"Kill the rattlesnake. Keep his musical bones as a trophy, then throw him over the wall. It does one’s soul good . . . to see the Southerners transepted in this section where they have bullied over [us] so long with dirk and bludgeon.” 1861 Anti-secessionist screed sent from San Francisco enclosed in its original rare ‘internal’ Pony Express envelope.
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Regards, Kurt and Gail

____________________
Kurt and Gail Sanftleben
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1. [ABOLITION] [BLEEDING KANSAS] [WESTWARD EXPANSION] “Kansas presents the most sublime specimen of the poetry of nature; and everyone who has the least particle of this element in his soul, will be filled with extatic delignt.” 1859 - The most important early settler of Emporia, Kansas sends a territorial paean to his father back home in Pennsylvania.

This four-page letter is datelined “Emporia March 12th 1859. There is no mailing envelope. The author, John H. Watson, ran out of room, and signed his name over previously written text along the right edge of its last page. A transcript will be provided.

Watson, a Quaker lawyer-physician from Pennsylvania, moved his entire family west to Kansas in 1858 along with other abolitionists in an effort to ensure the territory entered the Union as a “free-state.” Watson doesn’t mention the bloody political battles taking place at the time. Rather he bemoans the cost of his travel and provides a paean to the unsettled territory’s beauty, fertility, and climate. A much-abbreviated version follows.

“It cost us about $300 to get out here & we have sunk about as much more in the loss of horses. Our Ohio horses can not stand the coarse prairie hay. I brought two fine large young mares from Ohio costing me there $150 each, & a large oilcloth covered spring wagon costing $175. One of my mares has died & the other rundown so as to be of little value. My wagon is not . . . in demand here . . . so I will sink in my moveing operation at least $700.

“The country is beautiful beyond description . . . every mile you travel there is a new & unexpected scene of lovely landscape bursting upon your view. Now you trace the green copse of woodland as it indicates serpentine course of some crystal stream winding its way through the rock-bound gorges of the high rolling prairie, and anon spreading over a place of unsurpassed fertility & unspeakable loveliness. . . . You stand upon an eminence . . . & look down upon a valley of almost unearthly beauty! . . . A spanking breeze from the southwest . . . comes sweeping over the prairie freighted with the perfume of flowers of every shape & hue. You stand literly entranced . . . with the gorgeousness of the beauty. . . . Kansas presents the most sublime specimen of the poetry of nature; and everyone who has the least particle of this element in his soul, will be filled with extatic delight. . . . The soil is as fertile as soil can be for it is a deposit of decomposed vegetable matter which has been accumulating for countless ages. On the high prairie the soil is a black loam from 2 to 3 feet deep in the vallies it is from 10 to 12 feet deep. . . . The climate of Kansas constitutes its greatest attraction; it is most delightful. . . . You have no such wheather in Pennsylvania. It is something between Indian Summer & a soft May day. . . .”

Watson built the finest home in Emporia, a five-room stone house, where he entertained such political celebrities as John Brown and Susan B. Anthony. He was elected by an overwhelming majority to be the Chief Justice of the state’s Supreme Court, however he was denied serving by political machinations of the governor. Later, Watson was instrumental in the establishment of Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railway.

(For more information see Watson’s lengthy obituary in the Emporia Weekly Republican, 23 Aug 1883.) This is a terrific description of unsettled mid-19th century Kansas.

SOLD #9854
2. [ABOLITION] [AMERICAN INDIANS – SOUTHWEST TRIBES] [SLAVERY & SERVITUDE] “A bill to repeal all acts of the legislature of New Mexico authorizing slavery or involuntary servitude, except for punishment for crime.” 1860 - Congressional Pamphlet issued in conjunction with bill to void laws passed by the New Mexico territorial legislature relating to slavery and involuntary servitude of Native Americans..


The pamphlet contains reports on “A bill to repeal all acts of the legislature of New Mexico authorizing slavery or involuntary servitude, except for punishment for crime,” discussing slavery and involuntary servitude imposed on Native Americans by Spanish colonists and their descendants.

Inter-tribal slavery had been practiced in the region—usually by the Comanche, Apache, and Navajo—long before the arrival of Spanish explorers in the 1500s, and when missionaries arrived, they were directed by the Catholic Church and the Spanish government to purchase and free any tribal slaves they encountered. Although once purchased, these genízaros were officially ‘freed,’ they became indentured servants to ‘pay off’ the cost of their purchase. The missions retained some of these workers, and others were resold to become laborers for Spanish settlers. Unfortunately, this practice encouraged more slave-taking, and soon the capturing tribes began conducting slave fairs to provide a direct source of indentured labor for the Spanish settlers. Since genízaros could be held until their masters determined they had worked off what they owed, this servitude lasted for many years and sometimes was passed on to children. By the 1800s, genízaros and their descendants made up one-third of the population.

After Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, this practice was officially forbidden, however it, especially the sale of kidnapped and captured children, continued on unabated. Following the Mexican-American War, when control of the region passed to the United States, slavery in New Mexico became a major political issue. While the Democrats wanted to re-legalize this slavery and indentured servitude, the Whigs wanted to keep and enforce Mexico’s abolition. After the “Compromise of 1850” allowed the territory’s citizens to vote on the issue, the pro-slavery faction easily won. Unhappy with the result, abolitionists began to pressure the federal government to prohibit its practice.

This pamphlet describes the state of Native American slavery in New Mexico in 1860, primarily from the viewpoint of the Congressmen who opposed it. Although in 1862, Congress passed a law prohibiting slavery in the territory, it was, like the Mexican law before it, ignored, and the federal government was too occupied by the Civil War to address violations. It wasn’t until Congress passed the Peonage Act of 1867, which specifically banned the practice, that New Mexican-style slavery and servitude ended.

(For more information see Avery’s University of Montana Master’s Thesis Into the Den of Evils: The Genízaros in Colonial New Mexico available online, and Bailey’s Indian Slave Trade in the Southwest.)

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, one other example is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies no other as having been sold at auction, and OCLC reports 15 can be found at institutions.

SOLD #9836
This one-page letter on business stationery is enclosed in its original envelope with an advertising corner card. It is datelined Adrian, Michigan, March 1, 1867, franked with a clipped 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) that has been canceled with a circular Adrian, Michigan postmark.

This letter requests pricing for the wholesale purchase of human hair from the C. E. Hastings Company of New York City.

“I want you to send me your prices for human hair from one foot to 2 to 2½ in length all shades. I have been in the hair business 5 years making up swatches curls waterfalls &c. I can’t get no more hair. I shall want this year about 1000 dollars worth. Let me have it as cheap as you do everyone right soon and let me know.”

It was common for 19th century vanity sets to not just include brushes, combs, and mirrors, but also hair receivers, i.e., matching dishes with holes in their lids, in which women would collect hair from their brushes that they later used to create watch chains for their husbands and sweethearts. They also would collect hair from other family members to create jewelry or other crafts for their own keepsakes or personalized gifts. As the practice of making ‘hairwork’ grew, a family might not have been able to provide enough hair for these crafts, so strangers’ hair needed to be purchased, and the value of human hair increased. As it did, down-on-their-luck woman often sold their hair at rather lucrative prices; remember O. Henry’s *The Gift of the Magi*.

By the mid-1860s, hair jewelry had expanded beyond simple sentimental trinkets and gifts. It had become a major fashion statement and from then until its popularity diminished around 1900, most examples were created by jewelers (or later in factories) rather than at home.

(For more information, see “Hair Work in Victorian Jewelry” at the Gem-Set-Love website.)

SOLD  #9837
4. [ADVERTISING] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [QUACK MEDICINE ] [PHILATELY] [SPIRITUALISM] [WOMEN]

“Dr. A. B. Dobson . . . Clairvoyant Physician . . . Magnetized medicine and papers sent under direction of his Spirit band of Doctors for each case.” 1882 - A personal, handwritten diagnosis provided for a post-menopausal woman along with an advertising packet for the clairvoyant, magnetic, and Spirit Band healing powers of her ‘physician’.

This packet was sent to a Carol E. Smith in Norwich, New York on December 1, 1882 after she replied to one of Dobson’s advertisements. It consists of four items: a handwritten summary on Dobson’s stationery listing the patient’s diagnoses as provided by an invisible “Band of Spirit Doctors” conveyed by “independent slate writing,” a pamphlet touting Dobson and his remote healing powers, a one-page testimonial, and an advertising envelope used to mail the materials. All are in nice shape.

Dobson was an early settler in Maquoketa, Iowa. While I found nothing about his medical training, by 1875 he was advertising his “spirit band medical healing process.” All of the advertisements were similar to this one which guarantees to cure

“Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Paralysis, Dyspepsia, Bronchitis, diseases of the Liver, Heart, and Kidneys . . . Female Complaints, Cancers, Tumors, and Dropy, in fact every disease that flesh is heir to. . . . Magnetized medicine and papers sent under direction of his Spirit band of Doctors for each case. . . . Send two three cent stamps, lock of hair, sex, age, one leading symptom, and he will tell what ails you.”

His “spirit band” diagnosis for Carol Smith reads in part:

“Your case is Examined by Band of spirit Doctors by Indipendent slate writing . . . may God and the good angles bless you. . . . The hair indicates the liver is Bad and the Blood impure and does not sirculate. . . . It seems to us you had a severe time passing through the change of life. . . . The kidneys are effected & the stomach week the whole nervous system seems to be slowly breaking down you surely need help. . . . [You have]pains in back and head, palpitations of the heart . . . irregular bowels . . melancholy feelings, shortness of breath, cant sleep well. (We may have missed on some parts but we fully understand your case and we believe we can cure you. Our remedies with our magnetic help works wonderfully. . . ."

Contemporary medical journals ridiculed Dobson, one chuckling that for only thirty cents more “this Western sorcerer” will send patients his photograph to hang on their wall “and thus enable them to come into rapport with him more readily,” providing a quicker and more effective cure.

Although Dobson was a quack, he was also a benefactor to Maquoketa. Annually, he provided all of the poor children with new pairs of shoes. He also purchased and installed a public clock and multiple drinking fountains throughout the city.

(For more information, see Maquoketa, Iowa “New Era (Dobson) Building/Town Clock Building” at the National Register of Historic Places, Snyder’s “Spiritualism and the Practice of Medicine” in The Physician & Surgeon February 1891 online, and Atwater similar to S-331.)

SOLD  #9855
“Anderson, a fugitive slave, charged with the crime of murder, committed in Missouri, has awakened so much interest in this country. . ..” 1861 - Congressional pamphlet related to Great Britain’s intervention into Canadian affairs to ensure an escaped slave was not extradited to face a murder charge in the United States.

36th Congress, 2d session. Senate. Ex. Doc. No. 11. Message from the President of the United States, communicating , In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information relative to the extradition of one Anderson, a man of color. February 26, 1861.

45 pages. Once bound so a little rough on the left, otherwise in very nice shape.

