3. Andrew Jackson’s famous veto of the Second National Bank Bill. *Veto. Message from the President of the United States returning the Bank Bill to the Senate, with his Objections.*

*President Andrew Jackson.* Unidentified printer: 1832.
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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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1. [ABOLITION] [MILITARY & WAR] [NEWSPAPERS] [PHILATELY] [PRINTING & PUBLISHING] [SLAVERY]

Two newspapers – one in its original mailing wrapper – delivered to the Commanding Officer of the Brazil Squadron on the flagship *U.S.S. Brandywine* shortly before he departed to begin the U.S. effort to suppress the slave trade between Africa and South America. Sent from Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Norfolk, Virginia: 1847.

The unwrapped newspaper is *The New Hampshire Gazette and Republican Union* (3 August 1847). The title of the wrapped newspaper is hidden but likely to be the same. The wrapped newspaper is addressed to “Commg. Geo. W. Storer / U.S. Ship Brandywine / Portsmouth / Virginia.” Upon arrival, the newspaper was forwarded to Norfolk (just across the harbor) where the frigate *Brandywine* – the flag ship of the Brazil Squadron – lay at anchor, ready to set sail for South America on 13 September. The wrapper bears an indistinct Portsmouth, New Hampshire postmark and “PAID” handstamp, both in red. Both items are in nice shape. The unwrapped newspaper is annotated “to be preserved”, presumably by Storer, in the top margin of its first page.

George Washington Storer served as the Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Brazil Squadron from 1847 to 1851. Although the importation of slaves was still legal in Brazil, military records show Storer’s specific orders from the Secretary of the Navy charged him with “the repression of the slave trade” and to "use every effort to arrest and bring to well merited punishment all persons who on the open seas may disgrace the American flag by making it in anyway subservient to the pursuit or protection of this most nefarious commerce." During his command, the Brazil Squadron captured four slave ships bound from Africa for Rio de Janeiro. (For more information see the “George W. Storer Brazil Squadron Papers” in the Princeton Library’s Special Collections.)

*SOLD*  Inv # 9480
2. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [CRIME & LAW] [SLAVERY] A remarkable petition and writ of Habeas Corpus issued to a Virginia slave holder freeing one of his slaves – who had tried to poison his family – from the Petersburg Jail. Petition by Calvin Ford. Petersburg, Virginia: 1864.

A two-leaf document containing a petition, writ of Habeas Corpus, and $100 bond related to a young slave girl who had attempted to poison her master and his family. In nice shape.

The petition contains the master’s appeal for the return of his slave asserting that her conviction and sentencing was not legal because the majority opinion of the 5-judge court that did so was not unanimous. A transcript of the petition and writ will be provided. They read in part:

“Your Petitioner Calvin Ford respectfully represents to your Honor that he is the lawful owner of a negro girl slave, Elvira, who upon a charge of felony for an attempt to poison his family, was tried, at the last term, . . . and by a divided Court, that is to say, by a majority of the five justices sitting as a Court of Oyer and Terminer, she was convicted . . . and sentenced to transportation beyond the lines of the Confederate States and thereupon she was remanded to the jail of the said city, where yet she remains confined, in custody of John H. Patterson Sergeant of the said City. Your Petitioner is advised and believes that a mere majority of the Court had no lawful authority to convict her, and therefore, being entitled by law to her deliverance, for want of unanimity in the Court, upon the issue of “guilty or not guilty,” she is now confined and detained from your Petitioner without (and contrary to) law. Wherefore he prays your Honor most gracious by Habeas Corpus, that his grievance in the premises may be considered and satisfied.

At first glance it seems strange that Calvin Ford would want to overturn the conviction of the slave girl who attempted to poison him and his family. However, her sentence was rather lenient. After Virginia revised its slave code in 1840, “sale and transportation” became an increasing outcome for slaves convicted of serious crimes, usually the murder of another bondsman, however, the sentence could be imposed even if a victim was white. Courts of Oyer and Terminer were authorized to impose the sentence and between 1850 and 1864 at least 35 slaves were ordered to be sold and transported beyond the limits of the United States, i.e., to someone in the slave-holding islands of Cuba or Puerto Rico. The onset of the Civil War and the imposition of the Union blockade on Southern ports did not significantly alter the possibility of a “transportation” sentence; it was simply modified to become “transportation beyond the limits (or lines) of the Confederate States.” The convicted slaves could still be sold to owners in the slave-owning states of Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri. See Forret’s Slave Against Slave: Plantation Violence in the Old South for more information.

No doubt Calvin Ford wanted to retain the slave girl, Elvira, as his property either because he needed her labor or, perhaps more likely, he intended to punish her severely himself, which by law he had the right to do.

As of 2020, no similar document regarding a slave “transportation” sentence for the murder of another bondsman, much less attempted murder of white masters, is for sale in the trade. Neither OCLC nor Rare Book Hub record any listings of institutional holdings or auction sales.

SOLD Inv. # 9481
3. [AGE OF JACKSON] [BANK WAR OF 1832] [DEMOCRATIC PARTY] [POLITICS] [PRESIDENTS] Veto. Message from the President of the United States returning the Bank Bill to the Senate, with his Objections. President Andrew Jackson. Unidentified printer: 1832.

This broadsheet measures approximately 11” x 17.25. Printed on both sides. Light foxing and stains. Edges worn. A chip is at lower right corner does not affect any text. There is a small thin (half the size of a dime) that affects three or four words of the text. Docketing in the upper left margin of the front page. Fragile along storage folds.

The Second National Bank of the United States was the second federally authorized national bank. A private bank charged with doing public business, it was intended to keep the U.S. economy stable, smooth out variations in prices and trade, provide credit and a sound uniform national currency, provide fiscal services for the Treasury, and prevent inflation by regulating lending practices of state banks. The two major political parties of the time differed wildly in their opinion of the bank. The “National Republicans” led by Henry Clay and Daniel Webster were strong supporters; “Jacksonian Democrats” were fiercely opposed, claiming it favored financial elites, wealthy merchants, and speculators at the expense of farmers and craftsmen. Although it had received a 20-year charter from Congress in 1816, the National Republicans decided to re-charter the bank in 1832 to make the bank’s continuance a Presidential election issue. President Andrew Jackson met the challenge head-on, and after Congress voted to re-charter the bank, he vetoed the bill and returned it to the Senate. Jackson and his Democrats turned the veto into a major populist rallying point and easily won re-election. While the economy initially continued to thrive, the banks’ closure eventually led to the devastating Panic of 1837 and a recession lasting well into the next decade.

Broadsheets announcing Andrew Jackson’s famous veto of the 1832 bank bill are scarce. As of 2020, none are for sale in the trade. There is only one auction record listed at Rare Book Hub. While digital images are available through Gale, OCLC lists no physical copies held by any institution, however the American Antiquarian Society has two (by two different printers) and the Library of Congress holds one by a third printer. This broadside is different from those three and not listed in Sabin, Howes, Eberstadt, Streeter, nor the Checklist of American Imprints.

$2,500  Inv # 9482
4. [AMERICA FIRST] [ANTI-SEMITISM] [FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT] [CRIME & LAW] [POLITICS] [PRESIDENTS] [PROPAGANDA] Massive archive of anti-Semitic, anti-New Deal, pro-German, pre-World War II broadsheets, broadsides, and handbills distributed by one of the most prominent America First political provocateurs who beset both President Roosevelt and Mayor LaGuardia in highly publicized sedition and freedom of speech trials. Robert Edward Edmonson. Mostly New York City: mostly the Edmondson Economic Service, Inc., 27 March 1934 – 30 Nov 1940.

This well-organized collection contains over 375 different broadsides, broadsheets, and handbills, most measuring 8½” x 14”. Some are illustrated. With expected edge-wear; one piece has a large chip affecting the text.

294 were written and signed in print by Edmonson as part of his basic propaganda service, alternately named American Vigilante, Special Defense, Defense Series, and Jew Exposure Patriotic Bulletins.

36 were written by Edmonson or his wife, Marian, for other Edmondson Economic Service publications including Freedom and Edmondson’s Weekly X-Ray.

20 are reprints by Edmonson of America First and anti-New Deal articles by other authors including a series of nine essays in the Squire of Krum Elbow series by Howland Spencer.

Six are lists of Edmonson publications titled, “Edmonson Jew-Exposure Patriotic Bulletins”, “Jewish Problem Pamphlets”, “Jewish Problem Pamphlets of Truth”, and “Jewish Question Book” in which the items of this collection are listed. (There was an unverified claim made in 1938 by the anti-Fascist “Communist or Communist fellow traveler,” Arthur Derounian, that Edmondson published over 400 pieces of ephemeral propaganda. Perhaps a thorough reconciliation of these lists might produce a verified number. See Carlson’s Under Cover and Woodruff’s 1944 Appendix to Congressional Record, A1641 for more information.)

The remainder of the articles and propaganda in this collection were written and published by others.

For many years Edmondson, who began his career with the Cincinnati Post, was a respected reporter, author, and editor about economic issues with both the New York Herald and the New York Mail and Express. At some point while writing for these New York papers, Edmondson became convinced there was an organized Jewish cabal with ties to Bolshevik Russia that was manipulating the U. S. economy and controlling the press. In the Spring of 1934, he launched his Edmondson Economic Service in order to publish information and opinions that he could not have gotten into mainstream newspapers of the time. In addition to his “Anti-Jew” broadsides and broad sheets, he vociferously attacked President Roosevelt, the New Deal, and Roosevelt allies, especially Jewish allies, like Bernard Baruch, Felix Frankfurter, Louis
Brandies, Henry Morgenthau, Rabbi Samuel Wise, Samuel Untermeyer, Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia, and Walter Lippmann as well as those he suspected of being Jewish like newspaperwoman Dorothy Thompson and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins. Then, as Adolf Hitler began his rise in Germany, Edmondson became an associate of the pro-Nazi publisher, Ulrich Fleischhauer, and his writings took on a definite pro-Nazi tone.

