
The two highlights of this lot are:

Moore’s single-spaced, five-page typed memoir vividly detailing his combat experiences as a sergeant in the 2nd Cavalry Regiment between 1869-1873 during the Indian Wars in Utah and the Yellowstone-Stillwater Region of Wyoming and Montana and

His 1881 handwritten daily-diary kept while leading one of the last wagon trains up the Montana Trail from Salt Lake City, Utah to Bozeman, Montana.
Our focus is on providing
unusual ephemera and original personal narratives including

Diaries, Journals, Correspondence, Photograph Albums, & Scrapbooks.

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

__________
Kurt and Gail Sanftleben
Montclair, VA 22025
Email: info@read-em-again.com
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1. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW] [SLAVERY] [SWINDLERS] THREE ATTORNEYS CONSPIRE TO ENSURE A CLIENT WILL INHERIT $3,000 IN PROPERTY AND $5,000 IN SLAVES - Letter detailing an effort to secure an estate with nine named slaves. C. Henderson. Jackson, Tennessee, 1839.

This three-page stampless letter measures 15.5” x 12.5” unfolded. It is datelined “Jackson Feb. 2. 1839”. It bears a circular “Jackson / Ten.” postmark dated “Feb / 4” and a “12½” rate handstamp, both in blue. (A combination of relatively scarce postal markings per p. 750, Vol. 1, ASCC 1997.) There are two pinholes at the intersection of postal folds and two small marginal repairs with what appears to be archival tape. In nice shape. Partial transcript included.

In the letter, an attorney answers a query regarding the inheritance of his “quite ill” partner regarding the inheritance of an estate including property valued at $3,000 and named slaves valued at $5,000.

“The inventory of the property of Salem Arnold Senior and ward shows as follows. One negro man, Lewis – one negro woman Ramona and her six children, Jacob, Hamill, Francis, & Henry two children Tunis, Sam & Polly – Two milk cows, & two yearlings, two beds & furniture, six chairs, one kettle & one oven. There is also a tract of land of from 400 to 600 acres. . .. The land may be surely estimated a $3000 and the negroes at $5000. The negroes have doubtless insurance but I cannot know without attracting suspicions which you wish to avoid.”

The inheritance was significant. $3,000 in 1839 is equivalent to $83,600 today, and $5,000 in 1839 is equivalent to $139,300.

The remainder of the letter details hush-hush machinations that suggest a conspiracy to prevent “different branches of the family” to learn about the distribution of the estate.

It is always startlingly disturbing to discover documents listing human beings as no more than chattel to be sold, traded, or distributed along with kettles, livestock, furniture, etc.

SOLD #9642
2. [ALCOHOL & TOBACCO] [EDUCATION] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS] “WE MUST WAIT TILL AFTER ANOTHER VISIT FROM THE PAYMASTER FOR OUR GOOD BEER” – Letter written by the wife of a prominent West Point professor of mathematics and topography explaining why a promised shipment of beer has not been delivered. Margaret [Stebbins] Scammon. West Point, New York to Springfield, Massachusetts: 1846.

This stampless folded letter is datelined “Good Friday Morn. 1846”. It was sent by Margaret Stebbins Scammon to her brother and displays a faint red circular West Point postmark and a fancy “5” rate handstamp. In nice shape with minor internal splitting along some folds. Transcript included.

In this letter, Margaret apologizes to her brother for a delay in sending him several promised barrels of beer, noting that just as her husband, Eliakim Parker Scammon, a promising Army lieutenant and professor of mathematics at West Point began to write, he was summoned to an important meeting in the library. She reports that as Scammon departed to attend, he “begs me to write for him and apologize to the best of my ability for the non-appearance of your beer. You must have thought him very negligent and tho’ it is rather an awkward task I will tell you the whole truth. If you will have patience to wait till the end of this month, it shall then be forthcoming. He expected to order it on the 1st but our cook took it into his head to go back to the city to live, and as we had, at his own request, kept back the quarter part of his wages for 18 months, you must know our last month’s pay went with a rush, and as we are so involved on every side we wont borrow, and therefore, all parties, ourselves included, must wait till another visit from the Paymaster for our good beer. . ..”

She also cautions him that the barrels in which the beer will be shipped were valuable, “the value of the empty half barrels returned, is $1.50 each, and . . . are returned at any time and credited to the sender.”

Hudson River Valley beer was prized throughout the country during the 1830s to 1850s, especially from breweries located north of West Point in the region surrounding Albany. Perhaps, this is where the promised beer was to be brewed.

Scammon graduated high in his 1837 West Point class and was kept at the academy to serve as math professor before later serving with distinction in the Seminole and Mexican-American Wars. In 1854, Scammon was assigned to Santa Fe and charged with building territorial roads. After two years of little progress and questionable bookkeeping, he was discharged and became a mathematics professor at Mount St. Mary’s College and subsequently President of Cincinnati’s Polytechnic College. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he was appointed as the Colonel of the 23rd Ohio Volunteers and fought at Bull Run, Antietam, and South Mountain. Two future presidents served under his command, Rutherford B. Hays and William McKinley. Scammon was captured twice and spent time in Richmond’s Libby Prison. Following the war, he served as a U.S Counsel to Prince Edward Island, a federal engineer, and for many years as a Seton Hall University professor. He died from cancer in 1894. (For more information, see “Eliakim Parker Scammon” at CivilWarTalk online, “Eliakim Parker Scammon” in the Catholic Encyclopedia online, and the Army Corps of Engineer’s Vanguard of Expansion, “The Southwestern Reconnaissance 1849-1860.”)

SOLD #9644

This quack medicine advertising grouping consists of a one-page promotional handbill, an 8-page accordion-fold pamphlet, and an illustrated advertising envelope for “Barham’s Infallible Pile Cure.” The envelope is franked with a cork-canceled 1-cent gray blue stamp (Scott #156) with no town markings. It was sent to South Boston, Virginia.

The promotional handbill is targeted to druggists announcing that the “Manufacturers of Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco” had purchased this pile cure from Mr. C. A. W. Barham and includes retail and wholesale pricing information.

The eight-page folding brochure is filled with testimonials about the product’s effectiveness and a special note from Barham explaining that he sold the rights to his product to Durham Tobacco “in the interest of suffering humanity,” because he “lack[ed] the capital to properly place [it] before the public.”

The illustrated cover features the company’s trademark illustration of a bull which is repeated on the folding brochure and promotional handbill.

The recipe for “Barham’s Pile Cure was obtained by a Durham tobacco auctioneer, Claudius Augustin Winfield Barham, in 1876. His “malodorous Salve . . . was packed in a separable tin box [and] sold entirely by mail. . . . There was no advertising but by one user telling another. . . .” After discussing the salve with W. T. Blackwell and Julian S. Carr, the owners of Bull Durham Tobacco and the Durham Hosiery Mills, he sold the cure to them in the fall of 1877. After an energetic start, the pair appears to have abandoned the project in 1879 and returned the formula to Barham. (For more information, see “Barham Pile Cure Co.” in Holcombe’s Patent Medicine Tax Stamps.)

SOLD #9668
4. [ALCOHOL & TOBACCO] [PROHIBITION] [WOMEN & GIRLS] WOMEN’S CAMPAIGN TO REPEAL PROHIBITION - “PUT THE CRIMINAL OUT OF BUSINESS . . . REPEAL . . . THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT” – Four different broadsides published by the Women’s Organization for Prohibition Reform. Pauline Morton Sabin (later Davis). [1929].

The four broadsides each measure about 6” x 10” and are in nice shape. Titles are “Has Prohibition Brought Temperance?”, “For Your Children’s Sake”, “Do You Want to Put the Criminal Out of Business? Help the Unemployed?”, and “Tax Payers! Do You Know”.

While women of the national temperance movement are recognized as the driving force behind the 18th Amendment, it is often overlooked that other women, specifically Pauline Morton Sabin and her Women’s Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR) led the charge to repeal it.

Sabin set out to repeal the 18th amendment after realizing that it exacerbated, rather than curtailed, drunkenness and alcoholism. She saw Prohibition as the root cause of most 1920’s corruption, crime, and violence. Sabin was also disturbed by the harm it caused American youth, especially young girls. She found that police records showed that intoxication increased by a factor of ten among children, and girls sought alcohol-related help from rescue shelters an average of eight to ten years younger than before its passage. She decried the ‘blindness’ of temperance advocates and the hypocrisy of politicians.

A Republican activist, Sabin began organizing the WONPR in 1929. By the end of 1930, it had 100,000 members; 300,000 members by spring of 1931, and 600,000 members by April 1932. That July, Time magazine featured Sabin on its cover as WONPR membership continued to spike. There were 1.1 million loud and active members by November who refused to be ignored.

When Sabin found little support from Republican politicians, she led the WONPR en masse into an alliance with the Democrats who, in gratitude, inserted an anti-Prohibition plank into their party platform. Following President Roosevelt’s re-election, state conventions ratified the 21st Amendment which repealed the 18th and its associated prohibition laws. Following the repeal, Sabin found she could support nothing else in the Democratic Party platform and soon returned to her Republican roots.

For more information, see “Pauline Sabin: Repeal of Prohibition Leader” and “Women’s Organization for National Prohibition Reform” at Alcohol Problems and Solutions, on-line.

Very scarce. At the time of listing, none are for sale online. OCLC shows WONPR chapter records held at two institutions and Sabin’s papers at another, but between all three, only two broadsides are listed., Neither the Rare Book Hub nor Worthpoint list any auction records for these broadsides.

$500  #9676
This 16-page letter is written on stationery provided by “The American Red Cross Commission to Siberian Camp Service”. It is misdated “8 Jan 1919”, as the described events took place in January 1920. It was written by an officer named Harold, the C.O. (Commanding Officer) of a company-sized 27th Infantry Regiment unit on one of the final trains that supported the Czech Legion’s march to Vladivostok. There is no accompanying envelope. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter Harold comments upon the Czech Legion, the operation of the railroad, Cossacks, Bolsheviks, and the difficulties and dangers in leading his train eastward to Vladivostok. A few highlights include:

“The Bolsheviks are gradually approaching from the west, and the hills and villages around us are full of them. Our sector of track is the only section of track on the Trans-Siberian R.R. that is open at all times. The best time that we can possibly make will be 20 days. . . .

“The trip . . . is a thing of the past. [We] finally rushed to the rescue of the hard pressed Czechs . . . thus opening up their line of retreat. . . . We were under arms so many times both day & night. . . . I had the third section down and it was a mighty interesting trip . . . We were out 18 days. . . . There were five duty officers, one doctor and myself (C.O.). The duty officers struck a 24 hour guard once every 5 days [and] had a very heavy guard at all times and thru dangerous territory. . . .

“I will try and describe my duties at a [typical] division point & will select a town called Nicholsk Ussarin. We rolled in at 11:00 A.M. and . . . I go over to the depot. This town has just gone ‘Red’ and red flags are everywhere. . . . I find that the American R. Ry. Engineer had ordered an engine for us at 11:00 A.M. but . . . there is a coal famine and he doubts that there is coal enough in the docks. . . . [However the train master] says . . . that three engines are coaling & that he will give us the first [which] will be ready at 1:00 P.M.—At 1:00 P.M. it will be ready “Sechores” (within the hour)—At 2:00 P.M. it will be ready “Sechores”—At 3:00 P.M. it will be ready “Sechores”. Here I blow up and start for the round house myself. The round house boss says that he is not to blame . . . he has no authority over the coal pile. . . . The Boss of the coal pile is . . . in despair because the cars have become mixed up and some one has his
cars of coal & he has theirs. After a long argument I ‘cross his palm’ and [he] succeeds in getting a flock of Chinamen to come over [and manually load our tender while] the engineer disgustedly goes home to get some sleep. [Finally] at 6:30 P.M. I put the engine on the train. [Some stops were as long] as 30 hours and in only two divisions on the whole trip were we out in less than 2 hours [and] remember we bribed all the way. I carried money and supplies for that. . ."

Extortion, theft, vandalism, and sabotage must have been common, as Harold further reports that

“We even had to watch the oilers & each man always had an N.C.O. with him. No one could approach the train because of our guard line and yet we had hot boxes and journals ruined necessitating changing cars when we could get them, if not, stopping & putting the cars in a repair shop. We even had to clean sand & rocks out of one box. At one divisions point I had to threaten to seize an engine, at another I threatened to seize the station master & the station commandant & shoot them, and at another place I put guards on all trains & even tied up the switching engine until they cleared us. . .”

Not surprisingly, the mandate to avoid conflict with the Bolsheviks worked both for and against the Americans:

“[Locals and allies think] all of the Americans over here are Bolshevicki. We are called the American Bolsheviks. We have been driven to it by the . . . the terrible atrocities of the Cossacks & others (principally Japs) siding with them. At one place I stopped the train for an hour between stations. We opened a grave where the bodies of 8 men and 1 girl lay. Killed by the Cossacks for being suspected of being Bolshevickis. All of the bodies were mutilated generally after death. The girl had one breast blown or chopped off and was other wise disfigured. . .”

Harold’s train’s journey was not unique. In fact, it ran much more smoothly than others, some of which were forced to engage in combat with Bolsheviks, Cossacks, and White Russian warlords before reaching Vladivostok, where all of the U.S. forces departed Siberia before April 1st, and the 27th Infantry Regiment returned to its home base in the Philippines.

(For more information about the American intervention in Siberia see House’s Wolfhounds and Polar Bears: The American Expeditionary Force in Siberia, 1918–1920 and Smith’s “Guarding the Railroad, Taming the Cossacks” in the National Archives Prologue Magazine Winter 2002.)

The entire letter testifies to a remarkable chapter in the grim pages in the history of the Russian Revolution and an exceptional account of the Americans’ final days in Siberia; a far more gripping narrative than a typical soldiers’ letter home.

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade; the Rare Book Hub reports no auction results for similar letters, and OCLC shows no similar letters in any institutional holding.

SOLD  #9690
6. [AUTOGRAPHS] [INDIAN WARS] [MILITARY & WAR] SENIOR INDIAN WARS GENERALs ALLOW THEIR SUBORDINATES TO TAKE A DAY OFF FOR THEMSELVES – Two passes signed by Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan and one pass signed by Brevet Major General John Pope.  Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and Chicago, Illinois: 1878-1879.