In February of 1853, Jack Burrows, a slave on a Missouri tobacco farm, escaped and sought refuge with his freedman father-in-law from whom he obtained a dagger. Shortly departing for Canada and freedom, Burrows passed a slave-owner, Seneca T. P. Diggs, who was working in the fields with his slaves. Not recognizing the traveler, Diggs asked to see his pass, and Burrows fled. Digges and his slaves, pursued, and after they caught up, Burrows stabbed Digges twice with the dagger and escaped while Diggs was carried to a nearby doctor where he died. Burrows eventually reached Canada.

Once there, Burrows changed his name to Jack Anderson, hoping to erase any connection to the Diggs murder. He took a job with the Great Western Railway. Feeling safe, he boasted of the murder to friends, one of whom informed Canadian authorities. Although, the hearsay evidence was insufficient to warrant extradition, word of Anderson’s boast reached a Detroit detective, James A. Gunning, who specialized in tracking down fugitive slaves. After Gunning obtained evidence corroborating the murder, the U.S. Attorney requested Anderson be extradited to the U.S. to stand trial.

A Canadian court, after receiving testimony and dispositions from Diggs’ children and slaves, as well as Anderson’s admission of the stabbing, ordered his extradition on the charge of murder, although announcing its abhorrence of slavery. The order inflamed abolitionists and free blacks throughout Canada and Great Britain, and eventually the order was appealed. While the appeal was considered, and without any jurisdiction to do so, the Court of Queen’s Bench at Westminster issued a writ of habeas corpus overruling the Canadian court system. Anderson was freed and transported to England by abolitionist and anti-slavery societies, where he spoke at several rallies and meetings before dropping from sight. Some have suggested that Anderson was not allowed to remain in country but was transported to Liberia.

While the majority of Canadians celebrated Anderson’s freedom, they also were angered by Britain’s ham-handed intervention in Canadian affairs which had a profound impact on Canada’s future relationship with Britain and provided impetus to a nascent independence movement.

(For more information see Brode’s The Odyssey of John Anderson and Farewell’s “The Anderson Case” in Canadian Law Times No.32 available online.)

Somewhat scarce. At the time of listing, no other examples are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only one example has been sold at auction, and OCLC identifies about 15 physical examples held by institutions.

SOLD  #9838
6. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [EMANCIPATION] “The bill provides for the emancipation of the slaves in this District with just compensation for loyal masters. Slavery is tolerated at the capital of no other civilized nation.” 1862 - Congressional pamphlet on Senate Bill 108 emancipating slaves in the District of Columbia.

37th Congress. 2d Session. Senate. Rep. Com. No. 12. In the Senate of the United States. February 13, 1862. – Ordered to be printed. Mr. Morrill made the following Report [To accompany bill No. 108]. Lot M. Morrill. 2 pages. Once bound so a little rough along the left edge; otherwise in very nice shape.

On December 16, 1861, Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts obtained the unanimous consent of the Senate to “bring in in the following bill which was read the first time and ordered to be printed. February 13, 1862. Reported by Mr. Morrill. . ..” The bill directed the immediate emancipation of slaves held in the District of Columbia and the compensation of their owners provided they had remained loyal to the Union.

Senator Lot Morrill, who was recognized by colleagues as a complete and uncompromising enemy of slavery, was chosen to present this accompanying report which summarizes federal anti-slavery actions beginning with President Jefferson’s 1806 speech applauding Congress prohibiting U.S. citizens to engage in the maritime slave trade. Morrill’s Report additionally declares:

“This Bill provides for the emancipation of the slaves in this District with just compensation to loyal masters. Slavery is tolerated at the capital of no other civilized nation. It is respectfully submitted that it is unbecoming the freest government on earth longer to allow the practice of it here.”

Southern representatives, having abandoned their seats when their states joined the Confederacy, were not present to object, so for the first time Congress was able to consider emancipation, albeit on a small scale. (In this report, Morrill noted that there were no more than 3,200 slaves in the District.) During the debate, an amendment was added to require all of the emancipated slaves to “be colonized out of the limits of the United States,” however this was later modified to “with their own consent [be relocated to] the Republics of Liberia or Hayti or elsewhere.”

The bill was passed by Congress on April 3rd and signed by President Lincoln on April 16, a date that is celebrated as an official holiday in the District of Columbia.

(For more information see Senate Bill 108 with all amendments available online at The Library of Congress’s American Memory website, Wood’s “The District of Columbia 1862 Emancipation Law” at the Library of Congress online blog, Winkle’s “Emancipation in the District of Columbia” at the Civil War Washington website, and Kurtz’s “Documenting Conflict: Emancipation in the Federal City” in NARA’s The Record Vol 4 No. 1, available online.)

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing no other examples are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports only one has ever been sold at auction, and OCLC identifies only digital copies available via the NewsBank subscription service.
The history of black military service in Louisiana dates back long before the territory became part of the United States. As early as the 1720s, both free blacks and slaves fought with the French against the Choctaw, and when the region transferred to Spanish rule, free black men served with Don Bernardo de Galvez when he attacked English forces at Baton Rouge, Natchez, and Pensacola. After the Louisiana Purchase, the “free colored militia corps” helped suppress a slave revolt in 1811, fought with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, and later was part of the Louisiana Volunteers during the Mexican War. So, it was no surprise that after Louisiana seceded from the Union, black citizens of New Orleans enthusiastically supported the Confederacy and its free Negroes offered their volunteer service as soldiers and nurses.

In May, 1861, Governor Thomas O. More established the First Native Guards, Louisiana Militia, a “free colored regiment, with colored officers,” to protect New Orleans from Union attack. Its members represented a cross-section of the state’s free black population and included tradesmen, craftsmen, business owners, and planters who owned significant numbers of slaves. As with all other Louisiana militia units, the state provided no uniforms, weapons, or supplies; those were funded by members of the unit and its supporters. As with many other militia units, the First Native Guard was poorly equipped. Nevertheless, it volunteered—but was not selected—to escort Union prisoners from the Battle of First Manassas and allegedly was ordered to blow up the federal mint when the U.S. Navy began to shell the city. With the pending fall of New Orleans, most Confederate forces relocated to the north, but the First Native Guard dispersed and remained to protect their families and homes.

When Union General Benjamin Butler occupied the city with regiments hailing from New England, his command was inundated with black slaves from the city as well as those who fled their plantations. Butler, who feared a possible Confederate campaign to retake the city, was unable to obtain additional Union reinforcements. Instead, he formed several regiments composed of “loyal” Irishmen and Germans who had settled in the city. He also interviewed former black officers of the Confederate First Native Guards. After being convinced they would transfer their allegiance to the Union, he established the first black military unit to serve in Union Army, the Louisiana Native Guards.
Its first regiment included many members of the former Confederate militia unit, plus two additional regiments—over 2,700 men in total—were raised from other “free men of color” and former slaves. While the units’ senior commanders were white, all but one of their company officers were black.

The First and Third Regiments, along with several New England units were assigned to a brigade led by General Godfrey Wetzel. After rousting the Confederates from the region north of New Orleans, it rebuilt and restored roads, railroads, and a sugar field destroyed by fleeing southern forces. Later, the brigade served in the futile attacks upon and siege of Port Hudson, which only surrendered after Vicksburg fell.

Robert Brown’s unit, the Second Regiment of the Louisiana Native Guard initially remained in New Orleans and Lafourche Parish where it guarded railroads and strategic locations while confiscating Confederate supplies. In January of 1863, Brown’s company, was deployed to defend Ship Island. In April, a detachment from Ship Island boarded ships to raid East Pascaugoula, Mississippi, becoming the second black unit to meet Confederates in combat. The Louisiana Native Guard was eventually renamed the Corps d’Afrique and later the 2nd Regiment was redesignated as the 74th Regiment of U.S. Colored Infantry.

Hannibal Caesar Carter, Brown’s Company Commander, was an original member of the Confederate First Native Guards. He was born in New Albany, Indiana where he received his common schooling and eventually became a barber and tobacconist. He, his father, and his brother, Edward, were travelling to New Orleans on the Mississippi riverboat Vicksburg when Fort Sumner fell to the Confederates in April, 1861. Sometime after their arrival, both brothers joined the First Native Guards. After the war, Hannibal became a prominent Republican and served as Mississippi’s second black Secretary of State.

(For the most objective information about the Louisiana Native Guard see Berry’s “Negro Troops in Blue and Gray: The Louisiana Native Guards, 1861-1863” in Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association Vol. 8 No. 2. See also “Truth, Lies, and a Black Confederate Soldiers Hoax; and the True Story of the Louisiana Native Guards” at Jubilo! The Emancipation Century website, “Second Louisiana Native Guard” at the National Park Service Gulf Islands National Seashore website, the online American Civil War Research Database, and “Hannibal Caesar Carter” at the Against All Odds website.)

Rare. This certificate appears to be the only known Civil War military document signed by an African-American man who had served in both the first black Confederate unit and the first black Union unit. At the time of listing, no others are for sale in the trade. None have ever appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and none have ever sold on eBay per Worthpoint. OCLC lists none in any institutional collection.

SOLD  #9857
8. [ALCOHOL – TEMPERANCE] [EDUCATION] [RELIGION – PRESBYTERIAN] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN] “I do wish you would come over I know I could make you laugh.” 1849 - Letter from a mid-19th century clever and vibrant young South Carolina woman enticing her slightly older aunt to visit.

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 15” x 10” unfolded. It is datelined “Lancasterville March 26th 1849. It was sent from 18-year-old “S A B” (Sarah Amelia Bonner) to her 22-year-old aunt in “Rocky Mount [vicinity of Great Falls] So Ca”. It bears a relative scarce “Lancaster C. H. [Court House]” postmark (see ASCC v.1, p.365). A panel of the letter—not affecting any text or postal markings—has been removed.

Sarah was the granddaughter of James Barkley, an early Irish settler of Winnsboro, South Carolina. She moved to Lancaster after her mother, Mary Ann Barkley, married William Robinson following the death of her father, William Bonner, in 1832. Sarah, 18 at the time of this letter, was apparently close to her slightly older 22-year-old Aunt Clara. In this letter, which touches on education, religion, temperance, and community life, Sarah attempts to entice Clara to visit, promising “I know I could make you laugh.” Highlights include:

“You wished me to let you know how I like Lancaster I like it very well indeed but Mother does not she says this year will be enough for her . . . Mother’s school is not very large at present but it is increasing she has no music scholars yet but I think she will after a while . . .

“You will laugh I know when I tell you about Magistrate Long of Georgia I wish you could have seen him . . . he is all sorts of a mag [i.e., a magpie: an obnoxious, foolish, and loquacious talker] . . . I believe he went to see nearly every young lady in town [and] he does not wait for to be introduced . . . He only paid me one visit [and] said I treated him so badly he could not come again . . . he said he belonged to the Sons of Temperance. He made a humorous speech one night in the Academy [about an old drunkard who was tricked into unwittingly blacking his face while drunk after which his wife refused to allow him in their house.] I do hope you will have the pleasure of seeing him if he returns. . . .

“There is to be a great party at Mr Ladlers on the 6 of April I suppose you are all invited Mother and myself received tickets on Saturday last . . . If you are going to attend come in the beginning of the week and stay with us . . .