In the Summer of 1936, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia saw an opportunity and brought Edmondson before a Grand Jury where he was indicted for “libeling all persons of the Jewish Religion.” Edmondson made it clear he would not go down quietly and announced that at his trial he would call prominent Jews to the stand and grill them unmercifully about their business and political associations and deals. After he subpoenaed Buruch, Morganthau, Wise, Untermeyer, LaGuardia, Lippmann and others, the American Jewish Committee—to avoid the publicity that would have surrounded their testimony—quickly petitioned the court to drop all charges, and in May of 1938 the presiding judge did just that.

Then, in the early 1940s the Roosevelt Administration, led by the Justice Department’s crusading Jewish lawyer began a highly publicized case, later known sarcastically as the “The Great Sedition Trial, against 33 America First activists hoping to prove they were Nazi agents by comparing their previously published statements to Nazi propaganda. The weakness of the case doomed the trial from the start and eventually all charges were dismissed after a mistrial was declared.

With the U. S. entry into World War II and the Great Sedition Trial abandoned, Edmondson curtailed his pamphleteering and eventually moved to Grass Valley, California where, in the 1950s he railed, with less public visibility, against water fluoridation, which he saw as a Soviet attempt to undermine public health.


It is surreal that the terms, topics, accusations, charges, and counter-charges in and about Edmondson and his publications make those of today appear to be a mirror of 1930s America: bombastic political attacks, America First, Russian influence in U. S. politics, nationalism vs internationalism, Americanism vs. the “New Order”, immigration and refugees, white supremacy, libel trials, a political Pope, suppression of unpopular speech, Jewish control of movies and radio, populism vs. elites, scapegoating, controlling right-wing extremism, Palestinians vs Zionists, accusations of Nazism, bureaucratic vs congressional law-making, use of the law as a political weapon, etc., etc., etc.

An amazing window into the 1930s that is grist for sobering reflection about politics in America today.

Despite Edmondson’s simultaneous infamy and popularity throughout the 1930s, few of his ephemeral handouts have survived. As of 2020, there is only one Edmonson broadsheet for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub does not list any as having been sold at auction. OCLC identifies scattered examples in several institution, however it only identifies one substantial institutional holding at Yale which is missing at least the first three publications that are present in this collection.

SOLD  Inv # 9483
5. [AMERICAN INDIANS] [HO-CHUNK (WINNEBAGO)] [PHILATELY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION] Letter from a farmer in Minnesota discussing the Treaty of 1859 and the possibility of obtaining more land from the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) for white settlement in and around Mankato. G. [George] T. Boynton. Mankato, Minnesota: 1859.

This four-page letter is datelined “Mankato May 24th/59”. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope and is postmarked with a scarce, but blurred, strike of circular “PAID” Mankato handstamp; see ASCC, p. 188. The letter is in nice shape, the envelope is soiled.

In this letter, Boynton explains that it is likely that additional Winnebago lands will soon be available for homesteaders:

“This is a fine country and there are fine prospects here. . . . This is one of the finest farming sections in the State and there has been a Treaty made with the Winnebago Indians. . . . The Indians have a tract of land which covers . . . of 9 Townships of the best farming lands in the County. It is expected that all of their land except about two Townships will be sold to the highest bidder. . . . The rest will be divided for the Indians to settle on. Those that have families will have 80 acres and those that have no families will have 40 acres. Then the money that is received for these land by Government which is sold to the highest bidder will in the first place be used to pay off the debts that the Indians owe to different Traders that have trusted them from time to time after those debts are paid then the rest of the money is to be used to improve the farms of the Indians.”

“The people here of course advocated for the removal of the Indians but . . . but I think that if they can get them confined to two Townships that they will soon want to sell and then if their farms are cultivated it will be all the better for the settler though he has to pay more for the land he will have something commence on. If they get those Indians off and settle up that Reservation it will make this Town a fine point for trade. . . . All of the trade South and East must come here. . . . the junction of two R. roads. . . . I hope to see all you out here investing as soon as these changes take place. . . .”

With the signing of a federal treaty in 1855, the Ho-Chunk people traded 900,000 of dense forest land near Long Prairie to the U. S. government for 200,000 acres of exceptionally fertile land along the Blue Earth River, forcing recently arrived white settlers to move elsewhere. Most of the Ho-Chunk quickly assimilated, adopting white customs and clothing, cutting their hair, building houses, etc. Relations between them and area homesteader were cordial. By 1859, treaty annuities from the government had ended, and tribe members, needing money to pay off debts, improve farms, and purchase equipment and livestock revived the 1855 treaty as described in this letter. In exchange for additional lucrative cash payments, the Ho-Chunk would trade more of their land to the federal government for white settlement. However, before the treaty was ratified by the Senate, it was overtaken by events. In 1863 when, after committing horrendous depredations against white settlers, the Sioux were defeated by federal troops and local militia and forced from the state. Although the Ho-Chunk remained neutral throughout the Sioux War, they too were forced to move to South Dakota in the war’s aftermath.

SOLD   Inv # 9484
6. [AMERICAN INDIANS] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [TEXANA] [WESTWARD EXPANSION] Three sets of manuscript orders related to a Texas campaign by the 4th Cavalry Regiment “Operating Against Indians”. Orders to Brevet Major Clarence Mauck. Austin, Texas: Fifth Military District, 1870.

Each set of orders is written on bifold stationery and contains its original mailing envelope. The printed letterhead reads: “Headquarters Fifth Military District, / (State of Texas) / Office of the Assistant Adjutant General. / Austin, Texas, ______, 18__.” The order dates range from February 23 to April 11, 1870. Each is addressed to “Brevet Major Clarence Mauck. / Captain 4th U. S. Cavalry. / Commanding Detachment Operating Against Indians, / Blanco, Blanco County, Texas.”

The orders are in nice shape. The envelopes were delivered by courier. Two have some edgewear; one was roughly opened and has some insect predation.

The first letter acknowledges Mauck’s arrival at Blanco and informs him that he may relocate his detachment as necessary “for the best interests of the service.” The second authorizes him to purchase “forage for your command.” And, the last acknowledges a report from Mauck that his rations will soon be “exhausted” and directs him to return with his detachment to the Headquarters in Austin on the 19th of April.

The Fifth Military District, was established in Texas following the Civil War to protect the lives and property of freedmen and suppress crime in general. Freedman’s Bureau records show that in those early years, Mauck was active in his constabulary duties, arresting civilians for ten crimes in 1868 alone (three black on black, three white on white, and four white on black).

However, in the late 1860s attacks on homesteads by the Comanche, Kickapoo, Kiowa and Apache increased in both frequency and scale. As this happened, the mission of the army changed. At first, the military attempted, rather sporadically, to suppress the tribes’ attacks, and in February, 1870, Mauck was ordered to lead a detachment from the 4th Cavalry to Blanco, Texas on a short campaign “operating against Indians” who had been raiding in the area. Military records suggest that it accomplished little. However, in 1873, the 4th Cavalry began a systematic campaign – primarily against the Apache – that proved to be especially effective. Mauck was an active and important campaigner in the Indian Wars until 1880 when he became the commander of Fort Stanton, New Mexico. He died of illness the following year.

A nice grouping of orders that document one of the early military actions against American Indian tribes of the Southwest following the Civil War. A small archive related to Mauck’s later campaign against the Cheyenne in 1878 is held at Yale, and an archive of about thirty-five Mauck military documents and letters was sold for $17,775 in a 2008 Skinner auction.

$750 Inv # 9485
7. [AVIATION] [MILITARY & WAR] [MEXICAN PUNITIVE EXPEDITION] [PANCHO VILLA] [PHILATELY] Four rare “pioneer airmail” letters sent by an officer assigned to the 13th U.S. Cavalry Regiment during the General Pershing’s Pancho Villa Punitive Expedition from within Mexico to his wife at Fort Riley, Kansas. Various locations in Mexico and Columbus, New Mexico: 1916.

Although two previous U.S. experimental airmail flights occurred in 1911, it wasn’t until 1916 during the Pancho Villa Punitive Expedition that the first real U. S. airmail service was begun by the Army’s 1st Aero Squadron and its eight JN-3 Curtis-Jenny aircraft. The unit, based at San Antonio, Texas, arrived in Columbus on 15 March and deployed to Pershing’s base camp at Casas Grande, Mexico on the 19th. High winds, poor maps, lack of repair parts, and severe terrain hampered their deployment, and it took the squadron a full week to re-assemble in Mexico, where it was soon found that the airplanes lacked the power to fly high enough to reconnoiter the mountains where Villa’s force was hiding. Further, sand and dryness damaged engines and propellers, and it became apparent that the planes would soon become inoperable. So, the commander, Captain Benjamin D. Foulois, limited their use to transporting communiques and mail until all were no longer flyable. (See Gilnes, “In Pursuit of Pancho Villa” in Air Force Magazine, July 1991 and SWilkins, “Genesis of the Jenny” at HistoryNet.com)

As noted in Volume 4 of the American Air Mail Catalog (AMMC 92), “On March 19 the 1st Aero Squadron began flying its eight planes between Columbus and points in Mexico, [transporting] mail and military command dispatches. . . . It is possible . . . to ascertain . . . if a particular letter was flown . . . from the field to Columbus, [it will bear] a Columbus postmark between March 19 and April 20.”

The earliest letter in this group is dated March 21 and postmarked April 5, and contains a detailed description of the earliest days of the campaign including the arrival of Foulois’s airplanes. Its postmark April 5, matches the date of one of only three previously known covers flown from Army camps in Mexico to Columbus (March 27, April 5, and April 17). It is an eight-page letter datelined “Tues March 21-16” and its first paragraph indicates it was written “in camp in the field on the banks of the Casas Grande River.” It is enclosed in its original envelope, an ice cream advertising cover from El Paso and postmarked with a “Columbus, N. Mex.” duplex handstamp dated “Apr / 5 / 4pm /1916”. It is annotated “Soldiers mail. Contains no military information. C. Lininger 1. Lt 3.Cav.” and hand-stamped “Postage Due 2 Cents.” Docketing that reads “3/21 Gen Pershing followed trail from Columbus.” Content includes:

“We arrived here yesterday afternoon and found Gen. Pershing here [with] some detachments. We are in camp . . . on the banks of the Casas Grande River. . . . Villa, natives hereabouts say he is about a 100 miles south trying to recruit, but without much success. . . . We followed his trail . . . finding dead
horses, discarded articles, campfires, etc. . . Contacts along the road say Villa took up to Columbus some 500 men and that he brought back some 300. He certainly got a drubbing. . . Yesterday about 8 a.m. five of our aeroplanes flew over us and landed here. One of these was partially wrecked last night and the aviator injured; Bowen I think, in landing. They say they find the conditions here pretty good in the calm mornings and evenings except that at this altitude, they find the air light and they have to use more power. . . ."

