41. [MARITIME] [NATIVE-AMERICANA] [WHALING] A long-lost whaling journal kept by a famous Native American whaleman that was the genesis of an important reference work on whaling music. Samuel (Sammy) G. Mingo. Whaling Bark Andrew Hicks [and the Ship California]: 1879-1883.
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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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1. [ADVERTISING] [INVENTIONS] [LIFE-PRESERVERS] [MARITIME] Stampless folded letter sent from London to merchants in Boston with a handstamp advertising Daniel’s Life Preservers. From Jacob Cram to Messers Parker & Poor. London to Boston: 1807.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 14.5” x 9”. It is datelined “London 7th Jany. 1807” with a manuscript annotation, “per Enterprise via New York” in the lower left corner. There is “36” rate marking along with a circular postmark in red that reads “New-York Mar. 9” and a matching red “Ship” handstamp. During opening, a small piece was cut from the back to remove the wax seal. Of special interest is a clear strike of an oval handstamp on the reverse that reads “Daniel’s Life Preserver in case of Shipwreck, Bathing & Wapping, A National Concern, Established 1806.”

It would appear that the Life Preserver hand stamp was an advertisement as there is no postal reason for it to have been applied. Although there are no records tying Jacob Cram to the Daniel’s firm, Parker & Poor were general merchants in Boston and major importers of British goods. Although the letter’s contents do not pertain to life preservers, it is likely that the hand stamp was applied as an advertisement for the relatively new product.

Following his grammar school education, Francis Columbine Daniel was apprenticed in 1779 to a surgeon and apothecary in the East London Thames River community of Wapping, and nine years later he opened his own office nearby. At the time, the area was a hub of naval and maritime activity and having witnessed many drownings, Daniel determined to find a way to save the lives of mariners and passengers who fell into the Thames. To that end, he designed an “air jacket” that could be carried in a coat pocket and quickly inflated by means of a silver tube, after which it would keep a wearer’s head arms and upper body above the water surface. As part of his testing process, Daniels conducted startling public demonstrations. In 1805, several men wearing early versions of his jacket jumped off the London Bridge and floated downstream while smoking pipes or playing musical instruments to the astonishment of a gathering crowd. The following year, at a London regatta, two men wearing his devices appeared to walk on the water while carrying a giant sack full of ships’ biscuits, and a third repeatedly fired a horse pistol into the air. Later that year, Daniels began marketing his life preserver after it had received a gold medal from the Royal Humane Society.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, there are no other examples of this handstamp for sale in the philatelic or ephemera trade. There are no records of other examples having been sold at auction, and none are known to be held by institutions.

$600 Read’Em Again Books #9322
2. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [GUNS & AMMUNITION] [NATIVE-AMERICANA] [PHILATELY] Illustrated advertising cover for Warrior Air Rifles. [Northville, Michigan: J. A. Dunbar Manufacturing Co.], 1902.

This advertising cover (AICC #G104) features a splendid seven-color illustration of a Native American Indian chief in full regalia including headdress. It is addressed to Ragarville, Ohio and franked with two 2-cent carmine Washington stamps (both Scott #252) tied to the envelope with a Columbus, Ohio machine postmark-cancellation dated 1902. Annotated in ink “missent” and in pencil “not Rarigoille.” Backstamps applied at several Ohio towns. Minor wear and light soiling.

Both single shot and repeating Warrior Air Rifles were produced by Northville, Michigan’s J. A. Dunbar Manufacturing Company from 1901 until its inventory was bought out by Daisy in late December 1903 or early January 1904.

A very scarce and highly sought-after Native-American-themed advertising cover.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9306

3. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [COWBOYS] [GUNS & AMMUNITION] [PHILATELY] Illustrated advertising cover for Peters Cartridges and Shells. [Kings Mill, Ohio]: Peters Cartridge Company, 1904.

This advertising cover (AICC #G77) features a five-color illustration of an armed rider on horse. The reverse is an all-over multicolor illustration of various ammunition produced by Peters. The text reads “Peters Cartridges and Loaded Shells are Superior.” Franked with a 2-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #309) tied with a 1904 Canton, Ohio postmark. Slightly trimmed at right with small loss to illustration on reverse, so priced accordingly.

The Peters Cartridge Company began as the Great Western Powder Works in 1877, and by 1889 it was producing over 4,000 cartridges per hour. Remington Arms purchased the company in 1934, and it shut down in 1944 during World War II. The factory buildings were subsequently used by Columbia Records to manufacture 45 and 78 rpm records, and later the Seagram Company as a whiskey warehouse.

A very scarce and highly sought-after cowboy-themed advertising cover.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9307
This lot consists of three items: a booking letter on illustrated letterhead, its accompanying illustrated advertising cover, and a second, different illustrated advertising cover. In the booking letter, Nixon humorously confronts a theater manager regarding a disagreement over a booking contract, noting “I am afraid when the day comes that I will have to play . . . at the terms you mention, that I will have to quit the business.”

The letterhead and its matching envelope both feature the logo of Nixon’s company and the envelope has an additional cartoon advertisement for “Laughland” in red. The other advertising cover features a large red oval with a photo of Tom Waters and touts The Mayor of Laughland. Both envelopes are franked with red 2-cent Washington stamps (Scott #309) that are cancelled with Philadelphia machine postmarks. The back flap of the Tom Waters envelope is missing.

Nixon-Norlinger was apparently a booking agent in addition to being the manager of the Park Theater in Philadelphia.

Tom Waters was a successful musical-comedy actor who began his career in minstrel shows, made his theatrical debut in One of the Bravest, and gained fame as the star of the Broadway hit The Pink Lady. He was an accomplished pianist and was noted for his piano-comedy act, The Mayor of Laughland which toured throughout the United States and abroad. (see The Indian Territory Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge)

$225 Read’Em Again Books #9311
5. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [CAMPING] [GUNS & AMMUNITION] [PHILATELY] Illustrated advertising cover for the United States Cartridge Company. [Lowell, Massachusetts: United States Cartridge Company, 1908]

This advertising cover (AICC #G99) features a six-color illustration of two men cooking their supper at a campsite; the text reads, “US Ammunition U.S. Govt. Tests prove it true.” The envelope is franked with a 2-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #309) tied with a Columbus, Ohio machine postmark. The reverse features the company’s circled-US trademark and advertising text. The envelope is in nice shape with some light soiling.

The company was established in 1869 by former General Benjamin Butler and other investors.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9308

6. [ADVERTISING] [FARMING] [MANUFACTURING] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION] Illustrated advertising envelope and catalog for Electric Wheel Company farm and lumber wagons. Quincy, Illinois: Electric Wheel Company, 1908.

The illustrated advertising cover features a farm scene with two Electric Wheel wagons loaded with hay as well as an illustration of an Electric Wheel. The text reads, “Electric Wheel Co. Manufacturers Solid Metal Wheels and Farmers’ Handy Wagons.” The envelope is franked with a 2-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #309) which is tied with a Quincy, Illinois flag postmark. The catalog contains 23 pages describing and illustrating a variety of farm wagons, lumber wagons, and electric wheels. Both the advertising envelope and the brochure are in nice shape.

In 1890 when the company was formed, electric welding was cutting edge technology, and the firm used it to create especially strong ‘electric’ wheels. The company invented and produced a wide variety of related products including steel wheels, tractors, lumber wagons, farmers’ handy wagons, and much more. In 1957, it was acquired by Firestone. Today the company, now known as Titan International, is the only firm to produce specialty wheels and tires for agriculture, forestry, mining, and construction.

$150 Read’Em Again Books #9305
7. [ADVERTISING] [ALCOHOL] [DR. SEUSS] [NATIVE AMERICANA] Beer serving tray designed by Dr. Seuss for Narragansett Lager & Ale featuring the colorful, cigar store Indian character, Chief Gansett, he created. Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel). Cranston, Rhode Island: Narragansett Brewing Company, circa 1940

This 12” diameter multi-color Narragansett Lager & Ale features the company’s iconic cigar store Indian, Chief Gansett, mounted on wheels and racing to deliver a draft beer. Text includes two company slogans, “Gangway for Gansett!” and “Too Good to Miss!” Images of barley and hops fill the inside of the tray’s 1.25” tall rim. The image is ‘signed’ Dr. Seuss in the lower right.

The tray displays well. Its colors are bright. There are no scratches or dents as commonly found. Overall, a very nice example with some table rubbing/soiling to the bottom, and minor pitting to the surface.

In the early 1930s, “Robert Haffenreffer, Jr. and his brother Theodore came to Narragansett Brewing Company to help their father, Robert Haffenreffer Sr. ‘liven up’ the company. As it happens, both the younger Haffenreffers had attended college with a budding artist, Theodor Geisel, soon to be the famous ‘Dr. Seuss’. Robert Haffenreffer, Jr. was also a fan of cigar store Indians, so Dr. Seuss’ ‘Chief Gansett’ was a natural!” (See the Narragansett Beer website)

At the time this tray was produced, Narragansett Beer was the largest brewery in New England. It dominated the market, primarily through sponsorship of Boston baseball teams. After both teams switched sponsors, the Red Sox to Ballantine in 1950 and the Braves to Schaeffer, the next decade, Narragansett lost control of the New England market. The Falstaff Brewing Company purchased Narragansett in 1965, intending for the Haffenreffers to continue to run it as an independent subsidiary. The State of Rhode Island, however, objected and pursued an anti-trust suit against Falstaff. Although, Falstaff eventually prevailed in the Supreme Court after a long-running court battle, the cost was staggering, and Falstaff was bought by a corporate raider who moved Narragansett production to Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Cranston plant shut down in 1982.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9359
8. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MARITIME] [SLAVE SHIP] [SLAVERY] Receipt for work performed by a rented Rhode Island slave on the *Sloop Venus* shortly before it departed on a voyage where it would be captured while trading for slaves at the Congo River with an African despot, the King of Cape Benda. James Tanner to Anna and Edward Rhodes. Newport, [Rhode Island], October 15, 1767.

This manuscript receipt from James Tanner to Ann Rhodes (received on her behalf by Edward Rhodes) measures 7.5” x 3”. Minor edgewear including two small chips that do not affect any text. The receipt reads in part:

“For 4 Days work my Negro Primus on Board Sloop Venus . . . £10..0..0 / Newport October 15-1767 / Received the above in full (Sugar) . . .”

It is docketed on the reverse:

“Ann Rhodes / Negro hire £10 - / Ann Rhodes, her Bill for Negro Labor”

The work that Primus performed was, no doubt, to ready the ship for its captain’s (Captain Wilding) departure later that month for a slave trading “factory” (i.e., outpost) on the Congo River. There Wilding purchased fifty slaves from the King of Cape Benda and brought them aboard. Unfortunately for Wilding, he had offended the king by “intriguing [with] two or three other free traders.” The king demanded that Wilding either “give up his cargo and ship or lose his life.” Wilding’s attempt to assuage the king’s pride by presenting him with twenty slaves and some other goods was rejected, and the king reiterated his offer; the ship and its cargo or Wilding’s “head.” Seeing no other choice, Wilding surrendered his vessel. After Wilding had done so, he was released and secured passage out of the Congo on another ship. As that ship departed, the king’s men mistakenly blew up the *Venus* while attempting to fire a salute from its swivel guns. (For more information see *The London Magazine*, March 1768.)

A unique document testifying to a New England slave’s forced labor to prepare a Rhode Island slave ship for a trading mission to the Congo, during which it was captured by a slave-trading African despot and inadvertently blown up by his crew.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9284
9. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [ALCOHOL] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [MARITIME] [PHILATELY] [SLAVE SHIP] [SLAVERY] [TRIANGLE TRADE] Invoice for shipping five hogsheads of rum carried by the New England slave ship, *Sloop Rising Sun*, on the rum-delivery leg of a triangle-trade voyage to the West Indies and Africa. Consigned to Selden Chapman from Seth Wetmore for transport by Master Seth Higgins. Boston, [Massachusetts] to Hartford, [Connecticut], May 22, 1795.

This manuscript, folded-letter invoice, dated May 22, 1795, measures approximately 7.5” x 11” unfolded. It is addressed to Mr. Selden Chapman, Merchant, Hartford and bears a straight-line Boston postmark dated 22/May. (See page 167, vol 1, ASCC.) It bears a manuscript “25” cent rate mark, twice the single-rate for mail sent between 100 and 150 miles as a second letter—no longer present—was enclosed.

The invoice reads in part:

“Invoice for 5 Hhds of Rum Shipped . . . on Board the Sloop Rising Sun . . . 539 Gallons [for a total cost including barrels, trucking, and wharfage of] Dollars 410.76.4 . . . which I wish you to sell for me if you can obtain 4/6 P Gallon for it . . .”