“Oh I do wish you could hear the good sermons that Mr. Palmer preaches do try and come over and go to church with me I have no doubt at all but you think of Religion now as I once did that it is a gloomy thing [and] if you become a christian you would have no more pleasure but it is a great mistake. . . . Try and come after they are done planting and when you come stay a little while [and enjoy] such entertainment as we are able to give. . . .”

Perhaps Sarah’s newly-found religious zeal was related to the Reverend Edward Porter Palmer, an eligible, young, recent graduate of Columbia’s Theological Seminary who had just become the pastor of Lancaster’s Waxhaw Presbyterian Church. He was also a relative of the now infamous Benjamin R. Palmer, “the high priest of the Lost Cause,” who encouraged Southern hopes during the war while he was the head of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States and, after the war, became “pastor” to the entire South. (See Duncan’s Auburn University dissertation, Benjamin Morgan Palmer: Southern Presbyterian Devine.)
9. [AMERICAN INDIANS – CHICKASAW, CHOCTAW, CREEK, & SEMINOLE] [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR]

“I received information that the disloyal Indians in the territory west of Arkansas, aided by a considerable force of white troops from Texas and Arkansas, had attacked the Union or loyal Indians of that Territory.”

1862 – Congressional pamphlet publishing a letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior describing relief efforts for thousands of Creeks and Seminoles following their forced flight from the Indian Territory on the Trail of Blood and Tears after being defeated by an overwhelming force of Chickasaws and Choctaws at the Battle of Chustenahalah.


Although not always remembered, the Civil War spilled over into the Indian Territory where various tribal nations and subsets of tribal nations allied themselves with either the Union or the Confederacy. Generally, the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations joined the Confederacy while the Creeks, Seminoles, along with breakaway Chickasaws and Choctaws allied with the Union forming two Home Guard Regiments. In total, over 20,000 American Indian soldiers, mostly Confederate, served during the war.

In late December, “disloyal Indians in the territory west of Arkansas, aided by a considerable force of white troops from Texas and Arkansas, . . . attacked the Union or loyal Indians of that Territory.” Through two battles the Home Guard stood firm against overwhelming odds but finally cracked during the third. Hundreds of sheep, cattle, oxen, and horses were taken by the Confederates. More than 160 women and children and 20 blacks were captured and made slaves. To survive the pending slaughter, nearly three-fourths of the Creeks and one-half to two-thirds of the Seminoles (approximately 12,000 people) under the leadership of the Creek Chief Opothleyahola fled northward with nothing more than the clothes they wear wearing on the “Trail of Blood and Ice” to Fort Row, Kansas ahead of the pursuing Confederates; between 2,000 and 3,000 died from exposure or wounds either in route or shortly after their arrival.

This letter details the Union effort to provide food, shelter, and clothing for the 10,000 refugees at the fort.

(For more information see the Whites’ Now the Wolf has Come: the Creek Nation in the Civil War, Hughes’ “Battle of Chustenahlah” at the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture online, and Pollard’s “How the US Civil War Divided the Indian Nations” at History.com.)

Scarce. At the time of listing, no examples are for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows only one example has been sold at auction—over sixty years ago. OCLC shows that digital and microform copies are available but only three physical examples are held by institutions.

SOLD #9858
10. [ANIMALS – ROOSTER] [CHILDREN’S] [PRINTS] “Lass, mein Kind, den hahnen dich Früh aufwecken. . .. (Let the rooster wake you, my child. . ..) 1806 - The Henkel Brothers’ famous Rooster broadside.


This decorative children’s broadside measures 4.5" x 7.75". It features an illustration of a crowing rooster above a six-line poem intended to instill good habits. (See Hummel – Southeastern Broadsides before 1877 #2914). In nice shape with some minor soiling, thinning, and hard-to-see pinholes.

“Lass, mein Kind, den Hahnen dich Früh aufwecken, williglich
Kleid dich, masch dich, fämm dich, bet’,
Un alsdann zur Schul hintret’,
Lern erkenndich und Gott,
Willst du senn geschickt zum Tod”
(“Let the rooster wake you up early my child, dress willingly, wash yourself, comb yourself, pray and then go to school, learn to know yourself and God if you want to be ready for death.”)

The Henkels of New Market, Virginia were a prominent Lutheran family in the Shenandoah Valley. Its patriarch, Anthony Jacob Henkel, had immigrated to America from Germany in 1717 and established a church near Germantown, Pennsylvania. His grandson, Paul, moved to New Market, Virginia, in 1790 where he established St. Davidsburg Church. In 1806, Paul’s sons, Solomon and Ambrose, established an amateur printing house in the living room of their father’s home where they began printing children’s primers, religious tracts, and broadsides in German, as well as English for the Scotch-Irish community. In time, the brothers became both proficient and prolific in their work. The Henkels are said to have published more Lutheran material than any other American press, and they gained considerable renown for their excellent children’s books.

The Virginia Historical Society’s Annual Report for 2005 notes the Henkels’ rooster broadsides were printed around 1806.

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, there are no other rooster broadsides for sale in the trade. Although the Rare Book Hub identifies only one auction listing, these broadsides occasionally appear for sale on eBay and at Shenandoah Valley auction houses. OCLC notes that only three examples are held by the University of Virginia, but others are also in the Henkel collections at James Madison University, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, and the Luray Valley Museum at Luray Caverns.

SOLD  #9841
11. [AVIATION] [BALLOONING] [FOUNDING FATHERS] [MILITARY & WAR – REVOLUTIONARY WAR] [PHILATELY] “The people here are all running after Balloons. . . . Major Gardiner was to go up in one, but he made the air too inflammable and it took fire.” 1784 - Letter from a loyalist woman who abandoned the United States for England to her patriot brother who remained in New York City. Gertrude Low Wallace to Nicholas Low.

This stampless folded letter measures 14” x 9” unfolded. It is unfranked, unpostmarked, and addressed only to Mr. N. Low, suggesting it was favor-carried from London by Ship Captain Metsnerd, who is mentioned in the letter. Docketing indicates the letter was received on 7 October 1784.

Nicholas Low was a New York financier and land speculator. Before the revolution he and his brother Isaac partnered in a mercantile firm with two Irish-born brothers, Alexander and Hugh Wallace. Initially, all resisted British taxes and trade restrictions. Isaac, a Founding Fathers who signed the Continental Association as a delegate in the First Continental Congress, later rejected the Declaration of Independence and declared his loyalty to the Crown along with two of his three sisters, Gertrude (Alexander Wallace’s wife) and Sarah, and both of the Wallace brothers. Nicholas Low and Hugh Wallace’s wife (an unnamed Low sister) remained committed to the patriot cause and stayed in the United States. After the Low-Wallace loyalists moved to England when the British abandoned New York in 1783, the entire family remained on friendly terms.

In this letter, loyalist Gertrude Low Wallace, writes her patriot brother, Nicholas, about her happiness with the move, bolts of silk she has sent to New York friends, a “hamper of porter” sent to Nicholas, and the ballooning craze that had struck London.

“I am much better here than I could be at N.york, and the living is not so expensive, the finest Beef I ever saw for five pence pr pound, and Cheese the piece, milk for five Coppers a quart, and [the] servants much better here than with you. . . . I meet a vast number of my old acquaintances, [and] I went yesterday to . . . see my Brother Isaac, he . . . was taken with the gout [and] has been confined to his room. . . . The people here are all running after Balloons, as you will see by the newspapers. Major Gardiner (Gardner) was to go up in one, but he made the air too inflammable and it took fire.”

Major Gardner was a British officer who had served 20 years in America. His attempted balloon ascent was also referenced in a letter to Benjamin Franklin from the British botanist, Sir Joseph Banks. Gardner, the anatomist John Sheldon, and a merchant attempted to ascend in a balloon they had built themselves. The balloon was destroyed by fire during the launch, after which all three blamed one another.

(For more information, see Banks’s 13 August 1784 letter to Franklin held by the University of Pennsylvania, “1783 Petition of a Revolutionary War Loyalist” at the Library of Congress, and Hodgson’s History of Aeronautics.)

An enthralling letter between siblings split apart by the Revolution with a wonderful reference to an early attempted balloon ascent. At the time of listing, no other letters from Low-Wallace Families are for sale in the trade nor listed at either the Rare Book Hub or OCLC. The Nicholas Low papers are held at the Library of Congress.

SOLD  #9847
“Miss Lyon had to refuse over one hundred applicants...” 1845 - Letter from a young woman attending Mount Holyoke Female Seminary praising its founder and principal, Mary Lyon. Sent to her brother who would become one of the most important publishers in the United States.

This four-page stampless folded letter measures 15” x 9.75” unfolded. It is datelined “Holyoke last month of 1845” and bears a circular South Hadley, Massachusetts postmark dated December 30th and a “5” rate stamp, both in red. It was sent by Marilla Houghton a senior at Mount Holyoke College to her brother Henry, who was studying at the University of Vermont. In nice shape; a transcript will be provided.

Marilla had much to say about her studies, the college founder, Mary Lyon, and collegiate interaction between the sexes.

“We have a regular day set apart for composition and are obliged to write so many hours and hand in one once in two or three weeks and have to read one once in four or five weeks... Our class is not quite so large this year as the last it now numbers forty two... Neither is the school as large as the last year by nearly one third which makes it much pleasenter. In order to reduce the number Miss Lyon had to refuse over one hundred applicants... It seems to me that its prosperity and it all depends upon the life and health of Miss Lyon... Our usual lessons are from thirty to thirty five pages and we are required to spend two hours & one half in learning it. It is one peculiarity of this school in absolutely requiring so much time to be spent on each lesson... Happy am I to think that my brother is free from a fault so common to students. I mean a fondness for flirtation. I agree with you in calling it despisable where ever it is seen. You can no more detest a flirt than I do a fop... Yet I think it equally advantageous & refining to both sexes to mingle... The society of an educated, refined and just lady is beneficial to any one... The remainder of the letter concerns family, Thanksgiving feasts, and her hope to teach with her brother.

Mary Lyon, the greatest innovator in women’s education, established Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1837. Her vision was to establish a female school equal to any male college that would educate young women of moderate means to become teachers. Entrance exams were rigorous, and in addition to classic and religious study, Lyon required her students to study math and science. To keep costs affordable ($60/yr) all students performed school chores including cooking and cleaning. (Mount Holyoke has completely abandoned the idea of a reasonable tuition; its current tuition is $73,000 per year.)

After graduation Marilla established the Houghton Seminary in Clinton, New York, however her brother Henry did not join her. In 1852 he founded the Riverside Press, and became the printer for Little, Brown & Company. Later, George Mifflin joined him, and the firm was renamed the Houghton Mifflin Company. (For more information, see the Mount Holyoke website, Gilchrist’s Life of Mary Lyon, Alden’s Mary Lyon and Mount Holyoke: Opening the Gates, and various online genealogical websites and databases.)

At the time of listing, no similar letters are for sale in the trade, and none are listed at the Rare Book Hub, OCLC notes several personal paper collections at Mount Holyoke contain letters about Mary Lyons and the Hesburgh Libraries at Notre Dame hold another 1845 letter written by Marilla to her brother.