The “Report of the Operations of the First Aero Squadron, Signal Corps, with the Mexican Punitive Expedition for the Period March 15 to August 15, 1916” notes that with only two airplanes left, and these in unserviceable condition, the Squadron received orders on April 20th to return to Columbus, N.M., to secure new airplanes. . . During the months of May, June and July, constant troubles and difficulties were encountered with defective propellers, motor parts and defects in construction.” Once the planes were flying again, “The Squadron carried on extensive experiments with an automatic camera . . . in aero-reconnaissance.” AMMC 92 also reports that eventually “new planes arrived at a later date and made flights into the field but it is unclear when mail was flown after April 20.” Four other letters in the group are from this later time frame and shed light on when airmail service resumed. One, also, makes it clear that only officers could send mail by airplane.

A letter dated 14 Sep from Vado de Fusiles was postmarked in Columbus the following day. Truck transport would have taken at least three days. Only an airmailed letter would have been able to reach Columbus and be postmarked within a day.

A letter dated 23 Sep from Dublan contains the following text: “Will try to get this off by an aviator in the morning.”

A letter dated 27 Sep from Dublan was postmarked in Columbus two days later. Truck transport would have taken at least three days. Also, it contains the text: “Will take this now to the aviation camp to mail it . . .”

A letter dated 24 Sep from Dublan. Although this letter was not postmarked until five days after it was dated, Lininger’s next letter dated 26 Sep states, “I sent you a letter this am by aeroplane. . . About every other day aeroplanes carry to or from Columbus officers first class mail.”

Exceptionally scarce. Only three of the early period covers were previously known per AAMC 92, which reported the 1992 value of a single postally used airmail cover without content from the early period to be $2,500 ($4,900 in 2019 dollars). There are no records of any auctions or sales of the even scarcer airmail covers from the later period.

$8,000 Inv # 9486

(See item #25 for more Pancho Villa Punitive Expedition correspondence.)
8. [BLEEDING KANSAS] [BORDER RUFFIANS] [MILITARY & WAR] [POLITICS] Long and detailed letter from a woman, who had recently left the Kansas Territory, describing the violence between “Free Staters” and “Border Ruffians” including the Sack of Lawrence and the Battle of Osawatomie. Emma. Berlin, Illinois: September 1856.

Four-page partially cross-written letter. No mailing envelope. The letter is datelined, “Berlin, Ill. Sept 28/56”. In nice shape. Transcript will be included.

Emma begins this letter to her aunt by describing the help she provided a nearby family where the Mother, Father, and son had all suffered long, agonizing deaths from Typhoid Fever and Erysipelas. She then answers her aunt’s question about her experience in Bleeding Kansas.

“I can not write half as well as I could tell you . . . I have seen companes of Misourians by the hundreds come in ther to vote heavy large wagons filled with provetions & Whisky come in 4 or 5 days before the elections rob & burn houses & kill Free State men . . . one of our neighbors shot at at the first Election because he would not resign his place as judge of the Election to the Misourians . . . Two men killed within 20 mils of our house & ther house burnt-to-the ground & ther familiys left-to-do what they best could others drove off ther claims & there houses burned . . . ther was a man from Lawrence . . . came to the store to do some erands was riding home bareback between sundown & dark . . . was shot off his horse & killed instantly At that time they were gathering for a fight at Lawrence & were camped about 5 miles South of Lawrence they then stopped every team & took what every they had & . . . they thought that way they should starve . . . Lawrence They did not dare to atact Lawrence . . . they quareled among themselves killed 2 of their own men broke up and went home . . . a great many other things I could tell you . . . I will tell you what I think is the great cause of it . . . they never go into the Ter without as much Whisky as they can drink & drunken men will do almost anything . . . There has been a grate battle at Osawatomie . . . severel men killed & others drove from there . . . 2 of the men went though Springfield & Gilbert new them . . . they was drove from their farms 1 mile from Osawatomie left every thing to be destroyed . . . I think the NY Trbn give the most correct news of any other paper ther is I do not see how the North can sit still & se such outrags go on & not say or do any thing about it & especially now – since the President syes he will not do any thing to prevent this outrages . . . I only wish that some of those Estern Editors that do not beleive th is eny blodshen in Kansas were obliged to go to some of the towns near Misouri Osawatomie or Lawrence & stay one month let them know that they were Northern men & then see what they think I do not think story about the outrags have ben exaggerated but very little. . . .”

Although Emma didn’t state it in her letter, its tone suggests that she and her husband, both free staters, left Kansas out of fear.

Exceptionally scarce. As of 2020, there no original first-hand contemporary descriptions of Bloody Kansas confrontations for sale in the trade, neither are there records for any similar items at OCLC or the Rare Book Hub.

SOLD Inv # 9487
9. [CAPE HORN] [GUANO-MANIA] [MARITIME] [PANIC OF 1857] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION]
Detailed letter from a clerk-turned-seaman about a Cape Horn voyage to include his thoughts on the Panic of 1857, San Francisco violence, and guano harvesting. Marcellus Jackson. San Francisco: 1858.

Five-page stampless letter datelined “San Francisco Marc 7 58” to N. Henry Crocker in Boston, Massachusetts. The letter is franked with a ten-cent green Washington stamp (Scott #32, type II with complete design at top), trimmed at the lower right corner. Circular San Francisco postmark, April 20, 1858. Some docketing. Transcript provided.

Jackson explains in this letter that he is something of a reluctant seaman and that if it hadn’t been for the Panic of 1857, he might still be clerking at some Boston firm.

“The financial troubles have not troubled me much directly. . . . It is true though that had it not been for the financial flurry, instead of washing decks with bare arms and legs blue flannel shirt and satinet pants I should probably have been quilldriving in State Str or vicinity in broadcloth and linen.”

He also provides an exceptional description of rounding Cape Horn.

“[We] were in sight of Cape Horn the terrible Cape for half a day. . . . It is not possible to go to so near without imminent danger. It is a bluff about five hundred feet high [without] a sign of . . . life upon it, all is bleak bare and desolate. . . . We lost one man over board on the passage; he fell from the mizzen royal yard. Afterwards a man was washed off the forecastle but fortunately we picked him up.”

Having previously sailed to San Francisco on a clipper ship, he was familiar with the city’s violence.

“The City is much quieter than then and the police is much more efficient, though occasionally now may be heard ‘the soft note of the pistol and the pleasant scream of the victim.’”

And, he reports that he had decided to remain a seaman, and his next voyage will be to collect guano.

“We are off now for Elide Island a recently discovered uninhabited rock . . . in the Gulf of Cala. The inhabitants are seabirds . . . seals and sharks I suppose. To add to these we carry a colony of twenty five Irishmen to shovel the principal production – guano. . . .”

In the 1840s, after Europeans realized the tremendous fertilizing power of the seabird excrement that Peruvians routinely harvested from deposits on their country’s rocky coastal islands, the value of guano skyrocketed, and an entire “white gold” industry sprang up almost overnight. Millionaires were quickly made, primarily Peruvians and Englishmen who lured and indentured Chinese and Polynesians as virtual slaves to dig the guano. Americans began to search the Caribbean and Pacific for other deposits, and Congress passed the Guano Islands Act in 1856 that authorized U.S. citizens to temporarily hold any uninhabited and unclaimed island until they stripped it of the valuable fertilizer. As the Fleetwing had no supply of Polynesians or Chinese to “enslave,” the ship made do with Irish laborers from San Francisco.

A terrific letter. Two earlier Marcellus Jackson letters are held by the University of California at Berkeley, one from Boston and one from San Francisco after his passenger journey on the Challenger.

SOLD Inv # 9488
10. [COLE PORTER] [THEATER, CINEMA, & MUSIC] Large archive consisting of Cole Porter’s financial records that were kept by the Porter family lawyer in Peru, Indiana, including invoices listing hundreds of antiques and objets d’art used to ostentatiously furnish the Porters’ Paris and Venice apartments as well as box office and royalty receipts for shows including *Paris*, *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, *The Gay Divorcee*, and *Anything Goes*. Cole Porter, Madam Cole Porter (Linda Lee Thomas), and Harry Cole. France, Italy, New York City, and Peru, Indiana: 1917-1962.

There are over 200 items in this archive including signed letters, telegrams, invoices, box office and royalty receipts, hotel and restaurant tabs, cancelled checks, bank tickets, a copy of Porter’s 1930 will, and more. All are in nice shape.

There are twelve letters, one cancelled check, and one bank withdrawal with Porter’s distinctive printed signature. Some of Porter’s comments in these letters include:

“Linda and I are tooting off on a slight cruise to Venezuela over the holidays.”

“The four books of Gaar Williams’ cartoons arrived from Chicago and . . . they are wonderful.”

“I go West next week to do a picture for Fred Astaire. . ..”

“I purchased this painting from the British War Relief Association and am having it sent on to New York for my apartment there, in the Waldorf.”

“Beside the Thousand dollars that I asked you to send me this morning, could you send me another thousand as I have quite a few cash presents I want to give for Christmas, and in spite of the fact that the money rolls in like water, it rolls out like lightning . . .”

“How much more money could I borrow in case of a crisis? These taxes are something incredible and there are days I haven’t even enough money to pay the barber.”