The *Sloop Rising Sun* was the principal vessel in a famous failed slaving voyage after it departed from Boston, which was detailed by an unknown seaman in one of the few known journals documenting life on a slave ship. After making a delivery in St. Thomas, the ship picked up the crew of another slaver, *The Dolphin*, and sailed on “to the Windward Coast of Africa [arriving] after a voyage of fifty-six days. . . .” (See Mouser’s “The Voyage of the Good Sloop Dolphin to Africa 1795-1796” in *The American Neptune* No.4, 1978.) “Upon reaching Africa [it] quickly took on twenty-one slaves [but] then suffered serious damage in a tornado.” After a month of attempted repairs, the ship was declared “unfit for sailing.” (See Mss828 Ships Logs (*Sloop Dolphin – Rising Sun, 1795-1797*), Reel 28, in *A Guide to . . . Papers of the American Slave Trade*.)

A unique invoice attesting to the rum-delivery leg of a triangle-trade voyage of the slave ship, *Sloop Rising Sun*, which was destroyed in a storm off the coast of Africa after picking up a cargo of twenty-one slaves.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9285

This two-page folded parody “newsletter” is franked with a Hales & Company blue “street address omitted” letters stamp (7SLS). The stamp is cancelled with a light “Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office -- Boston" red handstamp. A folk-art drawing of men and plants in the lower left corner of the front cover spells “A Paper”. The text of the newsletter (which is mainly gossip about a young couple who snuck away from a larger group party) is introduced by a hand-drawn town crier ringing a bell.

Of special interest is a slavery-related, possibly anti-abolitionist, cartoon that depicts an African-American man as a flower and is captioned:

- Botany.
- Class 1
- Order 1 one Pistil
- Specie. Nigger.
- Genus. Darkee
- Anti-Slavery Lily. Native of Africa but transplanted to Belknap St, grows luxuriantly.

Belknap Street in Boston was the home of the Africa Meeting House, which was built in 1806 to house the city’s first African Baptist Church. Its construction was primarily funded by Boston’s white parishioners, perhaps—some have suggested—to keep blacks from attending their churches. Thomas Paul, a free-born black of New Hampshire served as the first minister for Meeting House’s 24-member congregation. The church also served as the primary cultural, educational, and political center for Boston’s black community. Adult and youth education were regularly offered, and abolitionists including William Lloyd Garrison, Maria Stewart, Wendell Phillips, Sara Grimke, and Frederick Douglass all spoke at the meeting house, which served as home for Boston’s first abolitionist society and later for the New England Anti-Slavery Society. Celebrations were frequently sponsored including annual commemorations of the Haitian revolution and end of the international slave trade.

The Independent Mail Company was founded by James W. Hale in December 1843 to deliver letters on the lucrative route between Boston and New York, and it handled more than any other eastern independent mail company until an Act of Congress put it out of business on 1 July 1845.

Fascinating on multiple levels: the incorporation of clever folk art in a homemade parody newsletter containing romantic gossip, a tongue-in-cheek ‘tribute’ to Boston’s African Meeting House, and the scarce use of an independent mail system.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9312
11. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [SLAVE TRADER] [SLAVERY] A letter from an infamous Savannah slave trader urging a prospective customer to quickly purchase a “Mulatto Girl about 16 or 17 years old” because “she may not be on hand long.” Signed by (William C.) Dawson for Wm (William) Wright. Savannah: 1853

This one-page folded letter measures 16” x 10.5” unfolded. It is franked with fair copy of a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #11A) that is tied to the cover with a circular Savannah postmark. The letter is datelined “Savannah 23rd May 1853”. It was signed by William C. Dawson for William Wright and sent to Dr. John H. Furman of Milledgeville, Georgia. It reads:

“I have now on hand a Mulatto Girl about 16 or 17 years old, a good seamstress and house servant. Price $1,000. I think you would buy her if you saw her if you are in search of such a one at present. I think it would be to your advantage to come down & see for yourself. I promised you that as soon as I had such a servant on hand I would let you know. She is the first one that I have had and she may not be on hand long. Very Respectfully Wm Wright By Dawson.”

Dr. John Howard Furman, the grandson of Richard Furman for whom Furman University is named, was a physician practicing in Milledgeville, Georgia. He received his primary education from his father at the academy at the High Hills of Santee Baptist Church, and in 1836 studied art in Scotland. After returning to the United States, he attended the Charleston medical College. Following his graduation in 1845, Furman set up practice at the then-capital of Georgia, Milledgeville.

William C. Dawson was an important and influential Georgia lawyer, soldier, and politician. He began his political career in 1822 after winning election to the Georgia House of Representatives. He later served in the Georgia Senate, the United States Congress, and the United States Congress. Nationally known, Dawson was close friends with Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, and a trusted confidant of President Millard Fillmore. Following his political career, Dawson had a law office on the corner of Bay and Bull Streets in Savannah. (See “Dawson, William Crosby, 1798-1856 at the Social Networks and Archival Content website.)

William Wright was one of the most prominent slave traders in Savannah. Although many southern communities found slave traders to be unwelcome, vulgar, and loathsome, that was not the case in Savannah. There brokers were regarded as upstanding, civic-minded men. Wright was a respected banker and member of the City Council. Nonetheless, he ran his slave-trading business at 24-26 East Bryan Street where in 1857 he spent $21,000 to build a large adjacent slave ‘pen’ and market. He sold this facility the following year and built an even larger ‘slave yard’ behind his office in partnership with William C. Dawson. (See Fraser’s Savannah in the Old South and Sheehy and Wallace’s Civil War Savannah: Savannah Immortal City for more information.)

Very scarce. As of 2019, there are no slave trader solicitation letters for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub lists only seven as having been sold in the past 115 years. OCLC identifies four institutions holding American slave trader letters. Another similar letter from the partnership of Wright and Dawson in 1854 is held by the Boston Public Library.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9354

This large document measures 18.5” x 13.75” inches unfolded. It is dated June 19, 1860 and is in nice shape with some very light soiling. In it, as witnessed by a tax collector and naval officer stationed at the Port of Savannah, M. S. Woodhull of the Ship Augusta and the slaves’ owners certify that

“the within specified Slaves . . . were not imported or brought into the United States from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eight, and that under the laws of this State they are held to service or labor.”

On the reverse of the document, under a bold heading that reads,

“Manifest of Slaves, Passengers on board the Ship Augusta, M. S. Woodhull Master, burthen 1500 Tons, found from Savannah for New York”

are listed the names of four slaves: Leanoda, Maria, Georgia, and Ann. Details for each slave are also recorded including their sex, age, height, class (yellow or black), owners, and residences.

Although President Thomas Jefferson signed the Act of 1807 outlawing the importation of slaves into the United States, domestic slavery was still permitted. Because of this slave manifest certifications like this became required for slaves to transported by sea between American ports.

These documents are quite scarce. As of 2019, Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint records show that only five have ever been sold at auction or on eBay. There are no others currently for sale in the trade, and OCLC shows that only one is held by an institution.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9339
A letter from a Union soldier from Massachusetts stationed at one of the main colonies of escaped slaves describing the receipt of a food box from home and joking about feeding garbage to the “darkies.” Calvin Rice to Oscar Rice. Edisto Island, [South Carolina], 1862.

This four-page letter datelined “Edisto Island May 10th, 1862,” was sent by a trooper in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry stationed in South Carolina to a family member at home in Brighton, Massachusetts. Its envelope is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) that has been cancelled with a bullseye hand stamp. It bears a circular Port Royal postmark dated May 12. The letter and cover are in nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter Rice describes the receipt of three food “boxes” by soldiers in his company, “min was the largest of the lot.” His box “was just what I wanted,” and contained knives and forks (“half the company wanted to buy them”), cake (“just tuched with the heat but went down good”), “tip top” boots that “fit just right” and stockings. Unfortunately, “they open all the boxes before they get her to see that there is no rum in them. But I was glad to get it anyway.” The only thing that didn’t arrive safe and sound were the cheese and doughnuts. They were spoiled, inedible, and “moldy . . . so [I] gave them to the darkies” who “devour[ed] them like rats.”

He also chuckles over “John Warren . . . I can’t stop laughing over him. He got through off his horse yesterday jumping a ditch and his head went clear in the mud out of sight – bunging up his eye. . . . he looked like a downcast grave digger.”

And, perhaps most interesting, Rice reports

“Last night myself and a squad of four men surrounded and took two prisoners . . . over to the Provost Marshall (I dint say they was rebels) They belonged to the 55 Penn Reg and was smashing in the doors to the negro shanties. They was drunk”

Edisto Island was, for a time, home to a large colony of abandoned and escaped African-American slaves, perhaps as many as 10,000. It was also a major Union staging area holding as many as 13 regimental-sized units—including the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry and the 55th Pennsylvania Infantry—while they prepared to assault Charleston, South Carolina.

A fine record of the types of foods and clothing Union soldiers prized but were simply not available through the army or sutlers. And . . . a testament to how many Union men felt about the slaves they were fighting to free.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9290

Both photographs are approximately 3.5” square and are mounted on matching gray, 8” x10” heavy card mat stock suitable for framing. The photos are in nice shape, one with some minor creasing and edge-wear.

One of the photographs, known as “The Ruins of White House Plantation” (the historic home of George and Martha Washington and the temporary residence of the arthritically-crippled wife of General Robert E. Lee ), shows a pre-Emancipation Proclamation, African-American ex-slave (referred to as ‘contraband’) tending to a cow at the Union military camp on the site of the remains of the plantation’s great house which had been destroyed during General George McClellan’s retreat following the Seven Days Battle in June, 1862. This photograph is attributed to Mathew Brady in Benson Lossing’s classic reference, Mathew Brady’s Illustrated History of the Civil War.

The second photograph, identified by the Library of Congress as “Fort Burnham, formerly Confederate Fort Harrison, James River, Virginia,” shows African-American soldiers standing in front of the camp which consisted of wood and canvas tents. The large square structures in the foreground are believed to be bomb-proof quarters. Following McClellan’s defeat at the Seven Days Battle, the Union Army established Fort Burnham on the James River at the site of a former Confederate camp, Fort Burnham. The African-American soldiers are probably members of the 6th U.S. Colored Troops who were stationed at the fort following the Battle of Cheffin’s Farm in September 1864, during the Siege of Petersburg. The photograph is unattributed but cataloged as LCCN 985035652 by the Library of Congress.

A nice pair of albumen images showing African-Americans during the Civil War, both as civilian contraband and as soldiers serving in the United States Colored Troops. As of 2019, there are no records of physical examples of either image having appeared at auction or for sale in the trade. The Library of Congress holds an example of the Fort Burnham photo; OCLC shows no other institutional holdings of either image.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9288
15. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [CRIME & LAW] [LYNCHINGS & EXECUTIONS] [MILITARY & WAR] Two albumen cabinet card photographs showing the execution of a Philippine ladron or insurgent by African-American Buffalo Soldiers during the Philippine-American War. Unidentified photographer. [Probably Zambales], Philippines, [circa 1902].

The photographs both measure 6.75” x 4.75” and are mounted on 9” x 7” dark grey cards. Both are in nice shape; there is a diagonal crease at the upper right corner of one card.

The two photographs show the hanging of a Philippine ladron (bandit) or insurgent by African-American soldiers. The first image shows the Filipino standing on the gallows with noose around his neck as an officer, probably the regimental adjutant, reads the execution officer. Two Catholic Filipino priests stand nearby the prisoner. African-American Buffalo Soldiers stand around the gallows to witness the hanging.

The second image shows the executed Filipino hanging beneath the now empty gallows as several Buffalo Soldiers look on.

Five Buffalo Soldier regiments were among the U.S. regiments that deployed to the Philippines to quell both the insurrection and lawlessness that ensued following the abandonment of the islands by Spain following the Spanish-American War. All served with distinction and were among the most proficient units of the American force. Perhaps the best of the Buffalo Soldier units was the 26th Infantry, which virtually cleared the Zambales province of insurgents and cut-throat bandits. While not the only American unit to capture insurgents and ladrones, it was the only Buffalo Soldier regiment to officially execute a few of them when found guilty of murder by a military tribunal. (See Redgraves’s doctoral dissertation, African-American Soldiers in the Philippine War. . .)

A very scarce pair of photographs documenting the execution of Filipino ladrones and insurgents by African-American soldiers during the Philippine-American War. As of 2019, there in no record of any similar image having appeared at auction, and none are for sale in the trade. OCLC shows no institutional holdings of similar images.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9289
16. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BLACKFACE] [FRATERNAL] [MINSTRELSY] Grouping of three mounted minstrel photographs and two minstrel music pamphlets belonging to a member of an Ohio post of the Sons of Veterans of the United States. Owned by Burton McElwain. Cedarville, Ohio: circa 1915.

One photograph, measuring 9.75” x 7.75”, shows an entire finely dressed blackface minstrel company posed on an ornately curtained stage. A second photograph, approximately 7” x 5”, shows eight members of the company posed on the same stage carrying a drum, sabers, and pennants for Cedarville, Slippery Rock College, and the University of Michigan. The third photograph, approximately 7” x 4.5”, shows members of the Cedarville Sons of Veterans Band posed in a group photograph while wearing a variety of blackface, clown, and hobo costumes. Each has a backstamp for The Nagley Studio of Cedarville. All are in nice shape.