Three passes signed by General Officers:

One pass, for July 9th, 1878, was partially printed by hectography for “Headqrs. Dept of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas” and signed in ink by Brevet Major General John Pope.

One pass, for August 9th, 187?, was partially printed by hectography for” Hdqrs. Mil. Divn. Of the Missouri, Chicago, Ills” and signed in ink by by Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan.

One pass, for July 3rd, 1879, was partially printed by lithography for “Headquarters Mil. Div. of the Missouri, Chicago” and signed in ink by Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan.

The Military Division of the Missouri was a major Indian Wars military command created to allow for the streamlined movement of troops by a single commander on the western frontier to quickly handle military contingencies without the delay of obtaining approval from the War Department. Philip H. Sheridan was promoted to lieutenant general on 4 March 1869 and assigned to command the Division of the Missouri headquartered in Chicago. He held the position until 1 November 1883.

The Department of the Missouri was a subordinate command belonging to the Chicago-based Military Division of the Missouri. It was headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Major General John Pope served as its commanding general from 1870-1883.

Philip Sheridan was a career officer who gained fame during the Civil War as the commander of the Army of the Potomac’s Cavalry Corps. His Corps decisively defeated and drove General Jubal Early’s Confederate army from the Shenandoah Valley and pursued General Robert E. Lee’s force to its surrender at Appomattox.

John Pope was a career officer who was banished to the West after losing the Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas), however, he revived his career during the Indian Wars and served with distinction in battles against the Apache.

SOLD  #9647

Approximately 4.25” x 6”. 344 pages including an unnumbered advertising section in rear. Complete with all advertisements. Sound binding. Clean and supple pages. Cover has an intact spine with wear at the ends. Edge wear to cover and last advertising page.

This periodical provides detailed coverage of the National League, American League, and more minor leagues than you can imagine.

There is extensive coverage of the 1912 World Series between the World Champion Boston Red Sox and National League Champion New York Giants.

It provides information on world-wide baseball including the 1912 Olympics in Sweden.

There are many team photographs, photos of the World Series as well as the stars of the time (Cobb, Wagner, Mathewson, etc.).

Photos of the Swedish, Igorot, and Australian teams are included as well.

And of course, it includes all the usual team and individual statistics.

$125  #9677
For additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

8. [BEATLES] [ENTERTAINMENT] [MUSIC] [POPULAR CULTURE] [TELEVISION] “SHE LOVES YOU, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH” – Complete set of Beatlemania Moptop figurines released shortly after their blockbuster American debut on The Ed Sullivan Show on February 9th, 1964. Remco/Seltaeb, 1964

Complete set of all four Beatle figurines by Remco/Seltaeb in custom-made display cases accompanied by one of the first Beatles songbooks released in the United States.

Each Beatle is complete with an appropriate instrument bearing his name: Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Ringo Starr, and George Harrison. Each has a full head of faux hair styled in their famous mop-top cut. (Most extant figurines are either missing their instruments or ‘going bald’. Each hard-bodied Beatle measures between 4.5” and 5” tall, has a turnable head, and is molded just as he appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show. Produced by Brian Epstein’s marketing company Seltaeb (Beatles spelled backwards) these were distributed by Remco for sale at variety stores like Kresge or Woolworth. The figurines are contained within four custom-made display cases. There are no original store boxes.

Also included is one of the first U.S. Beatles songbooks—The Beatles Book of Recorded Hits: Souvenir Song Album—that capitalized on their smash television success and including some of their earliest hits. The saddle-stapled 8.5” x 11” softcover book is in nice shape with minimal edgewear. All four of the oft-missing “Souvenir Cut-Out Page” portraits are present.

On February 9th, 1974, 73 million Americans tuned in The Ed Sullivan Show to see the first U.S. performance by the Beatles. Although burgeoning stars in the U.K., they had received limited exposure here as their music was available only on second-tier labels (Swan and Vee Jay), and it was only a few weeks earlier that they had broken into the U.S. charts with I Want to Hold Your Hand.

The Beatles opened their five-song set with the low-key All My Loving and followed with a cover of the Broadway hit Till There Was You. The audience was excited, many girls screamed, and a few hyperventilated, but it wasn’t until they began She Loves You that the crowd went crazy. One critic noted “What followed was perhaps the most important two minutes and 16 seconds of music ever broadcast on American television—a sequence that still sends chills down the spine almost half a century later.”


Worthpoint shows that pristine sets, like this one, but without the songbook or custom-made display cases have repeatedly sold for $995 on eBay. Similar sets in excellent condition in verifiable original store boxes sell from $2,000 to over $3,000 depending upon box condition.

SOLD #9682
9. [BOOKSELLING] [BUSINESS & COMMERCE] [COMING OF AGE] [PHIATELY] [RELIGION] A YOUNG MAN REQUESTS A JOB AS A MISSIONARY COLPORTEUR BECAUSE HIS PARENTS CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT HIM – Letter from a 20-year old school teacher to the “Board of Commissioners for Home Missions” requesting employment because his parents can no longer provide for his support. Theodore W. Robbins. Montgomery, New York: 1847.

This two-page letter is enclosed in a stampless folded cover. The letter is datelined “Montgomery March 23d 1847”. The envelope bears a circled “5” rate handstamp in red and red circular “Montgomery / N.Y.” postmark with the “N” reversed. (See p 251, volume one ASSC, 1991.) Docketing reads, “Asks for employment in the service of the Society.” In nice shape; transcript included.

In this letter Robbins requests either full-time employment as a teacher for the Society or part-time employment as a colporteur to distribute religious tracts.

“Having lately discovered a hope of salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus . . . and following deep interest in the answer of Christ and a desire from the fact that I have consecrated myself to his service to use my feeble powers in this extension of the Redeemer’s kingdom and to the colony of the Great God. . . I am induced to offer myself to the Board of Commissioners for home Missions . . . My age is 20 years, my parents are most unable to give me a liberal education but are willing and desirous that I shall do the best I can for myself. I have been engaged for a year or two past educating myself having in view the ministry of the Gospel from the first. I am now pursuing an Academical course of studies in Montgomery during this interval of my teaching a common school. I am entirely dependent on my own exertions for a living alone among strangers. [I wish] to be in the employ of the Board as Colporteur during the vacations in my Academical course. I also wish to know whether I could not be placed in some school and having a permanent place. . . .”

Online records indicate that Robbins was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, so it is most likely that his request was to the American Home Missionary Society, a Protestant organization jointly formed in 1826 by members of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Associate Reformed, and Dutch Reformed churches with the objective “to assist congregations that are unable to support the gospel ministry, and to send the gospel to the destitute within the United States.” (See The Home Missionary, Volumes 23-24 and The New York State Register for 1858, both online.

Colportage is a publishing system based upon the use of traveling carriers, known as ‘colporteurs’ or ‘colporters’ to distribute books and religious tracts. It first became common in Europe as a method of selling unauthorized religious materials during the religious controversies of the Reformation. In addition to controversial works, these book peddlers also spread cheap editions of popular works to an increasingly literate rural population that had little access to city book shops. The American Tract Society, established in 1814 and still in existence today, was the most prolific publisher and has distributed many, many millions of religious publications over the years. It is possible that the American Home Missionary Society distributed tracts in conjunction with the American Tract Society network.

SOLD #9678
10. [BUSINESS & COMMERCE] [INTERNATIONAL TRADE] [PHILATELY] [SUGAR] AMERICAN MERCHANTS BEMOAN CUBA’S WHITE SUGAR MARKET - Privately carried stampless letter containing sequential messages from three Havana merchants to Boston lamenting the state of the White Sugar Market in Cuba. Havana, Cuba to Samuel Gray in Boston Massachusetts: 29-30 May 1835.

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 15½” by 9½” unfolded. It is datelined from Havana and addressed to Samuel Gray in Boston, Massachusetts. As noted in the lower left corner, it was privately carried on the ship Leander. Upon arrival in Massachusetts, it received a Salem postmark dated June 13th and a straight-line “SHIP” handstamp. It bears a manuscript “8” rate mark in the upper right; six cents for inland service of under 30 miles (between Salem and Boston) plus a two-cent ship letter fee.

The contents contain a series of three messages from American merchants in Havana bemoaning the state of the “White Sugar” market.

At the time, it was a sellers’ market, and Cuban planters were happily waiting for the prices they named while the frustrated buyers feared they would have no choice but to pay exorbitant fees as the end of the selling/shipping season was rapidly approaching with no hint of cracks in the sellers’ resolve.

Docketing indicates that Gray, in turn, forwarded the letter to London merchants encouraging them to purchase the sugar noting “White Sugars will be higher with you & in St. Petersburgh & may be worth your attention. They will be short in Cuba.”

SOLD #9679

This one-page stampless folded letter measures 15” x 9.75” and is datelined Philadelphia, May 1st, 1839. It is addressed to E. H. Lathrop of the State Commission for the Central Rail Road of Michigan. It has a circular Philadelphia postmark dated May 2nd in blue and a manuscript “25” rate mark indicating the cost to send mail over 400 miles. There is a small hole where its wax seal was pulled during opening. In nice shape. Transcript will be included.

In this letter Baldwin writes:

“On the 23rd last month I forwarded for your State Road a pair of Driving Wheels, and axles, according to order given by Mr. Briscoe your Superintendent of Machinery. It was sent by the National Line. Instructions have been given to have the Engine made for you last Fall (and which has been laying at Detroit all Winter) taken across the Lake, as soon as possible. I presume it has been done before this.”

In addition to needling the State of Michigan about its late payment for a locomotive the company had shipped to Detroit the previous fall, Baldwin uses one panel of the letter to provide a $700 invoice for a current shipment.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works was an American manufacturer of steam engines and railroad locomotives from the time of its founding by Matthias W. Baldwin in 1825 to 1956. Originally located in Philadelphia, it moved to nearby Eddystone, Pennsylvania, in the early 20th century. For decades, the company was the world's largest producer of steam locomotives, but it struggled to compete as demand switched to diesel haulers. Baldwin produced the last of its 70,000-plus locomotives in 1956 and went out of business in 1972. (See Wikipedia for more information.)

Matthias Baldwin letters appear sporadically on eBay, however, most have little or no railroad content. This letter does.

SOLD  #9643

Over 300 records documenting the business of the Providence Tool Company Armory between the years 1860-1863 including both manuscripts (the majority) and partially-printed purchase orders, bills, letters inventory lists, sales records, etc. The documents are sorted chronologically. They are in nice shape and related to

the purchase of boards and planks, boiler riggings, boxes, charcoal, cooling compound, grindstones, iron, meal, middlings, oats, sperm and other oils, sandpaper, sawdust, scrap steel, etc.

as well as the production, purchase, and sale of bolts, calipers, castings, chains, hangers, hatchets, hinges, hoops, joint plates, links, latches, locks, nuts, pointed picks, plane irons, pulleys, rings, rivets, screws, shafts, ship scrapers, thimbles, washers, and much more


The company was founded at Pawtucket in 1834 and produced nuts, washers, pickaxes, marlinspikes, and hammers for use throughout the country. It relocated to Providence in 1846, and during the Civil War, perhaps informally, added the word Armory to its business name.

With the advent of the Civil War, the Providence Tool Company incorporated weapons manufacturing into its business, specifically light cavalry sabers and Model 1861 .58 caliber percussion muskets. Although I noticed no documents specifically mentioning sabers or muskets, these records likely include parts that it supplied to other companies for use in manufacturing military arms and equipment.

Following the war, the company manufactured a variation of the famous Martini-Henry rifle, “the best in existence”) to sell internationally, and it sold over 850,000 including 600,000 as part of a $10 million contract from Turkey. Unfortunately, Turkey defaulted on its payment, and the company was forced to sell its gun-making operation, after which it reorganized as the Rhode Island Tool Company in 1885. It remained in business until 2003. See the “National Register of Historic Places nomination for Rhode Island Tool Company,” “Providence Tool Co.” at American Firearms, and “Providence Tool Company Records” at the Rhode Island Historical Society, all available online.

SOLD #9655
For additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


This grouping includes a large (10” x 14”) double-sided broadsheet, a form letter, and the original promotional mailing envelope. The envelope is franked with a grey-blue 1-cent stamp (Scott #206) that was sold between 1881-1882. It was canceled with a cork handstamp carved into the shape of the letter “L”. There is a small ink-stain to one corner of the envelope. Everything is in nice shape.

Fay has tailored his get-rich scheme to appeal to “the Working Class” inviting “attention to its chief characteristic qualities, viz. Pleasant, Profitable, Permanent, and Lucrative” without having to

“toil hard for ten hours per day in workshops, stores, mills, on farms, etc., for the paltry sum of one to two dollars per day.” Instead for only $1 a working man can purchase a copy of Fay’s Recipes and Secrets; or the Manufacturer’s Guide, which will allow him to “engage in a light profitable business [just like] the great self-made men [who] have made their mark in the work, and accumulated PRINCELY FORTUNES. . . . What’s the need of . . . being under the control of some exacting employer, who knows and cares as little for your success in life as . . . the stump of the cigar which he smoked on yesterday. . . .”

The Guide, the advertising materials promise, will contain a vast array of secrets and recipes for services and products for which Fay had paid up to $500 to obtain including:

- Magic Cold Water Pens,
- Barber’s Star Hair Oil,
- French Furniture Polish,
- Sticky Fly Paper,
- Florida Water,
- Bay rum,
- Ottawa Beer,
- Cider without Apples
- Champagne Cider,
- Fire on Water,
- Ink for Secret Correspondence,
- the Hunter’s and Trapper’s Secret for catching mink, muskrats, beaver, and other fur animals,
- The Arabian Horse Tamer’s Secret, and
- Many more.

$100  #9657
14. [BUSINESS & COMMERCE] [EXONUMIA] [NUMISMATICS] [TRADE TOKENS] [WESTERN EXPANSION] 
GOOD FOR A LOAF OF BREAD, GAME OF POOL, HALF-PINT OF CREAM, OR ROLL IN THE HAY – Collection of Western trade tokens with additional exonumia. From the Estate of Robert (Bobby) Palazzo, Westlake Village, California. Most from Nevada mining towns: Most from 1900-1910.