“I am sure that I have never met Mr. Estler, and if I didn’t receive outrageous demands every day from so-called ‘fans’ I should be outraged by his great nerve. . ..”
Other items include:

Itemized bills from stays at the Ritz-Carlton and Waldorf-Astoria Hotels

Kate C. Porter’s (Cole’s mother) copy of the 1930 “Last Will of Cole Porter”

Payment document for the “Motion Picture Rights” to Fifty Million Frenchmen

Box Office Statements for Porter’s first Broadway hit, “Irene Bodoni in Paris” that elevated him into the ranks of upper echelon Broadway composers, an “English Royalties” statement for The Gay Divorcee and the “Final Return” and royalty document for Nymph Errant

Box Office Statements for Anything Goes

Request from “the Oldsmobile company” to perform a parody corporate performance of Kiss Me, Kate

The previously mentioned French and Italian invoices for perhaps more than 500 objets d’art and antiques (including a 22,000-franc Steinway piano, the equivalent of about $22,000 2020 dollars) as many invoices list multiple items

Unique. In addition to the objet d’art and antique invoices are especially significant and likely the only complete record of what was actually in the Porter’s legendarly extravagant European apartments. Cole Porter donated his personal papers to Yale University, but that collection holds nothing like this archive.

$9,500  Inv # 9489
Three press photographs plus an autographed Pickrick Drumstick. The photographs measure approximately 9½” x 8” and are captioned. The Pickrick Drumstick is 15” long. It bears the legend, “Lester Maddox’s / Pickrick Drumstick” stamped in blue followed by Maddox’s autograph. All in nice shape.

Lester Maddox was a segregationist Democrat who served as Georgia’s Governor from 1967 to 1971 and its Lieutenant Governor from 1971 to 1975. In 1966, he campaigned on a strong segregationist platform after closing his long-time Pickrick Restaurant rather than being forced by federal law to serve black customers. He won the Democratic primary but came in second to a moderate Republican in the general election. Since neither candidate received a majority, the decision was passed by law to the legislature where the Democratic majority voted unanimously for Maddox. Georgia law prevented Maddox from serving a second term, so he ran for and won election as Lieutenant Governor, while Jimmy Carter (who Maddox described as “the most dishonest man I ever met”) was elected as Governor.

Maddox was a polarizing, but incredibly popular politician, not to mention being a savvy businessman. He opened a shop in then bustling Underground Atlanta selling Maddox t-shirts and other souvenirs, including autographed Pickrick Drumsticks, which had become infamous when a large group of black demonstrators attempted to enter his diner. With Maddox in the forefront, a mix of customers and employees (including African-American workers by some accounts) armed themselves with “drumsticks,” i.e., shortened, bare-headed, pickaxe handles, to keep the protestors out.

The three press photographs in this group include an image of Maddox holding aloft a Democratic trophy after winning the 1966 Democratic primary, Maddox promoting souvenirs at his Underground Atlanta store in 1972, and Maddox enjoying fried chicken dinner at a new, integrated Pickrick Restaurant that he opened in 1974 adjacent to his Underground Atlanta souvenir shop.

Perhaps surprisingly, Maddox’s administration instituted a number of reforms that were very popular within Georgia’s black communities. He promoted the hiring of blacks and oversaw legislation affecting unemployment insurance designed with black automobile workers in mind. He appointed more blacks to government positions than all past Georgia governors combined. He integrated the Georgia State Patrol and directed officers to address blacks as Mr. or Ms. Rather than as “Nigger” or other derogatory terms. He initiated prison reform that prohibited singling out black prisoners for undeserved harassment or punishment. And, he integrated public farmers’ markets throughout the state. (See Wikipedia and numerous on-line obituaries for more information)

An interesting and unusual group of Lester Maddox political memorabilia.

SOLD  Inv # 9490

Nine workbooks used by the same student, ranging in size from 6.25” x 7.5” to 8.5” x 7”. All have sound bindings. All are lightly soiled but in nice shape. One of the booklets has some mouse predation on the rear cover. The collection includes:

- Untitled, undated workbook, circa 1863. Decoration on the front cover; multiplication table on the reverse.
- *Potter & Hammond’s Synthetical, Analytical and Progress System of Penmanship in Twelve Numbers* (No. 2). Published by Schermerhorn, Bancroft & Co. of Philadelphia. Copyright 1861 but probably used in the mid-1860s. Ornate decorations featuring hands with quills on the front cover. Advertisements for the American School Institute (a teachers’ hiring office) and A. G. Scholfield’s Commercial Academy (a business school) on the reverse.
- *Specimens of Penmanship* published by Miller & Elder of Philadelphia, 1868 (manuscript). Cover features small vignettes including George Washington, a patriotic sailor and Lady Liberty carrying flags, a girl working on her penmanship, and a hand holding a quill pen. Tables (Numeration, English Money, Multiplication, Weights and Measures) on reverse.

Two workbooks (numbers 4 and 5) from the *Spencerian System of Practical Penmanship* by P. R. Spencer, et. al. New York: Ivison, Phinney, Blakeman, & Co.; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co.; and Chicago: S. C. Griggs and Co. Copyright 1864, but probably used in the late 1860s. Ornate front cover featuring two hands with Spencer pens and an impressive domed building. Ivison Advertisement for Spencerian Pens (illustrated), School and College Text-Books, Webster’s Dictionaries, etc. on reverse.

A nice collection of penmanship books showing a student’s improvement over a six-year period.

$250 Inv # 9491
13. [ENGINEERING] [DE BEERS] [DIAMONDS] [MINING] [PHILATELY] An archive of letters from a Lehigh University graduate who revolutionized diamond mining while working as the chief engineer for De Beers Consolidated Mines in Kimberley, South Africa. John T. Fuller. Kimberley, South Africa: De Beers Consolidated Mines: 1904-1906.

Six of these 13 letters were written on De Beers letterhead by Fuller and sent to his parents in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. All but one are accompanied by their mailing envelopes which are franked with Cape of Good Hope stamps and cancelled with Kimberley postmarks. The letters are legible and have splits beginning along mailing folds; one lettersheet is complete, but in two pieces. Some envelopes have been roughly opened. Also includes a picture postcard of the mine and other ephemera. Overall, in nice shape. Transcript excerpts will be provided.

Fuller was a stand-out football player and track star before he graduated a mining engineer in 1902. He began work for Cecil Rhodes’ De Beers Consolidated Mines shortly thereafter as the chief engineer at its famous diamond mine at Kimberley, South Africa. While working at the giant open-cut Kimberley mine, Fuller developed an “ingenious method of underground mining that superseded the old open-cut work and made possible the exploitation of the lower portion of diamond-bearing ‘pipes.’” These letters are from Fuller’s five-year stint—which included a promotion to general manage—at the mine before he moved on to become the assistant superintendent in charge of mining operations at the Canadian Copper Company’s Copper Cliff Mine and the Superintendent of the American Bauxite Company. Fuller died of an undetected liver ailment at the relatively young age of 59 while serving as the chief engineer of the Aluminum Corporation of America. (For more information about Fuller, see “Mining Engineers of Note” in Engineering and Mining Journal Press, Vol. 114, No. 29; “John T. Fuller” in the Centennial History of Arkansas; and his obituary in the Allentown Morning Call, 19 May 1939.)

Some excerpts from this correspondence include:

24 Apr 04 – “Just at present I have a big job on my hands of collecting, classifying and labeling all the different kinds of rock and other ground found here in the mines. The company are going to send complete collections of these rocks to different mining schools in England, Germany, & American. Lehigh being one of the lucky ones. . . .”

24 Jul 04 – “Sorry to hear that Tod has been sick and hope he has entirely recovered am glad to learn that he is working in the mines. . . . Bob writes that he enters Lehigh in the fall is he going to take up
mining? ... Nothing out of the general run has occurred here except that we killed a few men but that is a regular thing. . .”

18 Sep 04 – “I am underground most of the time now as I have been doing some very hard and difficult engineering at Kimberley mine our deepest workings (2520 feet deep) and so much money and possible loss of life would have resulted if I had made any mistakes. That I have had a rather anxious time but it was completely successful and I feel as though a ton of weight have been lifted off my shoulders. I was on the job at one time for 48 hours without any sleep. . .”

17 Dec 04 – “Addams, Brigham & myself have been very much interested in the Auchincloss disaster (Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Coal Co., Auchincloss No. 1 Colliery Shaft Disaster, Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1904, 10 killed) as we had a similar one out here in which 43 men were killed. . .”

15 Oct 05 – “I have been very busy of late working out the details of a big retrenchment scheme which I am going to put into operation tomorrow. By this I expect to cut down the operating expense of the mine by half. Have been given a free hand by the General Manager – will be able to talk more definitely of my success after a months trial but I have perfect confidence that it will be a success. . .”

Also included are a postcard showing the great open-cut mine and a clipping of a sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek poem about the De Beers company that may have come from a company newsletter.

A unique window into the life of an up-and-coming young American engineer who made a name for himself while revolutionizing mining operations at the famous De Beers Kimberley Diamond Mine.

Unique. As of 2020, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, nor are there any listings of similar items at OCLC or the Rare Book Hub.

SOLD Inv # 9492

Each album measures 6¼" x 9¼". Together they contain approximately 350 photographs ranging in size from 3” x 2” to 3¾” x 5¾”. Ranson assembled both albums in 1949 and arranged his photographs in partial chronological order. Almost all are captioned. The photographs should probably be remounted, as all are attached to the album by borders of cello-tape, which has begun to degrade.

About 65 of the images are of family and friends; the other 285 are related to Ranson’s mining career. Ranson, a native of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, is identified as a “traveling mine representative” in on-line genealogical references, and may have possibly held a Mining Engineering degree from Michigan Tech. Regardless, in these photographs, Ranson and friends usually look like rough-and-tumble prospectors.

The photographs include Ranson’s first successful gold discovery, prospector tents (including a wigwam) and more substantial mining camps, other miners, heavy snow and snowshoes, camp dogs including “Jan” a present from Admiral Byrd, mining equipment and a hydroplane, animal hides drying on frames, wind chargers, completed mines, snow tractors, long wooden staircases, windlasses, mills, a tramway, a trailing pond, a water winch, WWII engineers in the Aleutians, and Alaskan and Yukon scenery.

