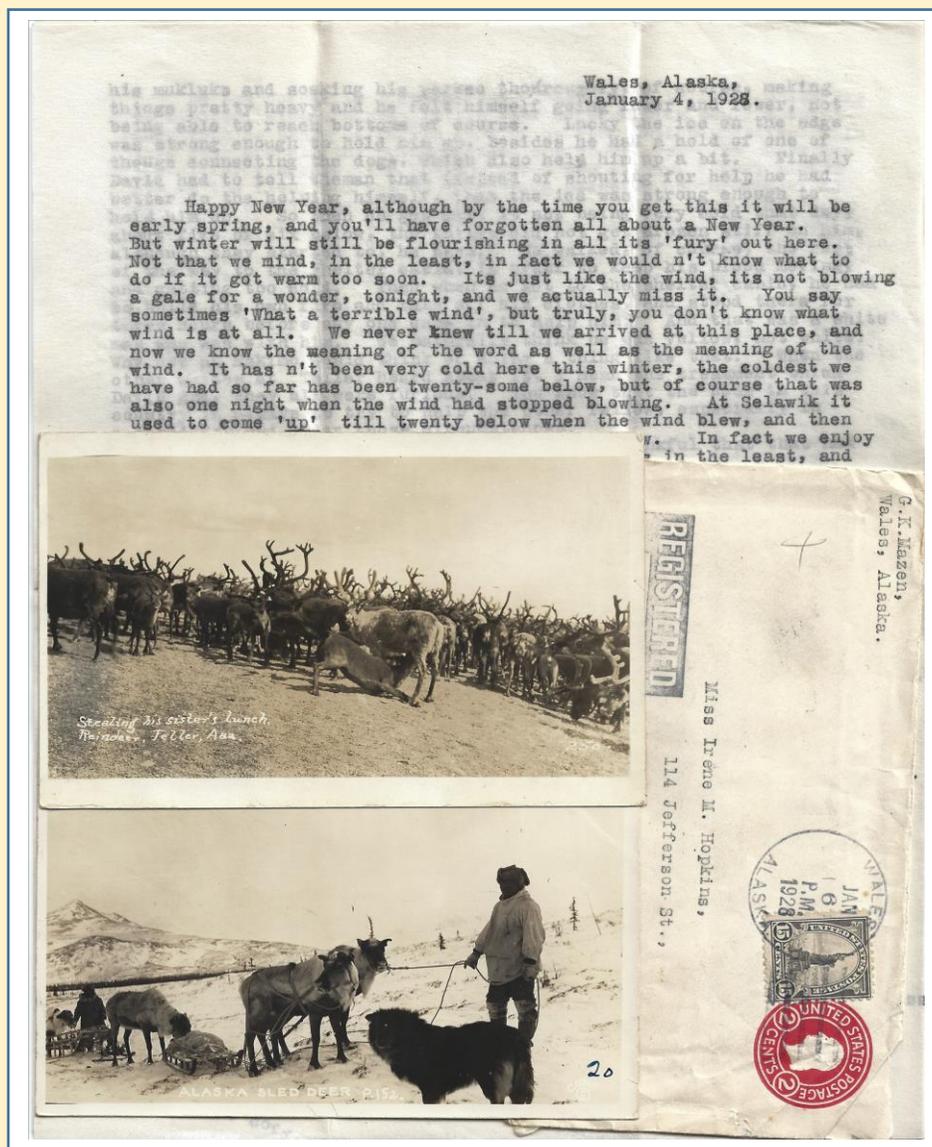


Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA & ASDA

Paper Americana

Catalog 22-4 – August 2022



16. [ALASKAN NATIVES – INUIT] [BUSINESS – REINDEER HERDING] [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY]

1928 – A small archive from a teacher at a Department of the Interior School at Wales, Alaska, describing her husband's daily work with the local Inuit reindeer herds as the area Superintendent for the Alaskan Reindeer Service. Includes a long, detailed letter and two real photo postcards.

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

Kurt and Gail Sanftleben
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
Email: info@read-em-again.com Phone: 571-409-0144
Website: <http://read-em-again.com>



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2. [ADVERTISING – HANDBILL] [MEDICINE – PATENT] [QUACKERY]

1900 – Handbill Advertising Mexican Hair Tonic and Nit Killer and Father Arent’s Rheumatic Herbal Plaster

Handbill advertising two quack patent medicine products manufactured by Joseph Hogg of Buffalo, New York, circa 1900. The handbill measures approximately 6” x 9” In nice shape with some light toning

One side of the handbill advertises Arent’s Rheumatic Herbal Plaster sold by the Father Arent’s Plaster Company of Buffalo, New York. It is illustrated with an image of the priest and three of men and women wearing the plasters. It touts:

“Clerks, Merchants, Travelers and all Laborers will find a quick cure for Pains in the Back, Hip-Disorders, Swollen Joints and Weak Lungs. [To] the tired Mother, the nervous Daughter or young Children it gives Renewed Strength. . .”
The text goes on to describe how to apply the plaster for best results “For Female Weaknesses” including “certain periods [and] Inflamed Breasts.”

The reverse advertises Mexican Hair Tonic and Nit Killer sold by (you can’t make this up) the Mexican Roach Food Company and features an illustration of a mother dousing her child’s head with the tonic. The text claims the tonic is

“A purely vegetable preparation, non-poisonous to human beings [that] can be used on the heads of children with perfect safety [while quickly destroying] nits and vermin of every kind in the hair.” The tonic, “when applied two or three times a week is an excellent article for keeping the scalp from dandruff and stopping hair from falling out. . . There is no more need of using the nasty, greasy, preparations that are composed of mercury, lead, mineral and other poisonous compounds. . .”

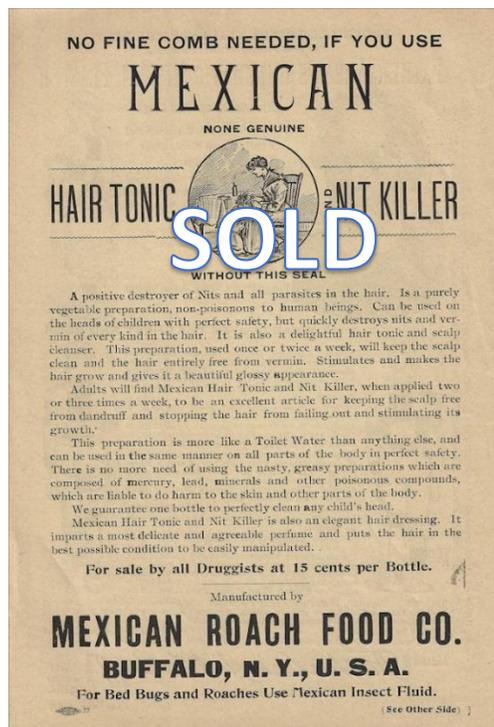
Unfortunately for Joseph Hogg, after passage of the Food and Drugs Act of 1910, a shipment of the hair tonic was seized and tested by the federal Bureau of Chemistry. The product was found to be misbranded and removed from the marketplace. It was not from Mexico. It was not purely vegetable as it also contained alcohol and borax. And, it was contained the poison, delphinine, a cardiovascular toxin. Fortunately for Joseph Hogg, the product wasn’t withdrawn from the market until four years later, after he pled guilty to mislabeling the tonic and paid a \$4 fine.

Hogg also manufactured other products including a laundry bluing compound, an ammonia cleanser, various ‘healing’ salves, and “Mexican Insect Fluid” to kill bed bugs and roaches.

For more information see listings for several other Hogg handbills (S-66.1 through S-66.3) advertising Father Arent’s plasters in Atwater’s catalog of *American Popular Medicine and Health Reform*, Stephenson’s *Buffalo’s East Side Industry*, and a discussion of Mexican Hair Tonic and Nit Killer in Cramp’s *Nostrums and Quacker: Articles on the Nostrum Evil and Quackery*.

Scarce. At the time of listing, no similar handbills are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows none as having appeared at auction. Worthpoint identifies one as having been sold on ebay. OCLC finds only one institutional holding at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

SOLD #9901



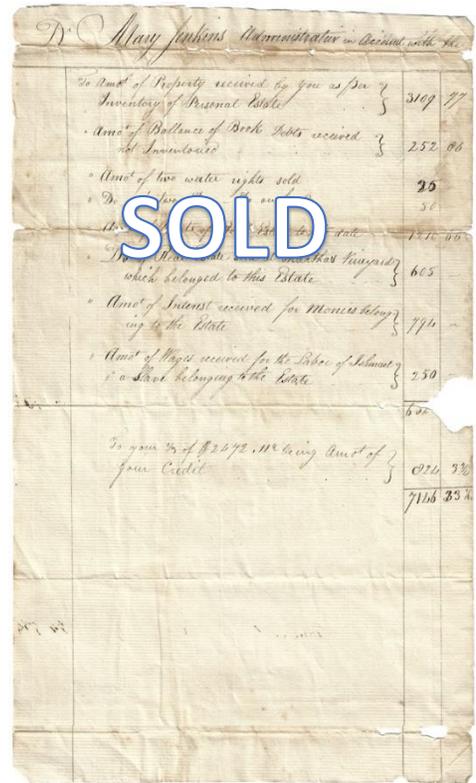
3. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR – REVOLUTIONARY WAR] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY] [WHALING]

[1789] – Estate documents for a Martha’s Vineyard whaling captain and West Indies trader who supplied the Continental Army in South Carolina, identifying earnings received from the labor of his slave.

Two leaves, each measuring 7.75” x 12.75”, titled “Dr Mary Jenkins Administratur in Account with the Estate of Lemuel Jenkins deceased.” Undated, but online records show that Lemuel Jenkins died on September 9, 1789 and that his estate was administered by third wife, Mary Durham Jenkins. In nice shape with some minor wear and light toning.

Together, the two sheets provide a balance statement for the estate which totaled \$7,146 33^{1/3}. Mary was, of course, not a physician. The “Dr” on one of the sheets was an abbreviation for debts and indicated that that the estate had liabilities which needed to be settled before Mary could claim her equity.

Among the estate’s identified assets were the “Amo^t of Wages received for the Labor of Ishmael a Slave belonging to the Estate 250-“. The type of labor Ishmael performed is not identified. Also, there is a separate annotation that reads “Ishmael – 74 75^{1/2}” perhaps indicating Ishmael’s appraised value should Mary decide to sell him.



The Jenkins were a seagoing merchant family. Lemuel, his brother, and two brothers-in-law from a previous marriage owned a fleet of ships anchored at Martha’s Vineyard and were engaged in both whaling and the West Indies trade. Prior to the Revolution, the family apparently did quite well, however their luck began to turn, after Lemuel’s brother, Marshall, was nearly killed while on a whaling voyage. His ship was broken in half by a large whale that then grabbed Marshall in his mouth, nearly crushing him. Although Marshall survived he bore the resulting scars and disabling injuries for the rest of his life.

After that, disaster seemed to follow disaster. Another ship, captained by a relative (perhaps Lemuel’s other brother), carrying lumber in the coastal trade went down with no survivors. One of the Jenkin’s vessels in the West Indies trade struck coastal rocks. While its crew was saved, the ship and cargo were total losses. In the years leading up to the Revolution, the British confiscated several cargo-laden ships.

During the war, Lemuel and a shipload of supplies for the Continental Army in South Carolina were captured by a British man-of-war. Although Jenkins lost his vessel, he managed to squeeze through a porthole and make it to shore. After explaining his situation to an American general, Lemuel was given a passport and money before he walked back home to Massachusetts. After the British burned what may have been the family’s last ship in Edgartown harbor, the family gave up its maritime trade and relocated to Hudson, New York where Lemuel died at age 49 in 1789. (For more information about the Jenkins family, see Bank’s *The History of Martha’s Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts*, and online genealogical websites.)

An interesting document showing the relatively minor value of a once prosperous seafaring business and documenting that slavery existed in New England as well as the South.

SOLD #9902

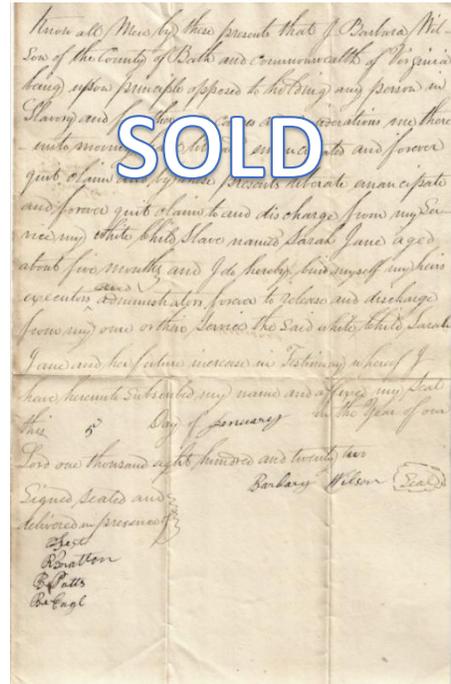
4. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW - ESTATES] [MEDICINE & NURSING – IMBECILITY] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1822 –A manumission document emancipating a “white Child Slave,” by a Virginia octogenarian challenged by relatives claimed had become an “imbecile” as old-age exacerbated the effects of tomahawk blow to her head that she suffered during an “Indian attack” in her youth.

This one-page manuscript “Deed of Emancipation” measures 8” x 13” and was signed by Barbary (Barbara) Wilson and four witnesses on January 5, 1822. In nice shape.

