troubles are over for this time. I enlisted the 13th of August and should have been south long before this if it had not been for this outbreak. I could not begin to tell you of the depredations they have committed here; the most horrible sights I ever saw...”

And later remarks:

“Olive did you have a good Christmas and New Year? I never shall forget mine: Christmas. I went to Mankato to see the Indians hung. I sent Eliza a paper that gave all the particulars... I don’t believe the Seventh Regiment will go south... we have got to follow the Indians to the Rocky Mountains.”

Although the Sioux had agreed to reservation life in exchange for a vast sum of money to be paid over a period of years, in 1862 payments were delayed due to the ongoing Civil War compounded by a corrupt local Indian Agent who was stealing some of the funds. Although the annual payment finally arrived on 16 August, it did not relieve the built-up anger in many of the Sioux who were already depressed by failed crops and a shrinking wildlife population, as well the callous indifference to their plight and condescension expressed by government officials. The uprising began on 17 August when a small party of Sioux murdered most of a settler family after first feigning goodwill. At a war council the next day, the leader of the southern Dakota band, Little Crow, ordered attacks upon all white settlers to drive them out of Minnesota. Over the next month, the southern Sioux committed the most heinous campaign to kill as many whites as possible and terrorize the remainder into leaving.

The “depredations” to which Stephens referred were truly horrific. White male settlers were usually shot from a distance after which the Sioux attacked family members. Many first-hand accounts report deaths by clubbing, facial and genital mutilations, rapes, amputation of breasts, disembowelments, decapitations, the nailing of a baby to a tree, and more. Hundreds of women and children were taken captive. Over 800 whites were killed, and over 40,000 settlers fled their homesteads.
Little Crow’s initial success was due to a miniscule Army presence in the region. However, just before the attacks, Minnesota had begun to raise volunteer regiments to fight in the Civil War. Military records reflect that Stephens enlisted as a private in Company A, Fillmore County Militia, which proved itself defending the town of New Ulm during an attack by an overwhelming force of Sioux. Lincoln appointee, General John Pope, soon reorganized the volunteers into infantry regiments, which under the leadership of former Minnesota governor decisively defeated the Sioux at the Battle of Wood Lake. Although many, if not most, of those who perpetrated the atrocities escaped westward, Sibley rounded up over 2,000 warriors and established a tribunal that examined each case and determined that only 400 of them had participated in the attacks and would stand trial for murder.

Once the trials began, they were rapidly concluded, and 303 of the 400 were found guilty and sentenced to death. President Lincoln reviewed each conviction and reported, “Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak on the one hand, nor with so much severity as to be real cruelty on the other, I caused a careful examination of the records of trials to be made [and] I have ordered [only] thirty-nine to be executed.” As Stephens reported, he witnessed this hanging of the Sioux in a mass execution at Mankato, Minnesota on December 26, 1862.

With the statewide military reorganization, Stephens was assigned to the 7th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment and did, indeed, spend the next year fighting remnants of the warring Sioux in the West. Eventually the 7th did travel “south” to participate in the Civil War where it fought with distinction at the Battles of Tupelo, Nashville, and Spanish Fort.

For traditional histories of the uprising see, Bryant and Murch’s A History of the Great Massacre by the Sioux Indians, 1864; McConskey’s Dakota War Whoop, 1864; and any number of personal survivor narratives including those by Carrothers, Earle, Krieger and especially Schwandt and Burghold. For recent revisionist interpretations that ignore, discount, or question the traditional histories, first-hand narratives, and instead focus on the trial or pre-uprising mistreatment of the Sioux, see Chomsky’s “The United States-Dakota War Trials: A Study in Military Injustice” in Stanford Law Reviews, 1990 and Anderson’s Through Dakota Eyes, 1988. For the most impartial modern examinations of the uprising see Andrist’s “Massacre!” In American Heritage, July 1961 and Carley’s The Dakota War of 1862, 2001.