Ranson first struck gold in 1936, and apparently used the profits to purchase the M. A. Hanna Mining Company, renaming it Ranson Gold Mines, Ltd. In time, the company holdings grew to 34 claims comprising 1,533 acres of land. A decade later in 1948, Ranson found a significant deposit of uraninite (pitchblende) in Ontario during the staking rush that followed the Theano Point uranium occurrence. After the deposit played out, Ranson opened the mine as a tourist attraction.

Rather scarce. As of 2020 there are no similar albums or photo collections for sale in the trade. Rare Book hub shows one similar, but smaller collection has appeared at auctions, and OCLC reports that four similar albums are held by institutions.

$750 Inv # 9493
15. [GOLD AND GOLD RUSH] [MARITIME] [PHILATELY] [SHIPWRECKS] [TRANSPORTATION] Shipwreck cover addressed to Prince Edward Island, Canada, from the San Francisco via the California Gold Rush Steamer Winfield Scott. San Francisco, California: [1853]

Manuscript postmark “S.F [San Francisco]/ Dec 1st” with a manuscript “Paid 15c” rate mark. The cover is addressed to Daniel M Rae, Rollo Bay, Prince Edward Island. It bears the famous red “STEAMER / WINFIELD SCOTT” handstamp. A St. Andrews, New Brunswick receiving mark is on the reverse. “From wreck of” was written in front of the handstamp probably by a steamship company employee. Water-stained with tears and wrinkles. No content, cover only.

The SS Winfield Scott was launched in 1850 to carry passengers between New York and New Orleans and later sold to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to transport gold seekers, mail, and bullion on the Panama to San Francisco route.

On the morning of December 1st (the day this cover was postmarked) the ship left San Francisco with a two-million-dollar shipment of gold in addition to its passengers and crew. During heavy fog, the ship ran aground on Middle Anacapa Island. While backing away, the stern of the ship also struck the island, destroying its rudder. Unable to maneuver and taking on water, the captain gave the order to abandon the ship, and all of the passengers and bullion, as well as some of the mail were transferred to a small rock shelf on the island. The next day, the passengers were spotted by the SS California, which returned them, the gold, and the saved mail to San Francisco. The crew remained behind and continued to recover more mail and salvageable equipment from the ship until they too were later rescued. (See NPS Channel Islands, Shipwrecks: The Winfield Scott, online)

On December 7, the SS California transported the passengers, bullion, and mail from San Francisco to Panama. After traveling by rail across the isthmus to Aspinwall (now Colon), the SS Illinois carried all on to New York City. This cover, then, made the additional journey to Prince Edward Island.

Three SS Winfield Scott wreck covers have come up for auction in the past decade. In 2015, a Siegel auction catalog reported that only seven were known to exist. This cover makes number eight.

A pristine example sold for $4,000 in the 2015 Siegel auction and a nice example sold for $2,500 in the 2012 Fajola "Chicago" Collection of Inland Waterway and Packetmarks sale. Those covers were undoubtedly in the first mailbags transported and suffered no damage. In 2014, a cover with dampstains and a repaired hole sold for the equivalent of $2,815 (in today’s dollars) at an Argyll Etkin auction in London. It, like this example, probably did not make it off the ship in the first batch of mail.

$1,500  
Inv # 9494
16. [HORACE GREELEY] [LATTER-DAY SAINTS] [MORMONS] [NEWSPAPERS] [PHILATELY] [PRINTING & PUBLISHING] [RELIGION] A signed letter (ALS) from Horace Greeley to the most prominent “Friend of the Mormons” inquiring about his health and relating the latest news of the Greeley family. Horace Greeley to Thomas Kane. Boston, Massachusetts: January 4, 1855

Four-page letter dated January 4, 1855. Signed “Horace Greeley” at the bottom of the fourth page. The accompanying postally used envelope is addressed to “Thomas L Kane Esq. / Clerk U.S. Dist Court / Philadelphia, / Penna.” And annotated in the lower left corner, “Private, H.G.” It is franked with a dull red three-cent Type I Washington stamp (Scott #11) tied to the cover with a circular black “PAID” handstamp with killer bars. The cover also bears a circular “Boston.” postmark dated “JAN / 4”. Opened along the top edge. The letter has a small (1/4” x 2”) missing piece; otherwise in nice shape. The envelope has some minor foxing; neatly opened along the top with light wrinkling to backflap.

In this letter Greeley inquires about Kane’s health, which had been poor and provides an update of family news and the financial state of his New York Tribune, “which may perhaps interest you”:

“Mrs. Greeley left for England on the 14th of Oct. She had calculated on having my company but the times were so bad that . . . I staid, promising to run over . . . in the spring take them a boat trip to the Alps and bring them home. They had a good passage. . . . Ida was often sick, but soon revived; while [Raphael] Uhland, often defied the powers of instability and was (says the stewardess) the life and soul of the voyage. When the waves rolled liveliest, he would lie in his berth and sing . . . in an amused comical way by the hour. Mother said the worst trial she had was getting them down the ladder into a little sooty dirty steamboat. . . . Mrs G. has . . . been quite ill but is more generally better. Uhland also after having much observed her is now improving in health. . . .”

“As for me I do as I have done in the main. I was out in Ohio lecturing, and was beginning the same in this vicinity tonight. Times, have been very hard with me, but are now improving. The Tribune never before lost money as it did from May to December last but it is now making up nobly.”

Greeley did join his family in London in April of 1855 and take them on a trip to Switzerland as promised and later that year in mid-December, just before this letter, Greeley gave a lecture at the Euterpean Hall in Sandusky, Ohio, about the life of his political hero, Henry Clay. Unfortunately, Greeley’s son, Raphael Uhland never fully recovered from illness in England and died of the croup early in February of 1857, devastating his father. (See any of many biographies or journal articles about Horace Greeley.)

Thomas Kane was an ardent abolitionist who maintained an active correspondence with Greeley. Although not a member of the Latter-day Saints, he was a staunch defender of rights and, as a seasoned politician, he helped coordinate their westward emigration and Army assistance in training the Mormon Battalion. He regularly defended Brigham Young and delivered an impassioned speech urging that the Mormons be allowed to establish a territorial government in Utah that was printed and distributed to important government officials, civic leaders, and journalists, earning the support of Horace Greeley and his New York Tribune. A statue of Kane, “Friend of the Mormons” stands in Utah’s Capitol Building. (See Grow’s article “Thomas L. Kane and Nineteenth-Century American Culture” in BYU Studies, vol 48.)

$500 Inv # 9495
17. [MAGIC LANTERNS] [MICROSCOPY] [PHILATELY] [THEATER, CINEMA, & MUSIC] Letter from one of the most prominent early microscopists offering to provide a demonstration to students at Trinity College. A. A. Starr to Professor J. Bookelsby. New York: 1851.


Alfred Adolphus Starr was one of the most prominent microscopists of the 1850s and served as the first president of the New York Microscopical Association. He was famous for his very popular, funny, and instructive ‘scientific’ lectures that incorporated an oxyhydrogen microscope, a ‘first-cousin’ to the magic-lantern. Starr, a New York merchant, became interested in microscopy and gave up his business to become a full-time ‘scientific’ lecturer in 1845. He projected large, highly magnified images of bee tongues, fly eyes, and insect wings, aquatic insects, and protozoa while entertaining audiences with humorous – but still scientific – explanatory monologues that included ventriloquism. The capstone of his traveling theater performances featured the feeding of a tiny aquatic insect to a “Water Tiger” (probably the larvae of predaceous diving beetle), which inevitably excited audiences. (For more information about magic lantern and Oxyhydrogen microscope shows see Well’s “Fleas the Size of Elephants: The Wonders of the Oxyhydrogen Microscope” in The Magic Lantern Gazette: A Journal of Research, Vol 29, #2/3, Summer/Fall 2017 and MagicLanternShows.com.)

In this letter, Starr offers to demonstrate his state-of-the-art microscope to Trinity students.

“I write you to inquire at what time your college term commences as I wish to come to Hartford with my Spencer’s Hydro-Oxygen Microscope, and should like to give the students an opportunity of seeing it. I have a large quantity of the Wheel anamalculae (microscopic rotifers) which I shall bring with me.”

Charles Spencer produced high-quality achromatic microscopes which won the highest award, the Grand Gold Medal at the Paris Universal Exposition Universelle, for excellence in their optics.

An unusual document attesting to the marriage of science and theater in mid-19th-century America.

SOLD Inv # 9496

The folded Gold Rush Era pocket map measures 26¾” x 21”. Original hand coloring. The map includes county divisions for Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and parts of Wisconsin and Iowa. The Indian and Nebraska Territories are identified to the West. The map is surrounded by a leafy decorative border with vignette views of Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Detroit at the corners. This is the first edition of Atwood’s classic travel map; it was updated yearly through 1855. It is mounted inside a 3½” x 5½” black leatherette cover stamped in gilt with decorative border, illustrations of a steamboat and railroad train, and text reading, *Ensigns & Thayer’s Map of the Western States*.

The map is in nice shape with some minor toning, a few misfolds, and splits along the storage folds. (There is nothing wrong with the top edge of the map. It is complete; I just didn’t get it completely unfolded before I snapped the photo and didn’t want to unfold it a second time.) Some of the splits have been mended with what appears to be archival tape. The front of the cover is in nice shape with bright gilt lettering and decorations; the rear is similarly stamped but without gilding. The inside cover has some endpaper toning and minor wear. There is a bookseller label inside the front cover that reads, “Judd & Murray’s / Cheap Book Store / N. Queen St. opposite PO. / Lancaster, PA.”

$550  Inv # 9497
19. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MORMONS] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS] [RELIGION] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

This four-page stampless letter measures 15¼” x 9¾” unfolded. It is datelined “Fort Madison Iowa Oct 18th 1846”. It bears a manuscript “10” postal rate mark and a circular Fort Madison I.T. postmark dated Oct 26. In nice shape. Transcript will be included.