SOLD #9853
13. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [LUMBERING] [PHILATELY] “We thought it would be more convenient for one person to run our logs and his together and we have accordingly agreed with Capt James Crawford to run them.” 1844 - Letter from sawmill owners in Bath, Maine to a “Log gatherer” in Gardiner regarding an agreement to drive their logs down the Kennebec River.

This single-page stampless letter was sent by the Sewall brothers of Bath to Daniel Johnson of Gardiner, Maine. It is dateline “Bath April 1 1844”. It bears a red circular postmark reading “Bath / Apr / 4 / Me.”, a red “PAID” handstamp, and a manuscript “6” rate mark. The letter is in nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

This letter informs Johnson, a “Log gatherer,” that his services would not be required to drive their logs down the Kennebec River from Gardiner during the upcoming log running season.

“We have been waiting for Mr. Rogers to make up his mind in regard to what course was best to persue in regard to moving our logs the present season. And we thought it would be more conveniant for one person to run our logs and his together and we have accordingly agreed with Capt James Crawford to run them the present season. We wish you to name to Mr. Lawrance that Mr. Crawford has engaged to run the whole of our logs and Hugh Rogerses including those in his boom the present season. We do not expect the business will be done any better than you would have done it but we tought best to join with Mr. Rogers and left the business with him to agree with any one he thought best. . ..”

Log driving refers to the way huge numbers of logs were floated down river to sawmills. After owners selected a cutting area, loggers worked in the woods chopping down trees. The crews often worked in small teams consisting of choppers, teamsters, and yard men to manage log storage. It was not unusual for two choppers to fell up to 7,000 trees each day. They used the first logs cut to build camps with giant buildings that could sleep hundreds of men at one time. Once the camp was established, cut logs were then stacked near frozen streams, rivers, and lakes or even within the river circled by chained-log-booms to prevent them from floating down river on their own. With the spring thaw, the owners hired log running crews to drive their logs downriver in massive concentrations with the men often working 12-16 hours, sometimes from boats and sometimes while standing on wood in the river.

Conditions were both unpleasant and hazardous. Mosquitos, biting flies, and leeches were chronic problems. Getting pinned between logs or caught in a sluice could be fatal or cause serious injury. Men who fell clothed into the cold river likely died. Log jams were common and had to be broken up with pikes and dynamite.

Online genealogy records show that the Sewalls were farmers near Bath who also owned a large sawmill.

(For more information, see Grow’s “Up and down the Kennebec Valley” online at The Town Line website, Hoy’s “Kennebec River Log Drive” at the Skowhegan Community History website and Pike’s Tall Trees, Tough Men.

Log drive and log running letters appear to be uncommon. At the time of listing, no others are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hubs shows no examples as having appeared at auction. OCLC suggests that some similar letters may be included in two institutionally held collections relating to the logging business.
14. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [GOLD RUSH] [MILITARY & WAR – MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR] [SLAVERY & SERVITUDE] [TEXANA] “For my part I told you I did not agree with you because I believe I do not owe anything for the ten tercieros Don Pedro Garcia left at my house.” 1847 – Letter about the transfer of sharecroppers from a local business associate to a Texas merchant who had established a business in Mexico and later supplied the American army during the Mexican-American War.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 16” x 10” unfolded. It was sent by Francisco Perez to Benjamin S. Grayson at Carmago, Mexico. It is datelined “Mier. Junio 21. 1847” [Wed. June 21. 1847. It was hand-delivered outside of postal channels as it bears no franking or postmark. It is written entirely in Spanish. A transcription and translation will be provided; however, the text is formal, archaic, stiltedly subservient, and difficult to translate; my bilingual friends have done their best.

Benjamin S. Grayson and his brother Thomas Wigg Grayson relocated to Texas from South Carolina sometime before 1835 where Benjamin established a mercantile business. Both became involved in the Texas Revolution and were part owners of the famous privateer, Thomas Toby, which Thomas also captained. After Texas gained its independence, Benjamin moved to San Antonio where he unsuccessfully ran for mayor. While there, he purchased ‘land script’ that had been used to pay Texas soldiers and became a wealthy landowner. Fearing malaria, he expanded his business to more remote locations in Mexico where he ran it from haciendas in Monterrey and Carmago. When the U.S. Army entered Mexico during the Mexican-American War, it set up a basecamp at Carmago, from which Grayson provided supplies and equipment during its campaigns. At the beginning of the California Gold Rush, Grayson personally led a mule train of goods, presumably mining supplies, to Los Angeles. He made a fortune grubstaking miners and acquired significant property around San Francisco, where he died in 1849.

This letter from an associate—perhaps an agent, attorney, or junior partner in some venture—inform Grayson about some legal actions and the transfer of tercieros (sharecroppers bound in servitude through Mexico’s feudal hacienda system).

“D. Pedro Garcia left ten sharecroppers at my house, the same ones the Mayor José Pio Salinas received at my door. These same ten sharecroppers were part of the twenty-one sharecroppers you and Mr. Devise told me the mayor gave to you. . . . I know that the law has stopped the fugitives. It is very good that the lawyer knew the case agreed with the term of twenty-seven days. . . . Mr. Ate.I wants to explain to us why you should be satisfied with it. The results of the trial will be enforced by the judge; laws against the two legitimate debtors will be rigorously executed. . . . Without objection, I wait for your orders. Your most attentive Q.B.S.M. [Que Beso Su Mano (one who kisses your hand)] Francisco Perez”

(For more information, see articles about the Graysons in the Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas “Guide to the Grayson Family Papers’ at Texas Archival Resources, Crisp’s “The Hacienda System and the Mexican Revolution” at Milagro.org, all available online.)

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no similar items have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. Grayson family papers collections are held by are held by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Texas A & M University, and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas.

SOLD  #9851
"They immediately commenced an attack with pistols, swords, and cutlasses upon the unarmed crew... of the Caroline, under a fierce cry of ‘God damn them, give no quarters, kill every man, fire! fire!’” 1838 - Two Congressional pamphlets regarding The Patriot War fought between Great Britain and its Loyalist Canadians against Upper Canadian rebels and their American supporters.

The two pamphlets from the 25th Congress, 2d Session, House of Representatives in this lot are:

Doc. No. 302. The information required by a resolution of the House... respecting the Capture and Destruction of the Steamboat Caroline. 
.. April 5, 1838. 63 pages. Never bound. Foxing and a dampstain.

Doc No. 440. The subject of Outrages committed upon the British steamboat Sir Robert Peel, and the American steamboat Telegram. 
.. June 20, 1838. 27 pages. Once bound in a larger volume so rough along the left edge. In nice shape.

In 1837, Canadian populists rebelled against the British oligarchy in Upper, i.e., English-speaking, Canada. The revolt was quickly put down, however, a number of the rebels, including its leaders escaped to the United States with assistance from like-mind Jacksonian Democrat extremists, known as Locofocos, intent on destroying the “Moneyed Aristocracy” of the United States. American supporters used the steamship Caroline to transport some Canadian rebels to Navy Island in the Niagara River. Shortly thereafter, a British raiding party infiltrated the island, and after overwhelming the unarmed Americans, freed the ship from its mooring, set it alight, and shoved it into the river to plunge over the falls. One of the guards, a black American named Amos Durfee, was murdered by the Loyalists and left on the dock, and another dozen crewmembers were claimed to have been sent over the falls on the burning ship.

Subsequently, the American sympathizers retaliated by destroying the British steamship Sir Robert Peel. Over the next year, other raids, murders, and sinkings were conducted by both sides. President Martin Van Buren deployed the United States Army to bring the Locofocos under control, and although “The Patriot War” petered out, the United States and Great Britain teetered on the brink of war until in 1842, when Lord Ashburton visited with Secretary of State Daniel Webster, and the men apologized to each other for their countrymen’s over-zealous actions.

More importantly, Webster and Ashburton reached a treaty agreement establishing the principle of “anticipatory self-defense” in which it is considered legally justified for a country to launch an attack against another nation or force if it is necessary that its self-defense be “instant, overwhelming, and leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation.” This “Caroline Test” remains a tenant of international law to this day.

(For more information, see Bonthius’s “The Patriot War of 1837-1838: Locofocoism with a Gun?” in Labour / Le Travail Vol 52, Tiffany’s The Relations of the United States to the Canadian Rebellion of 1837-1838, and Ross’s The Patriot War, all available online.

Together these pamphlets cover the most volatile months of The Patriot War. Physical examples are scarce. At the time of listing, only one example of one of the documents is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub reports only one example of one of the documents has ever been sold at auction. OCLC reports only five examples of each of the documents are held by institutions.
This three-page stampless folded letter measures approximately 13” x 8.5” unfolded. It is datelined “Jun 8th, 1851” and bears a red circular Geneseo, New York postmark dated June 11th and a red “5” rate mark. In nice shape with a little postal soiling.

This letter from Adelia to her sister in Penfield, New York, describes a stillbirth suffered by a young woman, Louice, who was, perhaps, another sister or, less likely, Adelia’s daughter or daughter-in-law.

“Three weeks ago last Friday Louice was taken sick, taken with flowing. Joseph was gone, and I had to fly around pretty smart for a little while I can tell you. I got some of the neighbors to go . . . for a physician, who got here five hours after she was taken. He did not succeed in stopping it entirely, but she lingered along in that way, not able to move, or be moved much. For a week from the day she was taken, when she was delivered of a child, not a ‘boy that would make your eyes water’ (as Joe said he would show us.) but a dreadful little bit of a girl: and that was dead.

“Since then, Louice has got along very well indeed, she is up about the house at work now. I had to work so hard while she was sick, that I came pretty near ‘giving out.’ But it is over now, and I am glad of it. We had a rather sorry time but I guess I could tell you some things about it that would make you laugh.”

Adelia then nonchalantly continued her letter with a description of Louice’s home, furniture, carpet, yard, and town before doing a little fantasizing about her sister’s fruit and vegetables as well as her husband, boyfriend, or infant son.

“I suppose Marion is a cunning as ever: if I had him, I guess I would kiss him a little. How my mouth watered for some of your nice asparagus. And strawberries when they are ripe. I don’t care if you sew up a couple of quarts in a little white rag and send them to me.”

It is clear from the letter that the loss of a child in a long and probably painful childbirth was simply accepted as a somewhat mundane part of life in the mid-19th century.

SOLD  #9840
17. [CHINESE-AMERICANS] [CRIME & LAW] [IMMIGRATION] [PAPER SONS]  “I know this is done upon false and perjured evidence, and that the admitted Chinamen have never been in the country before, and that the alleged fathers never saw or heard of their alleged sons before.” 1897 - Congressional pamphlet with reports and documents relating to the illegal entry into the United States of Chinese Persons.

Letter from the Attorney-General transmitting in response to resolutions of the Senate, dated May 17, 1897, copies of certain designated reports, documents, etc., relating to the alleged illegal entry into the United States of Chinese Persons. 55th Congress, 1st Session. Document No. 120. Washington, DC: 1897. 18 pages; once bound in a larger volume so a little rough along the left edge.