Collection of forty-eight western tokens plus other exonumia composed mostly of merchant "good for" tokens, several Pony Express commemorative ‘so-called-dollars’, a tool-check, and a ‘dog house’ license. These were issued at various locales, mostly in Nevada with a couple from California. The tokens were identified by Palazzo, John Schilling, or Holabird Auctions. Palazzo’s old and badly worn cardboard mounts have been replaced with new Lighthouse coin ‘flips’ and the original information has been transferred. Mixed condition; some near mint and others well-worn (as is common with many tokens). An image of a list of all the tokens is found at the link. The list will also be provided in hard copy.

Trade tokens were a form of unofficial ‘minor coinage’ made from base metals such as brass, copper, nickel, or aluminum and usually cast as circular disks, but occasionally as octagons, triangles, or in scalloped shapes. They seldom, if ever, had a value of more than a dollar. Trade tokens (sometimes referred to as “Good Fors” because they were usually stamped “Good for” followed by a product, service, or monetary value) first appeared in the United States during the late 1700s, and it has been suggested that George Washington used a trade token to attend Bill Rickett’s Philadelphia Circus in 1793.

Often, like some of the tokens in this lot, they were issued to be exchanged for a specific product or service such as a loaf of bread, game of pool, meal, hotel room, or brothel visit. In the western states, company stores and independent businesses made frequent use of tokens in mining towns and camps where coinage was often scarce. As an added incentive for businesses, they could only be redeemed at the place of issue, and with little, if any, law enforcement, they were a safe substitute for gold and silver. Also, if the tokens were never redeemed, business owners pocketed a little extra profit.

The towns and cities represented in this collection include Aztec, Blair, Carson City, Crystal, Duckwater, East Ely, Elko, Fairview, Goldfield, Los Angeles, McGill, Mound Hill, Reno, Tonopah, Tuscarora, and Winnemucca. Today, some of these places are ghost towns.
The lot includes tokens distributed by the American Borax Company, general stores, drug stores, tobacco stores, billiard parlors, hotels, and saloon/brothels.

Four of the most interesting tokens in this lot are:

Two different tokens from Goldfield, Nevada’s most famous saloon, The Northern. One of these tokens was originally bimetallic with an aluminum ring around a copper or brass disc. The disc is missing on this token just as it is on almost all the others that have survived. Tex Rickard and his silent partners, Wyatt and Virgil Earp, opened The Northern in 1905, and Wyatt briefly managed the establishment during its first year of operation. In time Rickard became a remarkably successful fight promoter; he promoted the championship fight between James J. Jeffries and Jack Johnson. He later used his fortune to build the third iteration of Madison Square Garden—which lasted from 1925 to 1968. During his Garden’s second year of operation, Rickard formed a professional hockey team to play there, Tex’s Rangers, known today as the New York Rangers.

A 12½ cent token for the Red Top Bar, one of Goldfield’s notorious brothels.

Two 5-cent tokens from the Jeffries & Kipper Billiard Parlor and Gentlemen’s Café in Los Angeles which the two men opened in partnership in 1907. Kipper was a frustrated boxer who eventually became the manager of the Los Angeles Coliseum. Jeffries was the legendary Heavy Weight Champion James J. Jeffries, who was lured back into the ring (six years and at an additional 110 pounds) after he retired for a $1 million payday (in today’s dollars) as the “Great White Hope” to fight the then-current African-American champion, Jack Johnson.

For additional information about trade tokens, see Rulau’s *Standard Catalog of United States Trade Tokens 1700 to 1900*, Ascarza’s “Mine Tales: Trade tokens were used widely, but are rare today” in the 9 Dec 2013 issue of the *Arizona Daily Star*, and “John Bill Ricketts and the Ricketts Circus” at Circuses and Sideshows, online.

A fascinating physical record of commerce in the boomtowns of the American west. Recent eBay auction results found at Worthpoint suggest the total value of this lot to be just under $1,600.

$750  #9672
The *Virginia*‘s guest register is a bound leather book measuring approximately 8.5” x 10.5” with approximately 250 gilt-edge pages. About 75 are filled with notes, signatures, and drawings by visitor and passengers. The cover is adorned with enameled metal ornaments in the shape of New York and Manhattan Yacht Club burgees. The hand-painted frontispiece shows the same two burgees with text reading “Steam Yacht Virginia”. All of the entries are in ink. In nice shape.

The *Virginia* was an incredibly luxurious 441-ton steam yacht built in 1899 at Bath, Maine for the New York department store magnate, Isaac Stern.

Its entries begin in February of 1900 and contain entries made by about 400 people from around the world.

I noticed notations in a variety of languages from Belgium, Cyprus, Egypt, England including the Isle of Wight, Germany, Greece, India, and Turkey. Some signatures are from diplomats, consuls, foreign ministers, military officers, and no doubt, a number of businessmen, financiers, and socialites.

Many of the entries refer to attendance at specific events like the Hudson-Fulton Celebration including its Naval Parade, the International Yacht Race of 1903, and Yale-Harvard Races. The last entry in the guest book is dated September 25, 1910, just before Stern’s death.

The accompanying first edition book, *Ten Thousand Miles in a Yacht*, chronicles a 1904 trip on the *Virginia* organized by “Commodore” E. C. Benedict, a New York financier, who chartered Stern’s vessel to make the cruise with ten friends and a crew of 33 officers and men. (Benedict felt his own yacht was not up to the voyage.) Apparently Stern retained the guest book as it contains no messages from the voyage.

Contemporary newspaper articles suggest that after Stern’s death Benedict bought and, in turn, sold it to F. K. Vanderbilt in 1916, who free-leased it to the U.S. Navy during WWI. It was renamed the *U.S.S. Vedette* and escorted convoys in the Atlantic, where it rescued survivors from a torpedoed Greek ship as well as a disabled French seaplane and its crew. Following the war, the yacht was returned to Vanderbilt.

Isaac Stern and his brothers, sons of German-Jewish immigrants, started their business as a one-room dry goods store in Buffalo in 1867 and after a series of moves established their six-story flagship operation not far from NYC’s Washington Square Park. After a series of acquisitions, it and all of its satellite locations were acquired by Federated Department Stores and converted to Macy’s or Bloomingdale’s.

A unique first-hand testament to the life of the ultra-rich in the early, pre-WWI years in New York City.

$1,500  #9646
16. [CIVIL WAR] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MILITARY & WAR] “I HAVE ALWAYS ENDEAVORED TO DO MY DUTY AS A SOLDIER” – Letter from a Union Soldier, who was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, but marked as a deserter before being paroled and hospitalized, attempting to obtain his family’s allowance payment. George Geist. Annapolis, Maryland: U.S. General Hospital, Division No. 2, 1863.

This three-page bifold letter measures approximately 5” x 8” when folded. It is datelined “U. S. General Hospital / Division No. 2 / Annapolis Md. / Oct 10th 1863.” It is addressed to “Commanding Officer / 14th N. Y. State Militia”. No envelope. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Geist states in his letter that he

“was taken prisoner on the 4th day of July at Gettysburg, was taken to Richmond and paroled and sent here [to Annapolis] where I arrived on the 13th of August and being sick was sent to the General Hospital where I have been ever since. Since being here I have had a severe attack of chronic rheumatism and consequently been unable to return to my Regt. ... Not having been furnished with a descriptive list, I have been obliged to do without pay and my family is suffering in consequence and you will do me a very great favor by sending me the required certificate so that my wife can draw the allowances due her. I have always endeavored to do my duty as a soldier and have never had the most remote idea of deserting. ...”

The 14th Regiment New York State Militia (sometimes designated as the 14th Brooklyn Chasseurs or the 84th New York Volunteer Infantry) was assembled in April 1861, primarily from Brooklyn abolitionists, and immediately mustered into service. It fought with gallantry in most Eastern Theater battles including the First and Second Battles of Bull Run (Manassas), the Battle of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. During its early service, the unit served in General Phelps's famous Iron Brigade.

It was one of the very few Union regiments never to wear a standard blue uniform. For the entire war, its battle dress was in the style of French zouaves with bright red trousers. At First Bull Run (Manassas) the regiment earned a nickname that would remain for the duration of the war when Confederate General Stonewall Jackson is said to have rallied his soldiers by shouting, “Hold on boys! Here come those Red-Legged Devils again!” (See various online sources including Wikipedia.)

Online military personal records show that after Geist was released from the hospital, he joined the 7th New York Veteran Regiment which fought at the Petersburg Crater explosion and a number of smaller engagements. It was present at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered.

$275  #9687
17. [CIVIL WAR] [CONFEDERACY] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY] [WOMEN & GIRLS] “I WOULD RATHER LIVE IN THE CAVE A LIFE OF A HERMIT THAN TO LIVE WITH YANKEES” – An exceptional Civil War letter providing the latest war news from Petersburg and Richmond that was mailed with a rare genuine postal use of the 20c Confederate stamp. Mrs. C. MacFarland to Dr. Sterling Neblett. Petersburg, Virginia to Brickland Plantation, Lunenburg County, Virginia: 1864.

This four-page folded letter measures 15½” x 10” unfolded. It is datelined “Petersburg Oct 17th 1864” and franked with a Confederate 20-cent Washington Stamp (Scott #13) tied to the cover by a red Petersburg postmark. The letter is signed, “C.M” and docketing indicates it from “Mrs. C. MacFarland.” In nice shape; several folding splits mended with stamp hinges. Transcript included.

In this letter, Mrs. MacFarland, a fifty-four-year-old boarding house owner in Petersburg, commiserates with her brother-in-law about a Union raid upon his plantation, warns him that authorities are seizing unaccompanied slaves to build fortifications in the besieged city, and provides him with the latest war news. Excerpts include:

The raid on Lunenburg – “I am glad you have received such good news from the plantation hope that you may find an increase in all left there I enclose you several letters received lately from James Edward, got 2 one day & 2 the next. He has not received my letter telling of the Yankee raid in Lunenburg or he would have mentioned it... I am sorry to hear Williams health is not better. I think he is soured by the yankee visit he ought to see some of the refugees here that have been deprived of all, wealthy people, every thing taken, even the family Bibles & portraits are trophies of war. ...”

War news – “Genl Lee is at the helm and he looks to God to crown his efforts... we ought to pray and do all that we can to hold up the hands and strengthen the hearts of our brave soldiers and pray to God to confound and bring to confusion the plans of our unnatural cruel enemies. Sherman, Hunter & Grant ought to be outlawed. ... I would rather live in a cave the life of a hermit than live with the Yankees... Genl Lee is near Richmond. He has moved his headquarters from here. I seen Capt Page of his staff yesterday he says he will be back before long... Mr Hursh... was here Saturday he is with a government wagon that is hauling forage from Fort Hill... Mr. H is always in a hurry by the time you put your eyes on him he is going. I have seen him 4 times and could not keep him long enough to answer 6 questions. If I did not have a weakness for hazel eyes and white teeth I should not tolerate him. If the government have many like him, the horses willi to suffer for forage. He does not stand on the order of going but goes... Mr. Wilson has gone in to the field. He served 18 months in the 12 Regiment [and now]. They are increasing the Infantry from the Artillery. 20 out of 100 are to be sharp shooters the Norfolk [Light Artillery] Blues had 150 well men and only 4 guns... Nat left here last Thursday... He is looking very well and hopeful says Early will whip the yankees yet but the destruction of grain and other things is unprecedented, utter desolation. The Union farmers that would not take confederate money have suffered as much as the loyal ones. No distinction in Grant’s inhuman order. I hope it will strengthen our army.”
Seizing slaves for fortification work – “The pickets are on the street taking up every servant to put on the fortifications. They took Elleck a few days ago and Jim too but Mr May interceded and got one off. It fell to Elleck to go. I would much it had been Jim for he is very lazy and self important. The pick and shovel would not hurt him and he is stronger of the two. . .. A great many have gone to [Union forces] from here. The lines are so near that it is impossible to prevent it as they know all the bye paths. If you have to send any to the fortifications send those that are of the least value. . ..”

Why the Yankees fight – “[We have] a great many more wounded yankees white & black side by side in the hospital here. One of the prisoners was asked what he was fighting for he said for the Car’s [the Cause], another for the other part of the Union, another for the constitution. When asked what the constitution was, he did not know. An Indian from Iowa said he was fighting for the land they took from his great grandfather. The negroes say they were all drafted made to fight. . ..”

Northern politics – “I think . . . that Lincoln will be re-elected. . .. For my part I would rather him than McClennan or Fremont. . .. We have heard nothing of the peace party at the North since the fall of Atlanta. We must whip them well. . .. Touch the nerves of their pockets, when they can steal nothing more from the South and the vibrations will be felt and when the great North West finds that she is sold to New England . . . and that they cant have the free navigation of the Mississippi they will then set up for themselves and fight (like Kilkenny cats.). ..”

Dr. Neblett was a prominent physician and wealthy planter, whose plantation, Brickland, was located in Lunenburg County about 70 miles southwest of Petersburg. There, 145 slaves worked its 1,600 acres of tobacco. On the eve of the Civil War, Neblett was one of the wealthiest men in Virginia; the combined value of his real and personal property totaling $700,000 (approximately $200 million in today’s dollars). Following the war, his total worth had dropped to $22,000, and he was selling off lands to survive. The letter points out that his wife, Ann Smith MacFarland Neblett, was Mrs. C. MacFarland’s sister.

While there is little genealogical information about the McFarlands online; the 1870 census shows that C. MacFarland owned a Petersburg boarding house that accommodated sixteen guests. (For more information, see on-line genealogical files for Neblett and the MacFarland sisters at Ancestry.com and Find-A-Grave as well as the Virginia DHR paper, “An Architectural Survey of Lunenburg County, Virginia.”

Letters mailed using Confederate 20-cent stamps are truly rare. The stamps were issued in 1863 primarily to be used as small change, since no Confederate coins were ever minted for public use. Although they were authorized as postage to pay the “overweight double-letter 20-cent rate, relatively few were ever used to mail a letter.

An American Philatelic Expertizing Service certificate stating that this is a genuine postal usage will be provided. (For more information see the Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History, “20-cent green George Washington, CSA 13″ at Confederate Stamp Primer Online, and “A brief history of Confederate coins” online at the American Numismatic Association.).

SOLD   #9620
Group of 15 different carte-de-visite photographs of the Richmond area taken and sold by Levy & Cohen from their Civil War series Views of the Rebel Capital and its Environs. Printed paper labels affixed to their reverse provide titles; six also contain short descriptions. All are in nice shape with light wear and soiling; one card is missing a corner tip that does not affect its image.