Two exceptionally scarce Sioux Uprising letters. As of 2019, OCLC shows no institutional holdings from soldiers who fought in the uprising or witnessed the hangings, although two institutions contain letters from volunteers in Iowa and Wisconsin units that were alerted but did not engage in the conflict, and two institutions contain letters from civilians (and their relatives) who fled Minnesota during the uprising. Nothing remotely similar for sale in the trade or identified in auction records at the Rare Book Hub.
44. [MILITARY & WAR] [POETRY] A letter from and poem composed by a Union trooper assigned to the 2nd Illinois Cavalry describing a defeat against overwhelming odds. James Fortiner to Emma Squires. Big Black River near Vicksburg, Mississippi: 1863.

This four-page letter contains a two-page soldier’s poem on an enclosed leaf. The letter and the poem are in nice shape.

In this letter to his future wife, a grief-stricken Fortiner describes a rout inflicted upon his unit of 316 troopers by an overwhelming force of more than 3,000 Confederates.

“Four companies of our regiment had a bloody and desperate fight two days ago. We ran into a gang of rebels numbering three thousand while we had three hundred and sixteen. We were soon surrounded and they commenced to butcher us. We formed in line and opened up on them but they picked us off too fast to remain in that position, so we charged and in doing so we lost several men and a good many horses. They charged on us and we had to retreat, but we fought them as we ran until we came to an open place. There we made another stand and fought them until their artillery opened up on us in our rear. We soon found that we had to get out of that deadly fire, so we drew our sabours and cut our way out but in doing so we lost a great many good men. Some killed and wounded and a good many taken prisoners.

The fight commenced early in the morning and lasted until noon. A great many of our boys are missing yet. Our Captain . . . and five of our men have gone to the Battel field with a flag of truse to bury the ded and recover our wounded. They have not returned yet so I can not tell you who is killed and wounded. . . . Emm we have bin in a great many fights but this is the worst one and the only one that we ever had to retreat at 316 to 3000 is quite a difference but we faced them as long as we could and I think we did well to save ennny men at all . . . our camp is all quiet now a mourning for our brothers that have fallen on the field tears can be seen in a great many Strong harted mens eyes as they gather in litel Squad's and talk the mater over by there selves – Perhaps our turn next we cannot tell we may have to fight again tomorrow . . . .”

Fortner’s poem continues his lament:

“Upon the hill I turned
   To take the last fond look
Of the vally and the village church
And the cottage by the brook
I listened to the sound
So familiar to my ear
And then I lent upon my sword
And wiped away a tear...
I turned and left the spot
O do not deem me weak
Fore dauntless was the soldiers heart
Though tears wear on my cheek
To watch the formest rank
In dangers dark carreeer
Bee sure the hand more daring there
Has wiped away a tear

Although the 2nd Illinois Cavalry was engaged in almost daily skirmishes with Confederate forces during this time, regimental records do not reflect any defeat in June of 1863. However, the unit was the only regiment who fought gallantly in a Union defeat at La Grange, Tennessee six months before in November of 1862, and Fortiner’s description dovetails well with details of that battle.

This interesting corundum is unexplained but could perhaps be the result of an exaggeration by Fortiner, a battle that took place at Black River but somehow did not make it into regimental records, or reminiscing about the losses at La Grange which may have been too painful to write about sooner. Regardless, this is a poignant description of a defeat by an experienced combat veteran made all the more special by his poem about dealing with the loss, not just of the battle but of friends in his unit.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9259
45. [MILITARY & WAR] Civil War soldier’s letter describing how Confederates wearing Union overcoats attacked Union forces occupying the right-of-way along the Weldon Railroad to ensure the defenders of Petersburg could not be easily resupplied. Corporal A. Fenn. Weldon Railroad, Virginia: 1865.

This four-page letter on extra-large leaves (which Fenn described as “acres”) is headed “Camp on the Weldon Railroad, January, 11th 1865, Co H 10th Vt Infantry.” Its envelope is franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) and bearing an indistinct Washington DC January postmark The letter is in nice shape; the envelope show considerable wear.