The document reads in part:

“Know all Men by these presents that I Barbara Wilson of the County of Bath and Commonwealth of Virginia being upon principle opposed to holding any person in Slavery and for other good causes and considerations me there unto moving have liberated emancipated and forever quit claim and by these presents liberate emancipate and forever quit claim to and discharge from my Service my white Child Slave named Sarah Jane aged about five months and I do bind myself my heirs executors and administrators forever to release and discharge from my own or their Service the said white Child Sara Jane and her future increases. . . .”



This famous case is well documented and a summary can be found in *Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia*, 1838, pages 19-22.

Barbara Wilson, an octogenarian, was an unmarried daughter of Irish immigrants who settled in the Shenandoah Valley before the French and Indian War. In 1764, Barbara was injured by a tomahawk blow to the head when American Indians attacked her family’s homestead. Sixty years later after two sisters who had lived with her died, Barbara inherited 14 slaves, six of them children or infants. Barbara, being opposed to slavery, set them all free. The fourteen included an adult black male, Harry, three slaves she declared to be mulattoes, and ten slaves she declared to be “white,” perhaps in anticipation of a legal challenge which she was certain some family members would initiate.

Barbara’s relatives did immediately sue to have her declared of “unsound mind” as a result OF her tomahawk injury which they maintained HAD been exacerbated by her old age. They were successful, and the 14 “freedmen” were remanded to a committee of guardians. When Barbara died three years later, her freedmen were again enslaved. All 14 Wilson slaves brought a counter “pauper suit” of their own, and the trial dragged on for the next 14 years. In the end, the Virginia Supreme Court determined in 1838 that although Barbara’s “health was very infirm, and her mind weak,” she was in control of her faculties when she freed her slaves. The 14 slaves regained their freedom and filed a claim to be paid for the work they’d performed while being “unlawfully detained” for 14 years as the court case drug on. It was denied.

(For more information about the American Indian attack of the Wilson’s homestead, see Morton’s *A History of Highland County Virginia*.)

Scarce. At the time of listing there are no other Wilson emancipation documents for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports that two have been sold at auction. OCLC shows three are held by institutions.

SOLD #9903

5. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [CRIME – SLAVE STEALING] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1822 – Court documents related to the theft of three slaves in Howard County, Missouri

These three documents are joined at the top by a small circle of sealing wax. Each leaf measures 7.75" x 12.5". A Howard County Circuit Court stamp is embossed at the bottom of one leaf. Old tape repair to two storage fold splits.

The first document is a sworn oath, dated May 23, 1822, by George W. Hardin that "He was lawfully possessed of the negroes . . . and that the same were unlawfully taken by Uriel Bailey . . . from his properties and with out his consent within one year last past and that he is now lawfully entitled to the possession of the said negroes."

The second, also dated May 23, 1822 is an order from the court to the Sheriff of Howard County informing him that "George W. Hardin hath come into the Circuit Court held in the town of Franklin and found sufficient sureties as well as his clamour to prosecute for a certain woman called Dolly about the age of twenty eight years also one negro boy of about the age of nine years named Nathan, also one negro girl called Eliza about the age of three years . . . which a certain Uriel Bailey . . . hath taken and unjustly detains. . . . You are there hereby commanded that the said goods . . . be delivered to the said George W. Hardin and that . . . Uriel Bailey appear before the said Circuit Court to be held at the town of Franklin."

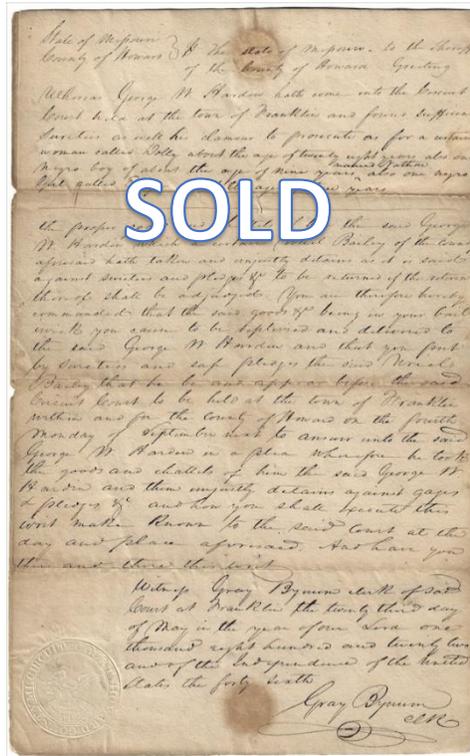
The third document, written on the reverse of the oath is dated "In the Circuit Court of the Term of September 1822." By then, the slaves had been returned as the document reads in part, in part: "George W. Hardin by his Attorney complains of Uriel Bailey that he took [the slaves named earlier which were] of great value To wit of the value of fifteen hundred Dollars . . . where fore the said plaintiff saith that he . . . hath sustained [additional] damages to the value of five hundred dollars. . . ."

Docketing on an otherwise blank leaf appears to indicate that the judge found in favor of Hardin and that he was awarded additional "Replevin Damages" [of] \$500.00".

Uriel Bailey's motives for the thefts are not recorded, but as Reilly notes in "Slave Stealing in the Early Domestic Trade as Revealed by a Loyal Manservant," *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* (Winter 2004),

"Slave stealing plagued domestic slaveholders as far back as the colonial period when those who would unlawfull deprive a property owner of human chattel were detested as 'Negro jockeys.' Whether operating in the northern or southern colonies, a 'man-stealer' lurking about either as a piratical thief or as a high-minded abolitionist was guilty of one of the worst crimes against the sanctity of property. . . . By the 1830s, man stealing reached epidemic levels in parts of the upper South."

Despite the prevalence of slave stealing, records of trials are scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and there are no records of similar documents being auctioned at the Rare Book Hub. OCLC show ten institutions hold similar documents.



SOLD #9904

6. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [EMIGRATION – HAITIAN] [MEDICINE & NURSING – PHYSICIANS] [POLITICS - INTERNATIONAL]

1825 – Two letters from a disillusioned African-American physician from Philadelphia who was an early supporter of Haitian President Jean-Pierre Boyer’s campaign to recruit prominent African-American settlers and was aboard the first emigration vessel.

Two letters, each on opposite sides of one leaf measuring approximately 5” x 16”, from Dr. Belfast Burton to an unnamed associate, (probably African Methodist Episcopalian Bishop Richard Allen who helped organize the first contingent of emigrants to Haiti.). Written from Semana, Haiti (now the Dominican Republic) in 1825 as Burton only resided in country from late December 1824 until December 1825. In nice shape; possibly mended along a horizontal fold. Transcripts will be provided.

Dr. Burton was well acquainted with the elite of Haitian society and had mixed feelings about them.

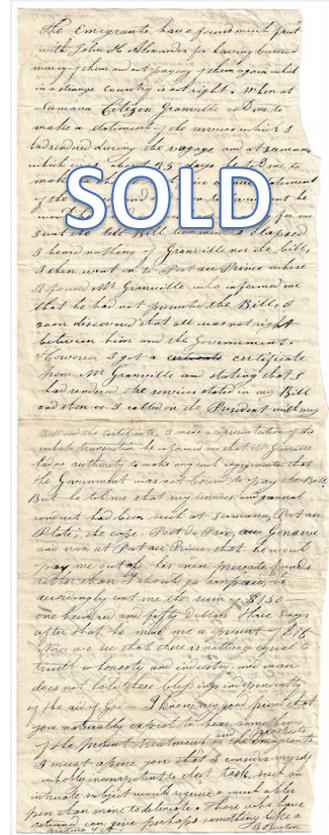
“Citizen Granville cald me to make a statement of the services which I had rendered during the voyage and at Samana. . . He told me to make no charge but give a mere statement [and he would] get my money. [After] I sent the Bill [and] two months elapsed, I heard nothing of Granville nor the bill. I then went on to Port au Prince where I found M Granville . . . had not presented the Bill. I soon discovered that all was not right between him and the Government. . . . Then I called on the President [and] made a representation of the whole transaction. [President Boyer] informed me that M Granville had no authority to make any such engagements and the Government was not bound to pay the Bill. But he told me that my services and general conduct had been such at Semana, Port au Plate, the Cape, Port de Paix, Gonavie, and even at Port au Prince, that he would Pay me out of his own private funds . . . one hundred and fifty Dollars three days after that he made me a present of [only] \$16. . . .There is nothing [here] equal to truth & honesty and industry. . . .”

He also had little good to say about some of his fellow emigrants.

“I think [Aaron] will be likely to return to the United States . . . He is not likely to get any thing at all, Mr. Granville says that the government owes him nothing, . . . A says he will write the President and if the President does not do something for him he will return home and write against the Government. . . I am [also]sorry for Alexander, but he ought to have known long ago that he could not obtain any thing [and] returned home. . . Alexander saw that I had letters to the President and many other of the gentlemen of the Government [and] he thought [it] would give him some consequence. . . He is lazy and exceedingly meddlesome. . . .”

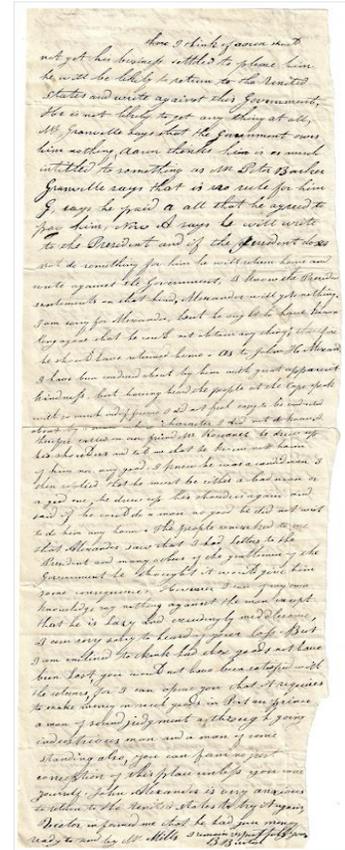
When Burton wrote these letters , he obviously he had not completely given up on President Boyer’s emigration effort, but he had become hesitant in giving it his full support.

“You can form no just conception of this place unless you come yourself. . . I know my good friend that you naturally expect to hear something of the present treatment and prospects of the Emigrants. I must assure you that I consider myself wholly incompetent to do that task, such an intricate subject would



require a much abler pen than mine to delineate. Those who have returned can give perhaps something like a picture of it. . . .”

Belfast Burton was born a slave in 1775, but in 1798 he was purchased by friends and indentured to a physician, Dr. Charles Caldwell, who trained him in medicine and by 1801 attested that he “was well-qualified to be of use to mankind.” Burton subsequently took up practice in Philadelphia until he was lured into emigrating to Haiti. The service, mentioned in the letters, that he rendered during the voyage and at Semana [as well as] Port au Plate, the Cape, Port de Paix, Gonavies, and even at Port au Prince ” were almost certainly related to a smallpox epidemic that stemmed from a contagious Philadelphia emigrant. Upon arrival Burton began earning a decent income as both a physician and pharmacist. However, he became disillusioned when President Boyer announced that a crushing tax was to be imposed beginning in January of 1826. Already feeling many of the same frustrations as other emigrants, this new tax was apparently the final straw. Passenger records show Burton sailed from Haiti on 27 December 1825 just before the first tax instalment came due. He later served as a delegate to the first Negro Convention in 1830, and was included in 2014 Yale exhibition, “The Perfect Man” at the Harvey Cushing Medical Library.



President Boyer initiated his African-American emigration campaign in 1824 with hopes that his effort to encourage free blacks to depart the United States for Haiti would so please the U.S. government that it would become the first country to formally recognize the all-black nation that had gained its independence from France through an exceptionally violent and bloody revolution. To compete with American Colonization Society’s Liberian settlement efforts, and at no small cost, Boyer offered to pay for emigrants’ transport, provide bounties, and offer three-acre per person homesteads on cleared land.

Despite Burton’s description, Pierre Joseph Marie Granville, the Haitian diplomat chosen to promote the emigration campaign, was well-respected in Haiti and the United States, and his efforts attracted over 6,000 emigrants in 1825. However, most quickly became disillusioned and returned to the United States after experiencing Haiti’s climate, health problems, political corruption, and exorbitant taxes. When Boyer realized recognition by the United States was unlikely, he abandoned the expensive campaign. Granville continued in government service, but after a falling out with Boyer, he was assassinated.

(For more information see Fanning’s “Caribbean Crossing: African Americans and The Haitian Emigration Movement, Winch’s American Free Blacks and Emigration to Haiti, in the June 1825 edition of *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, Buckalew’s blog post “Dr. Belfast Burton died this date, February 27th, in 1849 and was buried at Bethel Burying Ground” online at the Bethel Burying Ground Project, and “Perfection Unveiled” in the *Yale Daily News* of 4 April 2014.)

A scarce first-hand account of a little remembered effort to encourage African-American emigration to Haiti. Far less common than accounts of African-American emigration to Liberia. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar has appeared at auction. OCLC shows one institution holds an English merchant’s journal with “limited reflection of his experience in Haiti” during the emigration period, and there is a plethora of Haitian material from this period at the National Library of Jamaica but nothing similar is identified in its finding aid.