The cards in this grouping are:

- View of the Burnt District
- Residence of Gen. Lee
- View of Rockets
- Shipyard
- Capitol Building
- View of Capitol Square
- Penitentiary
- Richmond from Hollywood
- Ruins of Petersburg Bridge
- Tomb of James Monroe
- Portico of the Executive Mansion
- Drury's Bluff
- Chimborazo Hospital
- Treasury Building
- Libby Prison

Levy & Cohen was a partnership between two Jewish photographers whose office in Philadelphia was located at the corner of Ninth and Filbert Streets. Although the pair advertised themselves as landscape photographers and copyists, they toured Richmond in the summer of 1865 and recorded at least 33 different images. The September 1865 issue of the Philadelphia Photographer reported that

“Messrs. Levy & Cohen, two enterprising young men of our city, have returned with their Globe lens from a trip to the Rebel capital. They have brought with them a series of very fine negatives. . . . They are mostly excellent photographs and embrace all the points of historical interest in and about the city. . . . They have our earnest desires for their success.”

The photograph of Libby Prison is especially interesting as its label notes that “Dick Turner stands in the foreground.” Richard R. (Dick) Turner was the commissary of the Libby Prison and the cousin of its infamous commandant, Captain Thomas Turner. Although I could not find a reference, it strikes me that Levy & Cohen may have ‘borrowed’ this image as a Confederate Battle Flag is flying over the prison, and that is unlikely if the photograph were taken after General Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

Exceptionally scarce. All Levy & Cohen images from this series are rare including the approximately 20 different views that are known to have been sold commercially in cdv format. The Library Company of Philadelphia holds the largest collection of these photographs with 40 cartes-des-visite including duplicates, as well as 33 glass-plate negatives. 17 different CDVs from the series are also held by the Library of Congress. OCLC identifies no other institutional holdings. The Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint show that the images rarely appear at auction. A presentation album with 16 albumen prints measuring approximately 5.5” x 7.5” realized $21,250 at Christie’s auction in October 2010. There are only 10 records of cdv images sold at auction (primarily through eBay) since 2013 with individual prices averaging $610 each and ranging from $279 to over $1,000.

$9,500 #96885
This telegraph message on Vermont & Boston Telegraph Company letterhead is enclosed in an illustrated Vermont & Boston Telegraph Company envelope featuring an American eagle posing in front of a pair of cherubim or putti, spinning the earth as bolts of electricity spring from their fingers. The letterhead records that the telegram was sent from Camden to Mr. Addison Meiltieau (?). There are no postal markings as after the telegraph was received in Vernon, it would have been carried to the local address.

The message announces the sender’s expected arrival day in Vernon.

The Vermont and Boston Telegraph Company was founded in 1848 and eventually stretched between Boston, Massachusetts, and Montreal. It used the Bain telegraphy system, a rival of the one developed by Samuel Morse, until it was acquired by Western Union in 1866.

The Bain system employed a chemical telegraph. The novelty was the receive. It consisted of a disc of paper moistened with a potassium ferrocyanide and ammonium nitrate solution and resting on an iron plate, on which a stylus traced a spiral as the iron plate was turned by clockwork. Whenever a current flowed—and only a slight current was required—electrolysis caused the formation of iron ferrocyanide, or Prussian blue, and a mark was made on the disc. It looked much like a record player of many years later. Bain even constructed a new code of dots and dashes which was purposely different from the Vail (Morse) Code. However, at least one Bain character found its way into the later Morse Code, as well as his numbers.

Later Bain telegraphs used a paper strip instead of the disc, and an iron stylus instead of the iron plate. Potassium iodide could also be used as the chemical, in which case electrolysis would free iodine, and make a brown stain instead of a blue one.

Bain originated automatic sending with a perforated paper tape in 1846. Apertures in the form of dots and dashes were made in the tape, which was run between a conducting brush and roller. Electrolytic reception could be exceptionally fast since there was no mechanical or electrical inertia. However, the inconvenience of maintaining a moist tape led to its disuse” (See “Bain, House and Other Telegraphs” at Calvert’s The Electromagnetic Telegraph online).

$100   #9680
20. [DISASTERS] [EARTHQUAKES] [EDUCATION] [JAPAN] [TRAVEL] “QUITE A JAP” - Photo-Journal documenting an American teacher’s employment in Japan and the destruction caused by the Great Kanto Earthquake. Compiled by Charles Kenneth Lawyer. Tokyo, Himeiji Middle School: 1923-1925.

This album measures approximately 11” x 8” and has 24 leaves filled with over 160 photographs and real photo postcards. Most of the photos range in size between 6” x 4” and 1” x 1.25”. All are glued to the pages which also contain typed descriptions. The heavy card leaves are attached to the black leather album by a string binding. The album has some wear at the edges. Overall, in nice shape.

A registered letter, dated 12 Jan 24, from the “Finance Committee Earthquake Relief Fund” at Kobe is laid-in. The typed letter is on official Relief Fund stationery to which an “American Refugee Relief Committee” handstamp has been applied in purple. It was used to forward a check for “Yen 500” to compensate Lawyer for damages incurred during the Great Kanto Earthquake. The roughly opened envelope was addressed in both English and Japanese and franked with a brown 10s ‘sun and dragonflies’ stamp (Scott #186) that was canceled with a circular Kobe postmark.

The photography and commentary in Lawyer’s album are impressive; the images are well composed and capture life in Himeiji. Many are individually captioned. There are a number of photographs of Lawyer, his friends, and fellow teachers, both American and Japanese, in western and Japanese dress. In two self-portraits (one of which Lawyer captioned, “The Man of the House” and the other “Quite a Jap”) he is shown posing in his hiyori geta sandals, tabi socks, casual yukata robe, and carrying a bullseye oil-paper janomegasa umbrella over his shoulder.

His house, landlord’s son, housekeeper, and dog.

The Himeiji Middle School including its students and Lawyer’s classroom.

Many religious processions and festivals including priests, temples, temple musicians, shrines, pilgrims, etc. Rice, hay, and bamboo farming showing plowing planting, irrigation, transplanting, chaff separation, flailing, threshing, harvesting, cutting, binding, etc.

Community scenes to include dog carts, noodle stands, gathering pine needles for fuel, peddlers, men pulling prodigious wagon loads, vat making, fish selling, kimono laundering, noodle making, Boy Scouts, movie theaters, shoemaking, vegetable selling, etc., and

A number of tourist scenes including Mt. Fuji, and travel by boat and train.
Most importantly, Lawyer has included about 15 vernacular images of the damage and destruction caused by the Great Kanto earthquake including the shell of the Grand Hotel in Yokohama, vast leveled business and residential areas, rubble (with the annotation, “dead . . . it was impossible to care for all of them properly”), a burned streetcar, a landslide, a stream of refugees carrying all they could salvage upon their backs, an improvised camp for refugees, assistance to a man with a heavily bandaged head (with the annotation “A common sight. Hundreds were blinded . . . and had to be helped or abandoned to a terrible death”), and more.

About 140,000 people were killed in the quake, mostly by fires including 38,000 who were incinerated at one time by a ‘fire tornado’ that struck the Rikugun Honjo Hifukusho (the former Army Clothing Depot) where they had taken shelter. In the days immediately following the quake, the Japanese people vented their angst upon the Korean community, massacring 6,000 to 10,000 before their bloodlust abated.

Lawyer graduated from Knox College with a degree in Education and must have been immediately hired to teach English at the Himeiji Middle School. He returned to the United States in 1925 and obtained a master’s degree from Northwestern University. He subsequently earned a doctorate and became a professor at San Diego State University where he taught business management. Lawyer later moved to Texas where he lived at St. Jo, Harlingen, and Leander. Online records suggest he died around 2005.

Without a doubt, this is the nicest and most informative photograph album documenting an American’s view of Japanese life that we have handled, and it is made all the more desirable by Lawyer’s vernacular photos and descriptions of the Great Kanto Earthquake’s aftermath. At the time of listing, there are no photograph albums or collections related to the earthquake for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint identify three albums with earthquake content that have appeared at auction. OCLC shows only one institutional holding of actual photographs (several have digital images) and there is an album documenting the 1929 reconstruction of Yokohama at the National Baseball Hall of Fame; it was presented to a team of traveling Major League All-Stars in 1931.

SOLD #9675
This large broadside, measuring approximately 17” x 21.5”, announces the upcoming public defense of 127 academic theses by students who would be graduating from Harvard College in August of 1766. It has some minor edgewear and light soiling. There are storage folds with some splits reinforced on the reverse with what appears to be tissue and/or archival tape.

The 127 disputations announced within this broadside are grouped into eight categories: ethics, metaphysics, mathematics, physics, grammar, rhetoric, technology, and theology.

Broadsides, similar to this one, were issued from Harvard’s first commencement in 1642 until 1810. The student defenses were based on the traditional European practice of public student disputations. These broadsides which had been constructed in conjunction with the faculty summarized the students’ theses had been designed to demonstrate mastery of their curricular foci.

(For more information about disputations, both in general and at Harvard, see Rudolph’s The American College & University: A History, Thelin’s A History of American Higher Education, and “Commencement Theses, Quaestiones, and Orders of Exercises” online at Harvard Library.)

This broadside was issued at the height of New England’s infuriation by the Stamp Act. At the time, both Francisco Bernardo (Sir Francis Bernard), the Governor of Massachusetts, and Thomae Hutchinsono (Thomas Hutchinson), the Lieutenant Governor, were reviled and under constant threat of attack by much of the populace. Edward Holyoke was Harvard’s 9th President.

Scarce. At the time of listing there are no similar Harvard broadsides printed in any year for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only three auction sales for similar broadsides since 1916. OCLC identifies several similar digital and microform copies, but physical examples are only held at two institutions besides Harvard, although some also appear to be in the Library of Congress collection.

$1,200  #9688
Two separate pages, each measuring approximately 7.5” x 12”. In Greek. Pencil docketing reads:

“Printer’s copy for an examination-paper, in the handwriting of Professor James Hadley, 1865. Attest: Franklin B. Dexter, 1902.”


In 1865, freshman in Yale’s “Academical Department” studied only five subjects: Greek (primarily Homer’s Odyssey and the works of Herodotus according to Lucian), Latin (Livy), Roman history, Algebra, and Euclidian geometry. This test was the capstone of first-year Greek and consists of five questions, each with several components. All involve “dialect”, “Attic form”, “derivation”, and the analysis of several passages of Greek text.

Hadley was a noted 19th-century philologist and for the 1865 academic year, he served as Yale’s “Professor of the Greek Language and Literature” in its “Academical Department” after previously serving as the professor of Hebrew in the college’s “Theological Department.” In addition to Greek and Hebrew, Hadley was fluent in Latin, Sanskrit, Arabic, Armenian, several Celtic tongues, and most modern European languages. He was also an accomplished mathematician and so well versed in Civil Law that his lectures were incorporated in the law curricula of both Yale and Harvard.

Dexter, a member of both the Linonian Society and Skull and Bones while a student, served as the Yale Secretary from 1869-1899 and in 1912 was appointed as Librarian Emeritus after retiring as the library director in 1911.

There is considerable information available online about Yale’s 1860’s curriculum and professors Hadley and Dexter.

An excellent testament showing what was required of beginning college students in the mid-1800s. At the time of this listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only one auction record (from 1912) for an early Yale examination. OCLC reports that some early examinations from the Yale Medical School are located within the university’s archives.

$275 #9686

Eleven variously sized, letters sent by a Honolulu high school girl to her junior high pen-pal in Chicago. Together the letters contain about 35 pages of manuscript text. A couple of the letters have drawings of girls’ faces. Three are enclosed in their original mailing envelopes postmarked Honolulu, Hawaii. The letters are in nice shape; the envelopes show postal and opening wear.

Gladys Sen and her family lived on North Kukui Street on the border between Chinatown and downtown Honolulu. Connie Serpe lived in Summit, Illinois, at the time a Cook County agricultural village about ten miles southwest of Chicago.

The letters shed light upon the elements of popular culture that appealed to teenage girls in the late 1930s, and they contain considerable small talk about

Favorite magazines (Look, Click, Famous Funnies),

Favorite movie stars (Robert Colman, Nelson Eddy, Deanna Durbin, Bobby Breen), favorite movies (“Did you see the picture ‘The Three Ritz Brothers of the Kentucky Moonshine.’ I did. . . . I went to see it in the Hawaii Theatre. Oh boy! Oh boy! It was swell!”),

Favorite sports (basketball, swimming, tennis, badminton, hiking),

Favorite hobbies (collecting fashion illustrations, sewing, drawing, letter writing),

Unfounded fears (airship and passenger liner disasters), and

Appearance concerns (“I’m too goofy in my picture . . . ugly like a rat [and] Yes, I have taken a permanent wave. . . . Notice Special!!! My brother Mannfried saw your picture and he’s trying to express his view points about you. ‘Quote he,’ Connie is very gorgeous and carries a sweetest smile . . . with glittering brown eyes which tends to attract her personal admirers. Her herald’s hair glistened like the rays of the sun. . . .”)

However, they also contain a good bit of information about life as a Chinese-American (probably) teenager in Hawaii as Gladys describes Honolulu life to “Palsy Walsy” Connie:

“I’m so glad you are studying about the Hawaiian Islands or Honolulu in school. I hope it will give you an idea about us. . . . What are you plan to do during the summer vacation. I think I’m to go to a summer school. . . . I may try to go all the parties, picnics, hikings, swimmings . . . at the Waikiki Beach. . . .”

“This is my daily class program . . . House Planning & Decorating . . . Weaving . . . Physical Education . . . Block Printing . . . Study Hall . . . Core Studies . . . Core Studies. . . . The worst class I go to is Core Studies because the girls and boys look so tough. ‘A bunch of roughnecks’ . . . I can foresee the future of my 12
year grade will be an unsuccessful one [however] I've been very busy taking charge of our school carnival . . . our third Annual ‘Merry go-round’ Carnival. . . . All indications paint to a bigger and better one than ever before with fun, prizes, food and shows galore . . . a queen reigning [and] this year, a king will share her throne . . . We have sideshows, food, country stores, music, rummage sales, concessions and other entertainments. . . . There’s ice cream, hot dogs, soda water, hamburgers and other ‘ono kau kau’ which meant ‘good eats for hungry people.’ The side shows will include a minstrel, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, Hawaiian Hula Dances, Filipino, Frankie and Johnnie . . . We have been very busy.