Fenn describes camp-life and asks his wife to send supplies to augment his unit rations including: “15 pounds of Buckwheat flour and A pound of Saleratus and half A pound of cream of tartar. 3 or 4 pounds of Maple Sugar and two pounds of tobacco; 1 quire of letter paper; two or three pounds of dried Aplles; and A couple of pounds of good Sausages . . . one pair of socks and A couple of pounds Butter”

He also describes Confederate attacks upon the Union picket line to gather badly needed food and supplies, and how the raids were finally thwarted:

“the rebels have attacked our pickets twice in the night, and . . . carried of A lot of Knapsacks and Blankets and rations They . . . got up within 8 or 10 rods, in the Dark concealed by bushes and than fire A volley, that sounded like a hundred Big Maples coming down togethers, and than rushed Yelling and screaming on to 7 or 8 points at once, . . . the 77th New York, scattered and run like the Devil, our Regt . . . fell back about 4 rods waiting for the Johnnys to come in and take rations and clothing, and than they was going to give them Hail Columbia; but they got Deceived; the Johnnys had on our overcoats and as thay gathered up the 77th N. York haversacks [we] supposed it was the New Yorkers themselves lugging off their . . . so the rebs trotted off with 30 haversacks all right . . . It shows the rebs are mighty hard up when they run so much risk to get a little grub for if our Boys were only wide awake, all hands they could cut the rebs all to peices . . .

There is details . . . sent out every day . . . putting up Abbattis . . . Sticks stuck in the ground with the sharpend ends out towards the enemy about 8 inches A part; there is now in some places 3 rows in front of our Breastworks; coming in . . . they look rather Savage and A line of Battle trying to get through would be all cut in peices without any loss to speak off by our Men from behind the Breastworks . . . let the rebs try one of their rushing in games . . . they would wish themselves back again . . .”

After direct attacks on Petersburg failed to capture the city, General Grant became determined to starve its defenders into surrender. As part of his plan, the Union forces fought two costly battles to capture the Weldon Railroad which had been Petersburg’s primary supply line.

An eye-opening account vividly testifying to the gross difference between the ability of the Union and Confederate Armies to provide food supplies for their forces.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9262
46. [MUSIC & THEATER] [MENSTRUAL CUP] [WOMEN] An exceptional archive related to Leona Watson, a successful early 20th Century singer-actress, who later invented the menstrual cup. Probably compiled by Leona and her mother. Various locations: 1900s – 1950s.

This large group of over 230 images, letters, reviews, etc. was likely compiled by Leona and her mother between the early 1909 and the early 1950s. It includes:

- Three portrait photographs
- Ten letters between Leona and her mother. In one Leona emotionally notifies her mother that she has eloped with a man her mother despised and in another that is equally emotional, her mother informs Leona of her father’s attempted suicide.
- Eight letters from Leona’s agent, Chamberlain Brown, regarding possible performances late in her career.
- Two copies of a handbill, “How to Find the Soul of Your Voice,” by Leona Watson. The handbill features a dramatic headshot of Leona along with two smaller illustrations of a mouth and throat. The printed text of one handbill has been corrected in pencil and it also notes that the sheet was published by Watson, who was starring as “Adelina” in the Broadway hit, *The Climax*.
- Approximately 40 newspaper-magazine photos or drawings of Leona, several of which show her on-stage in *The Climax*. One is signed “Leona Watson.”
- Nine clippings of Ward Morehouse’s “Broadway After Dark” newspaper column about Leona.
- Over 160 short newspaper clippings mentioning performances by Leona, and four typewritten pages containing excerpts from other reviews. Almost all are toned and brittle.
- One type-written page titled, “A List of Operas I’ve Done” identifying nine operas, operettas, and musical in which Leona performed. Toned and brittle.
- A headshot “photo” postcard of Leona in *The Golden Girl*, a “gorgeous musical review.”
- An 18” x 24” original charcoal portrait of Leona; complete but worn and separated into eight panels along storage folds.
- A newspaper advertisement for Signor R. E. De Stefani’s Grand Italian Conservatory of Music with an endorsement from Leona. In an interview for *The Theater Magazine* while Leona was starring in *The Climax*, she credited De Stefani for teaching her to sing. The clipping is missing the text of Leona’s endorsement.
Leona Watson, from Lexington, Kentucky, was only twenty years old but had already performed for several years in touring companies, when she made a splash on Broadway in 1909 starring in Edward Lock’s and Joseph M. Weber’s hit, The Climax. Although Watson never again achieved such success, she continued to perform for many years, and it was during this time she invented the menstrual cup.