Prior to 1882, there was no restriction on the immigration of Chinese into the United States, and many had entered the country spurred on by the California Gold Rush, employment building the Transcontinental Railroad, and the opportunity to work in American factories. With the downturn of the American economy, American labor organizations were quick to scapegoat the Chinese for providing cheap labor. Chinese workers were attacked by union members, especially in California, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. The unions also stoked fears of white Americans and pressed Congress to prohibit future immigration and “drive out” Chinese who had been in the country since the 1840s. After Congress passed an exclusionary act in March 1882, Republican President Chester A. Arthur vetoed the bill as undemocratic. Congress quickly revised the bill, eliminating its most draconian provisions and returned the bill to Arthur, who accepted the changes. For a period of ten years (which would later be extended into the 1940s) all Chinese people—except for travelers, doctors, merchants, teachers, students, those who had been born in this country were prohibited from entering the United States. The act also allowed Chinese doctors, merchants, and teachers to bring two children, who had not been living in the United States, into the country.

The two-child provision was an easily exploited loophole that did little to reduce Chinese immigration, although it made the process more complicated and expensive. Triads began buying and selling these two-child permissions to unrelated people (often adults) in China and providing them with false identification papers. Additionally, these illegal “paper son and daughter” immigrants received “coaching letters” that contained all of the family background needed to correctly answer questions by immigration officials. This pamphlet exposes those practices as well as the ease in transporting illegal immigrants by rail from ports in Canada across that country to enter the United States in Vermont.

(For more information see Scharf’s The Farce of the Chinese Exclusion Laws online at Digital History, Ryo’s “Through the Back Door . . .” in Law and Social Inquiry Vol 31 No 1, and Horrocks’ Utah State University Master’s Thesis, “More than Hachetmen: Chinese Exclusion and Tong Wars in Portland, Oregon.”)

This document shows that when it comes to illegal immigration, organized crime and corrupt officials have long taken advantage of migrants willing to pay for a chance at a better life in the United States.

Scarce. At the time of listing, no examples are for sale in the trade. Rare Books Hub shows two have been listed at auction, and OCLC shows that while digital and microform examples are available, only one institution holds a physical example, and three institutions hold physical examples of a similar letter issued by the Secretary of the Treasury.

SOLD   #9848
18. [CRIME & LAW] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MURDER] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS] “After his trial he said to me . . . ‘O Sir the mistaken opinion of the surgeons about those wounds might have hanged an innocent man.’” 1826-1861 - A 35-year archive from an Anglo-American surgeon who provided damning evidence in one of England’s most notorious crimes, the Red Barn Murder, before relocating to Baltimore in 1835. Letters addressed to John Charles Nairn.

The archive includes 35 items saved by Dr. Nairn. All, but one, are stampless folded letters or covers sent to him between 1826 and 1861 from family, associates, and creditors in England, France, Scotland, and the United States. They bear a wide variety of postal markings, some possibly quite scarce. Partial transcripts will be provided.

Nairn was beset by financial problems throughout most of his adult life, and newspaper articles (not included) show that he twice faced debtors’ prison, once in England and once in United States. Letters from his frustrated, but ever-devoted, wife indicate that for a three-year span, he left his family facing creditors in Baltimore while he attempted to raise funds in England through land speculation and questionable schemes including becoming a daguerreotypist and an importer of lady’s fashions. The letters also include considerable information on social life in Edinburgh and then current events including the near war with Great Britain over the U.S.-Canadian border dispute, the Black Tariff of 1842, the catastrophic explosion of the Steamship Medora at its dock in Baltimore Harbor, a Scarlet Fever epidemic, pandemonium surrounding the Presidential election of 1844, and the last days of Millerism as its adherents awaited the Rapture.

Most importantly, however, a number of letters discuss Nairn’s involvement as a young doctor in 1828 when he testified as the principal examining surgeon during the infamous Red Barn Murder Trial of William Corder for the cold-blooded killing of Maria Marten the year before. Nairn destroyed Corder’s defense with his testimony. The Red Barn Murder, one England’s most notorious crimes, captured the attention of the entire country due to its scandalous nature that included the seduction of a poor molekiller’s daughter by a deceitful country squire, a mother’s paranormal revelations that led to the discovery of her daughter’s corpse, the murderer’s capture at a ladies’ boarding house he ran in partnership with a woman he met through a lonely-hearts club, and the violence of the crime. Nairn’s testimony regarding the victim’s sword and pistol wounds, sealed Corder’s fate. After Corder was hung, his body was dissected by medical students and his skin was used to bind an early account of the murder which is held by the Moyes Hall Museum of Bury St Edmunds. Fascination with the murder has continued from 1828 until today, resulting in Staffordshire pottery souvenirs, numerous ‘true crime’ accounts, fictionalized novels, songs, puppet shows, theatre plays, radio dramas, and five films and television programs. As recently as 2016, a successful play was performed in Australia, and in 2018, a documentary film was released in Great Britain and the United States.

A few Red Barn highlights from the archive include:

“I am . . . interested in knowing the particulars which have transpired respecting the causes of death of the unfortunate Maria Marten. I understand that . . . a shot had been detected passing from the angle of the Lower Jaw to the orbit. Of course you were examined, & if you can furnish me [with] particulars
of new evidence . . . I shall feel particularly obliged. . ..” (Bury St. Edmunds, 6 June 1828: Patrick MacIntyre, a physician)

“I am sure you would wish to know what fell from Corder respecting the manner of the death of Maria Martin . . . a few days after the Body was disinterred. He learnt the rumors of the wounds and that they were supposed to have been inflicted by the Sword. . . . He then stated that the story of the sword and the stabs wou’d go near to hang him, but they had nothing to do with her death, that he had not the sword with him therefore cou’d not use it, that she received no stabs, but died instantaneously from [a self-inflicted shot from] the pistol. . . . Even after his confession was taken [he persisted and] said ‘why shou’d I have used a Sword, I had another loaded pistol in my pocket’ and he then Exclaimed ‘O Sir the mistaken opinion of the surgeons about those wounds might have hanged an innocent man. . ..”’ (Bury St. Edmonds, 18 August 1828: George Orridge, the prison governor at Bury St. Edmonds)

“I have to congratulate you upon the very respectable appearance which you made on the trial of the unfortunate wretch Corder. It was a disagreeable task, but not unworthily performed. I think no one can doubt the full justice of the verdict. [Regarding] the wound in the heart [it is] the main feature in the case, & that the other wounds were merely accessories. . .. (Kelso, Scotland, 30 November 1828: George Wilson, a physician and former roommate, perhaps at the Edinburgh Medical School)

Quack Medicine:

“Dispose of [your concoction] to some respectable apothecary, who will give you a proper price for it; & should you wish to have the credit of the invention, if it be really an useful one (for I profess entire ignorance of the properties of the Essence of Camphor, & have not much confidence in Camphor itself) the most becoming way of doing so is to draw up a memoir on the subject, & send it to some respectable journal. Am I not right in suspecting that your compound contains more Turpentine than Camphor? . ..” (Kelso, Scotland, 30 November 1828: George Wilson, a physician and former roommate, perhaps at the Edinburgh Medical School)

Border Dispute with Canada:

“Lord Ashburton arrived a few days ago. Now and previous to his coming there was much talk of [the Patriot] War. I endeavored to drive all idea of it from my mind.” (See item 15 in this catalog for more information.)

Black Tariff of 1842:

“It is difficult, no business is doing, and young men are shipping to Texas, and [joining] the Navy. The Ladies cannot buy their spring dresses, when this is case you may judge how hard they are. Several thousand persons met at the exchange, and passed resolutions by that tariff now placed on all articles of foreign luxury, and manufacturers for the protection of home trades &c, that the Senate be made to hear the will of the people. . . . I have not been able to pay any rent, keep no servant, and have done a great deal of washing. . . . I gave 87½ c for 25 lbs of cornmeal, some flower, tea, sugar [so] you may judge
[the] economy. . . . Proslair is in prison for stealing. . . . Nicholson has been nearly murdered, waylaid and robbed. . . . All exchange brokers have to pay a sum of 3000$ a year and shavers much more by a new law that has passed. . . .” (Baltimore, Maryland, 10 April 1842: Catherine J. Nairn, wife)

Steamship Medora Disaster:

“We had a terrible steamboat accident. . . . on its 2nd trial the boiler burst, and in two minutes the boat sank; 38 have died from this dreadful explosion and several others are lying in excruciating agony. Mr Noale, his Son, and Mr Henderson. . . . were on board of her and are both dead. Watchman’s escape is miraculous. . . . Wilson was going, but the boat had pushed off in the stream to prevent the deck from becoming crowded and he was unable to get aboard. The Mayor, Major Hillen, has been indefatigable in obtaining relief for the sufferers. I believe there were 60 persons more or less injured. . . .” (Baltimore, Maryland, 20 April 1832 (sic, 1842): Catherine J. Nairn, wife)

Scarlet Fever Epidemic of 1844

“We are in great affliction having lost our Ada. I had looked forward with pride to the time when I should present her to you, but Alas! You may not ever see nor know what she has been. God be praised Augusta is recovering. Frank and myself have had the Scarlet fever sore throat from the effects of which we have not yet recovered. Frank is very wee and looks badly. Charles has it at present. . . . My dear husband I cannot express the deep trouble which has near overwhelmed me. For a time I forgot that there was a God above, who ruled o’er our destinies, so wretched and lonely was I. . . .” (Baltimore, Maryland, 12 August 1844: Catherine J. Nairn, wife)

Presidential Election of 1844 and Millerism:

“We have had very exciting times from Politics, and Millerism, the illuminations by the sights exceed any thing I have ever seen, in consequence of this excitement several murders have been committed. . . . between the contending parties. . . . Millerism has been carried to such a pitch that men sell all they have and leave their families destitute. A jury is formed today to endeavor to put a stop to their proceedings by declaring them to be a nuisance; it was the opinion of judges that it was the only way the fumbling authorities could succeed. In yesterday being Sunday there were 5000 persons to witness the Rapturing. . . .” (Baltimore, Maryland, 14 October 1844: Catherine J. Nairn, wife)

Dr. Nairn, apparently was able to raise enough cash in England to return to Baltimore and settle his debts as he is listed in the 1850 census as a physician, living in Baltimore with his wife and four children. The last two dated items in this archive are from the 1860s, and online genealogical records show that he died in 1866.

A wonderful collection of first-hand accounts of significant early 19th century events with exceptionally rare first-hand letters regarding the Red Barn Murder Trial. At the time of listing, no first-hand manuscript items related to the Red Barn Murder Trial are for sale in the trade. Neither are there any auction records for similar items identified at the Rare Book Hub, ands OCLC show none being held by institutions although there may be some at the Moyes Hall Museum in Bury St Edmunds.

SOLD #9849
19. [EXPLORATION] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]  “The greatest difficulty under which I labored . . . was in obtaining guides; for even among the Indian none knew more than small portions of the country we were to traverse and no white man could be found who had any knowledge. . . .” 1860 - Congressional pamphlet detailing the expedition to find a shortcut between the Great Salt Lake and the Oregon Trail.