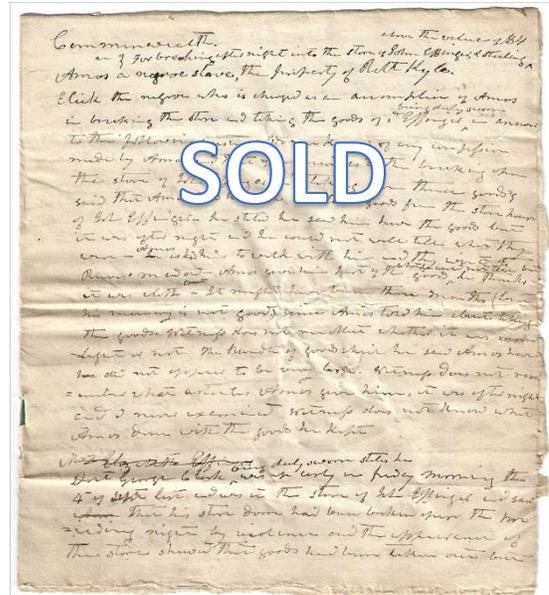
SOLD #9905

7. [AFRICAN AMERICANA] [CRIME – BURGLARY] [LAW – TESTIMONY] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1829 – A fascinating transcript of witness testimony in a trial of two African-American men, one enslaved and one free, charged with burglarizing a Virginia country store.

This seven-page manuscript is bound together with what appears to be its original pin. Although unsigned and undated its contents indicate the trial was conducted in Shenandoah County, Virginia in December, 1829. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

The crime in question was committed during the night of 3 September 1829, and one of the witness states that he was giving his testimony about three months later which suggests the trial occurred the following December. The burglarized store was owned by John Effinger, and testimony in the trial was given by his wife Mary and sons Harvey and Stother; online genealogy records, including the 1830 Census, show that at the time, Michael Harvey Effinger and the family of John and Mary Strother lived near Woodstock, Virginia in Shenandoah County.



The document reads in part:

“For breaking the night into the store of John Effinger, & Stealing above the value of \$4. Amos a negro slave, the property of Robert Kyle.

“Elick the negroe who is charged as an accomplice of Amos . . . , being duly sworn, in answer to the following question "Do you know of any confession made by Amos and that you heard as to the breaking open the store of John Effinger and taking from thence goods? Said that Amos told him he had taken goods from the store house of John Effinger. . . . Amos gave him part of the goods . . . he thinks it was cloth [but] does not remember what articles Amos gave him [and he] does not know what Amos done with the goods he kept.

“Dort George Clerk being duly sworn states . . . the store showed that goods had been taken out but to what amount he could not tell There was evident signs of violence in the door the hinges both were bent. On thursday last this witness went to the jail where Amos was confined and told him it might go better with him if he would tell him where the goods were. . . . [With] the consent of the Counsel for Amos and the Attorney for the Commonwealth, he admitted he knew where the goods were that had been stolen but stated they had been put [there] by Elick the other Negro who was also in Jail for the same offense. . . . The goods were found concealed in the barn of Robert Keyes the Master of Amos. . . . in a very secret place deeply covered with hay. . . .

“Elick being again called up as a witness swore that he could not be positive who put the goods in Keyes Barn . . . but knows he did not put them there. Sam a negro slave swore that the same articles in goods which his Master Sam'l Miler found in his cabin were the same left by the negro witness Elick. . . .

“Strother Effinger being duly sworn states that . . . He went . . . into the store of his father and perceived the door was broken open and that goods had been taken out The articles produced in the barn . . . he believes are part of the goods which had been taken. . . . The goods brought back by Dort Clerk and that are now in Court he believes are part of the goods which were stolen from his fathers store. . . .

"Mrs Mary Effinger being sworn states she . . . knows some of the goods shown by Mr Miller to be the goods stolen from the store particularly one piece of Calico. . . She states she is in the habit of attending in the store herself and selling goods. From one piece of cloth she cut a piece of cloth off, and has the piece yet. . . . She states that she [usually] cannot distinguish [one] piece of cloth from any other piece of the same kind of cloth but by applying the piece now which she cut off she has no doubt it is the same piece of cloth that was stolen.

"Petty a free negroe woman being duly sworn states that Amos came to her house late in the night . . . and asked if the ointment which she was to make him was ready She told him it was and gave it to him . . . and he then went off. . . The ointment was made of honey and Bacon fat. . .

"Mrs Effinger being again called up states . . . she discovered considerable greas in the cill of the door. . .

"Alsy a negro slave being sworn states that about eleven O'clock in the night the store was broken open she went after water and . . . she saw two tall men standing in the yard of Mr Effinger . . . it was so dark she could not tell whether they were white or black [but] from where the men stood they could tell whether the family had probably gone . . . or not. . .

"Robert Kyle states that bag in which the goods which were left by Elick with Sam were contained is he believes his bag. . .

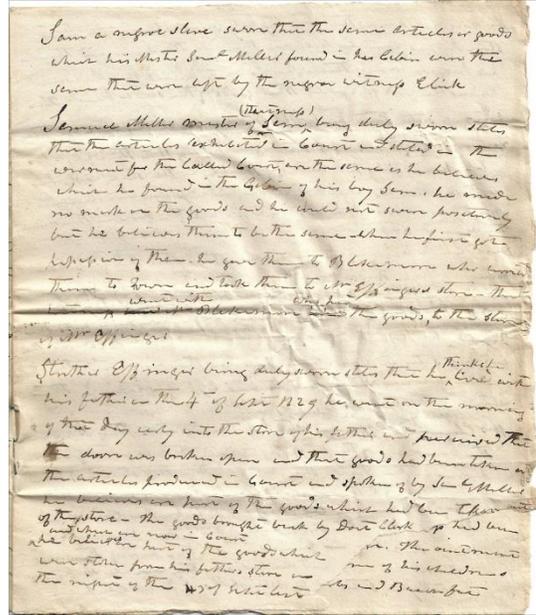
Kyle's statement concludes the recorded testimony, and there is no indication as to how the trial was decided.

As it almost is understood that the legal system in antebellum Virginia was designed to ensure slaves and free blacks were kept powerless. Therefore, it might seem surprising to modern eyes that the accused African-Americans, one enslaved and one free, in this criminal proceeding have been afforded public counsel and appear to have received due process comparable to what an accused poor white man could have expected. Certainly, this document is worthy of additional research to determine if the trial was conducted as impartially as the questioning of witnesses, its outcome, and the names of the attorneys and presiding official.

(For more information, see Higgenbotham's "The Law Only As an Enemy: The Legitimization of Racial Powerlessness through the Colonial and Antebellum Criminal Laws of Virginia" in *North Carolina Law Review* Vol 70 #4, and Bogen's "The Maryland Context of Dred Scott: The Decline in the Legal Status of Maryland Free Blacks 1776-1810" online at the DigitalCommons of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.)

Scarce. At the time of listing, there are no similar items for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows five slave trial items have been sold at auction since 1940. OCLC show six institutions hold records of slave trial proceedings.

SOLD #9906



8. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW – ESTATES] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1851 – A Kentucky will that contains an unusual and, for the time, quite compassionate provision allowing an estate's slaves to keep their families together and choose their new owners

This four-page last will and testament measures approximately 8" x 13". It was dated and signed by Samuel Williams on November 13, 1851 in Madison County, Kentucky. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

This long, manuscript contains ten specific provisions regard the distribution of land, money, tools, household goods, and other property including slaves.

Apparently Williams felt a modicum of compassion for his enslaved workers for in an exceptionally unusual provision, he included provisions that if possible, they should be allowed to choose their new owners after he died.

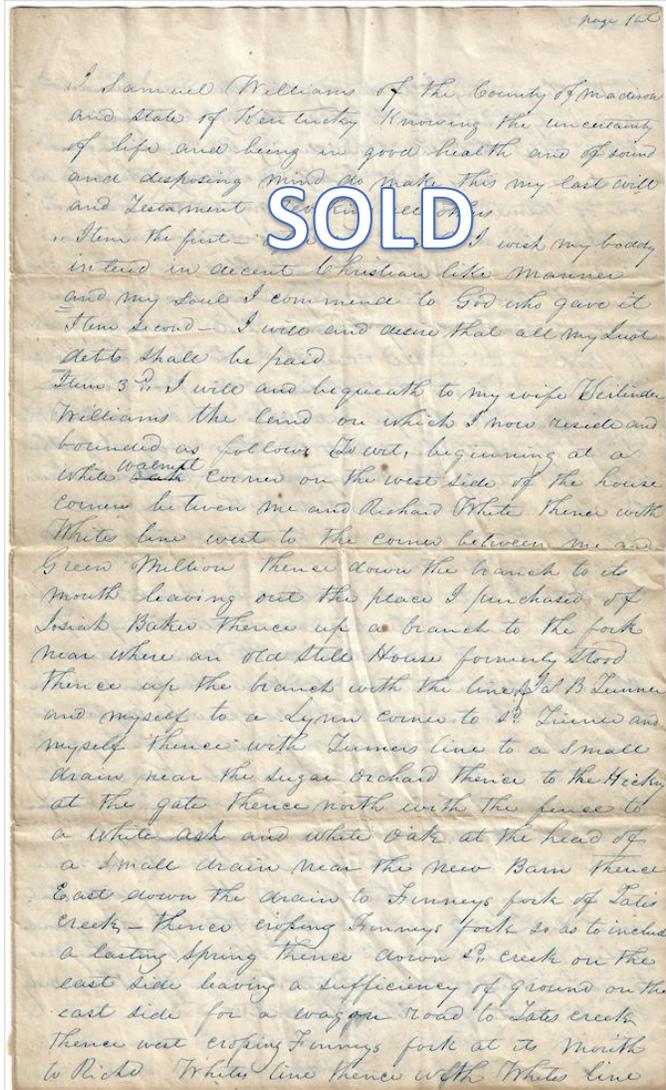
"I also will that [my wife] have during life five negroes such as she may select herself including Charity as one of them. . .

"I will that my negroes after my death including the three at my daughter Ann V Chanaults, to wit, Nancy and child and Elizabeth shall be allowed to choose such places for home as they wish to live at either in or out of my family and the persons they select to take them at the valuation of two men selected by them and my Executors and [in] all divisions of negroes it is my will that families be as much, kept together as possible and in no event to part husband and wife when it can be reasonably avoided – in provision I include that the negroes that may be left at my wifes death. . ."

Exceptionally scarce. Wills emancipating slaves upon the death of their owner or owner's spouse appear infrequently as do wills offering slaves the opportunity to buy their freedom or the freedom of relatives. However, wills specifically directing that, if possible, slaves be allowed to choose their new owners and that slave families be kept intact are rarely seen.

At the time of listing, no similar wills are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies only one having ever appeared at an auction (Swann, 21 March 2013) where it sold for \$2,230. OCLC shows one institution, the South Carolina Historical Society, holds a will requesting a master's slaves be sold as an intact group but not offering them their choice of a new owner.

SOLD #9907



9. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BUSINESS & TRADES – SLAVE TRADING] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1853 – Record of the sale of two enslaved children by a prominent Virginia slave trader who kept his office and slave pens in Shockoe Bottom, the heart of Richmond’s slave trading district

This manuscript record of a slave sale by Benjamin Davis measures 8” x 6” and is dated April 8, 1853. In nice shape with some unrelated pencil docketing on the reverse. The document reads:

Sales Made by Benjamin Davis on
account of Mr. Wm Parr

Girl Maria	800.00	
Boy Joseph	<u>895.00</u>	
Charges	1,695.00	
Commissions 2% 33.90		
Clothing 8.50		
Board 1.50	<u>43.90</u>	
Net Proceeds	1651.10	

EoE Richmond April 8 1853
Benj Davis for N Daniels



Benjamin Davis was a prominent Richmond slave trader whose headquarters at the City Hotel were located in Shockoe Bottom on the northeast corner of 15th and Main streets. Today, the location lies alongside Richmond’s Main Street Train Station between Franklin and Broad Streets just under an elevated section of Interstate 95. Davis, like many of Richmond’s slave traders, lived nearby in Court End, on Marshall between 8th and 9th Streets. The 1860 census shows that Davis, who owned five slaves, employed two free black women as household servants. Historians believe that one of the men standing in the background of Eyre Crowe’s famous 1853 painting, *Slaves Waiting for Sale*, is Benjamin Davis.

Richmond was, after New Orleans, the second largest slave trading center in the United States. Although the Richmond Directory listed only nine slave traders in 1845, by 1852 the number had grown to 18, and in 1860, there were 18 “traders, another 18 “agents,” and 33 “auctioneers engaged in the slave trade.” The booming business was profitable and, although the traders were despised throughout the North and in many places in the South, they were respected in Richmond as attested to by an editorial, “Our Slave Market” published in the *Richmond Enquirer*.

(For more information, see “The Slave Trade as a Commercial Enterprise in Richmond, Virginia MPS #127-6196” at the National Registry of Historic Places, Bancroft’s *Slave Trading in the Old South*, and McInnis’s *Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade*.)

Very scarce. At the time of listing, no Richmond slave-trader documents or letters are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports that two letters from Richmond slave-traders have been sold at auction. OCLC shows only one Richmond slave-trader letter held by an institutional collection.

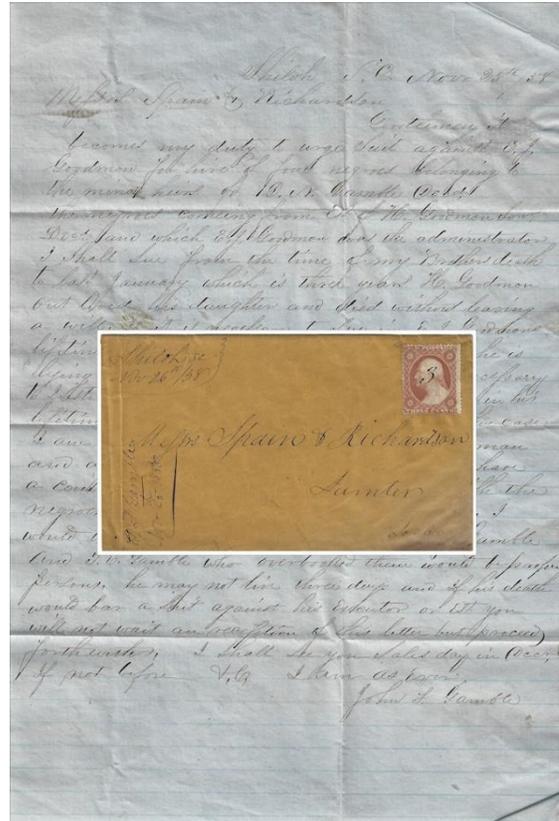
SOLD #9908

10. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW - ESTATES] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY] [PHILATELY]

1858 – Letter urging an immediate suit in a convoluted inheritance to recover four slaves from the son of the dead executor of a South Carolina estate who was now also on his deathbed.