“‘The record of this young girl’s remarkable success reads like a fairy story,’ one reporter wrote. Some recounted an anecdote that showed an audacious streak foreshadowing her future re-invention as an unconventional entrepreneur: Before she hit gold with The Climax, a repo crew surprised the Watsons in Kentucky and lugged away the family piano, which Leona had secretly pawned to bankroll her pricy East Coast voice lessons.

One less glamorous aspect of Watson’s touring career was that, while she was ‘barnstorming’ from stage to stage, she faced the challenge of how to avoid menstruating all over Adelina’s angelic white dress. Not only was Kotex still a decade off, but the bulky straps, suspenders, and girdles that kept pads in place at the time would be glaringly obvious beneath a delicate gown — not to mention the stage lights. Watson and her menstruating castmates avoided such unsightly external heft by rolling up scraps of fabric and manually inserting them, creating something akin to homemade tampons.

That this solution was already revolutionary for the time didn’t stop Watson from continuing to contemplate the problem. Decades later, the widowed Leona Watson Chalmers would cite those grueling six-day weeks of theater life as the inspiration for the Tassette, the first commercial menstrual cup.

It was a woman’s invention, made to simplify busy women’s lives. ‘Frankly it is well worth a trial, because this little device appears to be the best solution to the problem of sanitary protection,’ reads one passage of Chalmers’ 1937 book, The Intimate Side of a Woman’s Life. ‘It eliminates belts, pins, napkins, and inconvenience . . . furthermore the device does not have to be removed in answering a call of nature. It is truly a Godsend to professional and business women.’

These practical virtues were reflected in the Tassette’s initial ad campaign. One of the first ads for the ‘funny’ new product appeared in Photoplay magazine in 1937. ‘Mrs. Leona W. Chalmers invents invisible protection ... so comfortable you’ll never feel it ... so secure you’ll always be at ease!’ the copy read. ‘IT TOOK A WOMAN to ease women’s most trying ordeal.’ (See Natalie Shure’s “Why has it taken the menstrual cup so long to go mainstream?” in Pacific Standard, 6 July 2016.)
47. [MUSIC & THEATER] Archive of photographs and ephemera related to a jazz band leader who performed in Mexico, Germany, the S.S. Republic, and later New York City Clubs and on the radio. Related to Harry Braun. Various locations: primarily 1926-1937.

This archive consists of a 14-page 12” x 7.5” album containing about 40 photographs and ten pieces of ephemera, three 13.5” x 11” full-band photos, and about 135 loose photos. The photographs vary in size, most are about 1.75” x 2.5” and 2.5” x 4”. Most images are captioned. Items in the album have been mounted with photo-corners. The ephemera and vernacular photos are almost all in nice shape. The large photos have edge-wear. The album’s string binding is sound, although its covers are missing. It is arranged in chronological order. Contents include:

- Announcements of New York City club openings (Club Shadowland and Ulpia Club) in 1926 and 1928.
- 1929 photos of Braun and other presumed performers in Brownsville, Texas, some with an automobile advertising “New Orleans Club / Betty Russell / Matamoros, Mex.”
- A note from the “‘Louis’ Booking Office” on Broadway.
- A letter to his father while serving as the orchestra director on a round-trip cruise from New York to Cherbourg, France along with ship photos-postcards, souvenir ship’s logs, and band member photos.
- Two photographs of Braun’s band while it was performing at the Café Alcazar in Hamburg along with a 1930 letter from a former band member who did not make the trip.
- An advertisement printed on a German inflationary note for “The Confidence Man” at Lowes State Theater along with a 1934 envelope addressed to Braun care of “Station W.H.N” at the theater.
- A 1937 advertisement from the “Man About Town” club on West 51st Street announcing “Jack Cole and his Boy’s” (sic) featuring Harry Braun on violin.