36th Congress, 1st Session. Senate. Ex. Doc., No. 34. Report of the Secretary of War communicating In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, the report of Captain H. D. Wallen of his expedition in 1859, from Dalles City to Great Salt Lake, and back. April 11, 1860.

51 pages plus a 22” x 16” folded map. Removed from a bound volume. Tight and clean with some light toning, mostly at the edges. Bottom corner of one leaf missing; affects about twenty-five words of text. In nice shape, much better than usually found.

The pamphlet’s map is titled: Map of a Reconnaissance for a Military Road from the Dalles of the Columbia River to Great Salt Lake under the command of Capt. H. D. Wallen, 4th Inf. By Lieut. Joseph Dixon T. Engrs. 1859. The map is in nice shape with binding folds. It would have been too difficult to unfold for a photograph without possibly loosening it from the binding, so the image at my website, which I believe is in the public domain, is of another in similar condition.

"The road was surveyed through new country for the benefit of emigrants and prospective settlers. They departed from The Dalles on June 4, and arrived at Camp Floyd, Utah Territory, on August 16. They left Camp Floyd on August 20 and returned to The Dalles. In addition, detachments of the command explored much of central-eastern Oregon. Wallen speaks of travelers being harassed by Indians on the California road during the summer just past." (Wagner-Game: The Plains & the Rockies; also Graff 4525 and Howes W57)

The “Reconnaissance for a Military Road” at the online Oregon History Project goes on to expand:

“During the 1840s and 1850s, tens of thousands of emigrants traveled across the Oregon Trail . . . Most of them followed a route along the Snake River before heading northwest towards the Grande Ronde Valley [and] across the Blue Mountains to the Umatilla Valley, then west towards The Dalles. The Dalles emigrants faced the choice of either following the Barlow Road across the Cascades or taking the water route down the Columbia River . . . Most chose the Barlow Road . . . The portion of the Oregon Trail that crossed the Blue Mountains was generally inaccessible during the winter months . . . Indian wars of the late 1850s led General William S. Harney, commander of the U.S. Army’s Oregon Department, to recommend the establishment of an all-season supply route from Salt Lake to the Columbia River in order to speed troop movement and to secure the emigrant route, [and he] ordered Captain Henry D. Wallen to ‘open a road from the Dalles to the Great Salt Lake valley. . .’ The routes explored by the Wallen expedition turned out to be unsuitable for wagon travel, but [it] did succeed in gaining a significant amount of geographical knowledge about a little known portion of Oregon’s interior.”

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, two examples in lesser condition are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub records eight auction sales in the last 75 years. OCLC records suggest that about 30 physical examples are held by institutions, although some of these could be microform or digital copies.

$275  #9859
20. [FILIBUSTER] [FRATERNAL] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR – LOPEZ EXPEDITION] “The prisoners . . . were all arrested . . . on the island of Contoy or on board of two American vessels, . . . whilst at anchor . . . on the coast of Yucatan. [Their] guilt or innocence . . . as connected with the late hostile expedition of Lopez, to invade the island of Cuba, does not affect . . . this demand.” 1852 - Congressional pamphlet providing all of the details the seizure of American civilians in Mexico by the Spanish Navy.


This pamphlet contains all of the correspondence and reports issued by the United States and Spain detailing the capture and subsequent diplomatic battles over the fate of the ships and crews that participated in Narciso Lopez’s filibustering expedition to seize control of Cuba.

While William Walker’s attempt to conquer Nicaragua is well known, a similar filibuster by Narciso Lopez to seize control of Cuba is less familiar. Lopez, a Spanish general, lost his post in Cuba and joined the island’s anti-Spanish faction. During a crackdown on revolutionaries, Lopez escaped to New York where he and a like-minded cabal of fellow freemasons planned a filibuster campaign to ‘liberate’ Cuba. He recruited 600 Cubans and U.S. citizens, and the adventurers assembled at Round Island, Mississippi. President Zachary Taylor learned of the plan and ordered the Navy to seize Lopez’s ships. Subsequently, Lopez moved his headquarters to New Orleans where he raised support for a second attempt by suggesting that if successful, his Cuba would join the U.S. as a slave-state. Although he found little support among politicians and the military (Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee both turned down offers of plantations and immense wealth), his plan captured the public’s imagination, and he raised another force of 600 who landed in Cuba in 1850. Expected support from Cuban revolutionaries never materialized and his expedition was forced to retreat to Key West. Lopez made a third attempt after recruiting more Cuban exiles, Americans, and recent immigrants from Europe. This invasion was a disaster. Lopez was captured and brutally garroted at a public execution; his followers were either executed by firing squad or shipped to Spanish quicksilver mines to work as slaves.

Two ships that had transported the Lopez Expedition, the Georgiana and the Susan Loud, anchored at a deserted Mexican island, Contoy, after landing the filibusters in Cuba. There, they were found and seized by the Spanish Navy, and their crews imprisoned. Despite the furor caused throughout the United States by the barbaric punishments imposed on the filibusters who had fought in Cuba, the United States raised no formal objections against their sentences. It did, however strongly object to the seizure of American flagged vessels in neutral territory, and the proposed punishment of their American crews as “an outrage upon the rights of this country.”

(For more information see, Granville’s *The Lopez Expeditions to Cuba 1848-1851*, “Cuban Expedition: An Account by an Eyewitness” at Latin American Studies online, and de la Cova’s “Filibusters and Freemasons: The Sworn Obligation” in *the Journal of the Early Republic* Vol 17 No 1.

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, no examples of this pamphlet are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports only two have ever been sold at auction, and OCLC shows only two physical examples are held by institutions.

SOLD #9860
21. [IMMIGRATION] [LETTER SHEETS] [RAILROADS] [RIVER TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION] [WESTWARD EXPANSION] [WOMEN] “After 54 days of travel, I arrived safely and happily in New Orleans [and] got a job on a riverboat.” 1856 - A German immigrant’s letter home written on a rare illustrated lettersheet showing the first railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi River.

This four-page letter dated 8 August 1856, from Louis Wiesenhavern to his parents is written in German on an illustrated lettersheet titled, *Mississippi Rail Road Bridge between Rock-Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa*, published by Eli Adams & Co. of Davenport. A German transcript and English translation of the letter will be provided.

Wiesenhavern’s letter describes his luck in securing a job on a riverboat very shortly after arriving at New Orleans.

“After 54 days of travel, I arrived safely and happily in New Orleans. My cash had melted down to a few dollars. .. After 8 days of rest and refreshing, I got a job on a steamboat to St Louis. At Cairo, the upper river was still frozen, and I had to travel by railroad to St Louis. .. had the luck to get a job on a United States Post steamship, which makes its weekly trips up and down river from Davenport to Keokuk (a distance of 140 Eng. miles). I earn very well here. .. I make $80-$100 a month, which I couldn't make in the city. .. I've made about $425 since mid-March, but I've already spent $225 on my housekeeping, leisure time, & other expenses for clothes & my business. However, I still have over $200 left not including the $200 (dollars) that I received from Page & Bacon. ..”

He goes on to inform his parents that he has recently married.

“On 5 May I married Miss Marie Ritter. .. I'm very satisfied with her & can congratulate myself; a better wife I couldn't have in all of America. .. She was born to righteous & poor parents, she lost her father in early childhood & 3 years ago her mother. Her mother encouraged her to be active and work when she was young. She is only 19 years old, but has the knowledge of people who are 5-6 years older. .. She knows washing, ironing, cooking, sewing & knitting and also how to crochet lace. .. She makes my pants, shirts, vests, all our Sunday & weekday clothing, even cotton blankets. What I really liked was her love and faithfulness towards me, since she resisted her relatives’ attempts to marry her to wealthy young men, but .. waited until I returned. .. An active and industrious woman is no burden to a husband but is a pillar & best friend & companion through life. I ask for your parental blessings on my line & hope that you will take my wife into our family as your daughter. I will in due course send a portrait. ..”
Wiesenhavern’s job was probably aboard the riverboat *Die Vernon*, a sidewheeler built in St. Louis in 1850, which was one of the fastest vessels on the river. It was operated by the Keokuk Packet Company which had been awarded a mail contract from the U.S. Post Office from 1850 to 1858. During that time, it made the Davenport to Keokuk run six times each week.

Page & Bacon was a St. Louis-based bank that was one of the largest and most important banks in the nation. It provided funding for both the Mexican-American War and the expansion of mid-century railroads. With the California Gold Rush, it established branches in Sacramento and San Francisco. Due to a delayed shipment of a fortune in gold dust, the bank was forced to temporarily close its doors for a month in 1855. News of the loss and closure, but not the gold’s recovery and bank’s reopening, reached San Francisco and created a run on the branch there that resulted in its collapse which caused the entire Page & Bacon empire to crash. Its fall, in turn, caused the failure of all of the other San Francisco banks except one, Wells Fargo.

The letter sheet is based on an 1855 drawing that was made before the bridge—the first railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi River—was completed. At the time the drawing was made, Fort Armstrong, shown on Rock Island had actually been abandoned and looked more like a ruin than the active army post in the illustration. This sheet is an unlisted variant (it has no advertising for Eli Adams on the dock) of a similar rare lettersheet of which less than five are known to exist.

(For more information see Feldman’s *U.S Contract Mail Routes by Water*. . ., Milgram’s *American Illustrated Letter Stationery*. . ., “Bacon’s bank empire sizzles, then fizzles” in the 2 Sep 2007 edition of *East Bay Times*, and the Davenport Iowa History Facebook page.)

A rare letter from an immigrant riverboat worker written on a very scarce illustrated lettersheet.

SOLD  #9861
“Robert having heard that Aunt Lapham had recovered from her insanity went to Worcester for the purpose of carrying her home. . .” 1847 - Letter of woe describing the insanity and dementia that had overcome the older members of a Massachusetts family.

This one-page stampless folded letter was sent from Chelsea to Taunton, Massachusetts. It is datelined “Chelsea Oct 21st 1847” and bears a circular red Chelsea postmark dated October 30th as well as a red “5” rate stamp.

In the letter, Joseph Breck informs his brother, Samuel, of the medical problems that have overwhelmed several members of their family.

“Millar & Robert having heard that Aunt Lapham had recovered from her insanity went to Worcester for the purpose of carrying her home, but upon their arrival there found her as bad as ever. She has attempted her life by choking and says she would throw herself from the windows if were not for the iron grating . . .

“Aunt Stodder being left alone about two minutes took it into her to cross the room without assistance and falling broke her hip bone. She has been completely broken in her mind for some time and now utterly helpless in body. Is not able of course to rise for the call of nature. I went to see here this morning and when I told her it was Joseph I thought she knew me but soon found it was Uncle Joseph that she was thinking of. Every person she ever knew is as much alive to her as those who are always about her.

“William Henry is likewise quite unwell – his days are probably numbered tho nothing serious at present.”

Life goes on, and the more things change, the more they stay the same. Very similar messages were probably sent in hundreds of emails yesterday.