"I always hiked with . . . a group of 12 kids. Oh boy! Whatta fun we had climbing up the mountains, picking guavas, . . . mountain apples or ginger flowers. ‘Them days are gone forever.’ . . . picking mountain apples is quite difficult, because it is very slopey. But picking ginger flowers it is very easy, because our garden is just flooded with them. They have two kinds of colors, the white and the yellow. But the white gingers have the sweetest odor than the yellow ones. It has four petals. I’ll try to send you a press one. . . ."

"On New Year’s midnight all over the town- the people celebrated with firecrackers for over an hour. They were lots of noisemakers enjoying themselves, nothing but firecrackers sound or echo all around . . . if you were not used to noise you can’t possibly sleep the whole night huh? . . . I did enjoyed this day very much making whoopees with my brother. All the way downtown you can see the boys and girls wearing the finest clothes going to a dance etc. . . ."

“I was rather surprised to hear that your teacher wishes to have a letter from Honolulu. Nevertheless, I . . . hope my letter will be of interest to the class. . . . It here fleet of Islands none other than three thousand miles south of California, even farther from you native state of Illinois. It’s just sunset time in the Paradise. I could just imagine myself from the bright Island of Oahu. Someday I may venture [from] the sandy corals and cocoanut palms. The soft waves of the blue seas calmly dashed across the sandy shores. Day light with glittering blue skies, gradually disappeared, was a deep purple now. A mile down the sea shore, the harbor lights twinkle out on the distant shore. The shadows cast by the tall cocoanut palms lengthened and deepened. Hence the light of the setting sun flamed on the Diamond Head and tinted with gold sweeping in the coral reefs. For this was the ‘Paradise of Pacific,’ the crossroad of the seven seas. . . . With the aid of my poetic brother I was able to write the ‘Hawaiian Sunset’ No books to work with (not boasting or bragging eh.). . . .

An unusual and uncommon record of a teenage girl’s life in Honolulu during the late 1930s. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and there are no auction records for similar items listed by Worthpoint or the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows nothing similar held by any institution.

SOLD  #9663
24. [FOSSILS] [MASTODON] [NATURAL HISTORY] [PALEONTOLOGY] “GREAT AMERICAN MASTODON . . . NO ANIMAL LIVING APPROACHES THIS IN SIZE” - Large broadside advertising the discovery and display of the “Great American Mastodon” skeleton that turned the religious and scientific worlds on their heads. Discovered by Nathaniel Brewster at Newburgh, New York. Exhibited at Harford and New Haven, Connecticut: 1846

This famous broadside measures 18” x 25.5” and is in exceptionally nice shape with some insignificant toning. The text reads in part

“GREAT AMERICAN MASTODON!! . . . / The SKELETON of this gigantic animal was discovered in the month of August last on the farm of Mr. Nathaniel Brewster . . . embedded in a marl pit. . . . / NO ANIMAL LIVING APPROACHES THIS IN SIZE . . . / 20,000 Pounds . . .”

In the fall of 1845, an astonished crowd at Gilman’s Saloon in Hartford first viewed the skeleton of an extinct giant American Mastodon that had been recently found at a marl pit near Newburgh, New York. At the time, the Harford Courant reported “We can hardly believe that a race of animals has inhabited this country, each one as large as three or four Elephants, but here is the proof before our eyes.” Its skeleton was 29 feet long and 12 feet high with 10-foot tusks, and the discovery raised innumerable questions at the time when emerging scientific hypotheses about the world’s origin had begun to seriously conflict with long-standing theological beliefs about the earth’s creation. The emergence of an obviously extinct, possibly pre-human species, potentially refuted the second chapter of Genesis although it partially supported the first.

In time, the skeleton was purchased by Harvard Professor John Warren, who built a special museum for it in Boston where the mastodon remained until purchased by J. Pierpont Morgan for the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. It is still on display there today.

At the time of this listing, no other examples are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows that only three have appeared at auction since 1888, and OCLC reports that three physical examples are held by institutions; one each at the Library of Congress, the New York Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society.

SOLD  #9669

Three different Masonic promotional broadside posters:

“I Love to Love a MASON / ‘Cause a Mason never tells” – 6¾” x 10”. The illustration features a nicely dressed, attractive young woman whose arms are around the neck of a mason in work clothes with a trowel and mortar-splattered shirt. A small masonic symbol (Square and Compass with a G) is centered in the text. “1908 by Bergan Publishing Co. 32 Union Sq. N.Y.”

“Let’s End all the Discontent / Elect a MASON President!” – 6¾” x 10” The illustration features Uncle Sam, the White House, and a large Square and Compass in the background. Probably Bergan Publishing, 1908. No publisher is identified, but the size, style, and typeface are almost identical to the Bergan poster above. During the 1908 presidential election only one of the candidates, William Jennings Bryan, was a Mason. William Howard Taft was not. However, after Taft was elected, but before he was inaugurated, Taft was made a Mason at Sight in Ohio Lodge where his father and brothers were members.

“I dearly love a MASON, because / a Mason’s ‘ON THE SQUARE’!” – Approximately 8’ x 10”. The illustration features a man and woman cuddling while seated upon a giant Square and Compass. “Copyright 1908 Ullman Mfg. Co. N.Y.”

Each of these posters has occasionally appeared individually in eBay auctions.

$150  #9660

This manuscript letter from a father to his son measures 5”x8”. In nice shape but laid-down years ago on a period marbled book-board. Its accompanying “½ gr of native gold taken out . . . at the mouth of Atlantic Gulch by my own hand” is no longer present. Transcript will be provided. The letter reads in part

“To be kept as a momento of your Three years’ residence in this camp. In years to come it will recall to your mind this place and the Indian Massacres, the white men you saw brought into town kild and scalped as they was mining, not one half a mile out of Town. The long cold winter of 1872 with cabbin buried in snow the mercury 40 below zero, part of this gold you took out with your own hand a few days after your tenth birthday year Jan. 19th, 1872.”

Sweet Water, just south of present-day Lander, was Wyoming’s gold mining center from the late 1860s until the mid-1870s. In 1867, a group of Mormon prospectors found some gold along the banks of Willow Creek just north of the Oregon Trail at the southeastern end of the Wind River Mountains. After the discovery of a large gold-rich quartz vein—named the Atlantic Ledge due to its location on the east side of the continental divide—the boom was on. After three entrepreneurs platted a town and sold lots to accommodate the prospectors, Atlantic City was born. In its heyday, about 2,000 people lived in the town which included a church, general store, dance hall, brewery, opera house, school, drug store, and a “French” area with several saloons and brothels.

The “Indian Massacres” Lewis reports occurred in a 23-month span between August 1868 and June 1870. At least twenty miners and homesteaders were killed by the Arapahoe, Sioux, and Cheyenne in the Sweet Water region, and many more were attacked and wounded. Almost all the dead suffered horrible mutilations, the most notorious being those inflicted on Henry Morgan, whose sinews were cut from from his arms, legs, and back to use as bowstrings. Also, a long bolt from his wagon was driven so deep into his forehead that the undertaker was unable to remove it before his burial.

The depredations only stopped after locals publicly requested military assistance and elements of the 7th Infantry and 11th Cavalry established a fort (alternately known as Camp Augur, Camp Brown, and Fort Stambaugh) at what is now Lander, Wyoming. (For more information, see “Indian Treachery in Wyoming: Massacre of Whites by Peaceful Indians,” New York Herald, 4 Apr 1870, Nickerson’s Scrapbook from Wyoming State Archives Microfilm online at Rootsweb, “Indian Battles of the Sweetwater Mining District” online at Legends of America, Huseas’s Sweetwater Gold, and “Atlantic City” online at UltimateWyoming.

Gold rush letters from Wyoming are far scarcer that those from California or the Dakotas, and it is possible no others address the miner massacres of Atlantic Gulch. At the time of this listing no Wyoming gold rush letters are for sale in the trade, and OCLC reports that only two institutions hold any within their collections. There are no auction records for any similar letters at the Rare Book Hub or Worthpoint.

$950  #9671
For additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

27. [HAWAII] [PHILATELY] [PHOTOGRAPHY] [VOLCANOS] SOUVENIR OF THE ERUPTION OF KILAEUA VOLCANO FROM THE HAWAII NATIONAL PARK’S OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER—First airmail flight souvenir cover from Hilo, Hawaii to the U.S. mainland featuring a vibrant color photograph of the eruption which had occurred the month before. K. (Kenichi) Maehara to T. C. Vint, the Chief Landscape Architect of the National Park Service. Hawaii National Park: 1934.

This giant first-flight postcard measures 10” x 8”. It features the official postal service map cachet commemorating the first airmail from Hawaii to the mainland in the upper left corner along with a map of Hawaii and one of Maehara’s classic red and black photographs of Kilauea’s eruption titled “Eruption of Kilauea Volcano Sept 6th 1934  Hawaii National Park”.

The card is franked with three U.S. stamps (Scott #s 720, 739, and C19) that have been canceled with Hilo, Hawaii duplex postmarks dated October 8, 1934. Printed text on the reverse reads, “Commemorating the Inauguration / of / Inter Island Air Mail service / K. Maehara / Volcano Photo Studio. Ltd. Hawaii National Park” accompanied by two National Park filing handstamps applied after its arrival in San Francisco. Light soiling. In nice shape.

After three years of quiet, the Kilauea Volcano (which is still active today) erupted on September 6, 1934, sending three huge lava fountains shooting skyward from the crater floor followed by thirty smaller jets as well. Within a few hours, the crater floor was covered with lava, 60 feet deep. As its surface cooled molten lava oozed up from the cracks that developed in the darkening crater floor.

Maehara was a prominent Hawaiian photographer who owned the Camera Craft Shop in Hilo and operated the National Park’s photo studio that was adjacent to the on-site hotel, the Volcano House. Maehara specialized in developing, printing, enlarging, coloring, and framing pictures, photographs, and lantern slides of park and island scenes. He also sold postcards, some from photographs taken by others. The photograph on this card was undoubtedly taken by Curt Teich and offered to Maehara, who first rejected the black and red image until a colorist brightened up the lava glow. (For more information about Kilauea, Maehara, and Teich, see Von Boul’s “Greetings from Hawaii” online at Hana Hou! Magazine and the National Parks Service 1936 brochure “Hawaii (comprising Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakakala) Circular of General Information”).

Interestingly, the 1934 eruption ended on October 8th, the day this first flight cover was mailed and departed from Hilo for San Francisco. While generic Inter-Island first flight covers and postcards of the eruption are frequently available for sale, impressive large Maehara produced commemorative covers are not. While this is probably not the only extant example, it is likely Maehara produced no more than a few of these cards to send to friends and business associates.

SOLD  #9662
28. [HORSES & CATTLE] [MINING] [PHILATELY] [SALT] OVER TWO TONS OF SALT IS SHIPPED FROM THE LARGEST SALT MINE IN NORTH AMERICA TO ONE OF THIS COUNTRY’s LARGEST HORSE AND CATTLE BREEDING FARMS. – Small packet of materials related to the shipment of “lump salt” from the Retsoff Mining Company to the Powell Brothers’ “Shadeland” stock farm. Foster & Brown to Messers Powell Brothers. Retsof, New York to Springboro, Pennsylvania: 1888.

This grouping contains a March 10th, 1888 bill of lading from the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad Company, a shipping notice from Foster & Brown who were agents of the “Retsof Mining Co., Miners and Shippers of Salt,” and the two-cent green stamped envelope used for their mailing. All in nice shape.

Until the late 1800s, the need for salt in New York was met primarily by harvesting salt from brine springs near Syracuse.

However, in 1882, an amateur geologist named Carroll Cocher predicted that there were vast underground deposits of salt in Livingston County. He obtained funding from several New York City investors and dug test wells that discovered his predicted massive vein of salt 1,000 feet below the surface.

Cocher’s principal investor, William Foster, became president of the mining company which he named Retsof, i.e. Foster spelled backwards. Foster and the Retsof Mining Company built a company village, Retsof, near the mine to house managers and workers. Most of the workers were recent Italian immigrants and the village became well-known as “Little Italy.” The operation quickly became the largest salt mine in North America and the second largest in the world. It continued in operation until a 1994 earthquake caused a partial collapse, and its tunnels filled with water.

The Powell Brothers operated The Shadeland, an immense stock farm of national renown, in Crawford County, Pennsylvania that contained more than 1,000 acres of choice land, located a mile north from Spring Borough. Its facilities included over 50 large stone barns, stables, and outbuildings where its corps of employees bred Clydesdale and trotting horses as well as Holstein and Devon cattle.

$100  #9681
29. [HUNKPAPA SIOUX] [MESCALERO APACHE] [NATIVE AMERICANS] [PHOTOGRAPHY] [SITTING BULL] [UTE] PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITTING BULL, FENNO, AND DINERO BOY; Four cabinet card photographs sold by the western photographer, D. [David] Rodocker. Winfield, Kansas: D. Rodocker, circa 1890.

All four photographs are mounted on cabinet cards reading “D. Rodocker, Winfield, Kansas.” Subjects in three of the four photographs are identified within the print. All have some soiling; one has a horizontal crease.

One of the cards shows Louis Fenno, the greatest Ute artist, and his wife. It is titled “Fenno and Squaw Ute”. Fenno was killed in 1903 by a white clerk during a gunfight at a trading post near Myton, Utah. (See “Passing of Myton’s Old Log Indian Trading Post and First Building” in the Duchesne Record, 1 September 1911, available online at Utah Digital Newspapers.) There is a cursive note in pencil on the reverse that reads, “An Indian man & wife of the Ute tribe.”

A second card shows Dinero Boy and his wife. It is titled, both within the image and in ink, “Dinero Boy apache”. As part of a Mescalero Apache raiding party, Dinero Boy and his brother Chevato kidnapped young Herman Lehmann in one of the most famous incidents of white children being captured by Native Americans. This photo shows Dinero Boy later in life, possibly while serving as a member of the tribal police although he wears no badge. (See Chebahta and Minor’s Chevato: The Story of the Apache Warrior who Captured Herman Lehman.) There is a cursive note in pencil on the reverse that reads, “These are members of the Apache tribe.”