Whinery, apparently a local physician, begins this letter to a friend in Ohio with an update regarding the sale of wagons (probably Conestoga wagons to Mormons fleeing Illinois or other pioneers heading toward the Oregon Trail). He also describes how busy he has been treating over 500 patients brought down by the “miasmatic fever” while only losing one, a sixty-year-old female opium eater immune to the benefits of “our great febrifuge quinine.” He then provides a detailed summary of the end of the Illinois Mormon War:

“You have some account of it in the papers you take but they are not all correct. . . . I will merely give you a sketch of it as I understand it. The difficulty grew out of an outrage committed by some anti Mormons or some of the new settlers. The latter were assailed by the former while engaged in harvesting grain in a field and were shamefully beaten. From this it went from one outrage to another on the part of each for the Mormons resent all offences as far as they are able until almost the whole country were up in arms against some 5 or 6 hundred Mormons. The anti Mormons marched their forces up to within ½ a mile of the Mormon forces which were placed in the suburbs and it is said the Mormons opened the fire and were followed by the anti Mormons and kept up the greater part of the day. There were a number wounded on the anti side and one mortally so. On the Mormon side there were 3 killed and a number wounded. After a few days . . . nothing more effective was done in the way of fighting but the Mormons surrendered. With the agreement or rather the terms prescribed to leave within 5 days. They entered the city and found but few people there. Most of them & perhaps all that had been engaged in fighting had crossed over. . . . Some kind of Court was instituted by the mob and all persons found were tried and if found guilty of being a Mormon or a Jack Mormon (a sympathizer) he was immediately sent over the River. They are now some of them in camps in tents and in covered wagons expecting assistance from those who went first to get on their way West. They are in a line from the Mississippi to Council Bluffs in Missouri Territory: and I suppose scenes such as have occurred in the various encampments have scarcely ever been witnessed. Sickness has prevailed among them to a fearful extent. . . . many of them have used up their wagon beds to bury their dead & killed their cattle to sustain life. . . . There seems no alternative but for many of them to perish with hunger, cold &c. There are probably not less than 20,000 gone after their leaders they know not where.”

Similar letters regarding the Illinois Mormon War are scarce. OLCL reports nine similar letters at institutions. As of 2020, none are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub provides only one record of a similar letter that sold for over $3,800 at a Cowan’s auction in 2008.

SOLD Inv # 9498

The cover of this 53-page handbound manuscript ledger measures approximately 5.25” x 8” although individual leaves vary in size between 3.75” x 6.25” and 4.5” x 7.5”. Entries are recorded legibly in pencil, and the pages are in nice shape. The binding is sound; however, the cover has some rodent predation.

The compiler’s information is found on several pages including one leaf that was made from the front cover of a postally used envelope.

Each page lists purchases (quantity, item, price) from an individual supplier in chronological order; the earliest is “1861 oct 25th”. Entries include ground orange peel, Amber oil, gum Myrrha, quicksilver, vials with cork, extract of Logwood, Rhubarb, turpentine, Nitric Acid, Alcohol, camphor, paper boxes, oil of peppermint, Aloes, Zedoary, Agaricus, Borax, Salve, Yellow Bees Wax, Styrax, Gum Benzoin, Peruvian Balsam, Eather, Lavender, and many, many more.

$300    Inv # 9499
The albumen photograph of Johanna Maria (Polly) Heckewelder is mounted on a card measuring approximately 2½” x 4”. The reverse contains a printed biography of Heckewelder under the title: “Great Western Sanitary Fair. / Cincinnati, December 21st, 1863.” The printing from the reverse of the card is visible through the thin albumin print. The card has some minor edgewear. In nice shape.

Heckewelder was the first white child born within what is now the state of Ohio. She was the daughter of missionaries sent by the Moravian Church to convert the Delaware Indians. Born in 1781, at the age of 5 she was sent to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to attend what is now the Moravian Academy and later Moravian College after which she taught needlework at a girls’ school in Lititz. After she lost her hearing, Heckewelder returned to Bethlehem. There, with the coming of the Civil War, she founded the Ladies Relief Society of Freedmen’s Aid to raise money for efforts to assist former slaves and became something of a “tourist attraction,” receiving many visitors. As this card notes, “She loves the Soldier, and has sent this photograph, with her blessing, as her gift to the Great Western Sanitary Fair.”

Sanitary Fairs were civilian-organized bazaars and expositions that raised funds for the United States Sanitary Commission (USSC) which was a private relief agency created by federal legislation to support the treatment and hospitalization of sick and wounded soldiers. By the end of November 1861, a branch was formed in Cincinnati. As a border city and transportation hub, Cincinnati was perfectly situated to be a distribution center to Union troops and hospitals in the South. In 1863, the women of Cincinnati resolved to hold a fund-raising fair which would include balls, entertainments, and a bazaar. They put out a call for donations to be sold at the bazaar and were inundated with contributions. Historical items (Revolutionary War, founding father, and pioneer artifacts and letters) were especially popular as were scientific curiosities like meteorites, sculptures, paintings, and captured Confederate uniforms and weapons. Heckewelder cdvs were sold as of this effort.

A scarce Sanitary Fair souvenir. As of 2020, there are no other examples for sale in the trade. Although Rare Book hub reports no auction listings, at least one example has been sold on eBay. OCLC reports no institutional holdings, although an example is likely in the Great Western Sanitary Fair collection at the Filson Historical Society and Cincinnati Museum Center.

$200 Inv # 9500
22. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [PHILATELY] Johnson & Johnson advertising packet including samples of Lintine and Johnson’s Rubber Adhesive Plaster. New Brunswick, New Jersey: [1891]

This grouping consists of a four-page brochure, a sample of Lintine, a sample of Johnson’s Rubber Adhesive Plaster, and their original mailing envelope that features a “red cross” logo corner card. The envelope is franked with 1-cent blue Franklin stamp (Scott #219, which was issued in 1890) canceled with two double-oval New York postmarks. Everything is in nice shape. The brochure has two rectangular ghost stains made by the rubber adhesive plaster sample.

The brochure touts

“Lintine . . . a new fabric made of Absorbent Cotton felted in thin Sheets. Every fibre thoroughly cleansed, sterilized and antiseptic [as an important advance over] Lint and Cotton. Greater absorbency. Tears readily. No loose fibres to stick to the wound or clothing. – Covers 50 per cent more surface than same weight of Lint or Cotton. . . .”

It also recommends a variety of uses for Lintine including as

“an Improved Bandage . . . Substitute for Sponge . . . a Covering for patients’ limbs during operation . . . Napkins for the sick in cases of tuberculosis, diphtheria, etc. [and] as a Pencil or Mop for throat, rectal or vaginal applications. . . .”

Other promoted products include “Johnson’s Rubber Adhesive Plaster,” “Johnson’s Belladonna Plaster . . . which frees the pores from clogging matter, thus promoting absorption” of drugs, and “Canthos a Blister Plaster, made of Spanish flies. . . .”

While today we take pristine, sterilized cotton swabs, balls, and dressings for granted, that has not long been the case. Throughout most of the 1800s, cotton was not useful as a dressing as it was only available in its raw state. It was not very absorbent, and it was filled with debris, dead insects, and filled with insect and rodent fecal matter. However, before the 1880s, surgeons used it anyway due to lack of alternatives. It wasn’t until 1886, when Johnson & Johnson developed a system able to clean, card, roll, and box cotton between layers of tissue paper, that it could be easily used for medical treatment. Continuing its attempt to improve the product, in 1896, the company revolutionized bandaging when it introduced the first truly sterile dressing, Lintine, in which sterilized cotton fibers were pressed into felted clothlike sheets. For more information see Johnson & Johnson Red Cross Notes II-8, 1899 and Gurowitz’s A Study in Cotton online at Kilmer House.

This advertising packet is a testament to the new product. Perhaps now unique. As of 2020 a review of auction records (including philatelic auctions) shows nothing similar, and OCLC shows nothing similar held by any institution.

$250 Inv # 9501
23. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] A flirty letter from a volunteer hospital corps soldier using patriotic stationery to a young woman back home in Iowa. Claude S. Deal to May Davidson. Camp Cuba Libre (Jacksonville, Florida) to Toledo, Iowa: 1898.

A four-page letter on attractive patriotic stationery featuring crossed U.S. and Cuban flags under a legend that reads, “Camp Cuba Libre.” Its accompanying patriotic envelope features an unusual variation of the crossed flags design with a red, white, and blue USV (United States Volunteers) wreath and stars token. The illustration includes the text, “Remember the Maine”. The cover is franked with a two-cent copper-red Trans-Mississippi stamp (Scott #286) cancelled with a Jacksonville, Florida machine postmark dated 13 July 1898. In nice shape. (A transcript will be included.)

In this correspondence, Deal replies to a letter from Miss Davidson:

“I . . . greatly enjoyed your letter . . . Your Iowa flowers were wilted when they reached here, but I will put them in my bible where they are sure not to get lost. See? To be sure I had my picture taken but they are all gone now. But I’ll tell you what I will do. I will have some more taken and make a trade with you. One of mine for one of yours. What say you? I belong to the Hospital Corps, and am not with Co K and can not keep away the Lizzards from Will (May’s brother, a Sergeant in Company K, 49th Iowa Volunteers). But that story is a fake. The lizards do not bother us. In fact, I have not seen one since I came to Florida. Thirteen in a bunk is not very pleasant, especially where there is only room for eight or ten. Where I sleep now there are only two of us in a tent eight-foot square. We are having lovely weather here at present. It simply rains all the time. I have not seen any of Co K boys for several days but as none of them are in the hospital they are certainly all right. . . . We are all anxiously awaiting that day of days called “pay day”. I have not been broke very long, but still I am looking forward to Ice cream and pie in the future. Well, if you find the time and are so disposed, please write to me again.”

Deal was assigned to the Fourth Corps’ Second Division Hospital that was located at Camp Cuba Libre in Jacksonville, Florida. Living conditions were crowded, and the bunks he mentions in his letter were low canvas-covered sleeping platforms that took up less space than individual cots. The Second Division hospital could initially care for 85 patients and was eventually increased to 150 beds. It was well-equipped with enameled-steel folding operating tables, steam sterilizers, water heaters, and other necessary appliances. The facility had six tent pavilion wards of five tents each formed in a semi-circle around the headquarters, dispensary, and ancillary services. Patients from the same volunteer regiments were generally kept together. Although typhoid fever, from unsanitary living conditions, was the scourge of most of the crowded, temporary, pre-deployment state-side camps in the south, that was not the case at Camp Cuba Libre. There, epidemics of measles and mumps required the hospital to erect extension isolation wards. The Second Division did not enter combat during the war, but it did deploy to Cuba and perform occupation duties after the fighting ended.