The Worcester Insane Asylum opened on January 12, 1833. It has gone through numerous changes but remains open today as the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital, a 320-bed facility that can serve up to 260 adults and 60 adolescents.
Seven mid-19th century maps showing planned improvements to the Wisconsin river “to facilitate the passage of lumber, rafts, and flat boats.”

1852 – Congressional pamphlet containing eight maps illustrating different sections of the Wisconsin River.

Maps are of

- Whitney Rapids (two different maps),
- Grand Rapids,
- Conans Rapids,
- Shaurette Rapids,
- Little Bull Falls, and
- Big Bull Falls.

The chart shows the length of the Wisconsin from Whitney Rapids to Big Bull Falls.

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, one previously bound pamphlet is for sale in the trade. None have ever come up for auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows only two physical examples are held by institutions.

$250  #9862
24. [MILITARY WAR – REVOLUTIONARY WAR] “Extortion and want of Virtue has taken almost possession of Every Person upon this Continent, the Enormous sums of Public money which is daily expended and the great depreciation of it will if not shortly put stop to end in our ruin.” 1779 - Funding-status letter from the Commissary-General for the Middle District that reads like a who’s who of the Continental Army’s Quartermaster Corps.

This two-page letter, datelined Philad’a 15th Feb’y 1779, was sent by Colonel Ephraim Blaine, the Commissary-General for the Middle District of the Continental Army, to Colonel John Davis, the Deputy Quartermaster General for Army’s Western District who was located at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In it, he apprises Davis of his difficulties in raising funds and obtaining supplies. He also provides a summarized status of the leaders of the Quartermaster Corps.

“Nothing material has passed since your departure from this city. Genl. Green left it the Second Morning after you. I convey’d him and Colonel Wadsworth fifteen miles, the morning he set out had some little conversation with him about the Western department, but nothing of consequence transpired. Colo. Steel has had his trial and reports here that he is honorably acquitted – shou’d that be the case he will undoubtedly continue in office, have not had it in my power to procure the money from Colo. Pettit, though have call’d upon him sundry times, but, this morning he has given me assurance of it about the latter end of this week, as soon as it comes to my hand shall forward it to you, - Extortion and want of Virtue has taken almost possession of Every Person upon this Continent, the Enormous sums of Public money which is daily expended and the great depreciation of it will if not shortly put stop two end in our ruin.”

At the time of this letter, General Nathanael Greene, one of the army’s most talented leaders who is most famous for campaign against the British in Georgia and the Carolinas, was serving as the Army’s Quartermaster General.

Colonel Archibald Steel was the Deputy Quartermaster General for the Western District. When District Commanding General’s (Lachlan McIntosh) ill-advised expedition to drive the British from Detroit failed, McIntosh attempted to lay the blame on Steel, charging him with “neglect of duty,” incapacity, delaying the transport of supplies, ignoring his public duty for private concerns, embezzling, repeated disobedience and contempt of orders, and insulting the commanding officers.” Steel was unanimously acquitted at his court-martial, and MacIntosh was reassigned by General Washington. (See General Orders, 21 April 1779, Head-Quarters Middle-Brook and Letter to George Washington from John Jay, 22 February 1779, both online at the National Archives.)

Colonel Pettit was the Deputy Quartermaster General charged with keeping the corps’ financial accounts.

A fine first-hand report regarding the leadership of the Quartermaster Corps in which Blaine is unable to suppress his frustration, anger, and fear for the country’s future.

$2,000  #9850
“Wyoming was settled under the authority of Connecticut, as part of the State, under her Charter, in the assertion and defence of her claims, west of New York.” 1790 - Broadsie enumerating the validity of Connecticut’s claim to what is today the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania.

Nine Propositions, Which contain the grounds of the Wyoming Claim, on the State of Connecticut. [probably Connecticut: circa 1790.]

This broadside measures 6” x 9.5”. Light wrinkles and faint marginal toning, mostly along the top margin. It makes a strong case for Connecticut’s retention of the Wyoming Valley enumerating nine propositions, i.e., justifications. Some of those justifications were:

The territory was granted to Connecticut under its colonial Charter.

The area had long fallen under Connecticut laws and administration Units raised in the area were considered to be Connecticut troops during the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolutionary War, Connecticut settlers in the area suffered horrendous massacres by tribes allied with the British.

Survivors of the massacres who had been driven from their home during the Revolutionary War returned to their properties once it was again safe to do so.

Following the establishment of the Northwest Territory, Connecticut retained its claim to the Western Reserve in Ohio which was on the same latitude as the Wyoming area of Pennsylvania.

The Wyoming Valley along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River had been disputed between settlers from Connecticut (Yankees) and Pennsylvania (Pennamites) since the late 1760s. In 1782, the Continental Congress decided that the Wyoming Valley belonged to Pennsylvania and the region’s long-time Connecticut Yankee settlers had no claim to the land. Violence soon broke out as Pennamite forces (who held an advantage as the area’s Connecticut militia had deployed eastward to fight the British) began to force the remaining 2,000 Connecticut settlers (mostly women and children) off their homesteads and into the woods where they starved and froze. When word of their eviction spread, armed men from Connecticut and Vermont rushed to the region to counter the Pennamites, allowing the settlers to return to their farms. Although in 1787, the Pennsylvania Assembly formally recognized the Connecticut settlers’ rights to their lands, sporadic attacks upon them continued throughout the 1790s until the federal government formally declared that although the Connecticut settlers were henceforth citizens of Pennsylvania and retained full rights to their lands.

Although undated, the broadsides contents—which failed to sway Congress—indicate it was published following the establishment of the Northwest Territory in 1787, but before the federal decision of 1799.

(For more information, see Stewart’s Blood in the Hills: A History of Violence in Appalachia, and “Connecticut Battles Pennsylvania in the Pennamite Wars” at the New England Historical Society online.

Scarce. At the time of listing, no similar broadsheets are for sale in the trade, only one is held by an institution, and the Rare Book Hubs identifies none as ever coming up for auction.

$800  #9863
26. [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY] [PONY EXPRESS] “Kill the rattlesnake. Keep his musical bones as a trophy, then throw him over the wall. It does one’s soul good . . . to see the Southerners transepted in this section where they have bullied over [us] so long with dirk and bludgeon”. 1861 - Anti-secessionist screed sent from San Francisco enclosed in its original rare 'internal' Pony Express envelope.

California politics had long been dominated by pro-slavery Democrats until the presidential campaign of 1860 when their party split into two factions, one led by Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas and the other by Vice-President John C. Breckinridge. This schism allowed the state’s Republicans to eke out a plurality win for Abraham Lincoln who captured California’s four electoral college vote despite winning only 32% of its popular vote. Although Democrats had controlled Southern California and Tulare County, and were a significant force in San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Francisco counties, after the South Carolina militia bombarded Fort Sumter in April of 1861, California’s Republicans and pro-Union Democrats began to form an alliance against the secessionists. In late May following a duel between state assemblymen in which Charles W. Piercy was killed by secessionist Daniel Showalter, Unionist tempers ran hot, and Southern sympathizers, to include the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles, a pro-Confederate militia group, began to leave the state.

It was in this environment that John “Johnnie” Ware, who is identified in some San Francisco City Directories as a porter (i.e., coleporter/colporteur: a traveling salesman of religious books, pamphlets, and subscriptions), wrote to the Reverend Thomas B. Fox, the editor of the Christian Examiner, a Boston-published national Unitarian newspaper, in June of 1861. “Johnnie” Ware may well have been a relative of the famous Unitarian minister and mentor of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Ware, Jr., who had previously served as the editor of the Christian Examiner.

In his letter, Johnnie Ware presses Fox for his payment due, noting “Julia says ‘ask for what commission be relayed to allow me for the list of subscribers. I don’t want any pious books for commission.’” Considering the letter cost him two dollars to send by Pony Express, Ware must have anxiously been anticipating his remuneration. In the letter, Ware also humorously, but vehemently, declares his pro-Union stance and relates how the political climate in California had shifted.
My Dear Fox, How are you? & What are you? Major, Col., Sergeant, Ensign, Chaplain, Commissary, or what? Perhaps Secessionist, as you always take philosophical views of things. . . . I am not so sure that . . . the secessionist cause is . . . the one to sympathize with. We don't want the South after we have licked 'em. I am a post mortem dicationist. Kill the rattlesnake. Keep his musical bones as a trophy, then throw him over the wall. It does one's soul good . . . to see the Southerners transepted [i.e. crucified] in this section where they have bullied over [us] so long with dirk and bludgeon. The State has been moved so many degrees North morally, of late, that it's cold weather all the time. . . . I am still busy speaking in the State on The War, and Washington, & Webster, & Lexington & on the Fourth I am to speak at a tremendous gathering in Sacramento. On Every Hand, I get complimented & thanked for important service in knitting the Union Sentiment & pushing back the early Southern insolence. It would do you good to see how I am loved by our Brigand-brethern. . . .”

Ware’s letter is datelined “San Francisco, June 12, 1861,” and its cover is annotated “Pony Express.” Interestingly, it was franked with only one dull red, Type II 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #26) that was canceled by a New York City postmark dated July 1. That is because, this envelope had been enclosed within another while it traveled eastward via the Pony Express. Since Pony Express mail departed San Francisco only on Wednesdays or Saturdays, Ware’s letter must have been dispatched on June 12th, June 15th, or possibly June 19th for it to have reached New York by July 1st. Regardless of mailing date, it would have left San Francisco via steamship bound for Sacramento. There, it was placed on a train to Folsom for further transport by a Pony Express rider. Upon arrival in New York, the ‘interior’ envelope was removed from its exterior cover, postmarked, and sent on to Boston.

(For more information, see “The Civil War in California” at the California Department of Parks and Recreation website, “Ware, Henry” in “U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995” at the ancestry.com website, the Biographical dictionary of America online, and The Pony Express: a Postal History by Frajola, Kramer, and Walske.)

A similar ‘interior’ Pony Express cover to the Reverend Thomas B. Fox sold for $13,500 at Seigel Auction #1217 (March 3-5, 2020) as Lot 628.

$12,500 #9846
27. [MILITARY & WAR – RUSSIA INTERVENTION] [PHILATELY] “The Battle of Hakadote” 1918 - U.S. Army Siberian Intervention “Forerunner Mail” sent from Hakadote, Japan while enroute from San Francisco to Vladivostok aboard the U. S. Army Transport Logan.

The postally used envelope bears the return address “Pvt David Kiddie / A.E.F / Siberia” and is free-franked “Soldiers / Mail / U.S.A.” It is addressed to Andrew Kiddie of Oakland, California. It bears a manuscript annotation “Censored / F. G. Nevato / 1st Vo. Inf.”. It is franked with a 10-sen Japanese stamp (Scott # 122/137) that has been canceled with a circular Hakodate, Japan postmark dated 23 September 1918. A second Japanese transit postmark from Tokyo is dated 26 September 1918. No letter.

Two other items are included in this lot. There is a letter, without envelope, from Kiddie showing that he was assigned to the 31st Infantry Regiment upon arrival in Siberia. There is also a picture postcard showing the U.S.A.T. Sheridan.