A third card shows Sitting Bull posed in a studio setting. It is titled “Sitting Bull”. Rodocker appears to have ‘borrowed’ this impressive image of the famous Hunkpapa Sioux chief from Wisconsin photographer, D. F. Barry, who has been credited in several auction listings as having taken the picture while at Bismarck, North Dakota during the 1880s. However, it is also possible that Rodocker originally made this photograph, and it was later ‘borrowed’ by Barry as David Rodocker first opened his studio in Winfield, Kansas in 1871 and later periodically traveled throughout the west taking photos until 1894. The image is somewhat over-exposed.

The fourth image is of two unidentified American Indian girls.

For more information about David Rodocker, see “D. Rodocker: Photographer, Winfield” at Historical Resources from Mary Ann and Richard Kay Wortman on the History of Cowley County, Kansas, available online.

SOLD #9658
The two highlights of this exceptional lot are:

Moore’s file copy of a single-spaced, five-page 1927 typed memoir for the Commander of the National Indian War Veterans that vividly details his combat experiences between 1869-1873 during the Indian Wars in Utah and the Yellowstone-Stillwater Region of Wyoming and Montana including battles at Big Popo Agie, Atlantic Gulch, and Miners Delight. Moore related that he decided to write this memoir because “those familiar with the past have all, I believe, answered the last call and the record may . . . be left out and forgotten.” Just a few abbreviated excerpts from his spellbinding narrative include:

“I was given another detail and to deliver the second train of supplies to Fort Laramie . . . before the Sioux would be roving the country looking for scalps. The delivery was made all right but not without much cause for apprehension. . . . When at camp for the night we could hear the continuous beating of their ‘tom-toms’ and their monotonous voice in their war-dance exercises, but to the surprise of all we made the trip without scap. . . .”

“I was detailed to go to South Pass for mail. The trip was made and the mail delivered without the loss of my hair, but with a bullet hole through the stock of my gun. . . . It was a very close call for my head. I dropped two shots from my trusty Navey into the clump of brush, and laying close on my horse’s neck lost no time in putting distance between us. . . .”

“Our line of march was along the valley of the Little Wind River . . . in order to be sure that no Indians were in that section watching our movements and ready to attack . . . there were some twenty good men and First Lieut. Charles B. Stambaugh . . . was as game as they make them. Fully expecting trouble with the Sioux . . . each man was to carry not less than 40 rounds of carbine cartridges and 12 rounds for their Navy. . . . 7000 rounds of cartridges was carried o pack mules. . . . [I] observed two Indians on their ponys [and the Lieutenant] immediately order 24 men to saddle up . . . we rode on the jump . . . we come in sight of quite a large band of Indians. . . . Seeing that we had been discovered and satisfied the fight portion of the band was under cover of a low foot-hill in front of us, we formed a skirmish line . . . when one of our men seen the Indians passing a little opening [to] secure the high ground . . . corralling us in the low ground. . . . they outnumbered us 10 to one [and] kept up a steady fire. . . . We were ordered to lie down . . . and make every shot count. In this position the fight kept up for three hours when the Indians withdrew. . . . [As] the Indians had made no move, we returned to camp. The enemy was waiting for an opportunity to remove their dead and wounded. Our casualties for the day was one man killed, three wounded and 14 horses killed and wounded. The rest of our horses carried two riders on our return to Camp.
At a temporary camp near Atlantic Gulch, “while grooming our horses before breakfast, the Indian alarm was given; combs and brushes were dropped and every man was in the saddle before another sound was given . . . every man dashed out . . . at the Indians the moment he was ready. . . . I made a quick look through the camp to see that no man was shirking, found myself the only occupant . . . and run on to three Indians taking the hoppies off two mules . . . not 65 yards from me. The ball opened [and] the mules were saved, but one red-skin made his get-away by having a faster horse. . . . I immediately joined the nearest squad. [When] the Indians scattered . . . the Boys followed suit, fighting in small squads . . . until dusk. . . . the enemy was licked to a finish and driven 25 to 30 miles from our camp. Our loss was 1st Lieutenant Charles B. Stambaugh . . . Sgt. Brown seriously wounded being shot through the face, breaking both jaws, going through the tongue teeth. . . . We had other skirmishes in this section; in fact it was one continuous scouting and skirmishing in an effort to keep them away from the few miners and the little businesses. . . . After this strenuous summer duty we were order to return to Fort Bridger, thence to Camp Douglas [and] Salt Lake City. . . .”

Moore was correct in believing the actions of the 2nd Cavalry in the Sweetwater-Yellowstone region would be forgotten. Mention of these actions is nearly nonexistent in published accounts. Those that can be found—including in official Army records—devote merely a battle title and date. Only one webpage blog entry, “Indian Battles of the Sweetwater Mining District” at Legends of America, online, provides some detail.

Plus,

Moore’s 1881 daily diary (transcript will be included), was kept while he led one of the last wagon trains up the Montana Trail from Salt Lake City to Bozeman. The Montana Trail, which ran from Salt Lake City well into Montana, was one of the shortest and most dangerous of the western trails. Initially used by settlers and gold miners, by the late 1870s (after the fledgling Mormon Utah & Northern Railroad was acquired by the infamous Robber Baron, Jay Gould, who completed the line the way to the copper fields at Butte), it was primarily a freight route for pack and wagon trains led by muleskinners and bullwhackers. (It has received as scant attention as the Sweetwater-Yellowstone Indian War battles. Besides a short Wikipedia entry there are only two published accounts about the trail, Edrington’s Brigham Young University dissertation, A Study of Early Utah-Montana Trade, Transportation, and Communication, 1847-1881 and the Madsens’ North to Montana: Jethus, Bullwackers, and Mule Skinners on the Montana Trail.)

Excerpts from Moore’s daily accounts suggest that rather than transporting wholesale goods to Montana merchants, he delivered supplies to individual ranchers.

16-20 Aug -” Left Salt Lake at 20 minutes past 8. A. M. arrived in Ogden at 7 P.M. last 12 miles over very heavy sandy road 40 M No grass Departed from Ogden at 1030 A.M. having to layover a while to make
For additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

repares. arrived at Brigham City at 5 P.M. 28 M Good grass . . . Left Hamptons Bridge at 630 A.M. got to Malad City at 3 P.M. rested 14 M and went on to Kennedy’s Station went in to Camp at 430 36 miles Crossed the dividing line between Utah & Idaho at 5’ to 12. Dillon very sick all night. Some grass . . . Got away from Kennedy’s station at 7 A. M. pulled at the Harknesses Ranch [near Fort Hall] on the Ponnnteuf at 4 P.M. 31 Miles No grass

23-30 Aug - Hitched our tugs at 7 A.M. drove to Black foot and stopped 15 minutes to make pancakes moved on to Eagle Rock miles traveled 34 arrived at 4 O.Clock P.M. no grass . . . Took up our line of march at 7 A.M. jogged along till 430 P.M. 30 M. Camped at Williams Junction. Good grass Left Williams Junction at 630 crossed the line into Montana and traveled to Raymonds Stud Ranch at the head of Ruby Valley and went into camp at 630 No grass distance traveled 45 M Cold frost and ice. Road long through rough mountain passes Broke camp at 8 A.M. drove to Black’s Ranch through a driving rain storm stopped 2 times and resumed our march at 1230 got to the Gallitin River a 525 and went into camp Poor Grass

1-9 Sep –" Left Bozeman at 8 O’Clock passed through Ft. Ellis and drove on through Hoppess Ranch through a hard rain and was compelled to camp 16 m Could not picket our horses on a/a of cold rain Rolled out at 930 on heavy roads drove to a camp on the Yellow Stone River 12 miles below Shields River and went into camp at 5 ocklock 29 m. Poor grass Broke camp at 645 drove 28 miles and went into camp on the Yellow Stone 2 miles below Big lumber at 340 23 m. Poor grass. Very sandy . . . Laid over on account of rain. went in company with Mr. H Harrison and looked at some land, took dinner with Mr Harrison, retired to camp about 6 P.M. No grass convenient . . . Broke camp at 745 drove to a camp on the Y.S. River 3 miles below Stillwater and went into camp 5 oClock 28 M good grass Broke camp at 645 drove to Young’s [sic – Yount’s] Point 15 M and took lunch and fed left Young’s [sic – Yount’s] Point 115 P.M. drove to Anderson’s Ranch and went in to camp at 445 16 M Good Grass, no grain Spent the day in looking over the vally, righting letters, cooking and shooting ducks &c." [Although Yellowstone National Park was dedicated in 1872 and hunting was prohibited, there simply was not sufficient staff to prevent it until the U.S. Army arrived to protect the site in 1886. Until then—as evidenced in the entries below—rampant poaching continued unabated.]

10-21 Sep - "This day was occupied in riding over the country writing letters &c, visited Carlson Mr Anderson hitched his horses and drove us up the river to Young’s [sic – Yount’s] Point in order to look at the country returned at 230 and spent the afternoon in hunting ducks Remained in cabbin cooking, cleaning shells and reloading cartriges. Dillon goes a fishing caught none. Anderson rides down the river to Carlson to get some freight to hall . . . All drove to Carlson and spent the day looking at the country . . . Broke camp at 7 O.C. drove to camp on Pompey Pillar Creek 4 miles from Ball Mountain and spent the afternoon in fixing a comfortable camp 20 M . . .
22-29 Sep - Started to prospect the country for game and water, found water near the mountains and some black tail deer returned to camp about 1 O.C. found some buffalo there gave chase and killed 3. got back to camp at 6. I went into the mountains early this morning & killed one deer and all got back to camp about noon. had dinner. John and I went out to skin a buffalo returned about 5 O.C. saw some buffalos above camp Killed 2 Started out and skinned the two buffalo killed the previous day, went on to the mountains I killed a deer, we then had dinner with some other campers, after dinner we made a scout found some buffalo and killed 5 and then started for camp which we reach in good time . . . Left camp early to skin buffalo, got through with this job and took a little hunt up the canyon I killed a deer we then returned to camp where we remained the balance of the day . . . Left camp in the morning (cold) found some buffalo killed 1 hunted all day found no more game Went out and skinned a bull hunted all day and found no game."

Moore’s trail entries stop at this point, however there are several more pages of random information and shopping lists not related to the journey.

Other items in the archive include:

Moore’s 1871 appointment certificate as a First Sergeant in the 2nd Cavalry Regiment,
His 1873 U.S. Army discharge certificate,
Two 1883-1884 Territory of Utah certificates appointing him as a Deputy Registration Officer in Stockton,
Two impressive 1887 Territory of Montana commissioning certificates appointing him as a First Lieutenant and Captain in the Montana National Guard,
A cryptic, code-filled letter received in 1899 from Little Trail Creek (Gardiner, Montana at the north entrance to Yellowstone Valley),
A 1912 appointment and follow-on correspondence as a Department of Agriculture National Forest Examiner at Missoula,
File copies of Moore’s correspondence with lawyers and the Governor of Montana regarding a spurious 1913 lawsuit filed by the widow of a former mining partner,
Assorted papers relating to savings, investments, insurance, cemetery plots, and the resolution of Moore’s and his wife’s estates,
A copy of Moore’s service record obtained from the National Archives, and
For additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

On-line genealogical information about Moore from Ancestry.com and the American Civil War Research Database.

Moore was born in Fleming County, Kentucky in 1848, and during the Civil War, enlisted at the age of 15 as a Corporal in Kentucky’s 1st Capital Guards at Frankfort. In 1868, after a few years of farming following the war, he enlisted in the 2nd Cavalry Regiment for a term of five years. At the time, the 2nd Cavalry units were not consolidated at any particular post but rather were dispersed among small forts and camps scattered throughout several western states and territories. During most of Moore’s enlistment, he was stationed at Fort D. A. Russell (now Warren Air Force Base) near Cheyenne, and he regularly patrolled the Stillwater-Yellowstone area of Montana and Wyoming. He rose in rank quickly and was promoted to First Sergeant of his troop in 1871. Following his discharge in 1873, Moore settled in Stockton, Utah where he married and opened a saloon. It would appear that Moore was fond of the Stillwater-Yellowstone region, and, as an experienced Army muleskinner and bullwhacker, was hired to lead an 1881 freight trip up the Montana Trail where he was able to search for possible homesteads. Following his return to Stockton, Moore and his family relocated to Dillon, Montana, where he dabbled in mining, served as an under-sheriff, and eventually became a senior Forest Examiner for the Department of Agriculture. The Moores remained in Montana until their mid-70s when they moved to California to live near their son. Robert Moore died in 1928, shortly after writing his detailed memoir.

The two unique and exceptionally scarce personal accounts in this archive, each a historical treasure in its own right, are treasure-troves of previously unpublished information.

First-hand accounts of freighting on the Montana Trail, are practically non-existent. As noted by the Madsens’, “Very few freighters were literate enough or had enough interest to record the incident of travel on the trail to Montana. Therefore, [the diary of] William Woodward, a Mormon freighter from Cache Valley, Utah, has some significance. . . .” Sales, auction, and institutional records confirm this diary’s rarity. At the time of this listing, no other first-person accounts of travel on the Montana Trail are for sale in the trade. No others have been sold at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and none are held by institutions per OCLC.

All first-person accounts from the 2nd Cavalry during the Indian Wars are scarce. No others are currently for sale in the trade. No others have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and although seven first person accounts (letters and short diaries) of Indian Wars service with the 2nd Cavalry are held by institutions per OCLC, none of them are related to military operations in the Stillwater-Yellowstone region.

$9,000 #9670
The vernacular photographs in this archive, most of which were taken by Teresa M. Browne, a high school sophomore who would not graduate from Vallejo High until 1907, document the Russian Cruiser Lena’s stay in San Francisco. The archive’s two letters describe the Lena’s subsequent voyage to Hawaii through the eyes of her much older Russian paramour, Lieutenant Pavel Yarovenka (Jarowenka). Other related ephemera and artifacts are also included.

This fascinating archive consists of

A photograph album titled “T. Browne / Lena / 1904-’05” with about 90 posed and candid photographs ranging in size from about 3.5” square to 5” x 7”. Most appear to have been taken by Teresa, who is pictured holding her camera in several. Some were taken by a crewmember before, during, and after the ship’s stay in San Francisco. Many are captioned in red ink on the photo, on the reverse, or on the page.

The photos include images of the ship, its crew, its officers, and their wives. Several show Lieutenant Yarovenka, Teresa’s much older paramour.