A nice letter from a military hospital using a seldom-seen “U. S. Volunteer” variation of patriotic stationery.

$200  Inv # 9502
24. [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] Mexican-American War letter from a U. S. Army major at Brazos Santiago, Texas to a fellow officer who would soon arrive in New Orleans from Mexico describing changes to the army’s organization and the demobilizing of the volunteers following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo. Brazos Santiago, Texas: 1848.

This two-page letter is datelined Brasos Santiago, July 6th, 1848. It was written by Brevet Major Oscar Fingal Winship to a fellow officer, Captain Charles R. Webster. It bears a double-circle “BRAZOS ST. JAGO / TEXAS” postmark (ASCC Vol. 1, p. 389) dated “July 5”. The letter is in nice shape.

In this letter written just two days after details of the Mexican surrender were formalized in the Treaty, Winship informs his friend, Webster, that when upon arriving in Brazos Santiago, he “encountered” orders assigning him to the staff of General Thomas Wood which “gave me no very exquisite pleasure [as he] is one of the most unpleasant men to serve in the whole Army. Every staff officer he has ever had . . . has left him in utter disgust.” Winship, however, takes heart because it is rumored that Wood may be reassigned to assume command of the Eastern Division while he may be transferred west to New Mexico with Braxton “Braggs Battery” or California with the dragoons, “poor devils!”

He also informs Webster that “I am informed that the officers of your Dept. will be detained [in New Orleans] until the troops have all passed through . . . The volunteers have all unbarked or are about embarking for their homes.”

Brazos Santiago was a short-lived Army supply and transshipment facility on the Texas coast near Padre Island. Winship began the war as a First Lieutenant but received battlefield promotions to Captain and Major for gallantry at the Battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Churubusco. Webster was the quartermaster likely detailed to the Regular Army from New York Volunteers. Wood achieved notoriety at the Battle of Chickamauga when, after a dressing down by General Rosencrans, in a pique of residual anger, he followed-to-the-letter an order that had clearly been overtaken by events on the battlefield and withdrew his division from the front line allowing Confederate General Longstreet to easily split the Union force and defeat the Northern army. Wood partially redeemed himself later in the Chattanooga Campaign when he helped lead the successful attack at the Battle of Missionary Ridge.

Mexican-American War letters from Brazos Santiago are scarce.

SOLD   Inv # 9503
25. [MILITARY & WAR] [MEXICAN PUNITIVE EXPEDITION] [PANCHO VILLA] [PHILATELY] An important archive of about 180 letters and real photo postcards from a decorated cavalry officer detailing campaign life during the U.S. Army's Punitive Expedition led by General Pershing that chased Pancho Villa's "Army of the North" back into Mexico following his attack upon Columbus, New Mexico. Lieutenant/Captain Clarence Lininger. Mexico, New Mexico, and Texas. 1916 to 1917

This collection of uncensored letters from Clarence Lininger, an officer in the 13th U.S. Cavalry, to his wife at Fort Riley, Kansas, is the most complete and detailed first-hand soldier's account of the Punitive Expedition into Mexico following the attack on Columbus, New Mexico by Pancho Villa and his Army of the North, save possibly for George S. Patton's diary as a headquarters staff officer which is held by the Library of Congress. Most of the letters range from one to six pages and were written in the field usually about a week before postmarking in Columbus. All are in nice shape. A transcript of all will be provided.

Lininger's letters begin with his rail journey from Fort Riley to Columbus and then follow his route of march throughout Mexico during the campaign (the banks of the Casa Grande River, Ascension, Santa Cruz de Villegas, Carretas, San Antonio, Namiquipa, El Valle, Angostura, Palomas, El Alamo, Las Galanas, Vado de Fusiles, Ojo Federico, Boca Grande, Malpais, and Noria, as well as the ex-patriot Mormon communities at Colonia Juarez, Colonia Dublan, and Colonia Diaz). They end following his regiment's return to the United States while he awaits reassignment in El Paso.

Lininger provides incredible detail about the expedition and its march into Mexico, life on the trail, combat at Parral including his action that resulted in a Medal of Honor nomination, camp life, officer comradeship including friendship with George S. Patton, wrangling for assignments, political opinions, and interactions with Mexican civilians, Carrancistas, and ex-patriot Mormons. Nearly all of the letters include their mailing envelopes, which were postmarked at Columbus before entering the U.S. postal system for delivery in Kansas.

This is an important and unique first-hand account of the threat posed by Mexico, the Punitive Expedition, army life on a cavalry campaign, and pre-World War I politics. These letters were first sold at a philatelic auction in 2014 for their philatelic value with little attention to their immense military and historical importance. As of 2020, nothing remotely similar is for sale in the trade, however an archive of 52 Lininger letters from his 1912 service guarding the border at Calexico is held by the California State Library, a small collection of personal correspondence primarily related to his marriage is held by the U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center, and the Library of Congress holds Patton's diary kept as an aide while serving on General Pershing's staff.

SOLD Inv # 9551

(See Item # 7 in this catalog for a small collection of extremely rare pioneer airmail letters from Pancho Villa Mexican Expedition.)
26. [MISSIONARIES] [MASSACRES] [RELIGION] [UNITED BRETHREN] [WOMEN] Cabinet card photograph album documenting prominent United Brethren missionaries serving in Sierra Leone and Japan including two views of the mission and local converts at Rotofunk Station shortly before its staff and converts were massacred by Mende tribesman and the entire station razed to the ground. Probably compiled by John Keller or his wife. Sierra Leone, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. 1888-1897.

This album measures 11⅝“ x 9” with 36 pages containing 66 cabinet photographs in page-inserts. Most of the photographs have ink captions on either the front or back. The album is padded in red velvet and has a decorative metal clasp. All are in nice shape with some minor wear to the album.

The Church of the United Brethren, the first denomination to begin in the United States, had its origins in the late 1700s and was formally established at Fredrick, Maryland in 1800. It expanded westward, organizing a Home, Frontier and Foreign Missionary Society in 1853, after which establishing missions became an important part of the church. Beginning in 1855, the church established a mission in Sierra Leone, followed by others in Japan, China, Latin America, and the Indian Subcontinent.

The majority of images in this album are single or group portraits of members, many with ties to the Salem Bible Church at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. More importantly, 15 are of missionaries who served at Rotofunk Station in Sierra Leone and at Sendai, Japan. Some of these photographs are related to the complete destruction of the mission during the Hut Tax War of 1898 when Dr. Marietta Hatfield, Ella Schrenk, the rest of the staff, and all the residential converts were slaughtered by Mende warriors who then burned the entire station to the ground. The images of the Japanese missionaries, from Sendai, are also significant. One is of Fuji Tsukamoto, a native of Kobe, Japan.

The album was probably compiled by John Kelker, the “Master Mechanist on the Denver & Rio Grande Railway”, or his wife, as photos of them are in the album as is an image of a stopped train, titled “View on the Calumet Branch Denver & Rio Grande Rail Road, on the 409 ft Grade”.

Unique. As of 2020, no similar missionary albums are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar as having been sold at auction. OCLC shows two institutions hold African missionary albums: one primarily filled with scenery views in the Congo, and one showing missionary activities from an unknown and unlocated mission.

$1,500 Inv # 9504
27. [NATURAL HISTORY] [PHILATELY] A pair of letters from a medical student who would become the premier American arachnologist (and a fine herpetologist) to a prominent French naturalist who spent over 23 years collecting and painting specimens in the United States and Australia.  N. M. [Nicholas Marcellus] Hertz to C. A. [Charles Alexandre] Lesueur.  Boston, Massachusetts to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1820 and 1821.

Both stampless letters are postmarked with small Boston circular postmarks in red and have manuscript “18½” rate markings. The 1821 letter also shows a manuscript “Paid” marking and a red “PAID” handstamp. Both are in nice shape.

The letters are both in French. In them Hentz relates his intent to send Lesueur some natural history books and to pay him a visit in Philadelphia as well as his home in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He also informs Lesueur that he is attending medical school in Boston but has also been admitted as a member of the Boston Lyceum. He reports that he continues to be interested in natural history, expressing interest in alligators and informs Lesueur that he is considering sending one to France for the Garden of the King.

Hentz came to the United States and settled in Wilkes-Barre as a teenager following the Bourbon restoration in France when his Republican parents found they were no longer welcome to stay in Paris. His talent for illustration and interest in natural history earned him membership in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He was admitted to study medicine at Harvard, but soon abandoned it to pursue a teaching career and his interest in insects. He published his first book at the time of these letters, and, not surprisingly it was about . . . alligators. He took to collecting insects and soon became the most accomplished American entomologist of his time. He was a pioneer in the study of spiders and published descriptions of more than 140 between 1842 and 1850 in the journal of the Boston Society of Natural History.

Lesueur, a French explorer and artist, was also a prolific natural history collector. He served as the zoologist and artist on a French expedition to Australia in 1801-1802 and collected over 100,000 specimens. Between 1816 and early 1837, he lived and traveled widely in the United States, particularly in Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. At the time of these letters, he was apparently visiting with friends in Boston. He returned to France in 1837 resuming his scholarly studies describing, illustrating, and cataloguing his extensive research collection. In 1846, Lesueur was appointed curator of the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle du Havre and died a mere nine months later. In the 1900s, his works – over 60 volumes on zoology, geology, and archaeology – were published by the Museum.

SOLD  Inv # 9505
28. [ORPHANS] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION] [SHAKERS] [SOCIAl WELFARE] Letter from a minister to a lawyer discussing the possibility of allowing an orphan to be raised by the Shakers. J. W. Shepard to Andrew Mack. Nashua, New Hampshire: 1850.