Following the Russian Revolution in the fall of 1917 and the resulting Bolshevik government’s peace treaty with the Central Powers in March 1918, the Entente (Allied powers) faced a major crisis as Germany had been freed to concentrate all of its forces in the west and no longer fight a two-front war. Additionally, the 50,000-member Czechoslovak Legion, which had fought with the Allies became stranded in territory controlled by the Soviets and began to fight its way east to Vladivostok through Bolshevik forces along the Trans-Siberian Railway.

As a result, and in concert with other Allied powers, primarily Japan, President Wilson dispatched 10,000 American soldiers along with a contingent of railway professionals to keep the railroad open, assist the Czech Legion, and protect allied supplies that had been shipped to Vladivostok for use by Czarist Russia to fight the Germans. General William S. Graves, the Commanding General of the 8th Division was placed in charge of the American Expeditionary Force which included two regiments from the Philippines, the 27th and 31st Infantry, as well as several thousand volunteers from the 8th Division at Camp Freemont, California.

Lieutenant Navato’s use of “1st Vo. Inf” And Kiddie’s family member’s address in Oakland, strongly suggest that he was a volunteer from Grave’s 8th Division. After transporting the 31st Infantry to Vladivostok in
August, the U.S. Army Transport Ships (USATs) Sheridan and Logan returned to San Francisco where they picked up the 8th Division volunteers, including Kiddie.

It wasn’t long after the ships departed the States on 2 September when the Logan lost the use of two propellers, slowing down the convoy. The slow pace, rough seas, anti-submarine zig-zagging, bad food, and masking after a diphtheria scare made the voyage near intolerable. By the time the ships reached Japan, fuel was running low, so both pulled into Hakodate, one of Japan’s closest ports to Vladivostok, for coal on September 22. The troops were granted shore leave to visit the town, and while some went sightseeing, others, including officers and NCOs, immediately visited the bars where liquor was plentiful. What resulted, “the Battle of Hakodate,” was one of the most embarrassing drunken riots in the history of the army. Scores of courts-Martial began as soon as the men returned to their ships and continued until the 24th. 18 captains and lieutenants were found guilty of unbecoming conduct and confined to their quarters until they could be returned to the United States and dishonorably discharged.

Kiddie apparently behaved himself as a later letter (which will be included) shows he was reassigned to D Company, 31st Infantry, which was located in Harbin, Manchuria, to protect the Headquarters of the U.S. Russian Railway Service and ensure the Chinese Eastern Railway, a shortcut between Chita on the Trans-Siberian Railroad and Vladivostok, was kept open.

Mail sent prior to the Army Post Office’s arrived in country on 25 September was sent through Russian, Chinese, and, less frequently, Japanese civilian postal systems. So, in this case, Kiddie’s letter home, which he, no doubt, mailed while on shore leave in Hakodate, was something of a “pre-forerunner” to those other forerunner covers.

(For more information see Opperman and Kugel’s “A Classification System for Siberian AEF Covers” in Van Dam’s The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1923, the 31st Infantry Regiment Association’s A History of ‘America’s Foreign Legion’ . . . , and Faulstich’s privately-published classic, The Siberian Sojourn.

This is a truly rare cover. Opperman and Kugel note that only thirty forerunner covers are known to exist, and ten of those are held by the Smithsonian. This cover is even more scarce than those. At the time of listing, no other enroute covers are for sale in the philatelic or paper Americana trade. None are recorded by Van Dam, nor are any listed as having ever appeared for auction by Stamp Auction Network, Worthpoint, Live Auctioneers, or Rare Book Hub.

SOLD #9865
28. [ORATORY] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS] [REVOLUTION]  "I stood in the mud ankle deep yesterday for upwards of an hour to hear him speak and faced a pelting rain too."  1852 - Letter describing a speech given by the Hungarian revolutionary hero Lajos Kosuth at St. Louis during his failed fund-raising tour of the United States in 1852.

This two-page folded letter measures approximately 17” x 10.5” unfolded. It is datelined, “St. Louis March 13th 1852”. It is franked with an orange-brown 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #10, Type 1 with all around frame line) that has been cancelled with a circular Saint Louis “3” postmark (see ASSC p. 205). It is from D. H. Thomas to David Blodget in Alton, Illinois. In nice shape with splits beginning along a couple of mailing folds and faint arithmetic computations in pencil which should be very easy to erase.

The first half of this letter between friends describes Thomas’s assistance in collecting some debts owed Blodget.

The second half of the letter describes a speech by the famous Hungarian nobleman, deposed president, revolutionary, and champion of freedom, Lajos Kossuth, who captured all of America’s attention when he toured the country making powerful fund-raising speeches in support of Hungarian independence. It is said that upon arrival in New York, Kossuth received a public reception equaled only by those previously bestowed on President Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. His English was perfect, and his oratory spellbinding. Of him, Horace Greeley declared, "Among the orators, patriots, statesmen, exiles, he has, living or dead, no superior." Although Kossuth attracted huge crowds at his speeches, his tour failed to raise anywhere near what he’d expected. After returning to Europe, he further provoked Austrian royalty while simultaneously alienating himself from other Hungarian expatriates. Kossuth spent most of his remaining years in exile and played no role in creating the dual monarchy of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (For more information, the internet is full of articles about Kossuth.)

This letter provides a terrific firsthand account of one of Kossuth’s fund-raising speeches that not only describes his oratorical skills but evidences his difficulty in getting Americans to part with their dollars.

“The famous Hungarian Kossuth is here at present and as he has done elsewhere has created a deal of excitement. I stood in the mud ankle deep yesterday for upwards of an hour to hear him speak and faced a pelting rain too, to hear him speak. You of course have read his speeches and know that they read well and I can testify that the delivery of them is very fine. He’s mannered and graceful in the extreme, his voice rich and deep. His eye full and expressive and his head highly intellectual. I am much pleased with his conduct and deportment and admire his firmness and consistency and certainly wish his cause may be prospered but I have never been able to satisfy myself that to assist him with “material aid” would be altogether right though we all feel bound in humanity to make the cause of the oppressed our own. Hungarian Bonds are freely offered for sale but I have not yet seen any of these, much less, purchased when the auction sales of Books recommence. I shall be on the lookout and should I see anything official that I think likely to please you, I shall procure it, and if you have any special commands, make them known.”

SOLD  #9866
29. [OREGON STATEHOOD] [POLITICS] “I owe it to the people of the United States, whose agent I am; to the people of Oregon, whose rights it is my duty to protect, and to my official oath, to decline any participation in executing your act.” 1852 - A Congressional pamphlet containing the correspondence between the Governor of the Oregon Territory and President Millard Fillmore regarding his refusal to enforce the relocation of the territory’s capital from Oregon City to Salem.


Before the creation of the Oregon Territory, a group of American settlers created a provisional government in the ‘Oregon Country’, a contested region in the Pacific Northwest that was also occupied by British and French fur traders. Its legislature selected Oregon City as the capital. When the Territory was established in 1848, its first governor, Joseph Lane, affirmed the location by proclamation. Two years later, the territorial legislature voted to move the capital to Salem, as well as establish a penitentiary at Portland and a university at Marysville.

In a famous “Governor’s Special Message” (the text of which is included in this pamphlet), the territory’s new governor, John P. Gaines, refused to enforce the act, claiming that it was his responsibility to locate those institutions, and the Territorial Supreme Court agreed. While the legislature moved to Salem, the governor and all but one member of the court remained in Oregon City. Subsequently, Gaines began an extended correspondence regarding the legality of the act with President Millard Fillmore that is compiled in this pamphlet.

The matter remained in limbo until the spring of 1852, when it was settled by an Act of the U. S. Congress declaring Salem to be Oregon’s new capital.

(For more information see, Horner’s Oregon: Her History, Her Great Men, and Her Literature and Winslow’s “Conquest over the Capital of Oregon” in Oregon Historical Quarterly Vol 9)

Scarce. At the time of listing, there are no examples for sale in the trade. OCLC identifies only three physical examples held by institutions, and the Rare Book Hub shows none have been sold at auction. The Rare Book Hub does identify three auctions for an “extremely rare” pamphlet, published at Portland in 1852, containing the decision of the Territorial Supreme Court (Huntington No. 651)

$200  #9867
“Long distance and high speed electric railways are constantly attracting more attention [and] the one which is attracting universal attention, not only in this country but abroad, is the Chicago & St. Louis Railway, which promises a speed of 100 miles an hour.”

This illustrated advertising cover is franked with a carmine 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #220) canceled by a duplex St. Louis, Missouri postmark dated December 20, 1892. The decorative corner card reads, “Chicago & St. Louis Electric Railroad Company / Bank of Commerce Bldg. St. Louis / ‘The Temple’ Chicago / Heineke-Fliegel Litho. Co. St. Louis.” The cover features an illustration of a futuristic “High Speed Electric Car.” In nice shape with a little bit of edge wear.

This project, which never came to fruition, received quite a bit of attention in railway and electricity journals and newspapers published in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Conceived in 1891, by 1892 it had attracted investments of $10 million. The company survived the panic of 1893 and by 1894, 24 miles of roadway near Edinburg, Illinois, had been prepared. With co-headquarters in St. Louis and Chicago, its president was Professor F. E. Nipher of Washington University’s department of electrical engineering. The route was planned to minimize grades, and there were to be no grade crossings. Instead, its tracks were to be elevated to cross above roads and other railway tracks. Its futuristic High Speed Electric Cars, which were expected to be able to travel at speeds of 100 miles per hour, looked like something out of a Frank Reade science fiction dime novel. It is unclear when or why the original company folded; however, the project was revived around 1910 with “plans perfected for the Chicago-St. Louis service” by a newly organized firm, the Chicago, Joliet & St. Louis Electric Railway Company, which intended to build tracks of its own to link those of existing railroads like Chicago’s Metropolitan Elevated, the Joliet Electric Railway, and the Joliet, Plainfield & Aurora Railroad. However, this railway also failed to materialize. Passenger service between Chicago and St. Louis didn’t reach speeds of 100 miles per hour until August of 2013 when Amtrak Lincoln Service trains regularly ran 110 miles per hour over a 15-mile stretch between Dwight and Pontiac, Illinois.

(For more information, see “Long Distance Electric Railway” in Street Railway Review Jan 1893, “Chicago and St. Louis Electric Railway Project” in Western Electrician 12 May 1894, and “Plans Perfected for Chicago-St. Louis Service” in Electric Traction Weekly 1 Jan 1910.)

A very scarce advertising cover promoting high-speed rail services well ahead of their time.

SOLD  #9844
Please let us know if you would like to receive our electronic catalogs of diaries, letters, ephemera, postal history, photographs, and sometimes even books.

We hope you can join us at one of our upcoming live shows

23 April - Manhattan Vintage Book & Ephemera Fair – New York City
13-15 May – Georgetown Rare Book Fair – Washington, DC
3-5 June – National Philatelic Exhibition – McLean, Virginia
25-28 August – Great American Stamp Show – Sacramento, California

In the meantime, please follow us at read-em-again.com.