One-page letter dated November 25, 1858, from John L. Gamble of Shiloh, South Carolina, to Messers Spain & Richardson in Sumter. The letter is enclosed in its original mailing envelope franked with 3-cent, dull-red Washington stamp (Scott #26). The cover bears a manuscript postmark “Shilo sc / Nov 26th / 58”, and the stamp is canceled with a manuscript “3” rate marking. The letter is in nice shape; two-thirds of the envelope sealing flap is missing. Transcript will be provided.

In this letter Gamble, requests his attorneys immediately to begin a lawsuit against the son of the executor of his brother’s will for the value of the “hire of four negroes” belonging to minor nieces and nephews, their owners. Although somewhat convoluted, from this letter and online genealogical records including *South Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1670-1980*, it appears David N. Gamble left “Big Sam” and his other slaves to his wife upon his death. When she died shortly thereafter, the couple’s children were still minors, and the four slaves were hired-out by the estate’s executor, E. H. J. Goodman Sr. After Goodman Sr. died, the slaves were hired-out by his son, E. J. Goodman, who at the time this letter was written lay on his deathbed and was not expected to live more than three days.



John L. Gamble does claim ownership of the four slaves in this letter, so it would seem clear that uncontested title for them rested with his nieces and nephews. However, Gamble was concerned that the children receive full payment from the Goodmans or their estates for monies collected while leasing the slaves for the estate.

Gamble’s letter reads in part:

“ Gentlemen it becomes my duty to urge Suit against E. J. Goodman for hire of four negroes belonging to the minor heirs of D. N. Gamble Decd. The negroes coming from E. J. H. Goodman Senr Decd. and which E. J. Goodman was the administrator. I Shall Sue from the time of my Brothers death to last January. . . . If it is necessary to Sue in E. J. Goodman’s lifetime you will Proceed immediately as he is lying not expected to live. If it is not necessary to Institute a Suit against him personally in his lifetime you will wait till I See you. In the case I am not well posted, two fellows one woman and a girl you will So manage it as to have a committee of three who are acquainted with the negroes to put a price upon their Services. . . . He may not live three days. . . .”

First-hand documentation of a very unusual inheritance case demonstrating that American slave-owners first concern was the value of their human chattel rather than the lives of their enslaved people themselves.

\$400 #9909

11. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [CRIME – MURDER] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1858 – Two court documents from Missouri regarding grand jury proceedings about one slave accused of murdering another.

There are two related documents in this lot.

The first is a partially-printed grand jury witness summons issued by Howard County Circuit Court of Missouri dated December 7, 1858. It is addressed to the owners of five slaves.

“Headley Cooper. Slaves Armpstead, Marion, and Irvin (added later in pencil)

Wm E Hackley. Slave William

Thos H White. Slave Henry”

The sheriff noted on the reverse that he “Served the written Subpoenas by Reading the same to the within named Slaves William Armpstead Irvin & Henry.”

The second summarizes the grand jury’s finding. It has an old tape repair on the reverse. It reads in part:

“The Grand Jurors . . . Present: That Dave a certain Negro Slave the property of H L Brown . . . on the 1st day of December [1858] in and upon one Mark a Negro Slave the property of one Dudley Estill feloniously did make an assault . . . with a certain large stick . . . in his right hand upon the head of . . . Mark and . . . strike and beat, giving him . . . one Mortal wound of which [he] did languish [for] 9 days [until he] died. . . So the Jurors . . . Say that the Said Dave the Said Mark in the Manner and form aforesaid feloniously did Kill against the peace and dignity of the State.”

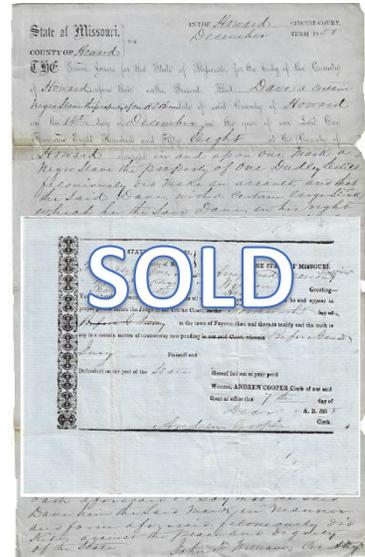
Docketing on the second includes: “Dave a Slave of H L Brown – Manslaughter in 3^d degree – A True Bill / S I Preston / Foreman”. It also notes that physicians testified in addition to the slave witnesses.

The “Black Code” of Missouri was based largely upon the Black Codes of Louisiana and Virginia. As such, the legal status of enslaved people was unusual; they were simultaneously both property and persons. Laws of the time, therefore, often seem curious or illogical today. Generally, slaves accused of serious offenses were tried within the same legal system and under the same rules of law as a white person. However, as property, slaves were not usually executed for capital crimes that would cause a white person to be hung because to do so would deprive a slave’s master of valuable property. More frequently, if a slave were convicted of a capital offense, s/he would be banished from the state, or perhaps even the country. This usually meant that the slave’s master would have to sell the offender, probably at a discounted price, into a harsher situation, likely one of the huge sugar, indigo, or cotton plantations in the deep South, or, even worse, to French or Spanish hellholes in the Caribbean. Dave’s fate is not known.

(For more information, see “Missouri’s Early Slave Laws: A History in Documents,” online at the Missouri State Archives, Flanigan’s “Criminal Procedure in Slave Trials in the Antebellum South” in *The Journal of Southern History* (Vol. 40, No. 4), and Morris’s “Slaves and the Rules of Evidence in Criminal Trials” in the June 1993 edition of the *Chicago-Kent Law Review*.)

Quite scarce. At the time of listing, there are no similar items for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows five slave trial manuscripts have been sold at auction since 1940, none for a murder case. OCLC show six institutions hold manuscript records of slave trial proceedings, one for a murder case.

SOLD #9910



12. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW – FRAUD] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1861 – Lawsuit between prominent Missouri citizens alleging a former leader in the quest for statehood fraudulently sold a “negro woman . . . not sound in body and mind but unsound in body and diseased.”

This lot consists of two documents attached along the top margin, probably when issued.

One is a partially printed subpoena from Howard County, Missouri directing a defendant, Edward Turner, to appear in circuit court to answer accusations of fraud by a pair of plaintiffs, Samuel Brown and Morgan A. Taylor. The summons is dated May 1, 1861. It measures 7.75” x 6.75.” In nice shape

The second two-page document, measuring 7.75” x 12.5,” is a statement accusing the defendant of causing the plaintiffs “great expense” by not disclosing that the “negro woman [he sold was] not sound in body and mind but unsound in body and diseased.” In nice shape with some splits along its horizontal storage folds. It reads in part,

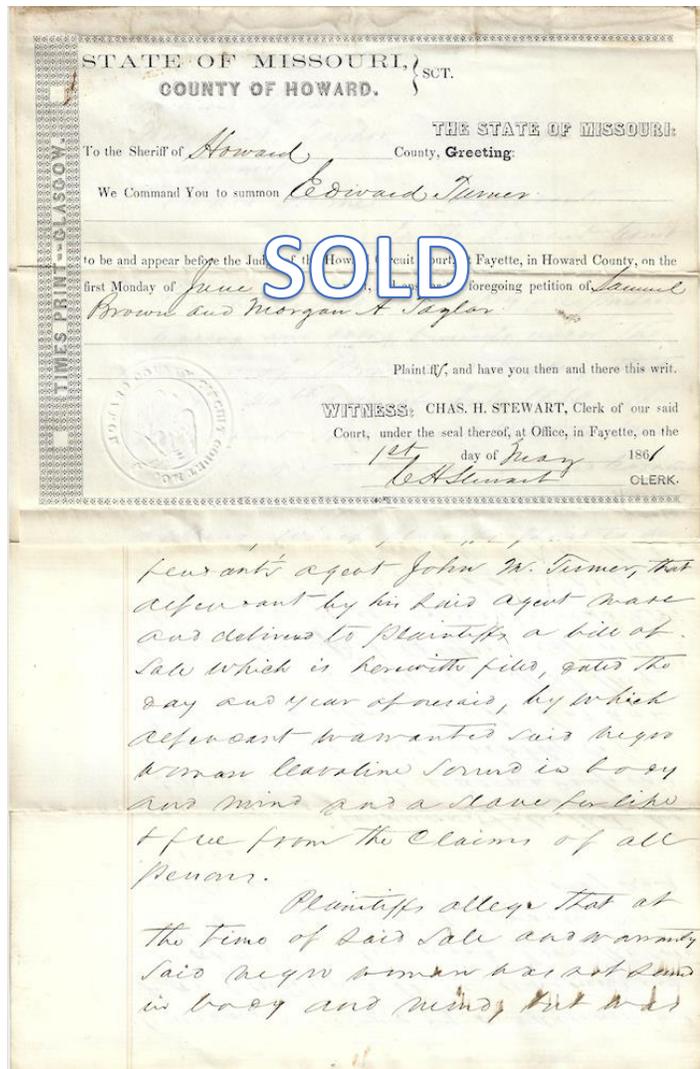
“Plaintiffs state that they are partners in trading and doing business under the name of Brown and Taylor [and that] the defendant sold and delivered to [them] a negro woman named Caroline for the sum of nine hundred and fifty dollars [and that he] warranted said negro woman Caroline sound in body and mind and a slave for life & free from claims of all persons.

“Plaintiffs allege that at the time of said sale and warranty, said negro woman was not sound in body and mind but was unsound in body and diseases, and has continued to be unsound in body and diseased from the date of sale . . . and still is unsound in boy and diseased.

“Plaintiffs state . . . said negro woman is greatly less valuable than if she had been sound in body, and that they have been put to great expense in procuring medicine and medical attention for said negro woman. Plaintiffs state that . . . they have sustained damage in the sum of five hundred dollars for which they ask judgement. . . .”

The outcome of the lawsuit is not provided, but probably could be found in the files of the Howard County Circuit Court.

Howard County is in the heart of a region running along the Missouri River that was known as “Little Dixie.” It was the first region in the territory to be settled, other than the area surrounding St. Louis, and



home to many of Missouri's early leaders. Its first settlers, including Daniel Boone and part of his extended family, came from Kentucky and Virginia, bringing their slaves with them to establish farms growing hemp, tobacco, and cotton. In the first half of the 19th century, more slaves were kept in Howard County than any other county in Missouri. At the start of the Civil War almost 40% of the county residents were enslaved workers.

Edward Turner came to Missouri as a Baptist missionary shortly after the Revolutionary War. He settled in the "Boonslick Country" (part of which became Howard County) and was a founding member and elder of the Mount Zion Church. He was also a small farmer and owned several slaves. As such he was a leader in the drive to admit Missouri into the Union as a slave state, publishing a "a long memorial to Congress, which was printed in eastern newspapers. . ."

Morgan Turner and Samuel Brown were prominent and wealthy men who owned large Little Dixie plantations that used scores of enslaved workers. Online public records identify two regional businesses owned by a partnership of Taylor and Brown, likely the same two men. One was a mercantile and the other a cotton gin. Samuel Brown, like Edward Turner, was a proponent of Missouri statehood and served as a member of the territorial legislature when it submitted its "memorial" to Congress in 1818, "praying" for admission as a slave state . Taylor was also an elected Howard County judge, and one would assume that he recused himself from this case.

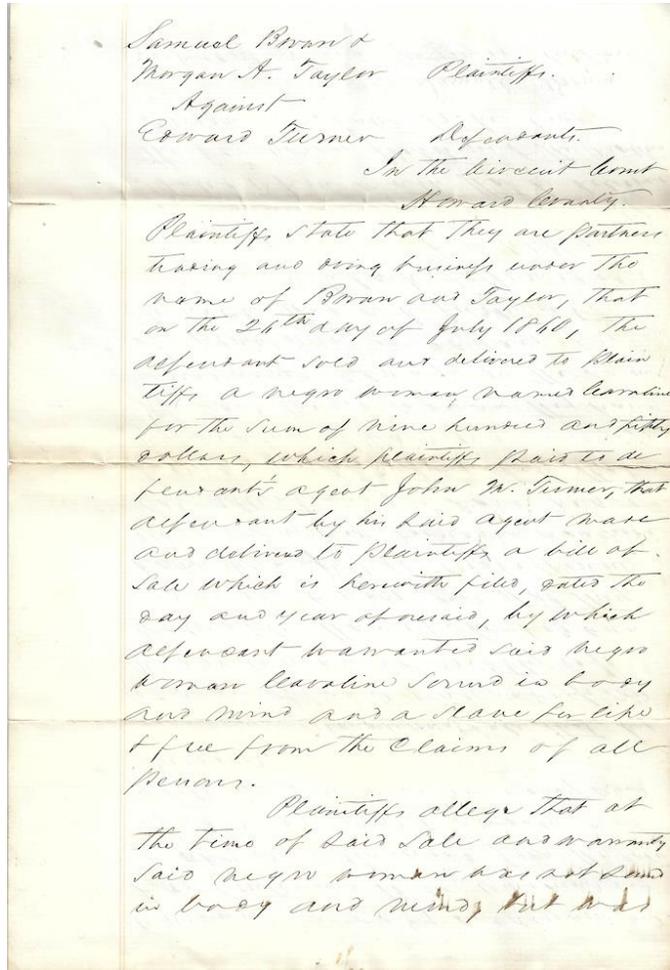
(For more information, see Stevens' "The Travail of Missouri for Statehood" in the October 1920 issue of *The Missouri Historical Review*, "Church and Family History Research Assistance for Howard County, Missouri" online at the website of the Primitive Baptist Library of Carthage, Illinois, Peck's "Boone's Lick Country, Missouri and Early Baptists There" online at the Baptist History Homepage, *History of Howard and Cooper counties, Missouri* published by the National Historical Company, Billion's *Annals of St. Louis in its Territorial Days*, and genealogical records including the 1860 Census available online at Ancestry.com)

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade and there have been no auctions for similar items per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows that a similar document is held by one institution and another holds several slave-related letters from Morgan Taylor are held by Louisiana State University.