One photo shows officers fencing; one shows officers boxing, and one shows a crewmember in diving gear preparing to go over the side.

One photograph shows crewmembers lined up possibly to receive mail or passes for shore leave, and another shows a work detail of ten sailors scrubbing the deck.

A few show the watch in foul weather gear.

Some show Teresa with officers and wives enjoying themselves at or in houses in Vallejo.
Several larger images show the *Lena* shortly after its arrival and preparing to depart Mare Island.

A few of the photographs were probably sent later to Teresa by Yarovenka as they show scenes while the ship was in route to Hawaii, dog sledding in the Aleutians or Siberia, and one especially noteworthy image of a convict work detail from the infamous Sagalien (Sakhalin) Island gulag.

Seven of the album’s leaves have separated from the leather-tie binding, which although still functioning is torn and loosely tied. Most of the photos are in nice shape; some have folded or missing corners, and a couple are missing larger pieces.

Two letters and several greeting cards from Yarovenka including a three-dimensional Valentine’s Day display. The letters, both from Honolulu, profess Yarovenka’s undying love, breakup, and fervent desire to kiss the young schooler once more. More importantly, they describe the ship’s harrowing storm-tossed voyage to Hawaii and the Captain’s cowardice.

> “I think you prayed of God very hard for my journey. . . Near Kuril Islands we had many storms and were near wreck . . . snow and hail and poor Lena was like a little box. She could not go forward but was full speed . . . we spoiled so much coal . . . we traded coal and water. It is secret that you do not say this everybody. . . We meted new storm . . . more near wreck because rolling was so big. . . Poor Mrs. Z. Z. never see such big swell and rolling and was . . . afraid to die. Little Rotmanoff’s dog Popu go madness and died. Captain G. lost his head and was look like mad man but today he is brave again. At anchoring he always like this [a hand-drawn picture of a strutting peacock displaying its feathers] but in storm like this [a hand-drawn picture of a cowering chicken]. . . Oh, dearest Tot, if you would know how I felt when I waited to die at every minute . . . I prayed God all time for you, to be you happy and get you good life. . .

> “I have offer to stay in navy but I will not. . . I will return back to you. . . You are my life, my air and for you I will do all what you wish. . . I will return in America on first steamer. . . If the head of the Lena would not be stupid, I should be now in VI and may be in 15-20 days would see you, but poor Lena without of commander . . . couldn’t bring me in VI at time and now I feel angry and sorry with . . . them. . . I think then more we will be mearry then sweeter we will kiss one other when I will meet you, Yes? . . . Well, good-bye – with all my love in 10,000 of kisses.”

A registered envelope with numerous postal routing handstamps and labels sent by Teresa to Yarovenko in Vladivostok that was returned as undeliverable in July 1906.

A separate cdv of Yarovenko in uniform and a larger photo of him in civilian clothes leaning against a tree in the woods.
14 calling cards: 13 from individual Russian naval officers, including Yarovenko, and one collectively from the Lena’s wardroom officers, which is inscribed “Good bye!” and dated 14 October 1905 just before the Lena departed Mare Island.

Five engraved invitations for shipboard events, Tallies (long hat ribbons) from two Russian bezkozyrkas (sailor caps), one from the Lena and one from the Bokii, and

Two blank checks from the Vallejo branch of Bank of America.

In the spring of 1904, the Japanese Navy launched a sneak attack on Port Arthur (today Lushun, China) that bottled up most of Russia’s Pacific Fleet in the harbor where they were soon destroyed by a Japanese army that had surrounded the city. Only a small four-cruiser Russian squadron, based in Vladivostok, survived. One of those ships was the cruiser, Lena, a converted luxury transport. As the ship retained some of its luxury features, several officers were accompanied by their families, not an unusual practice at the time. The Lena, along with the rest of the squadron, set sail soon after the attack on Port Arthur and began to raid Japanese shipping, destroying three large transports including the Hitachi Maru which went down with over 1,200 men aboard.

In September 1904, the Lena appeared without warning in San Francisco Bay, and her captain requested permission to make repairs to the ship’s boilers. Outraged and alarmed, the Japanese consul and Japanese-American trading interests demanded that the Lena be turned back to sea. However, after an inspection by officials, the ship was allowed to remain for repairs with the stipulation that its armaments be removed. Newspapers reported that when the captain and his officers were notified that the ship and crew would be impounded for the war’s duration, they seemed quite pleased with the prospect.

The ship remained at Mare Island Naval Yard until the end of October 1905, when it ostensibly departed for Vladivostok. However, on 11 November, the Lena showed up unannounced in Honolulu. Eventually, U.S. officials surmised the captain had been informed that in the wake of the disastrous war, mutinies were running rampant throughout the Russian navy—the most famous being aboard the Potemkin—and that a revolutionary council had seized control of Vladivostok. To prevent mutiny aboard his ship—where half of the officers and all of the crew supported the revolution—the captain turned south and sailed for Honolulu.

Genealogical research indicates that Teresa M. Browne was most likely the granddaughter of John Mills Browne, a distinguished U.S. Navy physician who helped found Mare Island Naval Ship Yard at Vallejo and was subsequently stationed there for many years until he became the Navy Surgeon General in 1888. Local records indicate that Teresa graduated from Vallejo High School in 1907 so she would have been a high school sophomore in 1904 at the beginning of her relationship with Yarovenka.
As the granddaughter of an important Mare Island naval officer living in Vallejo, Teresa would certainly have been able to meet and befriend the interned Russian officers and their wives, perhaps she may even have done so as an unofficial hostess at the request of the Mare Island commanding officer as the photographs suggest that Teresa’s frequent and unlimited access to the Lena facilitated her friendships with its officers and their wives.

Alas, it appears that Teresa and Pavel never reunited. In addition to the undeliverable mail, the last few dated items in the archive include a 1907 Valentine’s Day card to Teresa not addressed in Yarovenko’s hand,

A small opera guide dated 1909 that bears the initials, “T.M.B.”,

An invitation for “Miss Browne” to attend a dance aboard the USS Maryland in September 1910,

an invitation for “Miss Tot Browne” and “Daddy’ Browne” to attend a social function aboard the Maryland in October 1910,

A photograph of an older Teresa with a different man, dated “Santa Barbara, 1924”,

Two photos of a young boy and elderly gentleman along with a gift card that reads “Dick from ‘Grandpaw’ Xmas 1924”, and lastly,

A letter from a nun consoling Teresa upon her son Dick’s death at a young age.


Copies of newspaper articles including all that were published in the New York Times will be included along with some biographical information about Teresa’s grandfather John Mills Browne and Mare Island Naval Yard.

A fine collection of photographs, correspondence, and artifacts documenting the repair and impoundment of a Russian warship at San Francisco during the Russo-Japanese made slightly spicy by the romantic involvement between its young high school compiler and an officer from the cruiser.

Unique. At the time of this listing nothing remotely similar is for sale in the trade, nor is anything similar found within an institutional collection per OCLC. Neither, has any similar material appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint.

$4,500  #9673
In this letter Abbot describes Dr. John Warren’s surgery to remove a precancerous tumor from his daughter.

“My dear brother & Sister Betty . . . you will leap for joy when I inform you that this moment Dr. Warren has closed the operation upon Phebe’s unfortunate swelling. The time of her suffering was as follows. 9 min’ts in cutting, 14 in taking up the blood vessels, & 22 in Sponging, airing, & dressing the wound. Her conduct, her fortitude & composure were astonishing, & unequaled says the Doctr. It proves to have been a serirous tumor, which would certainly have become a cancer. Every thing is well & promising. She Stays here at Cap Weld’s 4 or 5 days when the Dr. Supposes she can safely be removed to Andover. . . ."

Dr. John Warren was an American patriot and a surgeon in the Continental Army. His brother, Joseph, was a leader of the Sons of Liberty and is most famous for recruiting Paul Revere and William Dawes to spread the alarm when British troops departed Boston for Concord and Lexington. When Joseph was killed at Bunker Hill, John was bayoneted while attempting to recover his body. After recovering, John served in army hospitals and fought in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. After the war, he became a famed surgeon and performed the first abdominal operation in the United States. He founded Harvard Medical School in 1782. (See the American Medical Biographies online and Garrison’s History of Medicine.)

While the location of Phebe’s precancerous growth is not identified, Abbot’s elated letter nonetheless describes an early successful tumor removal by Warren and is a firsthand testament to the doctor’s skill as well as to Phebe’s fortitude while calmly suffering through such a serious and painful 45-minute operation without the benefit of anesthesia. Online genealogical records suggest that Phebe was born in 1799, if so, she would have been about 11 years old at the time of the operation.

Warren performed a similar operation, a mastectomy, on President John Adams’s daughter in 1812, and a letter describing it in the same manner as this one was written by Adams to Dr. Benjamin Rush. Adams’s letter describing Warren’s surgery sold in 1984 for the equivalent of $20,000 in today’s money. Granted, Abbott’s letter does not carry the same cachet as one from Adams, however, his letter describes a similar perilous surgical procedure performed by Warren twelve years earlier.

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of this listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no similar descriptions of Warren’s surgeries are held by institutions per OCLC. As previously noted, there is one similar letter, the Adams’s letter, describing an operation by Warren.

$2,500  #9635

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 9” x 16” unfolded. It is datelined “New York Jan 9th 1819” and bears a red, circular New York City postmark dated January 19 and a manuscript rate mark that reads, “18½”, the cost to mail a letter between 150 and 400 miles.

in this letter, Dr. King explains that although he has been successful medically, his finances are suffering, and he fantasizes about owning a farm:

“My going . . . as yet, is a matter of uncertainty, but whether I go or not, shall want the money I mentioned in my last. If I remain here I cannot get a long without ready [money] & to be under the necessity of calling on my patients the moment they owe me anything is not for my interest. It is not customary for Physicians to call on their customers oftener that twice in a year & many do not oftener than once a year. If I remain here I think it probably that I shall do enough to support me, but shall not be able to collect it so fast as I shall want to use it, consequently shall be under the necessity of getting assistance from somebody . . . . I have no doubt but I shall eventually have a very good business here, & should prefer staying rather that to be moving about, if I can possibly obtain the means of subsistence . . . I have been very successful in what business I have had. I have lately had a very obstinate case of fever & succeeded in effecting a cure contrary to the expectations of the friends of the patient, which will be of benefit to me as for as it is known. . . .

“There will be a large quantity of government land sold in the Illinois territory sold next summer. . . . I suppose a man with five hundred Dollars might by 1000 acres with the utmost safety; he can by a safe calculation meet the other payments from the produce of the land, the possibility of getting to market is increasing the value of the land very rapidly. There is now 40 steamboats on the Mississippi & in the course of next season there will probably be many more, If I could settle in that country it would certainly contribute very much to . . . interest of my children. But I suppose you would be unwilling to rais me five or six hundred Dollars to go into the western country though I am confident it would be more to my interest than to have Chambers farm hear – but as you will think all this visionary I will say no more about it . . . .”

Online genealogical and town histories reveal that Aaron did not make it to Illinois. He had been a young physician in Palmer, Massachusetts before he left with his family for New York in 1817, and he returned to Palmer in 1823 where he practiced medicine until his death in the early 1860s.

$150  #9650
34. [MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR] [MILITARY & WAR] [WOMEN & GIRLS] “GENL CANALIS THE ROBBER AND ASSASSIN WAS DRIVEN, DAY AFTER DAY, FROM RANCHO TO RANCHO UNTIL HE COULD FIND NO REST IN HIS OWN NATIVE MOUNTAINS” – A small archive of letters sent to Colonel Edward G. W. Butler during his command of the 3rd U.S. Regiment of Dragoons during the Mexican-American War. Various authors and various locations. 1847-1848

There are six stampless folded letters in this archive. Three letters from Butler’s wife (one from 1847 and two from 1848) regarding family matters and her management of their Louisiana sugar plantation, an 1848 letter-order from the War Department Adjutant General appointing Butler to investigate General Winfield Scott’s charges against Major General Gideon Pillow, an 1848 letter from General John E. Wool regarding occupation duty in Mexico, and an 1848 post-war letter informing Butler that he is to be presented with a General Officer’s Sword for his performance as the regimental commander of the 3rd U.S. Dragoons and subsequent appointment as the Major General of the Louisiana Militia.

The three letters from Butler’s wife, Francis Park Lewis, sent from Dunboyne, their large sugar plantation in Louisiana’s Iberville Parish, contain a total of about 15 text pages. All are unfranked and un-postmarked suggesting they were likely sent by military courier as all are addressed to “3rd Dragoons U.S.A / Mexico”, two in “Care of Major Eastland” at Brazos Santiago, Texas. The text is cross-hatched and faint in some places. They concern family news, Butler’s health and safety (“On Thursday I had the happiness of receiving your kind welcome letters . . . and rejoice to find you well although Peace is not [yet] certain.”), and Francis’s management of Dunboyne during Edward’s absence (“Write me a letter . . . authorizing me in your name . . . to borrow 20 to 30,000$. . . . At 6 years what a blessing it would be, for we could pay all due and buy negroes besides and easily pay principal and interest.”)

The two-page War Department letter appointing Butler as a member of a court of inquiry with regard to the infamous Scott-Pillow dispute is datelined “Adjutant General’s Office / Washington, January 13, 1848 / General Orders: No. 2”. It is unaddressed and without postal markings. The inquiry investigated charges that Pillow – appointed as a Major General by his long-time friend, President James K. Polk – published an anonymous letter proclaiming that he was personally responsible for the army’s victories at Contreras and Churubusco. When his intrigue was exposed, General Scott had him arrested and court-martialed. Although, all concerned believed him guilty, Pillow escaped conviction and punishment when an associate, Major Archibald W. Burns, claimed that he had written the anonymous letter. Still, Pillow was discharged following the trial. He later served as a general in the Confederate Army where he was reviled as an incompetent coward. (See Sifakis’s Who Was Who in the Civil War).

The letter from General Wool, Butler’s commander during the subsequent occupation of Mexico and one of the most respected and capable commanders of the war, is datelined “Monterey / 2d March 1848”. It was no doubt hand-delivered as it bears neither an address nor any postal markings. In it, Wool apologizes for being too busy to write a formal letter but assures Butler that he approves of “the course you have pursued toward [General] Canales and the Mexicans” and clarifies that the reason he issued an “order of amnesty” was “in consequence of the disappearance of the guerrillas. . . .” He also
assures Butler that he will deal with the Quartermaster’s refusal to provide horses needed by the Dragoons.