The three large full-band photographs (two are identical) are uncaptioned. The show the 11 band members posing with their instruments including saxophones, trumpets, trombones, violins, a guitar, drums, and a pianist sans piano. The band members are wearing jackets (apparently of different colors) with what appear to be velvet cuffs and lapels. All are also wearing crisp, white ruffled ascots and shirts with ruffled cuffs.

The loose photographs are of family, friends, and band members. The earliest is dated 1919; the latest are dated 1940 from the New York World’s Fair. A 1970 Newark, New Jersey newspaper clipping showing Braun receiving a life-time membership award from Jaycees International is included.

An interesting collection featuring a jazz band violinist and orchestra leader who never hit the big-time but apparently was able to make a decent living for his wife and family. As of 2019, while autographed photos and letters from big-time musicians abound in the trade, auction houses, and at institutions, there are no similar collections depicting the life of successful, but not prominent, journeyman jazz men or band leaders for sale in the trade or that the Rare Book Hub shows have been sold by auction. OCLC identifies three similar archives held by institutions.

SOLD

Read’Em Again Books #9229

This three-page stampless letter measures 12.5” x 7.5”. It is dated “Elm Wood 19th Sept 1815” and bears a manuscript “Dumfr 19 Sept” postmark applied at Dumfries, Virginia along with a “37½” postal rate mark, the cost to send a letter over 500 miles during the War of 1812 (150% of the normal 25-cent charge). The letter is in nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, Fitzhugh—a Virginia landowner—provides a counteroffer to Fellows regarding the sale “my Ladees Land” in New York “cheaper than to almose any other person from the consideration that my payments would be always sure which is a very great consideration to a person living at the distance that I do.” The property likely belonged to his wife, Jane Champe Helm, who records reveal was born in Virginia but came from a New York family.

Fitzhugh’s property, Elm Wood (later known as Fairview or Herndon Farm), was located about 18 miles northwest of Dumfries, part of what today is the Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area near the northwest corner of Marine Corps Base Quantico. At the time, Dumfries (the oldest continuously chartered town in Virginia and once the second most important port in Colonial America and a rival of New York, Philadelphia and Boston) was the county seat of Prince William County.

A very nice stampless letter from the early days of Prince William County, Virginia. 37½ cent “war rate” covers are scarce and although the American Stampless Cover Catalog notes that manuscript-postmarked Dumfries mail from 1802-1821 exists, it is held by institutions. As of 2019, searches of past sales at the major philatelic auction houses identify only three 37½ cent “war rate” covers and no manuscript Dumfries postmarks. None of either are listed at Frajola’s PhilaMercury database.

$400 Read’Em Again Books #9255

This 4-page folded letter measures 14.75” x 9” unfolded. It was written in Galveston on May 24th, 1838. The front panel bears a manuscript “25” rate marking indicating the U.S. cost to send a letter over 400 miles. It bears a circular red New Orleans postmark dated June 8 and has a manuscript annotation in the lower left corner that reads, “Texas / L.M.H Jr” which probably indicates that Hitchcock or a friend physically carried the letter to from Gonzalez to Galveston where it was placed in the U.S. mail. It is in nice shape with a few small separations beginning at some mailing folds and old glue stains, probably from being previously mounted for display. Transcript will be included.