The two musical pamphlets are titled *The Witmark Minstrel Overture* and *The White-Smith Minstrel Opening Chorus*. One contains 15 pages, the other, eight. One was published in 1914, the other in 1915. The leaves of one have separated long ago and are now bound with an old ribbon. The cover of the other has split almost entirely along its spine, but the inside signature of leaves is intact. Both have some soiling and mends; one bears the name Burton McElwain on the front cover.

The minstrel show was a distinctly American form of entertainment consisting of comic skits, variety acts, jokes, song, and dance depicting slaves and later free African-Americans, usually—but far from entirely—portrayed by white men in blackface. Immensely popular in the 1800s, professional minstrel shows were eclipsed by vaudeville by the 1920s, however amateur club and school performances continued until the 1960s when they became seen as racially insensitive by nearly all white Americans.

Cedarville, Ohio is a small town located near Dayton that is best known for its historic opera house, which is probably where these minstrel shows were performed. It is likely that the on-stage photos were taken inside the opera house and that of the band alongside its exterior.

The Sons of Veterans was a fraternal group initially composed of the sons of Civil War veterans who were members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). It continues in operation as a patriotic organization today with hereditary membership being open to male members who can show an ancestor served in the Union Army and “associate” memberships for men whose ancestors did not. Similar organizations, including the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, limit their membership to females.

A nice set of photographs depicting a well-organized amateur minstrel group sponsored by a fraternal Civil War veterans’ organization. As of 2019, a late 1940s minstrel photo album is for sale in the trade. OCLC shows seven institutions hold similar amateur minstrel show photographs. The Rare Book Hub lists several auction records for photographs of professional minstrel shows, but none for amateur productions like this Cedarville set.

$800  Read’Em Again Books #9291
17. [AFRICAN-AMERICA] [INVENTIONS] [QUACK MEDICINE] Real Photo Post Card (RPPC) featuring the “Interior of A. R. Cooper’s Electric Shoe Factory.” Findlay, Ohio, 1915.

This divided-back real photo post card (RPPC) features the “Interior of A. R. Cooper’s Electric Shoe Factory in Findlay, Ohio. It measures approximately 5.5” x 3.5”. A message on the reverse of the card from Miss Myrtle Glover to Mr. Emanul Moor of Plain City, Ohio is dated June 19, 1915. The card is franked with a 1-cent green Washington stamp (Scott #424). It is annotated, “where George Harris worked in Findlay, Ohio.” The card’s image shows a long, narrow “factory” filled with shoe making equipment, industrial sewing machines, parts storage, gas lighting, a wood stove, and many shoes and boots in various stages of assembly. It shows some postal soiling and a small loss at the lower left corner.

A. R. Cooper was a very successful African-American businessman from Findlay, Ohio who owned a coal and wood fuel supply company. He was also a shoe and bootmaker and held several related patents. His most famous invention was the “electric shoe,” a questionable device which he claimed could cure rheumatism. Findlay’s electric shoes were quite popular during 1910s and 1920s, and newspaper articles show that people traveled from as far away as Boston and St. Louis to purchase them. His most important customer was one the Rockefeller brothers.

A. R. Cooper would be an excellent topic for further research as nothing about him or his inventions has been published, although his patent records are readily available and his career was very well covered by articles and advertising in the local press, especially The Findlay Morning Republican.

As of 2019, nothing else related to this African-American inventor from Ohio is for sale in the trade or held by institutions per OCLC. Additionally, there are no records of any related auction lots listed at the Rare Book Hub.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9293
18. [AVIATION] [BALLOONS] [MILITARY & WAR]. Letter from a soldier in the 15th Massachusetts Infantry documenting the construction of a log fort on the bank of the Potomac near Edward’s Ferry (Poolesville, Maryland) and an early ascension of a Union observation balloon to protect the Union Army’s flank as it defended Washington, DC. Lyman Nichols to his sister Clara. Poolesville, Maryland, December 15, 1861.

This four-page letter is datelined, “Poolsville Dec 15th 1861.” Its envelope is franked with a 3-cent Washington Stamp (Scott #65) cancelled with a circular Poolesville postmark. Envelope flap missing. Transcript included.

In this letter written shortly after the Union’s humiliating defeat at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff in Loudon County, Virginia, Nichols describes the 15th Massachusetts Infantry’s construction of a log fort just across the river on the bank of the Potomac near Poolesville, Maryland.

“I am detailed with forty others to build a Log Fort on the Bank of the Potomac River we have ben at work ten Days falling Trees it will probably take us five Days more to finish it. . .. We throwed an Hundred Shells over into Virginia last Friday we routed the Rebels and they left double quick . . . it suited me to see the Shells go over amongst them. We expect to be got some Sells back when we build the Fort we have got the Logs all ready and we shall commence to fit it together Monday. The Trees that we are building the Fort of are White Oak some of them are four Feet through and as hard as a stone. We are going to put some big Guns in it.”

He further reports that “We sent up a Ballon the other day and looked over into Virginia we send up one most every Day, I mean on our side.”

This balloon was part of Thaddeus Lowe’s newly formed Union Balloon Corps. Edward’s Ferry, near Poolesville, became the operational site for this balloon, and the flight reported by Nichols was apparently the first conducted there by Lowe’s assistant, Ebenezer Seavor, who regularly rose high above the river to record the location, strength, disposition, and movements of Confederate forces in the vicinity of Leesburg Virginia. General Charles P. Stone, the commander of the “Corps of Observation” routinely ascended with Seavor and quickly became an advocate for the use of balloons. See Culpepper’s Balloons of the Civil War.

Nichols also describes a “Sham Fight” conducted by his division as a training exercise and an evening when the 42nd New York Regiment “all got drunk” and could not provide security for division headquarters.

Well-written letters providing first-hand observations from enlisted men describing defensive preparations, including balloon flights, early in the war to protect Washington, DC are quite scarce.

The unused bi-fold scorecard measures 3.75” x 6” . The cover features a colorful illustration titled “Caught at First,” which shows a player being put out at first base. The reverse features advertisements for several companies. Each team’s line-up is pasted onto the scorecard. Minor soiling. Years ago, a split along the centerfold was neatly mended with two small pieces of tape.

The “Bridgeport’s” and the “Newark’s” played in the old Eastern League. Although the scorecard identifies only six teams in the league, Baseball Reference reports that there were additional teams in the league during the 1885 season: Bridgeport Giants, Jersey City Skeeters, Lancaster Ironsides (Baltimore Monumentals), Newark Domestics, Norfolk, Richmond Virginians, Trenton Trentonians, Washington Nationals, Waterbury, and the Wilmington Blue Hens (Atlantic City).

The Eastern League was one of several professional baseball leagues that challenged the dominance of the National League during the late 1800s.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9295
20. [BASTARDY BOND] [CRIME & LAW] [SEX] [WOMEN] A Bastardy Bond from Georgia ensuring the child of an unwed mother would be cared for until the age of fourteen. Elen Jones and George Bennett. Forsyth County, Georgia: 3 May 1866.

This Bastardy Bond from Forsyth County in Georgia is dated “May the 3rd 1866. It is in nice shape with some minor insect predation along its storage folds.

The document reads in part:

“We Elen Jones as Principal and George Bennett as Security . . . acknowledge ourselves held and bound . . . in the sum of . . . six hundred and forty two dollars and eighty five and three quarters cents . . . Whereas Elen Jones a Free white single woman of said County has voluntarily come before Josiah H Woodliff a Justice of the Peace of said County and made oath that on the fourth day of March Eighteen Hundred and Sixty Three in the County of Rabur (sic – Rabun) and state afforesaid that she was Delivered of a Female Child which Child is a bastard and is likely to become Chargeable to said County of Forsyth Now should the said Elen Jones well and truly Educate and maintain the said Child until it shall arrive at the age of Fourteen years and also save harmless the said County from Expences with said Child boarding nursing and maintaining then the above obligation to void otherwise of force this May the 3rd 1866.”

Bastardy Bonds were used by several American colonies (and later states) to ensure that communities did not become fiscally responsible for children born to unmarried women. Generally, the bonds required the father of the child either swear to provide regular payments or a lump sum to the county for support of the child. If the mother refused to name the father or the father could not be located, she, her father, or another interested party might sign the bond.

Variations in this process could occur, and in the case of this bond, the father is not named and the mother, Elen Jones, pledged to support the child herself until the age of fourteen. If she failed to do so, her guarantor, George Bennett, would be required to pay the county, $642.85¾ on her behalf. The bond does not indicate Bennett’s relation to Jones. Neither does it indicate what punishment would be meted out to Jones and Bennett should neither “maintain and educate” the child nor fulfill the financial terms of the bond.

As of 2019, no bastardy bonds are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows only one has ever been sold at auction. OCLS identifies only two bastardy bonds held by institutions, one from South Carolina and one from Tennessee.

$400 Read’Em Again Books #9346
21. [BESTIALITY] [CRIME & LAW] [SEX] A court-approved set of “interrogation” questions for an out-of-area material witness with regard to a defamation of character lawsuit. Various people. Forsyth County, Georgia, 1848.

This set of questions from the defendant’s attorney in an Interior (civil) Court case for Sarah Long, who was not then residing in the area, was sent to a well-respected lawyer for presentation to her. The lawyer was instructed to record her answers “plainly and distinctly written” and return them “closed up under your hands & seals.” The civil suit, between James Key and William Lee was for defamation.

“Interrogation to be exhibited to Sarah Long material female witness for Defendant. . .

Int 1st Do you know the parties?

Int 2nd Did you or did you not tell to Defendant or say in his presence that you had learned or had been informed by Hiram Long or some one else that plaintiff had been Caught in the act of Committing Bestiality with a Sheep or words imparting this Charge and please relate wat you did say & when it was.

Int 3rd Please relate all you know in favour of defendant”

An annotation at the bottom of the page reads,

“Plaintiff excepts to the foregoing interrogation on the grounds that the defendant seeks thereby to show that he had an author for the defamating words spoken by him respecting the plaintiff. . . .”

In mid-19th-century Georgia, an accusation of Bestiality was not to be taken lightly as it was regarded as a more heinous offense than rape. Bestiality, which the code defined as “the carnal knowledge and connection against the order of nature by man or woman in any manner with a beast,” was to be punished by “imprisonment at labor in the penitentiary, for . . . the natural life of the person convicted of this detestable crime.” See A codification of the statute law of Georgia, 1848. No wonder James Key sued William Lee for making the allegation,

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, there are no original source legal documents regarding 19th century bestiality for sale in the trade nor, per OCLC, held by institutions. Additionally, there are no auction records for any similar material found at the Rare Book Hub.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9348

14 card-mounted albumen photographs of life at Fort Russell in Wyoming during the 1890s. The photographs measure 4.5" x 3.75”; the cards approximately 6.5” x 5.5”. Several of the cards are captioned on the reverse. All are in nice shape.

One especially intriguing photograph is of a soldier standing next to a bicycle with an attached canvas bag labeled “U. S. Mail.” In 1897, the army experimented to determine if it was feasible for infantry units to incorporate bicycle transport. A twenty-man platoon from the 15th Infantry Regiment at Fort Missoula, Montana peddled all the way to St. Louis, Missouri along the right-of-way of the Burlington Northern Railroad. Their five-week trip was arduous, but it showed that a well-conditioned bicycle unit could travel long-distances twice as fast as foot soldiers or cavalrymen. In the end, the army decided not to equip any units with bicycles. This photograph shows that at the same time bicycles were being tested at Fort Missoula, at least one and possibly more were in use by other western infantry regiments. As this image appears to have been taken during the 8th Infantry bivouac, it may be that the rider was tasked with making round-trips to Fort Russell to pick up soldiers’ mail.

Fort Russell continues in operation today, however its name was changed to Fort Warren in honor of Wyoming’s first governor and later one of its senators for 37 years. In 1947, it became an Air Force missile base. Russell Langdon was awarded a Silver Star for Gallantry in 1898 during the Spanish-American War and later served as a regimental commander in World War One when he was awarded both the Distinguished Service Medal for especially meritorious service and the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism. He retired as a Brigadier General.

This is a terrific visual record of army life on the western plains that presents a start point for further research into the army’s use of bicycles at the end of the 19th Century. As of 2019, no similar collections documenting life at Fort Russell are for sale in the trade, and no records showing any have been sold at auction. OCLC shows one collection of five Fort Russel photographs is held at an institution.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9297
Three Langton’s Pioneer Express shipping receipts for gold dust and coin from a Chinese merchant in San Francisco, two addressed to a Chinese Pharmacist in Marysville, California and likely related to the opium trade. Quong Wo & Co. to Hong Wo & Co. and Hong Yuen. San Francisco and Marysville, California: 1862 and 1864.