An interesting lawsuit, especially considering the prominence of the litigants.

An interesting lawsuit, especially considering the prominence of the litigants.

SOLD #9911



13. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [LAW - ESTATES] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY]

1862 – Partial settlement of a Mississippi estate including the ownership transfer of four slaves: one woman and three children

This one-page document, measuring 7.5" x 12", itemizes property from C. R. Walker's estate that was transferred to Martha Moore. Although the document is undated, its text indicates this portion of the estate was settled in 1862. The location is not identified; however, it was purchased with a lot of documents and correspondence emanating from Monroe County, Mississippi. There is pencil docketing on the reverse related to the purchase of a side saddle. In nice shape with some storage folds and minor foxing.

In this settlement, Martha Moore acknowledges that she has received property from C. R. Walker's estate totaling \$2,397.50 that included

"one negro woman Selda & 2 Children [who were valued at \$1601 and]

"one negro Girl Given off By Her Father cald Chartool [who was valued at \$400]

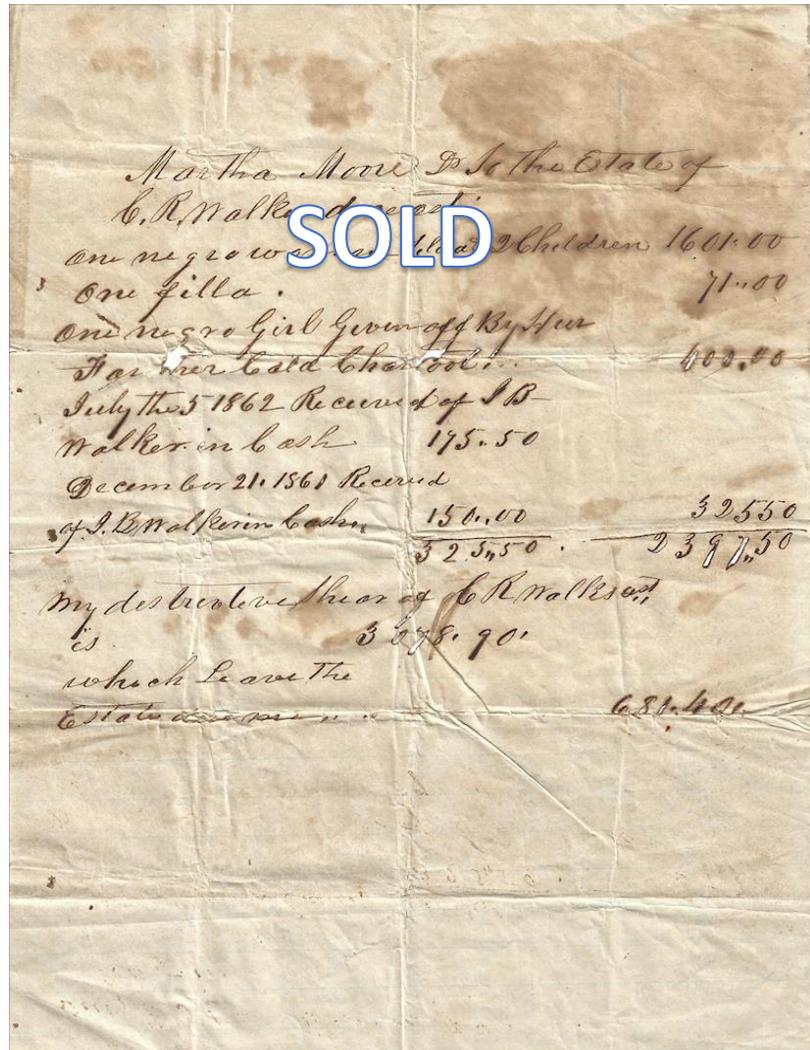
Martha also declares that

"My distributive Share of C. R Walkers est. is 3078.90 which leaves the Estate due me . . . 681.40."

The term "one negro Girl given off by her father" does not mean that Chartool was given away by her natural slave father. "Given off" is a legal term found in some 19th century wills and estate settlements. In this case, it means that Martha's father, Chartool's master, had already given her to Martha as a gift or loan prior to his death.

This suggests that Martha Moore was the married daughter of C. R. Walker which is supported by online databases where variations of both names appear as contemporary residents of Monroe Country, Mississippi, although no entries specifically identify any relationship between them.

SOLD #9912



14. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1864 – Confederate soldier's letter describing his unit's fight against Birney's Colored Brigade at the Battle of Fussel's Mill.

This two-page letter measures 7" x 8.5". It is from William J. Kirkland of the 33rd North Carolina Infantry and datelined "Brazzell Hill, Va. Aug. 19th. 1864." (Perhaps "Brazzell Hill" was a mistaken understanding of "Fussel's Mill.") The letter is enclosed in its original mailing envelope addressed to his wife at University Station, North Carolina and franked with blue Confederate 10-cent Jefferson Davis stamp (Scott #12). The letter reads in part:

"Had one of the hardest sort of fights on the 16th. . . . Our men killed a great many Yankees and negroes to. They had one Brigade of negroes in our front so we had them to fight. They left a great [d]eal of plunder at our works when they fell back. Our men got any amount of knapsacks blanket oil cloths &c. in fact every man has got as much or more than he can carry. You never saw the like in your life to see so many dead men and things piled up together to see negroes lying dead on a white man. . . ."

Kirkland's letter matches published accounts of the Battle of Fussell's Mill (also known as the Second Battle of Deep Bottom). As Confederate forces concentrated to defend Petersburg, General Ulysses Grant and his corps commanders eagerly anticipated the possibility of their 29,000-man force overwhelming a mere seven miles of trenchwork at Fussell's Mill defended by fewer than 8,000 Confederates which was all that stood between it and Richmond. Either Richmond would soon be occupied, or, to prevent that, the Confederates would pull reinforcements from the defense of Petersburg, and it would fall. Seemingly, the North could not lose, but it did.

Kirkland's regiment, as part of Lane's North Carolina Brigade, faced off against part of the Colored Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General William Birney, which consisted of the 29th Connecticut Colored Infantry Regiment and the 7th, 8th, and 9th Regiments of Colored Troops. Perhaps if Birney's Brigade had arrived at Fussell's Mill early in morning on August 15th as planned, it would have met with success. Unfortunately for the Union, the Colored Brigade's advance was exceptionally slow, due in part to extremely hot weather, an exceptional number of stragglers, and confusion resulting from its soldiers mistakenly firing upon themselves. Instead, it arrived after 7 pm, and Birney, recognizing that it was then incapable of launching a night attack assault, was forced to delay his assault until the next day, allowing the Confederates to improve their defensive positions. The Colored Brigade attacked on the 16th, and after its initial success which dislodged the first line of defenders, the advance soon stalled. When the Confederates counter-attacked, the Colored Brigade abandoned its just-won position along with much personal equipment, and the Union abandoned hope for a quick fall of either Richmond or Petersburg.

(For more information, see Suderow's "'Nothing but a Miracle Could Save Us': Second Battle of Deep Bottom, Virginia, August 14-20, 1864" in *North & South – The Official Magazine of the Civil War Society* Vol 4 No 9 available online, "U.S. Colored Troops: Deep Bottom, Virginia, August 13-20, 1864" at the American Abolitionists and Antislavery Activists website, and Maxfield and Brady's *Roster and Statistical Record of Company D, of the Eleventh Regiment Maine Infantry Volunteers*, available online.)



SOLD #9913

15. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [ENTERTAINMENT – JUBILEE SINGERS] [MUSIC – SONGSTERS] [MUSIC – SPIRITUALS]

1884 – Songbook for one of the most prominent “jubilee singers” groups that toured the United States from 1882 until 1895.

Jubilee Songs and Plantation Melodies. Words and music specially arranged by Prof. J. J. Sawyer and sung by The Original Nashville Students: The Celebrated Colored Concert Company, H. B. Thearle, Proprietor, Chicago, Ill. 7” x 10.25” Copyright 1884. 16 pages, 11 of which are numbered. Complete with its paper cover featuring an illustration of the singers in plantation costumes. Some wear and soiling. Faint vertical crease.

Members of The Original Nashville Students were neither students nor were they from Nashville. As noted by musical historian Sandra Jean Graham, they were organized in Chicago from singers with “cultivated voices . . . competent to sing what is commonly termed classical music; but [instead they] sing the original Jubilee and Plantation Melodies, as sung by the children of bondage. . . .”

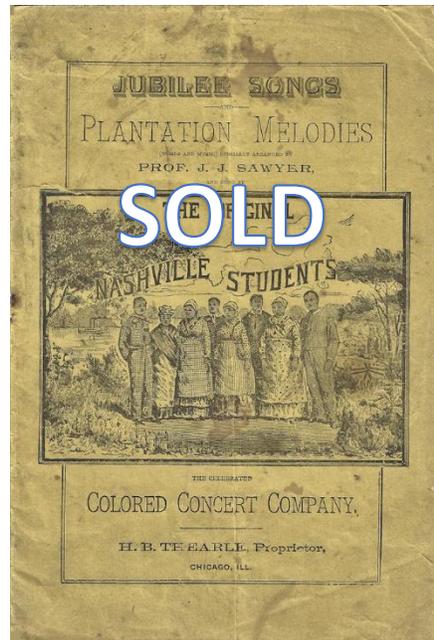
First named The Original Tennessee Jubilee and Plantation Singers they were later rebranded as The Original Nashville Students to piggy-back on the musical craze created by The Fisk Jubilee Singers, the famous *a cappella* group from Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville, Tennessee.

The group was formed and managed by a prominent Baptist minister Fred G. Thearle, who had been instrumental in creating “colored Sunday schools in the south” and professed a strong appreciation for black folk culture which was shared by his son, Henry B. Thearle, a booking agent for the Redpath Lyceum Bureau. Henry hired the Nashville Students to perform spirituals and plantation sketches on the Redpath circuit which helped keep the group popular even after the public lost interest in jubilee concerts around 1890. It performed on its own until 1895, when it joined the Mahara Minstrels as a featured act. The last mention of the group was a 1905 newspaper article following its return from a tour of the Pacific.

Henry B. Thearle went on to be one of the most prominent showmen of the 1890s and early 20th-century, creating cyclorama exhibitions (like *The Battle of Gettysburg*), fireworks spectaculars (like the opening of the Chicago Worlds’ Fair), the bohemian Pleiades Club in Greenwich Village, a west-coast record company, and massive “disaster spectaculars” (like the *Last Days of Pompeii* and the *Great Fire of London*) which combined incredible scenery, costumes, music, and fireworks. Thearle died in 1914 along with four others in a massive explosion at his fireworks warehouse that was heard and felt throughout Chicago.

(For mor information, see “Harry B. Thearle” at Sulcer Streams online, *Abbott’s Out of Sight: The Rise of African American Popular Music*, and Graham’s *Spirituals and the Birth of a Black Entertainment Industry*.)

At the time of listing, only incomplete and badly damaged examples of this songster are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub lists none as having appeared at auction. Although OCLC shows 27 examples of this songster are held by institutions. Only two are like this example, the largest edition. Two other 1884 editions are smaller: 16-pages and 13-pages. A later edition was issued in 1895.



SOLD #9915

“At the corral is a cabin . . . about 10 by 12 feet, which has no windows [only] a hole in the roof covered with sealgut. . . . No ventilation whatever. In this room are . . . food supplies, one cookstove. No chair nor table for . . . the Eskimos always sit on the floor and . . . eat right out of the pots and pans. . . . Twenty-six men besides David. You can imagine the smells in that small room. The first day it was unbearable, but after that he got used to it. . . . Every day the same menu. In the morning hot cakes and mush, at noon they had one pot of boiled meat, one of boiled rice and then some macaroni with raisins. In the evening, the same . . . The natives dip their meat and other food in seal oil. . . . They take the meat [from the pot] with their hands. . . . The first day David was among the last to be served, but after he saw how it was done he lost all his appetite. . . . As to the deer: the first day . . . necessitated fixing the corral . . . while a regular blizzard was blowing. . . . These Eskimo people fight the elements practically all winter long to get their food and clothing. . . . They also don’t worry . . . Oh, for the placidity of an Eskimo’s mind.



“We are the only whites on this Cape [and] we are the Postmaster, schoolteacher, reindeer supervisor, doctor, nurse and storekeeper. . . . We are ‘Monarchs of all we survey’ and . . . we ‘survey’ quite a good deal. . . . We can see Siberia, [and] when the ocean is frozen over it looks as though we could walk across.