In his letter, Hitchcock clearly bristles in his reply to an old friend that has disparaged the Republic:

“...There is not such a vast difference between our various manners & customs as you may suppose... The only difference I can see is that there is more sterling honesty, and more manly feeling is exhibited here than in the North. But no insinuations Friend W.... I can discern by the tenor of your letter that your opinions are in common with all our northern brethren, that we are as it were outcasts from society, that crime stalks abroad midday without fear of detection or punishment, but you are much mistaken.... I can assure you that honesty is much the best policy, even in Texas. When I take a view of the first, a handful of men declaring their Independence from, and maintaining it, against millions, when I look on the present condition of this Country, a flourishing town building here, a church there, a Sunday School established in almost every village, and when I look forward & see in the mist of futurity, this Country.... bidding fair to rival the U S.... I cannot but feel the proudest satisfaction in knowing that I participated in the glorious struggle which rescued the finest portion of the Earth from the Goths & Vandals of the New World, and contemplate with feelings too great for utterance that I too am a Texas Citizen.... Were the same opportunity offered me in the North that I enjoy, I do not think.... that I would accept it. My Country has been assaulted with every abusive epithet that malice or envy could pen, but each word spoken against her only binds me closer to her. You made no apology for expressing your sentiments for me.... it is a pleasing task to put you right when you are in error.”

He informs his friend that

“You will be surprised to hear how rapidly Texas is improving & especially this place. On the morning of 6th Oct last there was but one house left standing [from the devastating hurricane of October 1, 1837], now there are more than forty houses. Our large hotel is open and another, much larger than any Bridgeport can boast.... will be finished in a month. Several large warehouses are built [and] two are now in progress.... Everything is prosperous.... My situation is an important one and sometimes very arduous. I frequently sign my name.... 400 times a day to public documents. Our revenue is rapidly increasing. This office now employs 8 clerks and 9 Customs House Officers.”
A native of Connecticut, and a sea captain’s son, Hitchcock became a sailor, first as a cabin boy, at the age of 14 in 1830. In 1836 joined the Texas Navy as a Lieutenant and served aboard the warship Brutus, escorting supply ships between New Orleans and Galveston, blockading the Rio Grande and Matamoros, and hunting Mexican vessels along the coast. He resigned from the Navy in 1837 and moved to what was to become the city of Galveston in 1838 where he became its first Harbormaster, a post he would hold for 30 years. He was instrumental in forming the first city government in August of 1838, and served eight terms as an alderman, four terms as treasurer, and several times as the acting mayor and council clerk. An astute business man, by 1840 he owned four lots in town and by 1850 had added a grocery store, ship’s chandlery, and the Tremont Hotel to his holdings. By 1860 his wealth was estimated at $60,000 in personal property and $60,000 in real estate. It is often reported that in 1838 Captain Hitchcock sold the merchant ship, Potomac, to the Republic for conversion into a warship, but it was more likely his father as Hitchcock Jr. had probably not accumulated enough wealth at that point in his life to have owned a ship by himself. See the Galveston Daily News, Feb. 23, 1986 and Dienst’s “The Navy of the Republic of Texas,” in The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association. Vol. 12, No. 4 (Apr., 1909).

The date of the letter, May 24, 1838, is significant. The first official post office was opened by the postmaster Captain Peter J. Menard on the 22nd of October. This letter was mailed on its third day of operation and before the office had received a postmarking device. It is possible that this is the earliest extant mail sent after its opening. See Braake’s Texas, the Drama of its Postal Past.
This four-page folded letter measures 15.5” x 10” unfolded. It was sent by Nathan Watkins from Gonzales, Republic of Texas on 6 December 1840 to Joseph Watkins at Pendleton, Anderson Des, South Carolina. It has a manuscript annotation in the lower left corner that reads, “Favor by Mr. Kingtonson to the United States” and a blue, circular New Orleans postmark dated “Dec 31.” There is a manuscript rate marking “29” (25 cents for delivery over 400 miles + 2 cents for ship’s letter + 2 cents possibly for carrier. Docketing on the reverse reads, “One day after I promised to pay to Wm Watkins for or David.” The letter is in nice shape with several tape reinforcements to mailing folds and a small chip where its wax seal was torn during opening. Doodling to the reverse, possibly while cutting a new quill. Transcript of letter included.