Three shipping receipts from Langston’s Pioneer Express, each measuring approximately 7” x 4”. Two, from 1864, are for delivery of “dust” packages with a total value of over $4,000. The third, from 1862 is for delivery of a package containing $150, presumably in coins. All three are in nice shape.

Circumstantial evidences strongly suggest that these high-dollar transactions were related to the opium trade. Quong Wo & Company was a Chinese merchandiser in San Francisco, and a series of messages cited in “Chinese Telegrams,” Perspectives of American English edited by Joey L. Dillard document the that the firm dealt in opium during the 1870s. Hong Wo & Co. was the largest store in Marysville’s Chinatown and supplied a wide variety of merchandise to the area’s Chinese laborers and miners, and later public records identify Hong Wo as a “practicing pharmacist,” so it is likely that his firm also sold opium. Additionally, “The Opium Mob” at The Green Pulpit website identifies Marysville as the home of the “first known tongs to organize . . . in the gold fields . . . [where they controlled] all opium dens, gambling houses and bordellos.”

Richard Frajola’s research shows that Samuel W. Langton and N. W. Williams formed Langton’s Pioneer Express in March 1855 following the collapse of Adams Express. His extensive routes from the mining areas included steamboat service from Marysville and Sacramento to San Francisco. After Langton’s death in 1864, the firm was sold to Lamping & Co’s Express.

A nice group of receipts documenting Chinese commerce in the gold fields of California in the early 1860s. As of 2019, no other Chinese gold rush receipts are for sale in the trade. Several other similar Langton receipts have appeared in philatelic auctions in the past twenty years. OCLC shows four Quong Wo & Company receipts are held by institutions, one of which was for a gold dust shipment to Marysville.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9298
24. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [CURRENCY] [PHILATELY] An unusual post-Civil War indenture between a “Moulder or Iron Founder” and a Massachusetts manufacturer agreeing to calculate wages due in shillings and pence. Agreement between Edward Roach and the Barstow Stove Company. Bristol County, Massachusetts: 1867.

This partially printed two-year indenture measures 8.5” by 14”. It is dated and signed twice: first on the “sixteenth day of November A.D. eighteen hundred and Sixty-Six” and again in January of 1867. A 25-cent revenue “Insurance” stamp (Scott #R46) has been affixed and cancelled with multiple strikes of a circular Bartow Stove Company handstamp. The document is in nice shape with splits starting along its storage folds.

In this document, the stove company agrees to pay Roach “Four Shilling & sixpence” per day for his first year of service and “Five Shillings and sixpence” per day during his second. In return, Roach guarantees that if he leaves his job before two years have expired, he will pay the company “the full and just sum of One Hundred Dollars.”

It seems odd that 74 years after Congress declared the dollar to be the official currency of the U. S. Dollar that a company would pay employee wages calculated in shillings and pence. Yet, the Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, pages 18-19, No. 604, October 1929 reported that “In the payrolls of [some New England companies] time and piece rates were given in shillings . . . up to 1845, and probably longer [although] the actual money payment in all cases would have been [in] American dollars.”

A very late and uncommon use of British currency by an American manufacturer to calculate the wages of an Iron Founder.

$100  Read’Em Again Books #9296
25. [CIRCUS & FAIRS] Large photograph album documenting life in the Cole Brothers and Dailey Brothers Circuses during the 1940s. Unknown compiler. Various locations: 1940s.

This large album measures 15” x 11.5” and contains over 140 b/w photographs measuring between 3” x 2” and 4” x 6”. The photographs are all attached using corner mounts. About 25 show the Cole Brothers Circus, the remainder are of the Dailey Brothers Circus. Many have manuscript captions dated 1942 or 1944 on the reverse, and some include the names of the show’s performers and staff. They are a mix of personal snapshots and images recorded by commercial or press photographers. The commercial photographs have backstamps from Eddie Jackson, Robert D. Good, and Gene Baxter.

Many of the Cole Brothers photos are of performers, clowns, and staff. The Dailey Brothers photos (taken at various times and locations) chronologically document a stop on a circus tour beginning with the arrival of the circus train. They show the locomotive, flat cars loaded with wagons and circus cars filled with animals, animals (elephants, camels, horses, etc.) being unloaded from the train, simple and ornate circus wagons, a band wagon, calliope, and trucks (perhaps awaiting to begin the parade into town), raising of the big top and other tents, the circus entrance, crowds beginning to mill around the circus grounds, and performers. One image is of an elephant that died from a broken leg suffered while attempting to turn around on a narrow plank. And, there is an interesting image of four clowns; one is holding a toilet seat with a sign reads, “Frame for Hitler’s Picture.”

A very nice collection of images from two important circuses operating in the 1940s.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9302

This album measures 16.5” x 12.25” and is filled with approximately 220 photographs (most 3.5” square or 5” x 3.5”) and over 50 pieces of ephemera (mostly correspondence on illustrated stationery and route cards). 10 of the photographs are in color, the rest are b/w. All the photographs are attached with corner mounts. The ephemera was attached with both corner mounts and glue. Everything is in nice shape. There is a partially removed sticker on the front of the album that reads “Circus Photo’s / Season 1965 / Book #2.”

The photos from around the country are organized by circus and feature train cars, trucks, wagons, performers, animals, tentage, power-generating equipment, barkers, sideshows, crowds, etc. from nine different shows (Carson & Burns, Christy Bros., Cole Bros., James Bros. James Strates, King Bros., Mills Bros., Ringling Bros. Barnum & Baily, and Von Bros.)

The colorful ephemera from nine circuses (Clyde Beatty, James Strates, Mills Bros, Christiani Wallace, King Bros., Robins Bros., Hunt’s, Pollack Bros. and Sells & Gray) is mostly grouped together in the rear. Although correspondence and route cards compose the bulk of the ephemera, there are other interesting items as well including an offer to purchase Robbins Bros. stock and a Clyde Beatty invoice for a “Full Quart Old Crow Liquor (Entertainment).”

One the best circus photograph scrapbooks we’ve handled, and the only one from a press agent documenting multiple circuses touring in the same year. Scarce. As of 2019, except for the other album in our current inventory, no other circus albums are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only two circus albums have been sold at auction in the past 40 years although there must certainly have been more. Although we have recently sold several circus albums to institutions, there are only two similar holding listed in OCLC.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9301
This handwritten document dated “3rd Sep 1834,” is testimony from a case related to the Georgia Land Lottery of 1833 in which ‘unused’ Cherokee land was redistributed to white settlers and speculators. The testimony reads in part:

“William Harris further showeth . . . that he intermarried with Susan Collins in the month of February 1833 on the fourteenth day of that month, and . . . went into possession of the said Lot . . . of the formerly Cherokee now Forsyth County, and that he resided on the same in the year 1833. That when he removed off said Lot about Christmas last, that he left Martin Branham in possession of the said lot as his tenant . . . and that he has never been out of the possession of the land and that his property was on said lot at the time the said McGinnis placed his negroes in said lot, [and] attempted to take possession of the same. . . .”

Nancy Cordery, a Cherokee, married a white man named Parker Collins (who is listed in the Reservation Roll for 1817) and lived on Cherokee land along the Chattahoochee River, where Parker operated a ferry until his death in June of 1833. Shortly before, their daughter, Susan, married a white man, William Harris. The couple inherited the Collins land, but chose not to remain on it, instead renting it to a tenant. The State of Georgia considered the land as no longer occupied by Cherokees and included it in the Land Lottery of 1833, where it was won by a man named Tate. After a series of quick sales, the property ended up in the hands of James McGinnis, who also owned land on the opposite bank. It would appear that the Harris’s lost their case as today the road crossing the river at the old ferry site is named McGinnis Ferry Road. (See “Notes to the Will of Parker Collins” at Rootsweb.com, Shadbum’s Cherokee Planters in Georgia 1832-1838, and answers to Bonnie Morris’s query at the “All Things Cherokee” website.)

The Georgia Land Lotteries of 1832 and 1833 sparked dissension within the Cherokee Nation that led to the split between rival leaders John Ross and John Ridge, the Treaty of New Echota, and the Trail of Tears. It appears that the Harris family relocated during the Trail of Tears in 1838 as descendants are listed as residents of Muskogee, Oklahoma in Bower and Miller’s Eastern Cherokee by Blood, 1906-1910.

A scarce testament documenting one Cherokee family’s fight against the Georgia Land Lotteries that ultimately forced the removal and relocation of the Cherokee Nation to present day Oklahoma. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Nothing similar has been sold at auction per the Rare Book Hub, although eleven lottery tickets and land grants have been sold over the past 115 years. OCLC shows nothing similar held by any institution, although the Georgia Historical Society holds one land grant.

$750 Read’Em Again Books #9345
This three-page Inferior (civil) Court document was filed by Daniel Stephens seeking damages from Leland Vaughn for the seduction, debauchery, and carnal knowledge of his daughter, Nancy, which caused her to become pregnant. U.S. Census records show that Nancy was only ten years old when this petition was filed.

The document is in nice shape and reads in part:

“The petition of Daniel Stephens showeth that he is about to commence his action on the case for seduction in the Superior (criminal) Court . . . against Leland Vaughn . . . for the Seduction . . . committed upon Nancy Stephens [his] daughter and servant [which included] debauching & carnally knowing the said Nancy by which she became sick & pregnant with child. . . . [after which he] lost the services of the said Nancy . . . [amounting to] the sum of Five Thousand Dollars damages.”

As a result of the petition, the Inferior Court set Leland Vaughn’s bail in this civil court at $2,000.

Although in the early years of the 19th century, “southern statutes stipulated execution for white men convicted of rape, . . . by the mid-nineteenth century . . . most States in the South imposed lesser penalties. . . .” See Bardaglio’s “Rape and the Law in the Old South” in The Journal of Southern History, Nov 1994. This was the case in Georgia, as the state code in 1860 specified imprisonment at hard labor for not less than two years nor more than twenty.

The results of both this civil and Vaughn’s criminal trial as well are certainly worthy of research.

As of 2019, there are two similar documents for sale in the trade, however, both are related to the rape of an adult rather than a child. The Rare Book Hub shows one similar document has been sold at auction, also regarding an adult rather than a child, and OCLC shows that two similar documents, also for adult rapes, are held by an institution.

$250 Read’Em Again Books #9347
29. [CRIME & LAW] [LYNCHINGS AND EXECUTIONS] Two photographs of the last lynching in California following the kidnapping and brutal murder of Brooke Hart. Unidentified photographer. San Jose, California: 26 November 1933.

Each b/w semi-matte 6" x 4.5" photograph shows a different white man hanging from a tree. One man (John M. Holmes) is naked and the other (Thomas H. Thurmond) is naked but for a shirt and jacket. These are probably silver-gelatin images, as both have faded slightly and show the beginning of some silvering. They are lightly soiled and worn.

In 1933, Brooke Hart was the 22-year-old heir to San Jose’s landmark department store owned by his prominent, highly regarded, and well-liked local family. On the night of November 9th, his family received the first of several phone calls from a man informing them that he had kidnapped Brooke and demanding $40,000 for his safe return. After several sets of traced ransom delivery instructions were exchanged, Thurmond was arrested at a pay phone. He confessed and identified Holmes as his partner. As it turned out, the men murdered Brook immediately after his kidnapping. He was taken at gunpoint to the San Mateo Bridge where one of the kidnappers bashed him twice on the head with a brick. His arms were bound with wire and a concrete block was tied to his feet before they threw him into the river where he slowly drowned.

Immediately after the killers’ capture, the sheriff’s office began receiving lynch threats, and a San Jose newspaper called for “mob violence” against the two “human devils”. When newspapers reported that Thurmond intended to plead not guilty by reason of insanity, and Holmes’s lawyer suggested he might repudiate his confession, the populace became even more inflamed, and 20 prominent friends of the Hart family declared they intended to ensure the prisoners received an “immediate and drastic punishment.” Following the pair’s indictment, threats against the men increased, and California Governor James Rolph announced to reporters that he would take no action to prevent a lynching. He further informed Holmes’s lawyer that if any lynchers were somehow convicted, he would pardon them. After Brooke’s decomposed body was found in the river on 26 November, radio stations began calling for a lynching to be conducted that evening, and a mob estimated to be as large as 15,000 men, women, and children assembled in St. James Park. An assault on the jail began at 11 pm., and the kidnappers were dragged to the park, stripped, beaten, and hung from two different trees. Jackie Coogan (a former child movie star and later TV’s Uncle Fester on The Addams Family) was a college friend of Brooke’s and is said to have held one of the ropes used in the lynching. Despite thousands of witnesses, no formal charges were brought against anyone. These lynchings are generally accepted as the last to occur in California, although some claim—without any details or confirmation—that another occurred in Callahan in 1947.