The final letter in this group was sent to Butler after the 3rd Dragoon Regiment was disbanded following the war, and he returned home and was appointed as a Major General in the Louisiana Militia. It was from a committee representing Butler’s “affectionate friends” and datelined “Bayou Goula Aug the 30th 1848.” It, too, was hand-delivered as it bears no postal markings. In it, the committee informed Butler that he was to be presented with a sword recognizing that it was through his actions “that Genl Canalis the Robber and Assassin was driven, day after day, from Rancho, to Rancho until he could find no rest in his own native mountains . . . thereby preventing much loss of valuable lives and property.” Butler’s sword, a M1840 General Officer’s Sword was recently sold at Michael Simens’ Historical Antiques.

Edward George Washington Butler, a ward of Andrew Jackson, graduated from West Point in 1820. After spending ten years on active duty, he returned to Dunboyne, his large Louisiana sugar plantation, and continue to serve in the Louisiana militia. During the Mexican-American War, Butler returned to active service and commanded the 3rd Regiment of U.S. Dragoons. He campaigned in Central Mexico, fighting at the Siege of Vera Cruz, the Battle of Churubusco, and the Battle of Molino del Rey. The dragoons were later assigned to General Joseph Lane and ordered to pursue General Santa Anna and eliminate the Jarauta guerillas. Following the war, Butler returned to his plantation. At the onset of the Civil War, he refused an offer of a senior command in the Confederate Army.

The General “Canales/Canalis” referred to by Wool and in the sabre presentation letter was General Antonio Canales Rosillo. Canales was a federalist politician and hardened fighter, having battled Lipan, Commanche, and Apache raiders throughout the 1830s as a leader within the Tamaulipas militia. During the Mexican-American War, Canales, under the command of Mexican General Mariano Arista, led the Tamaulipas troops at the Battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. When the Mexican Army withdrew following its defeat in both battles, Arista tasked Canales stay behind and organize a guerilla campaign targeting U.S. supply lines. Following their victory at the Battle of Buena Vista, U.S. troops turned their attention to hunting down Canales and his men. Butler’s continuously pursuit of the guerrillas paid off, and with time, Canalis and his force ceased to be a threat.

(For more information see Plater’s The Butlers of Iberville Parish, Louisiana: Dunboyne Plantation in the 1800s, “3rd U.S. Dragoons” online at Wikipedia, “Wool, John Ellis (1784-1869) online in the Handbook of Texas, “Gideon J. Pillow” online at the American Battlefield Trust, and “Antonio Canales Rosillo” online at the University of Texas exhibit A Continent Divided; The U.S.-Mexico War.)

A unique collection relating to a prominent, though little remembered, commander during the Mexican-American War, and his wife’s life at their Louisiana sugar plantation during his absence. At the time of listing, there are no similar items for sale in the trade, nor any auction records of General Butler materials at the Rare Book Hub or Worthpoint. OCLC shows only one Butler item held by an institution; it is a letter to Butler from General Zachary Taylor reporting on the Battle of Buena Vista and discussing Taylor’s possible Presidential candidacy (See William Reese Co.’s Catalogue 300: One Hundred Rare Americanum).

$1,750  #9683
For additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


This onion-skin file copy of a letter measures 8.5” x 11”. It was written by “Walter,” an employee of Trans-World Airlines, immediately after his liberation from the Saint Thomas Internment Camp run by the Japanese Army and reunification with his presumably Filipina or Chinese wife and children, who had been forced to fend for themselves in Manila.

“I watched from my window the district where Hetty and the children lived . . . without being able to lift as much as a finger to aid them. The atrocities committed by the Japs in this struggle are beyond description as they were firing on or bayonetting any living being they encountered. All residential districts were systematically fired by the Japs and the occupants of houses, were machinegunned upon leaving their burning houses. . . .

“Hetty and the . . . were saved by the Grace of God and her tenacious will. . . . After our house had been severely shelled, it was finally set on fire by the Japs and they had a miraculous escape from machine gun bullets by hiding for four days and four nights in an underground shelter. . . . She, the children, and her Chinese neighbors lived on one can of Pork and Beans for four days, drinking muddy water to keep themselves alive. The dead and injured were laying all around them and poor little Audrey was hit by a shrapnel on her head, while Hetty and Dorothy narrowly escaped from machine gun bullets. . . . They were finally rescued on Febr. 13 and brought into camp where Audrey is now being treated. . . . Practically all our neighbors and the children’s playmates have been murdered by these dastardly Japs. . . . when the struggle was at its peak, Audrey said to her Mother: 'Mommy, I think we also will have to die, if I could only see my Daddy just once more before we are dead.' . . .

“Up to our liberation I had reached an all time low of 115 lbs. in weight. . . . Mr. Hoffman passed away on Nov. 4, 1944 from Brain Tumor and Pneumonia, and the Japs refused to allow me to notify the Office. . . . There are absolutely no Records of any kind available re T.W.A. business as everything has been systematically destroyed by the Japs. . . ."

Presumably, additional research would show that Walter’s family survived the war, however, that is not certain. Although they were reunited in the camp when this letter was written on February 16th, by the end of the month, 48 people died from the lingering effects of starvation.

A rare first-hand account of Japanese atrocities during the liberation of Manila from the perspective of an American internee who could witness them but do nothing to help his family who was caught in the inferno. At the time of this listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint show no auction records for similar items. OCLC reports that one institution holds two different POW oral histories describing the atrocities.

$750   #9666
36. [PHILATELY] [RELIGION] [SLAVE TRADE] [TRIANGLE TRADE] MAIL FROM THE FOUNDER OF CHRIST CHURCH CAMBRIDGE, A SCION OF A NOTORIOUS NEW ENGLAND SLAVE-TRADER AND “THE RICHEST MAN IN BOSTON” – A stampless cover sent by the Reverend East Apthorp to the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. East Apthorp. From Cambridge, Massachusetts to London: 1764.

This envelope is addressed “To the Reverend Dr. Burton, Secretary / to the Society for the propagation of the Gospel / in Foreign Parts, / in Bartlett’s Building / Holbourn, London.” It was privately carried to England where it received a circular London Bishop Mark backstamp dated “17 / MR”.

No contents, but docketing reads, “No. 3. / New England / A Letter from the Revd. Mr. Apthorp / Missry at Cambridge in the Provence of Massachuset’s Bay / dated Cambridge, Jan. 9. 1764. / Read at a Committee / April 9. 1764”.

East Apthorp was the son of Charles Apthorp, “the richest man in Boston” (see Life and letters of Charles Bullfinch. . ..) and “the greatest merchant on this continent” per a 1758 edition of The New Hampshire Gazette.

Charles Apthorp acquired his wealth from ownership of slave-labor Caribbean sugar plantations and an enormous slave-trading empire that brought thousands of enslaved Africans to British North America where he sold them to work on plantations and in homes all along the eastern seaboard. He sent his son, East, to England where he received a Master of Arts degree from Jesus College, Cambridge University, and was ordained as an Anglican deacon in 1755 and a priest in 1757.

Subsequently, East was appointed as a missionary by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to serve at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he founded Christ Church, Cambridge. East flouted his family’s ill-gotten wealth, flagrantly displaying his extravagant expenditures including a magnificent home that now serves as the Master’s Residence for Harvard University’s Adams House. An outspoken Tory, East was forced by patriots to relinquish leadership of the church in 1764, after which he fled to England where he lived at Addington Palace, the home of a rich family friend. (For more information about the Apthorps, see the Christ Church Cambridge website, “From Massachusetts to the Minster: Americans in Croydon” online, “Tracking Down Thomas Apthorp. . ..” and “Grizzell Apthorp. . ..” both online at Boston 1775, “Apthorp, East” at An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church online, and Vincent Carretta’s Genius in Bondage. . ..

A silent testament to the slave trade in British North America that subsidized the life-style of incredibly wealthy New England Tories.

SOLD #9634
This letter, written using the illustrated stationery of The Five Points House of Industry, is datelined April 25, 1892. The lettersheet features an illustration of the institution along with the names of the trustees and superintendent. The institution's address is printed along the left border of the mailing envelope which is franked with a 2-cent carmine stamp (Scott #220) that was canceled with a New York machine postmark dated April 26, 1892.

It is a heartfelt letter of congratulations to a friend on the birth of a child.

During the 19th century, New York City’s Five Points district was the most horrendous slum in all of the United States (perhaps in the Western world except for London’s East End) with incredible concentrations of infectious diseases, infant and child mortality, unemployment, prostitution, and violent crime including murder.

At the time of this letter, Bernard was superintendent of the Five Points House of Industry, which was a successor to the equally famous Five Points Mission.

The Five Points Mission has an interesting history. Lewis Pease was a Methodist minister who the church hired in 1850 to establish a Five Points Mission in an attempt to reform the district, especially its rampant prostitution, under the auspices of the Ladies Home Missionary Society. Pease immediately set to work, after determining that most of the prostitutes had turned to the trade not because they were immoral or drawn to a prurient lifestyle. Rather, he found, they became prostitutes to survive . . . to support themselves and their children because there were no other nearby employment possibilities. Therefore, Pease focused his efforts on job training and job placement. Unfortunately for him, the Society saw things differently and directed that he re-focus his efforts on saving souls, which would, it believed, inspire the women to give up prostitution and find other jobs somewhere. The final straw came when several Society women visited the mission and discovered Pease had not preached a sermon in several days as he had been busy obtaining fabric for the mission’s workshop. He was fired immediately, but just as quickly established the Five Points House of Industry, which grew rapidly and soon had a much greater impact on the community than the original mission. Pease served as its superintendent for many years but later moved on to Ashville, North Carolina where he established three teaching and industrial schools for poor Appalachian youth: one for white girls, one for white boys, and one for African-American boys and girls.

For more information, see Asbury’s, *Gangs of New York*, Anbinder’s *Five Points*. . . ., and “Five Points House of Industry” online at Antebellum Social Movements.” Also, the most important book in Preston and Child’s Pendergast series, *The Cabinet of Curiosities*, centers on murders related to the Five Points Missions.)

SOLD #9659

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 16” x 10” unfolded. It is datelined “Wyoming Valley Iowa County April 1st 1850” and bears an “X” rate handstamp and circular “Mineral Point / Wis.T.” postmark dated April 2, both in blue. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter Loughlin first relates the death of “one of our most valued female members. She had been confined to her room for near ten months and during that time had not been able to sit up . . . she was remarkably patient and submissive to the will of her heavenly Father [and] seemed ardently to desire ‘to depart and be with Christ’ which she felt would be ‘far better’ for her than to remain in this sinful world [but] before her departure the enemy seemed permitted to come in like a flood and for a season she was much distressed [and worried] ‘O how dreadful will it be if I have all this time been deceiving myself with a false hope’ [however she] gained the victory over the enemy. . .I have been much affected by the death of this dear sister . . . I feel dear brethren encouraged that God has used my feeble powers in assisting . . . this precious soul for the bright courts of glory. . .”

He then proceeds to describe his disappointment after participating in a revival:

“I have spent one sabbath at Pine River and . . . I was greatly discouraged. . . The Methodists had just closed a series of meetings [however] they had accomplished but very little [and] I felt that the blessing of God and a properly conducted effort might result in much good for there were a number of young persons beginning to manifest considerable anxiety for the salvation of their souls. . . I told [them I would return in a day or two. . . But there was not one of them willing. . . years might pass away without such another opportunity being offered them I felt this deeply and after I left there wept over the loss of such an opportunity of winning souls to Christ. . .”

And closes with a funding plea,

“Dear brethren I have again to call on you for the quarterly account promised by your society I want to pay my debts just as fast as I can The amount is 37.50 which you will please send as soon as convenient. . . yours in Christ A D Laughlin”.

Mineral Point was the boomtown hub of Wisconsin’s lead mining district.

The American Home Missionary Society was a multi-denominational Protestant organization formed in 1826 “to assist congregations that are unable to support the gospel ministry, and to send the gospel to the destitute within the United States.” (See The Home Missionary, Volumes 23-24 and The New York State Register for 1858, both online.)

A nice first-hand account of a missionary preacher’s attempt to establish a church in a mining boom town.

$150   #9667
39. [SLAVERY] [SLAVE TRADE] [TRIANGLE TRADE] “CASH FOR MY WIFE WHEN I WENT TO GUINEA” – Account statement between two notorious New England slavers, both heavily involved in the Triangle Trade. Slave Ship Captain Peter Dordin and Slave Merchant William Vernon. Newport, [Rhode Island]: 1766.

This one-page account statement measures approximately 7.25" x 9". It was used to settle a debt between two notorious participants in the Triangle Trade: Peter Dorbin, a slave ship captain, and William Vernon, a slave trader. The account was begun by William Vernon at Newport in September of 1764 and signed and accepted for payment by Peter Dordin on October 7, 1766. In nice shape.

Among the ten entries are:

“Cash [for] my wife when I went to Guina”

“Gold lent you send to Boston”

“Freight of a Trunk fm Barbadoes”

Records at the University of Miami Caribbean Documents Collection and the New York Historical Society identify Dordin as a Slave Ship Master who plied the Atlantic between New England, East Africa, and the Caribbean in the Rum-Slave-Sugar/Molasses Triangle Trade. An online portage bill from Barbados in 1763 identifies Dordin as “Brig Reynard Peter Dordin Master from Africa” while another 1760 letter from Dordin informs Vernon about the sale of “Nigers” and the “risques” posed to his ship by French men-of-war.

William Vernon, along with his brother Samuel, were two of the most prominent colonial slave traders. Wikipedia notes that they were the first “to sell African slaves directly to the southern colonies, instead of exclusively in the West Indies. Their ships returning from the West Indies offloaded slaves in South Carolina in exchange for barrels of rice destined for markets in New England.”

Scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies only two similar documents having been sold at auction since 1938. In addition to the similar documents at the University of Miami and New York Historical Society, OCLC identifies five others held by four different institutions.

SOLD  #9689
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4-6 June 2021 – National Philatelic Exposition (NAPEX) – McLean, VA
12-15 August 2021 – Great American Stamp Show (APS) – Chicago, IL

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