“I wish you could have heard the little ones singing and speaking in English [at Christmas.] The poor things didn’t know what they were singing nor speaking about. The only thing they realized is that they all got presents. [Next] the natives had a community dinner . . . then after [played] their games [where] not a soul speaks, and neither do they laugh. They had a wrestling match . . . and a sort of game where they played like goats, and they bumped each other’s heads. . . . These people sort of like us [or] they wouldn’t have given us the Christmas presents they did . . . real old ivory. . . .”

In 1890, a missionary who was touring villages along the Bering Sea coast noted that while Alaskan Inuit seemed to be starving, indigenous Siberians thrived by managing herds of reindeer they used for food, clothing, and transportation. He had little trouble convincing the U.S. government to support a missionary-run reindeer importation program in Alaska, and by 1905, over 10,000 reindeer had been brought from Siberia. In 1907, the Alaskan Reindeer Service was established within the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Education, and school district superintendents were charged with implementing apprenticeship herder programs to distribute the reindeer. The program met with mixed results, and for a variety of reasons too complex to explain here, the Reindeer Service and its huge reindeer herds faded away with other New Deal legislation. (For more information see Willis’s “A New Game in the North: Alaska Native Reindeer Herding, 1890–1940” in *Western Historical Quarterly* Vol 37 No 3, “Documenting the Ethnohistory and Ethnoarchaeology of Reindeer” online at the University of Alaska, and “Development of the Alaskan Reindeer Service” in the *Alaskan Railroad Record* Vol IV No 30, available online.)

A scarce first-hand account of a white Alaskan schoolteacher’s effort to implement a reindeer herding program to improve the lives of Alaskan Inuit. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no auctions of similar items found at the Rare Book Hub. Gertrude’s diary and the papers of a Reindeer Service official are held by the University of Oregon; two other collections of Reindeer Service papers are held by the University of Alaska.

SOLD #9915

17. [AMERICAN INDIANS – NAVAJO] [MILITARY – DONIPHAN'S EXPEDITION & MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR] [PHILATELY]

1847 – Letter from a Captain in the 1st Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers identifying soldiers that had died during in the Navaho Expedition so their names could be published in the *Liberty, Missouri Tribune*.

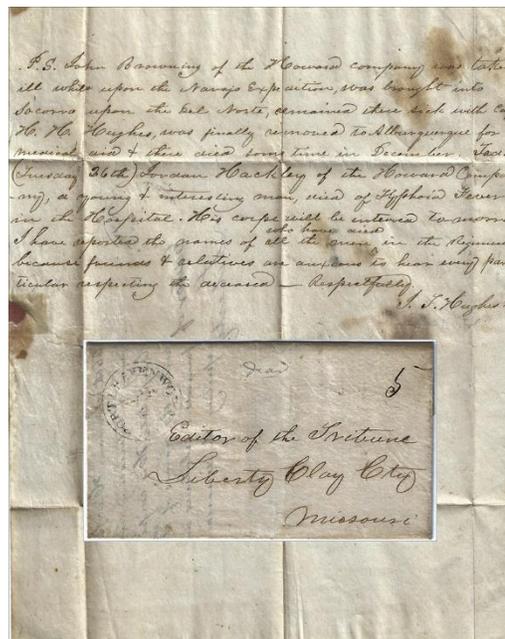
This one-page stampless folded letter written on “Tuesday 26th” [January 1847] by Captain John T. Hughes, Company C, 1st Regiment Missouri Volunteers is a postscript to a letter he had written newspaper editor the day before while at El Paso, Texas, shortly after seizing the town and its stores of powder and weapons following its Christmas Day victory over the Mexicans at Brazito, just south of Las Cruces, New Mexico. It was carried by military courier and placed into the U.S. mail at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where it received a postmark dated April 2. In nice shape. A transcript of this letter and the letter of the day before will be provided. This letter, which was also published in the *Tribune* reads:

“P.W. John Browning of the Howard company was taken ill while upon the Navajo Expedition, was brought into Socorro upon the Del Norte, remained there sick with Captain H. H. Hughes [the commander of Company G], was finally removed to Albuquerque for medical aid & there died some time in December. . . . Jordan Hackley of the Howard Company, a young & interesting man, died of Typhoid Fever in the Hospital. His corpse will be interned tomorrow. I have reported the names of all the men who have died in the Regiment because friends & relatives are anxious to hear every particular respecting the deceased. . . .”

After General Kearny captured Santa Fe in August of 1846, he claimed New Mexican for the United States and directed Colonel Doniphan and his Missouri Volunteers to engage Mexican forces to the south. However, Navaho attacks upon New Mexicans altered his plan, and in November, he ordered Doniphan to lead an expedition into Navajo territory and secure the peace. Doniphan met with Chief Narbona on November 22, 1846 at Ojo del Oso and concluded the Bear Spring Treaty guaranteeing “firm and lasting peace and amity . . . between the American people [including New Mexicans and Pueblo Peoples] and the Navajo.” It further guaranteed trade would be conducted without “molestation,” and the return of Mexican prisoners and property. It was during this campaign that the soldiers identified in this letter died. Hughes’s earlier letter *Liberty Tribune* described in detail the Navaho Expedition, the Battle of Brazito, and the occupation of El Paso. In that letter, Hughes noted that he could not recall all of the names of soldiers who had died; in this letter he provided an additional two. Later, Hughes wrote the classic history of the Mexican-American war in the Southwest, *Doniphan's expedition . . . an account of the conquest of New Mexico; General Kearney's overland expedition to California; Doniphan's campaign against the Navajos; his unparalleled march upon Chihuahua and Durango; and the operations of General Price at Santa Fé. . .*

Very scarce. This letter was once part of Floyd Risvold’s famous, one-of-a-kind Americana collection that was sold by Spink Shreves Galleries in January of 2010. At the time of listing, no similar letters are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies no other similar items as having appeared at auction, and OCLC identifies no similar letters held by institutions.

\$1,750 #9916



18. [AMERICAN INDIANS – CHEROKEE & SEMINOLE] [HUNTING] [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MILITARY – INDIAN NATION] [PHILATELY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

1867-1868 – A correspondence archive from an Army Surgeon assigned to the Indian Territory.

The archive consists of six letters written by Army Surgeon Edgar Lewis to his mother in Mystic Bridge, Connecticut between August 21, 1867, and March 19, 1868. 22 total pages of text. All of the letters were franked with 3-cent Washington stamps (Scott #65) and canceled with target handstamps. One letter was written from Fort Gibson, Arkansas, four were written from Fort Arbuckle in the Cherokee Nation, and one was written from Wewoka in the Seminole territory. All have Fort Gibson circular date stamp postmarks. The letters are in nice shape; the envelopes have postal and opening wear.

Some of the text includes:

American Indians

“As for sleeping under the bushes it is all . . . part of the time on duty . . . go out to scout the country & keep watch of the indians as there are plenty on the warpath. . . . We are expecting some of the chiefs here soon. . . . I wrote you a letter a few days ago [about] the depredations of the Indians & shooting of a woman. . . . I am going out on an expedition & probably shall not have a chance to write again for some time. . . . I am going to visit the Wichita Mountain the Nocone tribes & also the Comanchees. Shall try some Buffalo tongues &c. . . .

“ I wrote you a short-time ago to tell you that I had finally arrived home . . . but the next morn I rec'd orders . . . & have just arrived here, I am now among the Seminoles, this is my first knowledge of them they appear to be more civilized than any of the other tribes. I came through (100 miles) accompanied by my dog as I had rather come alone than have the trouble of an escort. Came through in 3 days on the pony that I bought last. I relieved a Dr. that had to go & attend a court martial shall not remain here more than a month or 2. . . . Maj Robinson who I have mentioned as being an old friend is in command here. We are living in tents with as few of the conveniences of life as possible. . . . There is a missionary here but I don't think it would do me much good to attend his services as I don't understand a word of the language. . . .

“A party just arrived to report the massacre of a party of surveyors who left this post a few days ago . . . they say the Osages done it.”

Bandits and Crime

“Our mail is getting more uncertain out here as they have killed two of the citizen mail riders but our Military Mail is not molested much. This is a queer country they don't think any thing of shooting a man. . . . Think I shall go out & help catch a deserter as I can follow a trail with any of them. . . . A Texan was shot here day before yesterday. . . . I have just been subpoenaed to appear before the U.S. Court at



the City of Van Buren Ark. on the 1st of next May in reference to the shooting of that boy that I wrote you about. . . .”

Wildlife and Hunting

“One of the men brought me word that a bear trail had been seen about 4 miles away so I saddled up & started with my pack of hounds & very soon we had a pair of cinnamon cubs . . . the dogs then told me where there is a pair of old ones (I presume the parents) but I did not disturb them as I was not well enough armed. . . . So I got the lay of the country & have every thing arranged for a grand bear hunt which I think will come off

“I am going to commence hunting Wolves soon, as I wish to get enough for two robes. . . . Wolves come up by the door nights, but my Mastiff whips them. (He is about as high as a table.) their noise is very disagreeable till you get used to it. Am going to have a pair of buckskin pants made for me. . . . If I find any furs that I think suitable shall get you some. I have got 3 very nice silver grey fox skins which I think would make a very nice fur, & shall catch more soon. . . .

“I went out shooting got 10 Prairie chickens. . . . There are thousands here & they are delicious. . . .”

Medical duties

“I am very comfortably situated [and] hope never to be worse off. My work is just enough to keep me busy a little while in the morning. . . . The Commanding Officer’s wife presented him a daughter & (Your son raised himself another peg.) I received a compliment & a bottle of best imported Claret wine this morning for my services. . . .

Orderlies

“Have just got me a new Orderly as the other Nigger got to helping himself to articles. . . . [Now I have another] new nigger & he seems to be a good one used to be house servant for a Master. . . . You may rest assured that my nigger don’t have a very hard time & I have a right civil one now, but he is very green but seems to be honest. . . .”

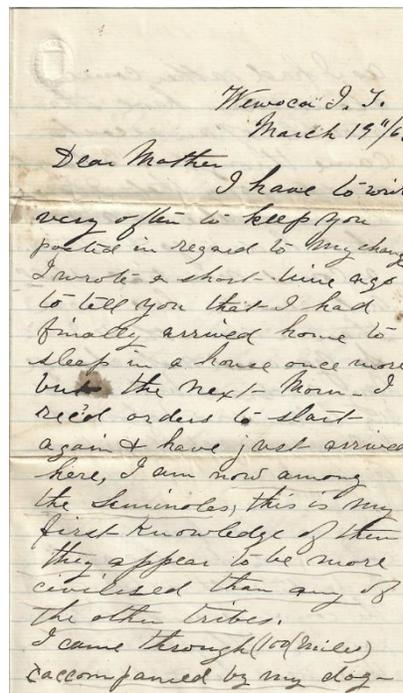
Uniform

“As to my dress . . . Government Coat the Brown . . . pants Gov – blues. Boots Gov. as we cannot get any other. Paper Collar without neck tie as they are not worn here. Shirt flannel. hair cut short whiskers, chin, & mustasche . . . cannot say much of style but go comfortable.”

Edgar “Ned” Lewis was an Army surgeon who served for at least 11 years in the Dakota and Indian Territories. He studied medicine during the early 1860s at the Bellevue Hospital in New York City and joined the Army upon graduation. His first assignment was at the U.S. Army Hospital at Newark, New Jersey before his career took him to the western frontier.

A scarce first-rate, first-hand account of post-Civil War military life in the Western Frontier during the late 1860s. At the time of listing, no similar items are for sale in the trade. A collection of Lewis’s letters (mostly from his student days and time spent in the Dakotas) was sold at a Cowan’s Auction in November 2015. Four other Lewis’s letters from the same period are held at the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

SOLD #9917



19. [AMERICAN INDIANS – UNSPECIFIED TRIBE] [CRIME – PUNISHMENT]

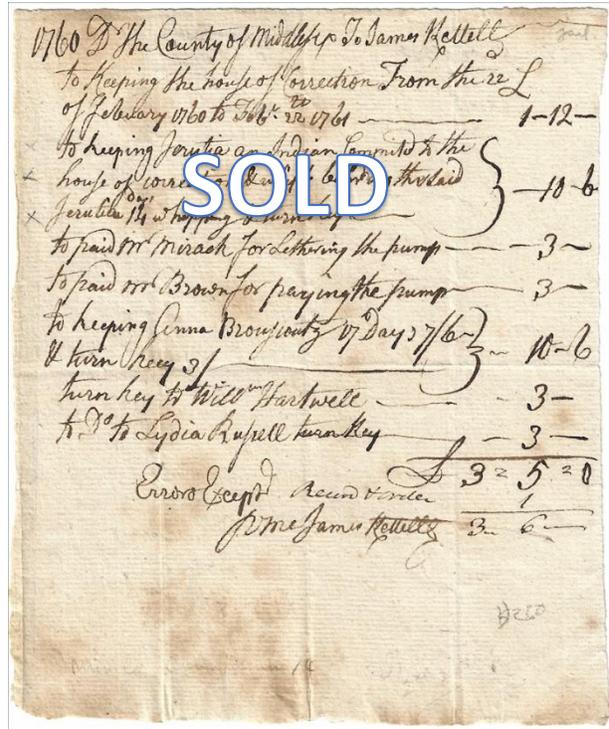
1760 – Yearly bill from a jailor that included managing a county’s “house of Correction,” whipping a jailed “Indian,” serving as a turnkey, and repairing a pump.