Very scarce. As of 2019, although digital copies and postcards of similar images exist, no other photographs of these lynchings are for sale in the trade, and there are no records reflecting any auction sales at the Rare Book Hub. Photographs of white lynchings are much less common than those of African-Americans; OCLC shows that only seven white lynching photographs are held by institutions.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9304
30. [CRIME & LAW] [LYNCHINGS & EXECUTIONS] [STD] [WOMEN] Original gallows photograph of a syphilitic murderer whose harassing advances were repeatedly rejected by the young woman he killed. Image of Hurt Hardy. St. Genevieve, Missouri: 1937.

This 6.5” x 8.5” press photograph is captioned on the reverse:

“International Chicago 2-27-37. With 400 persons crowded around the gallows within a stockade on the county farm near here, Hurt Hardy, 31, was hanged for the murder of his sweetheart, Ethel Fenestock. In 1935 (sic) Hardy is shown standing on the gallows with legs strapped just before the hood was placed over his head. Sent to A and C lists.”

There is also a backstamp that reads, “Received Examiner Reference Library Mar 1, 1937”.

The photo caption has two additional errors besides the “1935” date. Hall was 32 at the time of his execution, and the young woman murdered by Hardy was not his “sweetheart.” Local newspapers reported that the 20-year old had repeatedly spurned Hardy’s advances, and Find-a-Grave provides additional details:

“He shot Ethel through a crack in her barn door as she was preparing to milk some cows on September 28, 1935. A professional hangman from Illinois, who had executed 59 other condemned convicts, was brought in to conduct the hanging. The hangman placed a black hood over Hardy’s head and strapped his arms and legs to his body, before hanging him.”

To no avail at his trial, Hardy claimed his actions were due to a tertiary case of syphilis. Wikipedia notes that Hardy is often identified as the last person to be publicly executed in the United States, however that is not technically true. Officials had built a 16-foot tall enclosure around the gallows to ensure only those authorized would be able to view the execution. However, 1,400 eager spectators showed up to witness the hanging. 400 somehow entered the enclosure and were allowed to remain for the execution while the remaining 1,000 remained outside the wooden fence and listened. Just before the trapdoor was sprung, Hardy told the crowd, “I will be happy to meet my sweetheart in the beyond.” Hardy was the hangman’s 69th, not 59th, execution. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 26 Feb 1937)

Very scarce. As of 2019, there are no photos of Hardy’s execution for sale in the trade. OCLC shows no institutions hold Hardy execution photos. Although the Rare Book Hub shows no auction records for photos, a photograph with a different view of Hardy on the gallows was sold on eBay in 2013.

$250 Read’Em Again Books #9340
This train wreck cover was salvaged from the mail car of the Twentieth Century Limited that occurred on June 21, 1905 at Mentor, Ohio. It shows water, fire, and smoke damage along its edges and bears a label reading “Post Office, New York, N.Y. The enclosure was damaged in the wreck of the ‘20th Century Limited’ train on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R., that occurred at Mentor, Ohio, Wednesday, Jun 21, 1905. William R. Willcox, Postmaster.” It is franked with two Japanese stamps (Scott #s 96 and 103) that may have been reattached by postal authorities. A circular, red “Winckler & Company” sealing label is on the reverse. The reverse also bears two New York receiving stamps dated June 24 attesting to the speed in which the mail was recovered and forwarded. The envelope has been opened along the top and both sides, likely to facilitate display.

At the time of the crash, the Twentieth Century Limited had only been in operation for about three years and was the finest and fastest train in the country, travelling between Grand Central Terminal in New York and LaSalle Street Station in Chicago. It catered to an upper-class and business clientele and even included an on-board secretarial service and barbershop.

On the night of June 21st, as the train was traveling through Mentor, Ohio at 70 mph, it hit a switch that had been intentionally turned to route it onto a dead-end freight-house track. The engine careened past the end of the tracks and flipped over, landing about 50 feet from the depot. “The heavy tender was hurled entirely over the engine and was buried in the depot. The combination car was hurled with terrific violence on top of the engine and tender and in a moment was enveloped in flames. The Chicago sleeper, immediately behind the combination car, crashed into the depot, which collapsed on top of the coach. . .. An instant after the crash of the wreck the boiler of the great engine burst with terrific force, scattering fire and steam in a manner that made escape for the imprisoned passengers impossible. The combination car was at once enveloped in flames and steam. The cries of the passengers were heard for a moment above the awful roar, but they were beyond all aid.” Passengers screamed for help as they lay crushed, maimed, scalded, and burning inside the wreck. 21 of them died horribly as bystanders were, for the most part, unable pull them out of the cars.

Envelopes rescued from the wreck occasionally turn up at auction, however this is the only piece of international mail to survive that I have seen.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9334
32. [DISASTERS] [FIRE FIGHTING] [MUSIC] [ENTERTAINMENT & THEATER] Small grouping of ephemera and artifacts from the infamous Cocoanut Grove night club where 492 people were killed in the deadliest nightclub fire in history. Boston: circa 1940.

This lot consists of:

A 7” x 5” b/w photograph of an 18-member, primarily male, dinner party enclosed in a colorfully tropical Cocoanut Grove Melody Lounge souvenir folder that measures 8.5” x 6.5” (cover artist was Marty Sherman).

A Cocoanut Grove “feature” matchbook complete with all 15 illustrated matches featuring illustrations of nightclub dancers. The matchbook cover features monkeys climbing cocoanut trees; the reverse shows the band, a performer, diners, balloons and the monkeys in the coconut trees.

A miniature Cocoanut Grove song book, die-cut in the shape of a violin and advertising Bard’s Town Bond bourbon. The songbook contains the lyrics for 7 Stephen Foster songs: My Old Kentucky Home, Old Folks at Home, Masa’s in de Cold, Cold Ground, Old Black Joe, Beautiful Dreamer, Oh Susanna, and Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair.

A 8.5” x 2” wood and spring metal ‘clapper’ noisemaker advertising both the nightclub and two Vaudeville performers, Gilda Gray (the dancer who popularized the “Shimmy”), and Joe Frisco.

All the items are in very nice shape.

The souvenir photograph and matchbook are especially evocative of the disastrous fire that consumed the Cocoanut Grove on November 28, 1942 when a busboy in the downstairs melody lounge struck a match in order to have some illumination while replacing a burned-out light bulb. Authorities concluded that the match accidentally set fire to some paper palm fronds decorating the lounge. The fire spread rapidly throughout the club killing 492 patrons who were unable to escape, in part due to locked or hidden exits.

A terrific grouping of scarce nightclub relics that occasionally find their way to eBay or other auction venues.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9351

This novelty bill is approximately 7.5” x 3” and features a portrait of Cooper on the reverse along with the state seal of Oklahoma and an image of the earth overprinted with “22” and 22 orbital circles. The reverse has two circular images, one of a teepee and one of Cooper’s Mercury spacecraft, “Faith 7,” along with the legend “From Redman to Spaceman.” The bill is crisp and mint without a trace of wear or soiling.

The city of Shawnee, Oklahoma issued these commemorative novelty bills in 1963 after Cooper successfully completed his first space flight.

Gordon Cooper was one of the seven original American astronauts. His flight in the Faith 7 capsule stretched the capabilities of the Mercury spacecraft to the limits. The mission, May 15 and 16, 1963, lasted more than 34 hours and 22 orbits. That was more than three times the longest U.S. human space flight until that time and far exceeded the initial design capability of the capsule. During his flight, Cooper also became the first astronaut to sleep in space.

Although Cooper was from Shawnee, Oklahoma, despite the bill’s proclamation, “From Redman to Spaceman,” he was not a Native American. However, the first Native American to fly in space was another Oklahoman. John Harrington, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, was a mission specialist on the Endeavor space shuttle during its Nov-Dec 2002 mission where he twice walked in space.

As of 2019, none are for sale in the trade and none are held by institutions. Although the Rare Book Hub and LiveAuctioneers show no auction sale records, one similar bill has sold on eBay.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9341
34. [FIRE FIGHTING] [PHILATELY] Letter from a young lawyer and recent graduate of Hanover College to a friend who was still enrolled reporting the founding of an early independent Memphis fire company to include the purchase of an engine and misconduct at a firemen’s ball. [Xenophon] B. Sanders to Edward “Ned” C. Porter. Memphis, Tennessee to South Hanover, Indiana: 1849.

This four-page stampless folded letter measures 15” x 9.5” unfolded. Sent from Memphis to South Hanover, Indiana and bearing a circular Memphis postmark in blue, a manuscript “10” rate marking, and the annotation “via river mail.” It has a 1.5” split on one mailing fold and a small hole where its seal was removed.

Much of the letter concerns friends at Hanover College, however a significant portion discusses an early Memphis fire company:

“I have joined ‘liberty fire Co no 3,’ We have just ended a fair of two nights for our benefit with a ball. . . . During the fair I enjoyed myself very well. . . . as you know it could not be otherwise. There was however an unfortunate circumstance connected with it which very much allay our enjoyment. It was this, It was reported that Y. L. Conant who is a member of our Company insulted the young ladies who have a table at the fair which of course you are aware reflected no honor on the company. . . . Poney being one of the committee of arrangements and consequently feeling himself personally agrieved by the ungentlemanly act of (YLC) in the next meeting of the Company arose and after speaking for about 40 minutes ended by moving that the company expel (YLC) or make some other demonstration of its sentiment and Y had in answering him grossly contradicted him when Poney bounced him and give him a regular built flogging, and I now have the pleasure of announcing that Conant is no longer a member of our Co, I understand that he has threatened to shoot P on sight, he has seen him several times however, and hasn’t ‘burned powder yet.’ We have nearly money enough made up to purchase a new engine and think we will soon send on after one, We intend getting a rowboat engine, . . . the best now in use.”

Liberty Fire Company No. 3 was established in 1849, shortly before Sanders wrote this letter. It was the third fire company established in the city; the first was founded three years earlier. Rowboat engines like the company wanted to purchase were cumbersome machines that could require up to 30 men to operate. The men would sit atop the engine and pull handles (much like the oars of a rowboat) that would shoot water much farther, faster, and in greater volume than it could be thrown from a bucket.

An insider’s first-hand report of an early independent volunteer fire engine company. Very scarce. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade or held by institutions per OCLC. While the Rare Book Hub reports auction sales of several engine company log books and meeting minutes, there are no auction records of similar description of misbehavior at firemen’s balls or expulsions and fisticuffs steaming from “ungentlemanly” conduct.

$250 Read’Em Again Books #9314
35. [FOLK ART] [PHILATELY] [VITICULTURE] Hand-illustrated envelope featuring a grapevine with two large clusters of grapes. From Newbury, Vermont to South Antrim, New Hampshire: circa 1861

This small 4” x 2.5” lady’s envelope from Newbery, Vermont to South Antrim, New Hampshire is franked with a 3-cent rose Washington stamp (Scott #65) that has been cancelled with a “Paid” handstamp and a circular Newbury postmark. The envelope is slightly rough along its left edge.

The grapevine and cluster illustrations frame the addressee’s name.

SOLD
Read’Em Again Books #9316

36. [FOLK ART] [MOUNTAIN CLIMBING] [PHILATELY] A hand-illustrated envelope showing climbers ascending Mt. Lafayette. Boston to Franconia, New Hampshire: circa 1879

This envelope features a hand drawing of climbers ascending Mt. Lafayette. It is franked with a 1-cent ultramarine Franklin stamp (Scott #182) and a 2-cent vermilion Jackson stamp (Scott #283). It bears a circular Boston postmark with an indistinct date. Part of the back flap is missing, a little rough at the top edge.

There are seven climbers attempting to reach the summit of Mt. Lafayette, a 5,249-foot mountain not far from Franconia, New Hampshire. One climber has become exhausted and is sitting on the ground, one is struggling to keep upright, one has fallen and is sprawled on his back, and one is standing akimbo watching the others.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9315
37. [FOLK ART] [NATIVE AMERICANS] [PHILATELY] Hand-illustrated envelope to a legendary country journalist featuring a wonderful pen and ink drawing of a Native American mustang roundup. “By Jimmie.” Bixby, Oklahoma to Skiatook, Oklahoma: 1951.

This legal-size envelope is illustrated with a pen and ink drawing of an exciting Native American mustang roundup. It is in nice shape with some light edgewear.

The scene shows two braves with lassos attempting to capture horses from a small herd of mustangs. One brave is astride his horse just beginning to throw his lasso. The other is being pulled along the ground having already roped a mustang and dismounted his horse. The drawing is signed “By Jimmie.”

The envelope is franked with three 1-cent green Washington stamps (Scott #804) that have been cancelled by a Bixby, Oklahoma machine postmark. The envelope is addressed to Bill Hoge, Skiatook, Oklahoma, “Editor and publisher of oologah . . . . oozing.”

During the 1930s, Bill Hoge, a local Oologah barber, began publishing a small-town newspaper, Oologah Oozings, more of less as a hobby. He disdained all mention of crime or politics, instead filling his paper with a mix of fact and fantasy including local news, heartwarming articles, and quirky stories. It proved incredibly popular outside of Oologah and soon, Hoge had subscribers from across the country and his articles were often reprinted in the New York Times, New York Sun, New York Post and other newspapers around the country and in magazines including Time and Look. For more information, see the online article at Tulsa World, “Only in Oklahoma: Oologah paper oozed homestyle news.”