This three-page stamped letter measures 14.75” x 9.75” unfolded. The letter is datelined “Nashua July 15 1850”. The front bears a faint circular Nashua postmark of the same date and a bold “5” rate handstamp, both in red. The envelope is docketed in pencil “Nehemiah Trull / North farm by / Shaker Village / Canterbury”. In nice shape.

In this letter Shepard responds to Mack’s questions regarding the possibly of entrusting the care of a teenage orphan to the Shaker Village near Canterbury, New Hampshire. The response reads in part:

“You inquire whether it is not best for him to remain with the Shakers if they will board and clothe him? I have taken the ground not to be accessory at all to his going to Shakers, nor, to oppose his wishes in relation to it. . . . He knows my views of the religious principles they adopt and their worldly policy and also that I like their habits of temperance [and] industry. . . . I think it would be well for Samuel to be subject to their rules and under their care. If they will board & clothe him for his labor, I think it will be better than I or you could get him to do elsewhere, though not so well as he might do . . . for any farmer. . . . He can earn, if he chooses, more than this. His failure to do this has been owing to the work in the mills not agreeing with his health and his instability & discontent. I think it will be best for you to ride over and see Samuel & the Shakers & if they will keep him board & clothe him to stay as long as both parties, he & they, are satisfied, let it be so. – It seems by Samls letter they have requested of him, his interest money. – I think this is unreasonable in them because Saml is fully able & the design of the guardianship is to save all the avails of his small property for times of adversity or old age. This you can tell them as well as him. I know he can more than earn his support, when in health, if content, as he will be there.”

As celibacy was a tenant of the Shaker religion, one of the ways they maintained their population was by accepting, caring, and educating orphans. When they reached adulthood, orphans were given the option of signing the Shaker covenant and remaining as members or of “seceding” from the community and joining the “World’s People”.

In this case, Samuel was apparently already under the Shaker’s temporary care after having not—due to both heath and disposition—been able to support himself by working at the Nashua textile mill. It appears that he made the decision to remain with the Shakers as the 1860 census shows a 23-year-old shoemaker named Samuel Knowles was living at the Canterbury Shaker Village, where Nehemiah Trull was a trustee.

As of 2020, there are no similar original-source items discussing Shaker Orphans for sale in the trade nor are there any records of similar items in the Rare Book Hub auction listings or OCLC institutional holdings. However, there are two large collections of Shaker manuscript material (one at the Library of Congress from Canterbury) that may include some.

SOLD  Inv # 9506
29. [RELIGION] [TEXANA] [WESTWARD EXPANSION] Letter from a frontier yeoman farmer in the Republic of Texas encouraging his brother and sister to emigrate from Alabama while land is still cheap and religion plentiful. Samuel Nelson. Huntsville, Texas to Allentown, Alabama: 1840.

This four-page stampless letter measures 15.5” x 9.75”. It is datelined “The Republic of Texas / Montgomery County / April 26th 1840”. It bears a manuscript ink annotation, “Mailed at Huntsville, Texas”, and a faint pencil “postmark” with an indistinct date in the upper left corner of the front that appears to read “Huntsville Tex (day?) / May.” There is a rate mark, “Paid 50”, indicating the Republic of Texas postage and another that appears to read “25” for U.S. postage. There are also a “SHIP” transit handstamp and a circular New Orleans receiving stamp dated June 10. The Texas State Historical Association reports that in 1840, the Huntsville post office was located at a small trading post established by Ephraim Gray. In nice shape with some splits starting along mailing folds. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, Nelson writes to his brother and sister suggesting that they emigrate soon:

“I imbrace the opportunity onste more to in forme you that I am yet in the land of the living and my self and family is in tolerable health at present . . . I feale considerable loss to know here or what to write as I hav not . . . heard from you sence June 1839 . . . and I hav not got the scrape of a pen or hand from you . . . I stopted writing then in hope you would be started or fixing to Start to this Country and I have ben lookin for you Ever Sence . . . I know not what to write only time is tolerable harde here in places . . . I have one thing to say if you intend to move to this Country the sooner you come the better for the Chance of giting headwright land is past and it is worth from 1 to 3 Dollars per acre and is Risen. I think you would like this Country very well it is a more plasing Country to the Sight than Alabama and the land is as good or better I think but water is Scarse as is all perarie County game is plenteer her than any place I ever saw in my life in gowing 5 miles and back I saw about 70 Deer from 5 to 25”

Nelson also relates that “the gatest Revival of Religion is this Country that I ever seen and the work is stil agoweing on there is the rise of 40 members in the Church to which I belong and one month agow ther was ony 7 Several of them has professed Sanctification”, and it is clear that he is part of that revival:

“Direct youre letters to Texas Mongomeary County Huntsville Poste office  Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love: the Fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above before our Fathers throne we poure our prayers our fears our hopes our sines and one our Comforts and Ceases we Share our our mutual woes and mutual burdens for and often for each other flowes the Sympathising tear when we asunder part it gives us inner pain but we Shal be Joined in hast and hope to meet againe this glorious hope Devine our Corage by the way while each in Expectation lives and hopes to see the day from Sorrow toil and pain and sin we Shal be free and perfect love and friendship reign throught al Eternity”

A scarce pioneer letter from what was then a small and remote Texas community, six years before Sam Houston made it his home.

SOLD Inv # 9507

This album measures approximately 7¼” x 10” and contains over 60 photographs of Mississippi River towboats, tugboats, barges, tankers, dredges, crews, riverbanks, trucks, bridges, shipping facilities, and more. Almost all of the photographs are captioned. Minor wear to the album cover.

Photograph captions suggest that Smith was a crew member on the towboat Destrehan, which was owned by the Pan American Petroleum Company of New Orleans.

Images of named vessels include: Chinca, Destrehan, Henry Thane, Iowa, Lieut. Gurney, Minnesota, and Wynoka

Other scenes show the Pan American Petroleum Company plant at Memphis, unidentified syrup and oil tankers, Memphis bridges, unidentified government towboats and dredges, tugboats at Memphis, Angola Prison in Louisiana, trucks, and truckdrivers (one a woman and one an African-American).

$800 Inv # 9508

This bi-fold, partially-printed certificate and song sheet measures approximately 15” x 9” unfolded. The front cover features a youth’s temperance pledge (completed in manuscript) beneath an illustration titled “Cold Water Army, which is surrounded by a red border. Words to four temperance songs are printed on the reverse. Minor dampstain at base of the front cover.

The Connecticut Cold Water Army was a children’s temperance organization in Connecticut that required children who applied for membership to pledge to abstain from alcohol.

The wood engraving on the front cover shows a parade of children carrying banners that proclaim, “Cold Water Army” and “No Alcohol” as they march toward a drunkard and a skeleton. One child offers the drunk a pen and scroll which reads “Total Abstinence” At the top of the illustration, an eagle bears a scroll in its beak reading “Drink from the rushing streamlet, Thus has Nature taught; Pure springs, deep wells, cool fountains, Are with blessing fraught.” A shield on the eagle’s chest bears an image of a fountain of water rising from a vase. A second scroll held in its talon’s reads “Qui Transtulit Sustinet” (He Who Transplanted Sustains), the Connecticut’s state motto.

The certificate is surrounded by a border similar to those found on US Currency. The top of the woodcut features an eagle with ribbons inscribed with verse praising water and a shield with Latin motto. The Cold Water Pledge is printed beneath the woodcut, with each line drawn from scripture and notated. No ink inscriptions. Secretary’s signature and countersignature are printed. The page measures 8 x 10” with the printed area measuring roughly 7.25 x 9”Some light edgewear from previous framing and discoloration from age. Paper has slight eggshell texture. Slight denting with no tears, folds, creases, etc.

The back page contains the “Songs of the Cold Water Army”: The Water-King, Cold Water Army, Away the Bowl, Strength and Beauty in Pure Cold Water, Call for Volunteers, and Take the Pledge.

Scarcie. As of 2020, one other copy (with a black, not red, border) is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows no auction records, and OCLC show examples held by four institutions.

$225 Inv# 9550
32. [THEATER, MUSIC, & CINEMA] Three-year scrapbook-journal documenting the formation, performances, and dissolution of the Delta Male Quartet. Unidentified compiler, but no doubt, one of the members. Gardner, Massachusetts: 1913-1916.

This scrapbook-journal measures 7” x 8½” and contains 53 pages of entries filled with text, clippings, and ephemera. Most of the clippings and ephemera have been glued to the pages; a few have been laid in. Clean pages with sound binding. The journal cover shows some wear, heaviest at spine ends. Otherwise, in nice shape.

The Delta Male Quartette was a small-town, apparently semi-professional, singing group. The journal begins with an “Introduction” that explains the group’s origin,

“Having been interested in musical lines together, Robert H. Little, Harold W. Eames and Walter L. Clark decided to form a quartet. The first difficulty was that of securing a fourth member. After several try-outs . . . the problem was finally solved by Guy Andrews.”

The journal than proceeds to document all the groups’ performances and features over fifty clippings, programs, letters, advertisements, and even a Christmas card.

The group had a standing engagement at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Gardner performing twice at each service. Other venues included banquets, civic meetings, schools, social organizations, benefits, funerals, etc. At one benefit, the quartet “cleared $150 for an injured high school football player.” Some of its concerts were patriotic, and on at least two occasion the members dressed in plaid for Scottish programs. Attendance at their concerts ranged from 150 to 200.

A nice first-hand record of an early 19th-century small-town musical group.

ON HOLD Inv # 9509
Please let us know if you would like to receive our electronic catalogs of diaries, letters, ephemera, postal history, photographs, and sometimes even books.

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We hope you’ll be able to visit us at these upcoming 2020 shows:

- Ephemera 40, East Greenwich, CT — 28-29 March
- DC National Rare Book and Ephemera Fair, Arlington, VA — 17-18 April
- Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, St. Petersburg, FL — 24-26 April
- NAPEX (National Philatelic Exhibition), McLean, VA — 5-7 June
- The Great American Stamp Show, Hartford, CT — 20-23 August
- Virginia Antiquarian Book Fair, Richmond, VA — 25-26 September