This bill measures approximately 5” x 6”. It includes an itemized list of charges billed by the jailor, James Kettell, to the “County of Middlesex” [Massachusetts]. Docketing on the reverse indicates that Kettell’s charges were “allowed.” In nice shape with some light toning and minor storage folds.

With this document, Kettell billed Middlesex County for the basic work that he performed “keeping the house of Correction From the 22 of February 1760 to Feby. 22 1761 (£1-12s). He also billed the county for repair work to the correction house pump. (6s)

During the year he served as the turnkey for two regular prisoners (3s per person) and was required to “keep” Anna Browjioutz for 7 days and serve as her turnkey (10s-6p)

Finally, he billed the county for keeping “Jerutia an Indian Commitd to the house of correction” for 14 days and “whipping” him as well. (10s-6p)



In total, Kettell submitted annual bill for £3-6s which was “allowed” by the country.

Turnkeys were officials charged with supervising people who were held in jail or incarcerated in houses of correction, and there was a difference between those facilities. Jails were used to hold people awaiting trial, awaiting sentencing, or who could/would not pay their debts. Houses of correction were operated in the British style and intended to “cure” the idleness of the poor which, it was believed, they demonstrated by committing petty crimes like larceny, vagrancy, roguish behavior, prostitution, public intoxication, etc. Justices of the peace could incarcerate people within these houses for short periods of time during which they would be required to perform some type of manual labor. In addition, correction house prisoners might also be sentenced to receive some type of corporal punishment. The most common was a public whipping, however miscreants often were pilloried, dunked, branded, or had their ears cropped.

There were Middlesex Counties in four colonial colonies however online genealogical records show only Middlesex County Massachusetts was home to a person named James Kettell in the 1760s.

(For more information, see “Colonial Period Punishment” at Law Library: American Law and Legal Information website and Hirsch’s *The Rise of the Penitentiary: Prisons and Punishment in Early America*.)

Unusual and scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no similar items have been listed at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows that House of Corrections bills are held by only one institution, the Library of Congress in its collection of bills, orders, and correspondence related to Overseers of the Poor, Houses of Corrections, and Lunatic Asylums. It’s unknown if any of them include references to whipping incarcerated American Indians.

SOLD #9918

20. [AVIATION – CRASHES] [HISPANIC-AMERICANA] [MILITARY & WAR – ARMY AVIATION] [TEXIANA]

1919 – Photograph of an Army airplane crash that killed two young boys who were swimming in a west Texas pond

This 5.5” x 3.5” photograph shows soldiers looking at the wreck of an army airplane that had crashed into a pond at Fort D. A. Russell. It is captioned in the image, “Air Plane / Wrecked / at Marfa Tex / June 26th /1919”. In nice shape with scrapbook remnants on the reverse.

On June 26, 1919, an Army airplane from Camp Marfa, Texas crashed into a pond on the base, killing two young boys, Benito and Agustin Viscaino, who were swimming there at the time.



“The pilot, Second Lieutenant G. N. Bogel reported that after patrolling from Indio to Linitas that he returned to the airfield and that while attempting to land a strong wind caught his plane and forced it into the nearby pond embankment. Although he and his passenger escaped injury, the two boys were struck by the plane and died. A subsequent accident investigation . . . found that the crash ‘was of an unavoidable nature.’” It also found that the Benito and Agustin were part of a group of “six small boys . . . in the path of the plane and that four of these boys found refuge and safety under the bridge on the road and invited Augustine and Benito Viscaina to join them, which they did not do. One of these boys, Benito Viscaina, was blind, and the other, Augustine Viscaina, had but one arm and was said to be somewhat demented, and both failed, apparently, to realize their danger.”

As violence associated with the Mexican Revolution increased in 1911, the alarmed citizens of Presidio County, Texas began to fear that Mexican forces or bandits would cross the border and raid their communities. To alleviate concerns, the Army deployed two troops from the Third Cavalry to west Texas where they established a tent camp near Marfa to impede revolutionary gun-smuggling and prevent Mexican violence from spilling over the border. Despite the cavalry’s presence, Mexican forces raided the Texas border towns of Glen Springs and Boquillas, killing a young child and kidnapping two store owners. Although these attacks were not as severe as Pancho Villa’s murderous attack on Columbus, New Mexico, they helped convince President Woodrow Wilson to deploy National Guards units from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Pennsylvania along with elements of the Regular Army along the Rio Grande, and Camp Marfa became a headquarters in charge of resupplying 12 subposts by wagon trains.

Although reduced, cross-border attacks continued and more American were killed in attacks on the Brite and Neville Ranches. To increase surveillance of the border, in June 1919, the Army deployed Major Edgar Tobin and 5 De Havilland DH.4 biplanes from the 11th Aero Squadron to Marfa where he established the Royce Flying Field. The planes conducted reconnaissance flights along the Rio Grande, and it was one of these planes that crashed into the Camp Marfa pond. Today, the former army post is the site of the famous Chinati Foundation’s art museum founded by Robert Judd, and Marfa, of course, is renowned for its mysterious desert “ghost lights.”

(For more information, see House of Representatives Report No. 937, “Benito Viscaina and Maria Viscaina”, “Fort D.A. Russell, Marfa” at Chinati.org and Danny Roman’s “1919 Plane Crash: A Paper Presented to the History Department of Marfa High School” in the Marfa, Diversity in the Desert Collection online at The Portal to Texas History, both available online)

One other photograph of the crash is known to exist; it can be viewed online at The Portal to Texas History.

\$100 [#9919](#)

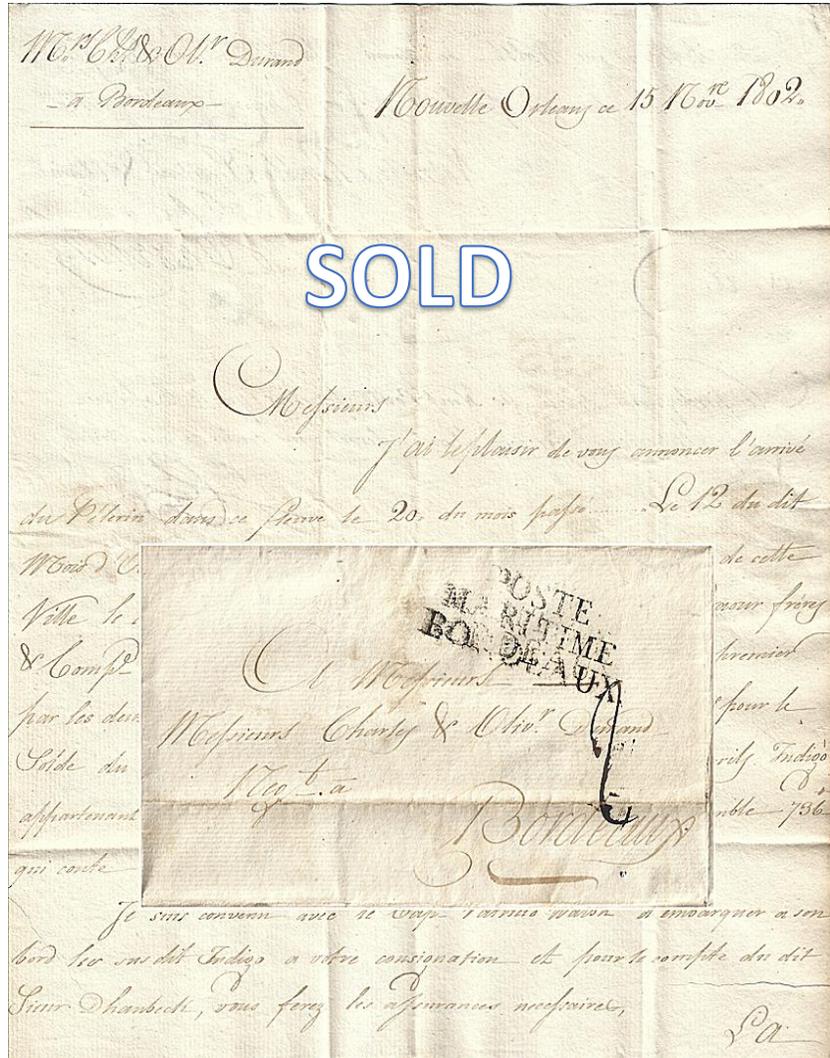
21. [BUSINESS & TRADES – INDIGO] [LOUISIANA PURCHASE] [PHILATELY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

1802 – Letter from a businessman in New Orleans, New Spain to merchants in Bordeaux regarding a shipment of Indigo one year before the Louisiana Territory would officially retrocede to France and 13 months before it would be officially transferred from France to the United States.

This stampless folded letter from James (Santiago Pablo Francisco) Carrick in New Orleans to Messers Charles & Olivier Durand in Bordeaux is datelined “Nouvelle Orleans a 15 Novre 1802”. It bears a handstamp reading “Poste / Maritime / Bordeaux” and a manuscript rate marking. Written in French. In nice shape. A transcript and translation will be provided.

In the letter Carrick reports,

“On the 12th of the said month of October I finally settled with Mr. I. Soulié of this City the account existing between him, Mr. Danbeck & Baour brothers & the Count of Bordeaux for goods sent . . . in the year 1792. . . For the Balance of the said account I received a barrel and two Indigo barrels . . . weighing together 736 which counts 660 piastres six reals issued. I have agreed with Captain Patrick Walsh to take on board the above-mentioned Indigo on your consignment . . . you will make the necessary insurance. Mr. Walsh’s frigate is called the Mexican & will set sail around the tenth of next month. Do not lose sight of the nine hundred piastres that the Captain of the American Brig named Jace was to cost [i.e., remit to] you on his arrival.”



Despite having been forced to cede New Orleans and Louisiana to Spain in 1763 following its defeat in the French and Indian War, the French Caribbean remained a national treasure trove by providing Europe with indigo, coffee, and especially sugar from its brutal slave plantations. That all changed in the 1790s when Toussaint Louverture led a slave revolt that not only conquered Saint Dominique but the Spanish half of Hispaniola, Santo Domingo, as well. When Napoleon took power in 1799, he resolved to both seize the sugar-hub of Saint Dominique from its black rulers and restore a French presence on the continent by reacquiring the Louisiana Territory. To that end, he secretly negotiated the purchase of Louisiana with King Charles IV of Spain in 1802 and launched an invasion of Saint Dominique. However, the invasion ended in failure, mostly due to deaths from Yellow Fever, and his minister of finance began to express grave doubts about the value of Louisiana as after the loss of Haiti, the would be minimal French Caribbean

sugar to market through it to Americans. Moreover, war with Great Britain was on the horizon, and the cost to protect upper Louisiana from an English invasion via Canada would have been unworkable. Napoleon abandoned his North American plans.



Carrick's letter was written in the very short span of time between the French reacquisition of Louisiana from Spain (hence the use of Spanish currency, piastres and reales), and its sale to the United States. A Scottish immigrant to New Orleans who arrived in 1791, Carrick was only a marginally successful merchant until he married the daughter of Pablo Segond, a wealthy ship owner, after which he rose to prominence both in trade and politics. He became the commandant of St. Bernard Parish and served in Louisiana's first Territorial House of Representatives. Carrick died in 1806.

Bordeaux had long been the hub in France's Caribbean and American trade. It imported indigo, coffee, and sugar from West Indies and Louisiana plantations and, in turn, supplied iron goods needed for sugar mills, luxury goods for the planters and merchants, and most importantly thousands of African slaves needed to work the indigo, coffee, and sugar fields.

(For more information, see *Rodriguez's Spanish New Orleans: An Imperial City on the American Periphery, 1766-1803*, Fortier's *A History of Louisiana*, *Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Volume 7 1800-1803*, and Butel's "Traditions and changes in French Atlantic trade between 1780 and 1830" in *Renaissance and Modern Studies* Vol 30 Issue 1.

An exceptionally scarce letter documenting New Orleans trade with Europe during the turbulent months as Louisiana was transferred from Spain to France and, ultimately, to the United States. We know of only a small handful of similar letters. The one most recently sold was from New Orleans to San Sebastian via Bordeaux (2017 Siegel Galleries Sale 1171, Lot 77, \$2,400). As noted in that lot's description, like this letter, it was "a rare example of mail from colonial New Orleans during the transitional period of rule from Spain to France [when] Napoleon Bonaparte decided to sell the territory to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, ending France's presence in Louisiana, examples of mail from New Orleans during this brief transitional period are extremely rare. . ."

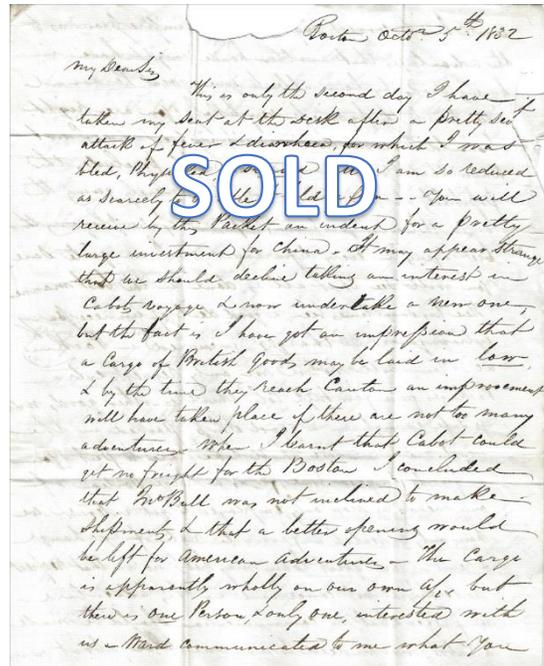
At the time of listing, no others are for sale in the trade, and no others are listed as having appeared at auction by the Rare Book Hub or the Stamp Auction Network. OCLC suggests that similar correspondence may be included in one archival collection, the Jumel family papers, held at the New York Historical Society.