I could find no information about the artist, “Jimmie.”

One of the nicest pieces of western postal art that we’ve encountered.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9319
This group consists of four items:

- A form letter from the Imperial Wizard in Atlanta, Georgia to all Genii, Grand Dragons and Hydras, Great titans and Furies, Giants, King Kleagles, Exalted Cyclops and Terrors and the other citizens of the Invisible Empire announcing the availability of newly designed Klu Klux Klan band uniforms.
- A form letter from Melvin Bros., Lodge Supplies and Equipment of Peoria, Illinois promoting the sale of the new band robes and helmets offering robes only at the wholesale price of $3.75.
- A Melvin Bros. robe order form with an illustration of how to take measurements to obtain a proper fit.
- A personal check from John F. Marshall of Altoona, Pennsylvania for one of the Melvin Bros. $3.75 robes.

Everything is in nice shape; the Imperial Wizard’s letter has a minor paperclip rust stain at the top left.

The “very handsome” band uniforms are described as follows in the Imperial Wizard's letter:

**CAPE:** Satin. Purple, lined with gold, bordered with an inch gold braid; white silk tie at throat.

**ROBE:** White satin, bordered with purple; gold silk embroidered lyre on each sleeve; silk embroidered emblem on the left breast; purple silk girdle

**HELMET:** White satin. Gold lyre on each side; gold silk tassel; Klan number and Realm in purple silk embroidered on the front of the helmet; front visor of helmet nose length.

In the 1920s, the heyday of the Klan, the KKK was far more popular in the urban North than the rural south, and thousands of members in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, etc. publicly paraded through northern cities. Clearly, based upon the items in this lot, there was a demand for organized Klan bands to accompany the marches.

The incredible strength of the Klan during this time and its massive support in the north and its ties to the Democratic Party outside of the South (e.g., Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, John Porter, Mayor of Los Angeles, Benjamin Stapleton of Denver, etc.) are often inconveniently overlooked today.

An unusual grouping of ephemeral items related to a little studied element of the Klu Klux Klan, its uniformed marching bands.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, there are no original items related to KKK bands for sale in the trade, none are held by institutions per OCLC, and there are no records of any auction sales at Rare Book Hub, LiveAuctioneers, or eBay.

*SOLD* Read’Em Again Books #9342
Complete with title leaf (blank reverse), ten text pages (2-9 numbered), folding table, and blank leaf. (See Dornbusch, vol 3, #1387.) With dark blue paper wrapper; possibly added later. Booklet, to include the folding table, is in nice shape with minor wear, mainly at the upper right corner; wrapper is starting to separate and is worn with chipping along edges.

After General Sheridan’s Army of the Shenandoah decisively defeated General Jubal Early in the fall of 1864, he spent several months skirmishing with guerrillas and partisans until the Valley was secured for the Union. In late February, he was ordered by General Grant to march eastward and “destroy the Virginia Central Railroad, the James river canal, capture Lynchburg if practicable, and then join Major General Sherman wherever he might be found. . . .” There has been relatively little written about these operations except this report that Sheridan penned himself.

This report provides considerable detail about the operation and General George Armstrong Custer’s performance in command of the 3d Cavalry Division. In summation at the end of his report, Sheridan writes, “The amount of private and public property collected . . . destroyed and the destruction of communications and supplies was very great, and beyond estimation. Every bridge on the Central railroad . . . except one . . . was destroyed. The James River canal was disabled beyond any immediate repair. . . . Both officers and men appeared buoyed up by the thought that we completed our work in the Valley of the Shenandoah and were on our way to help our brothers in arms before Petersburg, in the final struggle.”

And help there, Sheridan did. His pursuit of General Lee’s army included forcing the complete surrender of Jubal Early’s army, driving Lee from Petersburg by cutting off his lines of supply, capturing 20% of Lee’s army at Sayler’s Creek, and forcing Lee’s surrender at Appomattox by blocking all avenues of escape.

Following the surrender, Grant appointed Sheridan Commander of the Military District of the Southwest (where he wrote this report), ordering him to ensure any remaining Confederate forces in Texas were defeated and to protect the southwest border from Mexican or French incursions.

An exceptionally scarce booklet. As of 2019, no others are for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows only one entry which is over 100 years old. OCLC notes a microform copy is held at the NYPL. It also reports three other institutions as having examples, but this may be questionable as all three identify their copy as being in Sheridan’s personal bound edition of his reports. Dornbusch reports an example at the Army’s Center for Military History.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9343
These two one-page and one two-page folded letters, each measuring 15” x 10”, were written by a civilian ship captain to his wife while transporting soldiers and supplies to Mexico during the Mexican-American War. Two of the letters are datelined Vera Cruz, and one was written while “Almost to Sea.” Two were sent via New Orleans, Louisiana and bear a bold “10” rate stamp in black; one of these also shows a circular New Orleans postmark. The third letter bears a circular Mobile, Alabama postmark in red with a matching “Way 11” handstamp. All three letters are in nice shape.

The first two letters were written shortly after General Winfield Scott had captured Mexico City, and the third not long after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed but not yet ratified. In them, Morrill recounts his life at sea including support to the Army in Mexico and his desire for the war to be over so that he may be allowed to return to New England:

“When I received your last letter I was loading for Vera Cruze & Tampico so I could not answer. . . You thought I was not so confiding as I should be, I tell you my dear as I did once before that I cannot express myself on paper. . . so you must excuse these few lines and I will write you a long one next time from Very Cruz. . . I write from this place [Vera Cruz] to inform you of my safe arrival. . . I write this to be mailed on my arrival at New Orleans after being at sea Eight days and not half passage yet. . . a heavy sea attending and . . . my Passengers Eight in number are sick and spewing around me. . . You cannot imagine how I long for the time to arrive when I shall leave this for a Christian Country. I am afraid that Mr. Meeker will not send the vessel home but whether he does or not I shall come without fail. after I make one more trip to Vera Cruz. I am almost asham of staying so long [but] I am clear of debt for all that I owe in the world is $7.00.”

Morrill captained vessels for Philadelphia, Louisiana and Baltimore line which was owned by C. J. Meeker of Philadelphia. Contemporary newspapers report that his fast sailing schooners, primarily employed in the costal trade that carried passengers in “handsome accommodations,” transported correspondence and news between ports, and could carry up to 250 barrels of goods. Newspaper and database records of sailing dates suggest that this vessel was likely either the Decatur or Picayune.

More noteworthy for their postal history than their war content, this grouping of letters was previously sold in a 2008 Heritage auction.
41. [MARITIME] [NATIVE AMERICANS] [WHALING] A long-lost whaling journal kept by a famous Native American whaleman that was the genesis of an important reference work on whaling music. Samuel (Sammy) G. Mingo. Whaling Bark Andrew Hicks [and the Ship California]: 1879-1883.

This journal measures 8” x 13.5” and contains about 200 pages. It was kept by Samuel (Sammy) George Mingo, a Narragansett Indian, who lived on Martha’s Vineyard and was one of the best whalemen of his time. He served as a senior mate aboard the Andrew Hicks and was presented with a gold watch while sailing as the fourth mate by the captain of the Ship California for “having raised whales the most times that we have taken them.” (See Shoemaker’s Native American Whalemen and the World.)

The contents include:

- About 120 pages of text chronicling two voyages in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans between 1879 and 1883, first on the Hicks, then the California. The Hicks text is in pen, the California text is in pencil. Mingo’s narratives are not simply postings of weather and location; they are also filled with descriptions of daily shipboard life like mending sails, coopering barrels, standing watch, and hunting and processing whales:

  “It has bin quite a fine day for we have been lucky enough to fall in with whales and the mate got one . . . there was also Merchantmen Steamers & porpoises bin in sight to day. . . . before the day past we have bin fortunate enough to get five small whales. . . . The sun was gently coming into view & brought with it a school of whales . . . & was fortunate enough to get one of a large whale – commenced cutting & partly got his head of and . . . are giting redy to boil him down. . . . It has bin quite rugged to day. We have been trying to cut in a whale but . . . we had to stop. I had been pumping from about twenty minutes fast but the water did not seem to stop. . . . We heard the rush of water . . . and found the hole. . . . the hole was board by some one. . . . We don’t know who it was but I have an opinion of one man. . . .”

- About 40 hand-drawn images signifying the sighting or taking of whales, one of which shows a whaleboat in hot pursuit of a whale,

- Over 15 pages devoted to various financial accounts and clothing inventories,

- Five pages of tables summarizing the taking and processing of whales killed during the Hicks voyage,
Five pages of line drawings showing a whaling ship and two whaleboats,

A three-page essay titled, ‘Raising, pursuit & capture of a sperm whale . . . the larboard to which I belong proved the fastest . . . ,” and

The lyrics to over 25 songs.

About 18 pages or partial pages have been removed (apparently by Mingo), but neither narratives nor lyrics were affected. The binding is holding; the spine has perished; the cover and page-edges are worn.

Whaling journals by Native Americans are exceedingly rare, and this journal is even more important as it was the genesis of the classic whaling music reference, Songs the Whalemans Sang by E. Gale Huntington. As noted in its revised edition:

“The year was 1954. The place was Tisbury High School in the town of Vineyard Haven on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. One of the teachers was in the habit of including local history in his lessons, and his students had taken an interest in the whaling heritage of the Island. A young woman in the class mentioned that her father had found the logbook of a whalerman in the local dump, and she offered to bring it to class. The teacher was Gale Huntington. The student was Joany Merry. The whalerman was Sam Mingo. Sam Mingo had begun his journal in 1879. Sam was a Native-American from the Vineyard, and he had signed on the bark Andrew Hicks as the fourth mate for a two-year voyage in the Atlantic. He liked music, and in addition to his personal observations Sam included in his journal the lyrics to some of his favorite songs. Gale Huntington found the journal interesting, but he found the songs fascinating.”

Huntington copied only the chantey lyrics from Mingo’s journal, ignoring lyrics for the other songs that were popular among the seamen of the time. Spurred by his find, Huntington began to comb museums and libraries for more lyrics, and in time, after collecting 175 songs, he published his important reference.

This journal disappeared soon after Huntington’s use. In Whaling on Martha’s Vineyard, Tom Dresser reports that Huntington returned the journal to Mingo’s daughter, Addie, who had long before married another whalerman, Amos Smalley. “The couple had no children and when Amos and Addie passed away, all their possessions, presumably including the journal were discarded in the Gay Head dump,” never to be seen again . . . until now.

For additional information see the Narragansett Dawn January 1936; “Beyond Moby Dick: Native American Whalemans in the 19th Century” by Stefanie Walker, records of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and “The Whaling Empire of Andrew Hicks” by Greg Stone in addition to the sources identified elsewhere in this description.

A unique and important whaling record for both its musical importance and as a first-hand account by a Native American who was recognized as on of the finest whalemans of his day. As of 2019, no Native American whaling journals are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows none have been sold at auction. Although OCLC shows no institutional holdings Native American whaling journals, a ship’s log kept by Mingo is in the Nicholson Whaling Collection at the Providence Public Library in Rhode Island.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9352
42. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] The only known U.S. postal envelope mailed through the Confederate post office at Salem Virginia; it was used to carry a letter requesting support for the appointment of the Roanoke College President as a Chaplain in the Confederate Army. James McCauley. Salem, Virginia May 24, 1861.

This letter was mailed using a U.S. 3-cent Nesbitt (Scott #U10) envelope on May 24, 1861, after Virginia had joined the Confederacy. At that time, such usage was appropriate as Confederate Postmaster General John H. Regan had decreed the pre-war Union postal system would remain in effect through 31 May 1864. The letter is datelined, Salem May 24, 1861 and the envelope bears a strong circular Salem postmark also dated May 24. Both are in nice shape.

In this letter, John McCauley, a long time Roanoke representative in Virginia’s General Assembly, requests David Hartman to encourage Virginia’s Governor Letcher to appoint the founder and president of Roanoke College, Dr. David Bittle (a Lutheran minister), as a chaplain in one of the state’s volunteer regiments that were forming in the early days of the Civil War.

Apparently, Hartman’s actions, if he took any, had little effect on the governor as Bittle is well remembered at Roanoke College for keeping the school open throughout the Civil War. That, however, did not preclude Bittle from playing a military role during the conflict. He organized the school’s students into a Corps of Cadets that fought alongside the Confederate Army near Salem in December of 1863. The students, however, were no match for their union opponents and quickly forced to surrender after which they were just as quickly paroled and sent back to their studies. A college company was mustered once more in September of 1864, this second time as a unit in the Virginia Reserves, but saw no action before the war ended.