In the letter, Nathan encourages Joseph (presumably his brother) to join him in Texas and to share his description of the country with all of his “connexions:”

“I am well please with this county . . . better than any county that I have ever seen . . . and too one of the easiest countries to live in . . . though you may think that this part of the world is nothing but a perfect grave and yet I must say to you that you are under a grand Mistake for I can say to you that it is as healthy a country as ever I have lived in . . . . The eastern part of Texas is a red stiff clay and growth is generally fine hickry blackjack and no oak black oak or white oak and the water is generally very good, and the land produce well and west and south west of the river Trinity the water is scarce but good and the growth on the upland is generally post oak Blackjack white oak and hickry and mesquite and on the water courses black walnut cottonwood sycamore red elf pecan boxelder and hackberry and mulberry and some few cypress and in the mountains there is a great deal of cedar and as for the face of the country it cannot be beat . . . and west of the river Trinity is generally prairie and too of as good a soil perhaps as you even saw and . . . . I guess you would like to come and shear some of our beauty we can cultivate the soil and raise anything that we wish and can raise our Oranges and lemons and figs to and own sugar and wheat and tobacco and cotton and almost anything that we chose. . . .”

Further to allay any apprehension that news reports may have caused Joseph, he additionally reports:

“As for the commanches Indians there is some little trouble with them at this time but we go in amongst them once and a while and give them a whipping and stop their vile career and as for the troubles with us and mexico it still growing . . . but if we should have the lord on our side there will be no difficulty in gaining the victory and if we should we will be the happiest and wealthiest people on earth we then will not like for anything we could wish. . . .”

And he predicts that financially, things will only get better:

“We are a trying to Monopolize the Santa Fe trade which if we succeed in so doing will be worth somewhere about 2 million of dollars a year and to about the distance of 6 or 700 miles which trade is
now comes about the distance of 1600 miles by land carriage and through the mountains and a very dangerous road too... I have before stated that I have but 2 years in this government, I have a... pretty start to make a fortune in a few years if good luck should... continue on my side... I think that I am worth 10000 dollars more than I would have been had I remained in the united states and I also think that if you wish to move that you would perhaps as well come to this county as any...

Gonzales, which in 1835 became the first city to defy General Santa Anna after he had revoked Mexico’s Federalist Constitution of 1824, was burned to the ground the following year by Sam Houston to prevent anything of value from falling into the hands of the Mexican Army following the Texian’s defeat at the Alamo. The Comanche “whipping” referenced by Watkins no doubt refers to the Battle of Plum Creek in August of 1840 where the Texas Rangers and a volunteer Texian army routed the Comanche horde that had swept through the Guadalupe valley on a murderous rampage and the subsequent decisive Battle at Red Fork after which the Comanches abandoned the Texian frontier. (See the online Texas State Historical Association article, “Gonzales, TX” and the Texas State Library and Archives article, “The Comanche War”

A fine example of a Texian’s attempt to encourage emigration into the independent republic.

SOLD

Read’Em Again Books #9242
51. [PHILATELY] [TEXANA] [TREASON] A lively letter from Houston to New York that with considerable information about an average Texan’s concern that President Sam Houston was preparing to turn traitor and sell out the Republic to British and Mexican interests. E. L. Perkins to Col. Joseph Juliand. Houston, 1843.

This four-page folded letter measures 15.5” x 9.5” unfolded. It is datelined “Houston 4th Dec. 1843” with a second date, “Dec. 6th” in a postscript. The letter bears a circular red postmark reading “New-York / Jan 12.” A blue manuscript annotation, which appears to read “18½” (the U.S. postal rate for delivery of mail between 150 and 400 miles) is in the upper right corner. In nice shape with a few small separations along mailing folds.

Perkins provides a fascinating discourse on the average Texan’s concern about President Houston:

“With regard to our future prospects . . . we are looking forward to a restoration or annexation both national & domestic. Nationally to the next U.S. Congress for relief and hoping and believing that their eyes have been opened to the true policy of England. Our Rulers are undoubtedly opposed to annexation (I mean our President [Sam Houston]) but were a vote to be taken seven eighths would say “Aye” – Our President is openly charged with being secretly at work with the British Minister to Texas (Capt. Elliott) in bringing about an arrangement which we shall come under the protection of that Government – which will eventually result in the sale of Texas to E., a very desirable ‘neck of the woods’ this, to England – it would enable her to say to the U.S. your bounds are marked – can it be possible that the U.S. will allow this. – Genl Murphy the U.S. Minister to this country has lately made known some facts which are the subject of general conversation among others that he has obtained copies of a correspondence between Houston, Capt. Elliott and Santa Anna, whereby Houston is to acknowledge the sovereignty of Mexico, as soon as that is done we are to be handed over to England by Mexico in payment of the Mexican debt to E. Houston is to be appointed Gov Genl for life. We cannot but fear that there is traitorous conduct a foot. Genl. M. says that Sam Houston will prove a Benedict Arnold, this is certainly very severe and it is not to be supposed he would make an assertion of the kind, if there were not grounds for it. . . . all I can say is “save Lord or we perish.”

Many historians contend that Houston’s machinations with England and Mexico were intended to drive the U.S. into annexing Texas. Nonetheless, they caused considerable consternation among the citizens of Texas. See “Hard Road to Texas: Texas Annexation, 1836-1845” online at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, “Diplomatic Relations of the Republic of Texas” and “Elliott Charles” in The Handbook of Texas Online at the Texas State Historical Association,

A fascinating record of the political turmoil in Texas just before its annexation. Quite scarce. As of 2019, OCLC shows only one institutional holding of a letter from a Texian discussing the possibility of annexation, and the description does not indicate if Houston’s questionable actions are discussed. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and there are no similar auction records at the Rare Book Hub.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9243

The journal measures 6.75” x 8.25”. Approximately 300 pages filled with manuscript entries. About ten newspaper clippings laid-in or affixed inside the covers. The pages are in nice shape and the binding is holding although a few signatures are beginning to separate. The spine covering has perished and boards are present but not attached. The insides of the cover are filled with later doodling by others.

Based upon a comparison of the names, dates, and locations written in the entries with various public records, it is likely that this journal was kept by Loraine Coburn of Lowell, Massachusetts whose husband, Fordyce, is listed in the 1880 census as “Superintendent Bleachery,” probably of the famous Lowell Bleachery.

The notebook mostly contains journal entries in chronological order, however there is a twenty-four page section devoted to recipes (primarily deserts), several small sections for “calls made” and “calls received,” a small section for addresses, etc.

The journal entries contain info about all phases of the extended family’s home life including:

- New shirts, dresses, garters, hats, petticoats, etc., both “store bought” and hand-made,
- Dinners including Prairie Chicken,
- Card games including cribbage, Sancho Pedro, and euchre,
- Trips and shopping in Boston and Amherst,
- “Entertainments” including amphions (concerts?) , “sings,” lectures, etc.,
- Attending a “Base Ball match” in 1875 (“Greek to me although Charlie tried to explain.”),
- Teas, lawn parties, picnics, sleigh rides, etc.,
- Laughing gas and teeth extractions,
- Mending socks and making soap,
- Baking pies, doughnuts, cookies, etc.,
- Visits to fairs, Lowell’s (now Children’s) Island, and Jersey City,
- Holidays especially Independence Day, Decoration Day and Lexington and Concord day,
- Detailed Christmas gift lists identifying presents received from and given to everyone in the family, some with prices paid.

Recipes include Baked Omelets, Chow Chow, French Pickle, Newport Cake, Pork Cake, Coconut Cake, Harrison Cake, Gold and Silver Cake Dolly Varden Cake, Fruit & Suet Pudding, Wine Jelly, Dressing for Chicken or Lobster Salad, Parker House Rolls, Spanish Cream, Snow Pudding, Mince Pies, and many more.

An excellent first-hand account of an upper middle class family’s daily life during the last quarter of the 19th Century.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9227
Please let us know if you would like to receive our electronic catalogs of diaries, letters, ephemera, postal history, photographs, and sometimes even books.

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New York International Antiquarian Book Fair – 7-10 March
New York Book and Ephemera Fair – 9-10 March
Virginia Antiquarian Book Fair, Richmond – 5-7 April
Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, St. Petersburg – 25-28 April
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX), Denver – 24-26 May