(Although the Virginia Military Institute’s participation in the Battle of New Market is said to have inspired the Corps of Cadets scene in the John Ford-John Wayne movie, The Horse Soldiers, I’ve always thought it possible that the “Holy Joe” President of the film’s Jefferson Military Academy was based upon Dr. Bittle.)

An important letter documenting Dr. Bittle’s attempt to receive an appointment as Chaplain in a Virginia volunteer regiment, and an especially scarce use of a U.S. postal envelope within the Confederacy. Any use of U.S. stamps or postal envelopes is scarce, however the Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Postal History (p.22) records no use of any U.S. postal envelopes through the Salem, Virginia post office. The Virginia Tech Special Collections holds two McCauley letters from the Civil War.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9324
In this three-page letter—written on red and blue bordered stationery—to an “old friend,” Fiske—who was a member of the Massachusetts 11th Volunteer Regiment, first scolds her for her lack of patriotism:

“You speak of business being dull in Charleston. You had ought to be willing to submit to dull business affairs for the sake of our glorious Country,”

and then becomes enraged while expressing his hatred of Southerners and slavery:

“For my part I am willing to undergo any hardship if it will only help conquer and subjugate the proud cursed slave holding traitors that are . . . nothing but blind barbarians at the best. I hope that slavery will be totally extinguished before this war closes and I want to see the South bend her knee in humble submission to the soldiers of Free Soil and Freedom. This war will ultimately result in the extermination of Slavery.”

Fiske also reports that he is well and inquires about a friend who “got discharged on account of physical disabilities brought on by the fatigue of the Bull Run adventure. . . .”

Camp Baker, the site of some of the earliest Union reconnaissance balloon ascensions, was located on the Maryland bank of the Potomac River, directly across from present day Quantico, Virginia.

After Fiske received a severe wound to his left arm at Gettysburg, he was discharged and joined the Veteran Reserve Corps.

The letter is rather unusual for Fiske’s out-in-the-open expressions of hatred for the South because of slavery. While Union soldiers’ letters frequently express their contempt for the Confederacy, that contempt seldom has anything to do with slavery; if they mention their motivation at all, it is usually to preserve the Union.

The Library of Virginia holds several letters related to Charles Fiske and his brother Joseph.
In this three-page letter, Henderson explains to his cousin that, as she requested, he had disinterred her husband’s remains and another cousin, a Confederate Lieutenant, would be escorting them to her.

“A metallic Case would have cost 180 dollars, a zinc Case $150, but I had his remains disinfected for $25, paid $10 for a new Box $5 for disinterring $5 for Hearse & $5 for other incidental expenses amounting in all to $50. I have done for you as I would have done for myself I hope you will be satisfied.

The check which you sent . . . will pay all actual expenses. I had his grave beautifully turved over two weeks since not knowing that you would have him removed. I only paid $2.00 for it but that & all my trouble I cheerfully willingly & gladly give for the comfort of my Dear disconsolate Cousin & would that I could do ten times as much.

I have not as yet been able to get his account or claims audited, from the fact that I, notwithstanding all my efforts, have been unable to obtain any information in regard to John’s last payment &c. I will persevere until I have it all right. I send John’s sword by Cousin Wade.”

In closing, he cautions:

“You must not think of such a thing as opening Johns Coffin as it will not do.

It is unclear where Sarah resided and the full name and unit of her husband John is not disclosed, however, the dateline of Henderson’s letter indicates he was either assigned to or a patient in the 3rd Alabama Hospital, and its content relates that he had taken care of John’s burial and personal effects.

At the time this letter was written, the 3rd Alabama Hospital was located in Richmond at the W. R. Robinson tobacco factory where it had been providing care for Confederate casualties since the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run), where three Alabama regiments had fought.

An unusual letter summarizing the costs of preparing remains for transport to kin folk at home.
This large (9.25” x 14.75”) letter was written by a corporal in the 23rd Ohio Regiment (future President Rutherford B. Hayes’s command) following the Battle at Clark’s House near Giles County Court house in what is today West Virginia. In it he describes an encounter in which his scouting party defeated a much larger enemy guerilla force, the Flat Top Copperheads, that had surrounded them overnight. A minor split is just starting along one mailing fold.

“On the 30th of April our Ret. started from Shady Springs and Company C (the Company I belonged to) was about 18 miles in advance of the Column. That night the Ret. Encamped about one mile from where I now am. Co C had scouted ahead about 20 miles and had returned within five miles of Camp and stopped for the night. The next morning at Daylight the Company which consisted of 75 men were surrounded and attacked by about 350 Secesh after fighting upwards of 2 hours the Enemy retreated and I in the company of the Surgeons arrived first as the Enemy had got out of Sight. Our loses is 28 killed and wounded that of the enemy is 39 killed & wounded. The Retg has gone on and the Asist-Surgeon and myself are here in charge of the wounded. We have several of the wounded Secesh under our charge I think we will move on to the Retg in course of ten days. . . .”

Although Mercer County would become part of West Virginia in 1863, many, if not most, citizens remained loyal to Virginia and many men from Spanishburg, Camp Creek, and Flat Top Mountain organized a Confederate guerilla force equipped with muzzle-loading, long-barreled rifles that became known as the Flat Top Copperheads. When the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry was deployed southward, it marched through Charleston, Fayetteville, and Beckley before setting up an advanced guard near Flat Top which was close by the Copperhead leader’s home. The Copperheads assembled during the night of April 31st and surrounded the 23rd’s advanced guard attacking during the Union troop’s morning muster on May 1st. The battle lasted for about 90 minutes until the Copperheads were forced to withdraw when Lt. Colonel Rutherford Hayes reinforced his surrounded troops.

A scarce first-hand account of a little-known, small Virginia battle that involved a Union regiment commanded by a future President of the United States. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, there are no auction records for similar items, and nothing similar is held in institutional collections.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9328

This four-page letter is written on patriotic stationery that features Liberty holding a U.S. flag with the caption, “Liberty and Union, Now and Forever.” It was sent by John T. Blake—who was temporarily living with friends in one of Virginia’s Unionist counties that would eventually become part of West Virginia—to his daughter at home near Sinking Creek in Scott County. In it he notes:

“Marlborough & I are both well & are very anxious to be at home but I do not want to go until I am satisfied there is no danger. We have been making our home at William Brown’s and they are also well. Marlborough has been working for Mr. Brown & I have been working some for the citizens & some for the soldiers. .. O. C. Banner . . . left word . . . that you had succeeded in saving the property I left in your care. I was very glad to hear it, for I was sometimes afraid they would destroy every thing I had, & probably not leave you enough to live upon. If you have not sold any of the property yet do not sell any until I get home. In the mean time do the best you can. I will be at home I think in a short time. .. The “Yankees” have been very kind to me & are not disturbing anyone who behaves himself, neither are they disturbing any property. Tell the people on Sinking Creek to stay at home & mind to their own business & they will not be disturbed. . . . those that are my enemies & especially who have been trying to injure me will receive their reward in good time.”

Although when the first vote on secession was taken at the Virginia Convention on April 4, 1861, delegates voted by a 2-to-1 margin to remain in the Union, sentiment changed rapidly following South Carolina’s capture of Fort Sumter and President Lincoln’s subsequent call-to-arms. By the time the question was put to a state-wide referendum, secession fever was running hot and Unionist supporters (who mostly lived in the western part of the state) were openly threatened with violence and death, and the danger continued long after Virginia joined the Confederacy. No doubt Blake felt threatened enough to temporarily abandon his home. Additionally, the Confederate Conscription Act was passed in April of 1862, and Blake—along with his son Marlborough—may have left to avoid conscription agents as well. It’s unclear whether he returned to his home during the war, or—as he also suggested in the letter—sought longer refuge in the Unionist County of Greenbrier or the state of Ohio where “grain, meat and all kinds of provisions are plentiful [and] cheap.”

A unique first-hand account of the tribulations faced by a Southern Unionist in Virginia.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9329
47. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] A mysterious, tongue-in-cheek letter from an Alabama infantry sergeant to an Alabama cavalry lieutenant written during the last weeks of the Civil War. Sgt. Robert Lanier to Lieut. Harris S. Waller. Fort Direction (Macon), Georgia to Greensboro, Alabama: March 25, 1865.

This three-page letter was sent by Lanier to Waller just one week before the fall of Richmond and two weeks before Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. Its envelope is annotated on the front “Paid on the other side,” and is franked on the reverse with a 10-cent blue Jefferson Davis stamp (Keatinge & Ball Type I with curved ornaments, see CSA Catalog pp 348-350). The stamp is tied with a double-circle Macon postmark in black. The letter is in nice shape. The envelope has been neatly split on three sides; the stamp was applied over the back flap and was torn in half when first opened. A glue stain along the edge of the flap suggest that it was resealed.

In the letter, Sergeant Lanier refers to the Lieutenant as “Haris” implying an unexpected familiarity, and the content is informal, uses slang, and is, at times, tongue-in-cheek:

“I am again in Macon holding fast to my bum proof position. ... I have made an application to the Secretary of War to get on a special detail. ... If I succeed in getting papers from Richmond I will soon return to Greensboro & then I will take unto myself a zib. I found Mrs. Phillips this morning and she has your valise and is taking good care of it. She would take me into her bed room to see it. I mean the valise. ... I will meet you at the depot. I am afraid I am going to be sick. I have a head ache now for days. It is no drunk head ache either. Haris I will close. ... Let me hear from you soon. ... “

No doubt, Lanier’s reference to his “bum proof position” refers to the fact that Macon was the only city in the path of Sherman’s “bummers” march through Georgia that didn’t fall to the Union. Both Lanier’s 3rd Alabama Cavalry and Waller’s 39th Alabama Infantry were instrumental in its defense at the Battles of Dunlap Hill and Sunshine Church that drove Union forces away from the city. However, at the time of the letter, Lanier would have been expected to be with his unit in North Carolina, and Waller’s 39th Infantry had already surrendered. Perhaps, either or both may have been wounded as “Camp Direction” was a mobile Confederate hospital that operated in both Tennessee and Georgia (see Schroeder-Lein’s Confederate Hospitals on the Move).

In mid-19th century slang, “zib” was slang for an eccentric person, and the mention of Mrs. Phillips bed room speaks for itself. Lanier’s assurance that he did not have a “drunk head ache” suggests that he and Waller may have shared more than a drink or two in the past. And what of Lanier’s possible special detail and the contents of Waller’s mysterious valise?

All in all, a very unusual and compelling letter sent as the Confederacy was dying with multiple unanswered threads suitable for further research. As of 2019, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, there are no auction records for similar items, and nothing similar is held in institutional collections.

SOLD  Read’Em Again Books #9331
In August 1874, a Quaker missionary named Bert wrote to his Quaker ‘sister’ that he and another man, named Inigo, would soon begin a journey escorting a group of Seminoles from the Indian Territory to St. Louis, following which he would “recreate” for a while in Kansas. The Quakers had a robust missionary presence in the Indian Territory that was recognized as extremely effective as reported in the Congressional Record of 1874, p. 3543, “now the Quakers took control of these wild tribes . . . in their wild condition and have succeeded admirably. . .. They are all now staying on their reservations. . .. the Quakers are among the very best people in the country for work like this.”

It’s not specified why the Seminoles were traveling to St. Louis, however it was likely related to the then recent consolidation of the Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Cherokee Indian Agencies into one entity (see the Kansas Historical Society’s pamphlet describing the National Archives’ Records of the Central Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1813-1878; Microfilm rolls MF 6903 - MF 7010; National Archives microfilm publication M856). Regardless, Bert’s record of his journey is enlightening and entertaining:

Aug 14, 1874 - Muskogee I.T. – Sister N. A man named Inigo will leave here tomorrow morning with a party of about 15 Seminoles for St. Louis, Mo I will go with them. We will travel on horse back. . .. I do not expect to go further than the latter place. From there will go to Kansas. Will drop thee a Postal Card at each office as I go. . ..

8/15/74 – Camp Tahlequah, I.T. – Supper of Bacon fried. Bread – that was twisted round a sapling & held over the fire to bake. Strong coffee. The water here is splendid. T is the finest town I have seen in the territory. We break camp pretty soon to go out on the prairie for grass. Have a long ride for tomorrow came 28 mi to-day. . ..

8/17/74 – Camp Midway between Old Camp & Maysville about 12 from Maysville – Scenery is grand & beautiful. We are surrounded by high hills . . . covered with white stones from the size of a hand to that of a fellows head At our last camp I found fossils. Here I find crystals Many a fine specimen. . .. Another clear stream with pebbly bottom & holes deep enough to swim in. . .. The boys went to work
for leggings. I scared up a pair for a little red skin. But that Mule. I do beat the very d-l how he can walk 60 miles a day and come in fresh. No joke. Expect to reach Maysville this evening. . ..

8/20/74 – Neosho Mo. – We had a terrible ride . . . in Cow Stem bottom and there seemed to be no end to the width of it & it is heavily timbered. We wanted prairie. We camped in timber at last. We rode a few miles in morning and be at a farm house a few miles further and on Buffalo creek . . . clear pebbly stream It is full of snails the Hogs fatten on them. Boys are going to play a game at 11 o’clock. . ..

8/22/74 – Neosho Mo. – I am still at Neosho but will leave early the morning for Joplin Mo. A lead mining town of some importance. The Indians played a game of ball 5th day morning. . .. left town soon after noon going toward Granby. . .. Joplin is 20 miles from here. . ..

8/23/74 - Kansas on Military Road 45 m from Ft. Scott. Last Postal Card I have will fill it while pony eats some more. Have had a nap. . .. Joplin is a busy lead mining town. It probably has the population of D. It is 7 miles from R.R. The lead interest has built it & it sustains it. . ..

9/27/74 – Muskogee I.T. – Sister N. Came home last M-day evening. . .. Mrs A. Mrs L. & Miss L. came down last 6th day evening. Thy letter asking me to write more was here when I came. I had a pleasant time at . . ..Kansas City Exposition. Spent 2 days in the City and on Exposition grounds. . .. I got joked a little about Indian show. Rincaid clerk for Patterson we hear is married. . .. Now that’s what I call doing the right thing. I think it would be justfully splendid to have a nice little wife.

A ninth postal card is included in this lot in which Bert (“J.B.”) reports he is on his “way home having made a journey of about 1300 miles in Texas. Expect to spend Sabbath at Fort Gibson. . .. The weather is cold wet and disagreeable & the season backward. In Texas corn was about a foot high last week but now it is not up.”

On an additional philatelic note, there are several scarce dead post office postmarks from the Indian Territory and the Cherokee Nation on these cards including Gibson Station and Fort Gibson.

A fascinating account entwining Quaker missionaries, Seminoles, an overland journey by pony and mule, baseball, campfire cooking, dead post offices, territorial postmarks, and more. Unique. As of 2019 nothing remotely similar is for sale in the trade, there are no auction records for similar items, and nothing similar is held in institutional collections.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9333
These fourteen letters (mostly stampless folded letters, but some in envelopes with 3-cent stamps, Scott Types A10 or A21) were written by or to the Miller-Furman family over 14 years in the mid-19th century. Postmarks include Georgia (Augusta, Milledgeville, and Scottsborough), Pennsylvania (Bethlehem), and South Carolina (Privateer, Providence, and Society Hill). Addresses include Georgia (Coosawattee and Scottsborough), Pennsylvania (Bethlehem), South Carolina (Privateer and Stateburgh). Everything is in nice shape; some letters have splits along their mailing folds. Transcripts will be provided.

Susan Miller, born in 1832, was the daughter of Colonel John Blount Miller, a prominent South Carolina lawyer who owned the Cornhill Plantation, near the town of Privateer just south of Sumterville. In 1853, at the age of 23, she married a widower, Dr. John H. Furman, the grandson of Richard Furman for whom Furman University is named. At the time, Furman was a prominent Georgia physician.

The early letters begin in 1845, when Susan, then age 12 was attending the Bethlehem Female Seminary (now Moravian College) in Pennsylvania, the first American boarding academy for girls and one of the best schools in the nation. It was also a favorite of wealthy Southern planters who enrolled their daughters not just for the academics but also for spiritual and moral guidance, intellectual and cultural pursuits, vocational training, physical education, and social cultivation. Susan’s letters report that

"I have been promoted in all my classes except Arithmatic and Reading. I am in the third Geography and History and in the second Grammar class. I have left off French . . . I could not learn it for I did not like it. . . . I should like to see you at home for it will be two years next month that I came here.” For the most part her headmaster agreed, but not without concern for her spiritual development. “I am glad that I can render to you . . . a favorable report of Susan’s . . . studies. . . . In answer to my inquiries about her deportment. . . ., the teachers have informed me that it is good with some exceptions. Her health is vigorous & she develops herself well. . . . Susan shows less dislike to music since she knows that you & we require her to cultivate it. . . . Your daughter will I hope . . . be sufficiently advanced in order to enter the select class. . . . And above all it is our wish & prayer that she may soon lay down herself, & all her knowledge, & talents & gifts at the feet of the crucified Savior, and in the exercise of true repentance, a living faith, find & obtain everlasting life.”
Susan also nonchalantly recounts that illness and death were present among her friends at the school.

“Miss Jones has had the rheumatism very bad, but she is better now. . . . One of my little companions . . . died Monday. . . . She had a disease of the lung which ended with a Spasmodic Croup, and her parents were sent for, they left yesterday with her corpse. . . .” And, her rather immature comments provide evidence of the school’s popularity with Southern planters. “I hope that if Father sells his plantation and leaves South Carolina, that he will go to Louisiana for I think it is so nice to live in a sugar plantation, and in a very pretty house. Tell Father . . . that he will get a plantation near Col Dancy, because he has two granddaughters here at school and they live hear him, and I would like to live near them.”

The early letters to John Furman begin in 1846, just before his first marriage and contain several references to his and his fiancée’s families’ plantations. His future mother-in-law, Eliza Carter, writes

“Mr. Carter requested me to write and inquire whether yourself or your brother know anyone that you thought would suit him as an Overseer for Coosawatchie . . . and the price which one could be obtained. [Also.] he requests that you would procure in Augusta as you come on, two pessarys [medical supports for relief from vaginal or uterine prolapse] for two of his plantation patients. [We] would be glad for you to make Coosawattee your home and become part of our family. . . . [Mr. Carter] will soon as he can make his arrangements [to] settle a Cotton plantation in which he will give you a liberal interest. . . .”

“[We] would be glad for you to make Coosawattee your home and become part of our family. . . . [Mr. Carter] will soon as he can make his arrangements [to] settle a Cotton plantation in which he will give you a liberal interest. . . .” And as John’s father relates: “William (a brother) seems to be going spiritedly on with his planting. . . . When I last heard from him, he was on his way to Orangeburgh to take from the jail there the Boy William who had absconded. . . . Your boy Osman whom you sold . . . has called on me and requested me to write you in his behalf. He says his master who is a wealthy man is willing to buy his wife and two children if you will sell them, and he begs that you will let [his owner] have them. He regrets very much that he ever gave you cause to sell him and would gladly have you purchase him back, but supposes that to be out of the question.”

When Susan informs her family in February of 1853 that she plans to marry John (two years after his first wife’s death), her sister, Miranda, expresses her family’s displeasure.
“When I was reading that portion [of your last letter] which related to the many unpleasant circumstances . . . I was much grieved . . . what am I to infer . . . when you say that it is Mother’s expressed wish that you should leave and that this parting will likely be the last . . . and I of course infer that there had been something unpleasant between Mother and the Dr. to cause her to say such words . . . she must have been very much provoked to say you [should] go off from home and all your friend [and live] among strangers . . . let not you your infatuation lead you to that which you may have to repent all your life. . . . When those who are acquainted think it best for you to postpone your wedding . . . it would be nothing but prudent for you to do so . . . the Dr’s manners would never suit the family. . . . Just consider how much more pleasant it would be to have Mother . . . reconciled before your marriage. Is not worth even a year’s delay. . . . I do not think you should regard all those your enemies who happen to advise contrary to your inclination.”

Regardless, the couple married three months later and soon reconciled with her family as they (along with John’s children from his first marriage) took up residence at Cornhill Plantation. In the last letter, written by Susan to John in 1858, the love within their blended family is clearly discernible.

“Our little darling is quite well and is very good. She talked about you a long time last night and quarreled a great deal when I told her you were not coming home for some time. . . . Johnnie is quite well, he does not complain of being lonely. He went fishing yesterday but did not catch anything. . . . I do very little except nurse Katie. . . . Jimmie and Charley sleep in the boys’ room and one of the girls with me every night. . . . Johnnie wishes with me in love to you. Kiss Farish and . . . also kiss Maggie. I send sweet kisses from Katie. Good night darling. . . . Ever your devoted wife.”

An exceptional grouping of first-hand accounts of ante-bellum plantation life with emphasis upon a Southern belle’s coming of age.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9358
50. [SUFFRAGE] [WOMEN] [RACISM] Photograph album documenting the 1913 Woman Suffrage Parade (i.e., Woman Suffrage Procession) in Washington, DC. Photos attributed to Lewis Franklin Biggs. Primarily Washington, DC.: 1913.

This 8” x 5.5” album contains 21 photographs, most approximately 5.5” x 3”. 12 of the images show the 1913 Woman Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC, and nine show other images from DC and California. The photographs have been glued to the pages. Everything is in nice shape.

The Woman Suffrage Procession was not only the first suffragist parade in Washington, DC, it was also the first large march on Washington for any political purpose; (the Coxey’s Army protest of 1894 numbered only about 500). On March 13, 1913, the day prior to Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration, thousands of suffragists marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in, as stated in the official program,” a spirit of protest against the present political organization of society, from which women are excluded”. In addition to the procession, a pageant of allegorical tableaux was staged at the Treasury Building and the final rally was held at Memorial Constitution Hall with prominent speakers including Helen Keller.

Jane Walker Burleson and Inez Milholland led the parade on horseback and were followed by thousands of marchers. Each contingent of marchers was assigned a different color of dress, and the visual effect was stunning. Additionally, 26 floats, 6 golden chariots, 10 bands, 45 captains, 200 marshals, 120 pages, 6 mounted heralds, and 6 mounted brigades were interspersed among the groups.

The event was organized by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns for the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which achieved notoriety for its racist contempt of African-American suffragists. Although revisionist historians and activists have attempted to white-wash the procession’s racism, event coordinators initially refused to allow African-American women march in the parade. After the Howard University contingent rallied local support for inclusion, the leader of a Quaker contingent brokered an agreement with the white leaders that allowed black women to march at the back of the procession segregated from the white suffragists by his group.

Although many suffrage supporters watched the march from along the route, there were probably an equal number of curious spectators, as well as many hecklers who attempted to impede the marchers’ progress, and DC police had their hands full attempting to keep peace and an open route.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2019, no similar albums or original photographs are for sale in the trade, however there is one stereo card and one photo postcard listed at vialibri. While Rare Book Hub shows several collections of photographs of suffragists and suffrage events have sold at auction, there has been only one photograph of this parade included in any of the lots. OCLC shows only four photographs of the parade and one photo postcard are held in institutional collections.
A lengthy personal letter from a pioneer woman in Texas to her sister-in-law in New York, filled with family chit-chat and interesting comments on local climate, physical characteristics, religious life, and politics. “HBPerkins” (Harriet B.). Houston, Texas to Greene, New York: 1841

This pre-statehood, republic-era four-page stampless folded letter measures 15.5” x 9.75” unfolded. It is datelined “Houston May 1st, 1841. It was carried privately as attested to by a manuscript annotation “Politeness of Capt S. Perkins” and deposited in the U.S. mails in New York where it received a circular red New York transit postmark dated May 25 and a manuscript “18½” rate mark indicating the cost to be delivered to Greene, New York, a distance of about 200 miles.

Harriet’s letter is frank and interesting. In addition to family chit-chat, she touches upon Texas climate, physical characteristics, religious life, and politics:

“We are in a country more liable to sudden diseases than the one we have left. Still with proper care and prudence I think we may enjoy health here as well as here as back at the north, it will not answer for northerners to expose themselves to the sun here as it brings on disease immediately. We have a delightful country: and I can truly say it more than answers my expectations On the 18th of Apr we had the strawberries and blackberries both at the same time and green peas were in market long before that time We have pleasant society, and all that I can truly regret is that we have no episcopal clergyman here We had one for a few weeks who divided his time between this place and Galveston, but who has now made up his mind to settle at the latter place . . . .

I would like to send you some of our beautiful prairie flowers which spring up everywhere around us The flower of the Magnolia is as large as a quart bowl, and perfectly white, and their odor resembles a pine apple.”

In a rather poignant follow-on note to her niece, Harriet obliquely addresses her homesickness:

“It hope you will not get wearied with my enquiries for there are many more which I should like to make; and therefore if I do not ask every thing you must not hesitate to mention all the little circumstances which are constantly occurring, among our acquaintances; and should you ever be 3000 miles from home you will find that even trifles which occur among your former friends will be interesting to you.”

Harriet’s husband came to Texas several years prior and owned about ten acres of land on Buffalo Bayou near Frost Town.

SOLD Read’Em Again Books #9336
Please let us know if you would like to receive our electronic catalogs of diaries, letters, ephemera, postal history, photographs, and sometimes even books.

We hope you’ll be able to visit us at these upcoming 2019 shows:

- National Philatelic Exhibition (NAPEX), Tyson’s Corner, Virginia – 7-9 June
- American Philatelic Society Stamp Show, Omaha, Nebraska – 1-4 August
- Brooklyn Antiquarian Book & Paper Fair, Brooklyn New York – 7-8 September
- Rare Books LAX, Los Angeles, California – 5-6 October
- Boston Book, Print & Ephemera Show, Boston California – 16 November