SOLD #9920

22. [BUSINESS & TRADES – OPIUM] [CRIME - SMUGGLING] [DRUGS – OPIUM]

1832 – A letter between principals in America’s “Old China Trade” referencing details of a business deal to smuggle opium into China to fund purchases of tea and colored chintres.

This four-page stampless folded letter is datelined “Boston Octo.r 5.th 1832”. It was sent by William Sturgis to Joshua Bates in care of Baring Brothers & Company in London. It bears a red Boston postmark and “5” rate stamp, along with a manuscript postmark annotation “Burris Halliburton & Co. / New York” and an indistinct rate mark indicating it was sent via New York City. British postal markings, including a rectangular “Liverpool / Ship Letter” handstamp appear on the reverse. Docketing reads, “1832 / Wm Sturgis / Cargo of Bark for China / 5 Octo/30 Do”. The letter is in nice shape with a few pieces missing from when it was roughly opened. A transcript will be provided.



In this letter, Sturgis informs Bates that

“You will receive by this Packet an indent for a pretty large investment for China. It may appear strange that we should decline taking an interest in Cabots voyage & now undertake a new one, but the fact is . . . I concluded that Jno Bull was not inclined to make shipment, & that a better opening would be left for American adventurers. . . You have the power of employing the best agents in every department, & I am quite sure you will see that all is done in the best manner. There has sometimes been a good deal of unnecessary extravagance in charges incurred in Packing &c. [of return goods.] You will notice we only request extra Packages for a few high Col’d Chintres [printed fabric similar to chintz] – other goods will go safety enough in a good ship, packed in the usual manner. . .”

He further assures Bates his firm will have an adequate quantity of opium for sale to to clear any British loan used to pay for their purchases of tea and cloth.

“We shall take care to put you in funds in good time, for a large portion of our means is now employed to get interest we have only to watch a favorable rate of exchange & remit. Your great loan may help us in that respect. As Perkins is not concerned in this adventure we prefer that no communication should be made to Cabot, nor indeed to any one else, about our order. . . In concert with Perkins [we have] been shipping some opium to Canton [which is now] less here than in Smyrna. I doubt if it gets down to our limit in Smyrna this season, & care but little about it as we had 400 piculs (a Chinese weight equal to 133.33 pounds) remaining 1st May at Lintin. Green Tea keep . . . in this country [England] & black give a freight [to the United States]. Your credits then can operate as a bounty.”

Much has been written about the British opium trade, which began in 1767. Although opium was officially banned in China, the East India Company obtained the drug in India and illegally traded it for specie with the Chinese which was then reinvested in tea for importation to Great Britain. American traffic in opium began 50 years later and has received considerably less attention. Prior to the late 1820's, the American China trade had always been largely a cash commerce. Although American merchants made many attempts to find a commodity the Chinese would accept in exchange for teas and silks, there was never

any real substitute for silver, usually in the form of bullion or Spanish dollars, which were both difficult and expensive to acquire. So, although cut out of the Indian opium trade by the East India Company, American traders found a substitute source of the drug in the Levant, where it was traded in abundance at the Turkish port of Smyrna, where James & Thomas H. Perkins of Boston established an opium exporting office in 1816.

Although banned, Chinese officials were readily bribed with small “gratuities” and happily looked the other way when opium ships entered the Pearl River and anchored off the port of Whampoa where smugglers visited to purchase the drug. Sporadically, Imperial Chinese government cracked down on the smuggling and shippers became discouraged.

Perkins and Company were the most important of all American opium traders, and it established a “combination” known as “the Boston Concern” with other New England families (the Cabots, Forbes, Sturgises, Bryants, etc.) sealed through intermarriages, business contracts, friendships, and political partnerships to control the American opium trade in China. In 1826, it established a better system to evade troubles with the Chinese government. It established a permanent storeship (at one point managed by William Sturgis, the author of this letter) at Lintin Island in the North China Sea. Opium traders would stop at Lintin and transfer their cargo to the storeship before proceeding upriver to pick up Chinese goods at Whampoa. Chinese smugglers, who had purchased Perkins chits at a clearing house in Canton, would trade those chits for piculs of opium at the storeship and deliver the drug ashore.

The Boston Concern also employed an alternate way to clear their debts with Chinese merchants. Through its agent in London, Joshua Bates (to whom this letter is addressed), it acquired short-term “banking bill” loans that could be paid off at the conclusion of their Chinese transactions. This credit, along with a transition to larger and much faster “tea clipper” ships allowed greater quantities of fresher tea to reach Western markets greatly expanding profits.

The American opium smuggling trade was incredibly lucrative for the Boston Concern which used proceeds to establish railroads, mines, and factories in the United States, and philanthropically contribute a small portion of its profits to build the Massachusetts General Hospital, the McLean Hospital, the Boston Athenæum, the Bunker Hill Monument, many university buildings, high schools, public libraries, etc.

This letter provides an inside, first-person view of the American opium smuggling trade, referencing obtaining Middle Eastern opium through Smyrna, several Boston Concern families, banking bill credit through the Boston Concern’s London agent, and the Boston Concern’s opium storeship at Lintin.

(For more information, the best reference is Down’s “American Merchants and the China Opium Trade, 1800-1840” in *The Business History Review* Vol. 42, No. 4. For information about chintres, see Hunter’s *Decorative Textiles*)

At the time of listing, no other American opium trade letters or documents are for sale. The Rare Book Hub reports only seven auctions of similar items have occurred. OCLC shows several institutions hold the papers of opium trading families including the Cabots, Phillips, and Forbes.

SOLD #9921



23. [BUSINESS & TRADES – FARMING] [PHILATELY] [RAILROADS]

1849 – Letter from a Michigan farmer to a co-owner of the Michigan Central Railroad requesting reimbursement for his cow that was killed by a train.

This one-page stampless folded letter was sent by E. (Earl) S. Smith from Scio, Michigan to J. (James) W. Brooks in Detroit. It bears a manuscript Scio, Michigan postmark dated May 11 [1849] and a “5” rate mark. It is a little rough on the right edge, but it was probably like that when the letter was written. There is a small blank piece of the lettersheet missing from then the wax seal was broken when the letter was opened. In nice shape. No transcript as the entire text of the letter is included in this description.

In this letter, Smith, a small farmer in Scio (which is located just outside of Ann Arbor about 45 miles west of Detroit), wrote to Brooks, a co-owner of the Michigan Central Railroad, request reimbursement of a cow killed by a train.

“Mr. Brooks Sir the cars run over my cow on yesterday the 10th of May 1849 the Enginire refused to pay for her now I call on you I am a poor man and have a large family to suport and need money to replce another cow If you see fit to regard me pleas send by the returning mail E. S. Smith Scio May 11th”

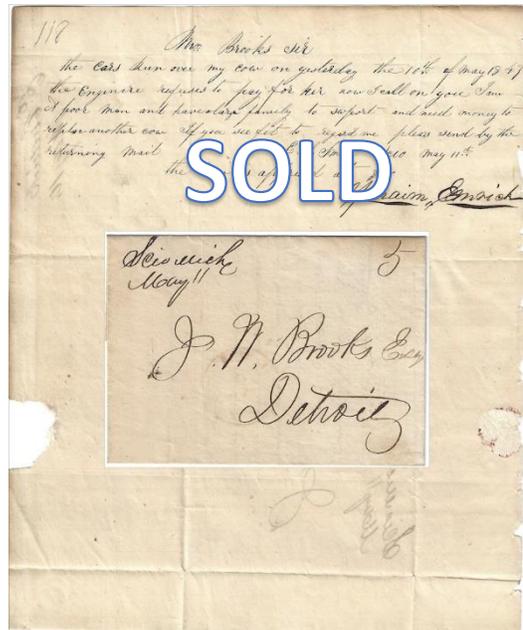
A postscript then notes that

“The cow is apprised at \$16 Ephraim Esmich”

It is unknown if Smith received his requested reimbursement.

The Michigan Central Railroad began in 1832 as the Detroit and St. Joseph Railroad with a plan to connect Detroit in the east with Lake Michigan and Chicago in the west. It was immediately beset by financial problems, and State of Michigan took control in 1834, renaming it the Central Railroad of Michigan. The Central fared little better than its predecessor, and the state gladly sold it to a group of investors led by John W. Brooks and James F. Joy who rechristened it as the Michigan Central Railroad. By 1849, when this letter was written, it tracks stretched from Detroit to Kalamazoo.

But, one may wonder, what about the locomotive’s cowcatcher, why didn’t it save Mr. Smith’s cow? Despite their benign-sounding name, cowcatchers were not designed for the benefit of cows. American railways almost never protected their tracks from animal obstructions by fencing in their rights-of-way. If a train struck pig or other small animal, the collision probably wouldn’t even have been felt onboard. However, larger animals, like cows, caused trains to jump the tracks and derailments were common. The first cowcatcher was invented by an engineer on New Jersey’s Camden & Amboy Railroad who installed a long steel pole on the front of his locomotive “to impale any animal that may be struck and prevent it from falling under the engine wheels.” It worked, but the very first time it impaled a cow, a block and tackle was required was to remove the carcass So, the design was modified into the now familiar lattice-wedge we associate with 19th century American locomotives. Although, no less fatal for the unfortunate cow, the new catchers made life easier for the train crew by simply “tossing her off left or right.” (For more information see, “The All-American Cowcatcher” at Moving North Carolina online.)

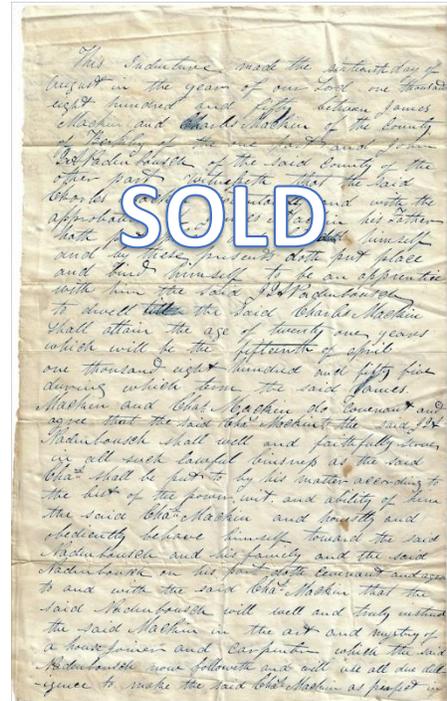


SOLD #9922

24. [BUSINESS & TRADES – CARPENTRY] [MILITARY – JOHN BROWN AT HARPER’S FERRY] [SERVITUDE – INDENTURE]

1850 – An unfulfilled carpentry apprenticeship indenture between a 16-year-old boy and the commander of a Virginia militia unit that was among the first to arrive at Harper’s Ferry and instrumental in quelling John Brown’s insurrection.

This two-page indenture measures 7.75” x 12.25.” It was signed on August 16, 1850 in Berkely County, Virginia (now West Virginia) by John Quincy Adams Nadenbousch (at the time a house joiner and carpenter) and Charles Makin (a 16-year-old boy) and James Mackin (the boy’s father). In nice shape with some folds and wear. A transcript will be provided



The agreement reads in part:

“This indenture . . . between James Mackin and Charles Mackin [and] John Q A Nadenbousch . . . doth put place and bind . . . Charles Makin . . . to be an apprentice [until] the age of twenty-one years [and] well and faithfully serve in all such lawful business as the said Chas. shall be put to by his master according to the best of [his] power, wit, and ability. . . The said Nadenbousch . . . doth covenant and agree to . . . well and truly instruct the said Mackin in the art and mystery of a house Joiner and Carpenter . . . and will use all due diligence to make the said Chas. Mackin as perfect in the said art and mystery of a House Joiner and Carpenter as possible. [He] will allow the said Chas. Mackin good and sufficient meat drink and apparel washing lodgng and all other things suitable for an apprentice during said term. Also six months night schooling, and also a suitable freedom suit [a set of nice clothes] when he shall attain the age of twenty one years.”

Charles eventually soured on his agreement as docketing records, “Ran off Oct. 18th 1852 / Brought back July 23rd 1853 Expenses \$35.00 / Ran off again Aug 22nd 1853.”

Indentures of apprenticeship allowed parents to assign their children to work for local masters. In return, the masters were required to teach them a trade so they could eventually support themselves. (See Mason’s *Masters and Servants: The American Colonial Model of Child Custody and Control*.) Apprentices were required to obey their masters’ commands, to protect his property, to be present for work, to refrain from playing cards or dice or any other illegal games, etc. Masters, in addition to teaching a trade, were required to provide room and board, and clothing, usually two sets per year, “one for Lord days and the other suitable for working days.” (See *Wikipedia*.)

Nadenbousch was also the Captain of the Berkeley Border Guards, a militia unit. In October 1859, his Guards were ordered to Harper’s Ferry by Virginia Governor Henry A. Wise where they participated in quelling John Brown’s insurrection and assisted in his capture. After Virginia seceded, Nadenbousch and his Guards transitioned into Company D, 2nd Virginia Infantry, part of the legendary Stonewall Brigade.

Scarce. At the time of listing, there are no other Nadenbousch items of any kind for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies a Nadenbousch cdv that has appeared at auction but no signed items of any kind. OCLC shows a collection of Nadenbousch family papers are held by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, and its finding aid reflects that it includes one similar apprenticeship indenture.

SOLD #9923

25. [BUSINESS & TRADES – MINING & ROBBER BARONS] [MINING] [PHILATELY]

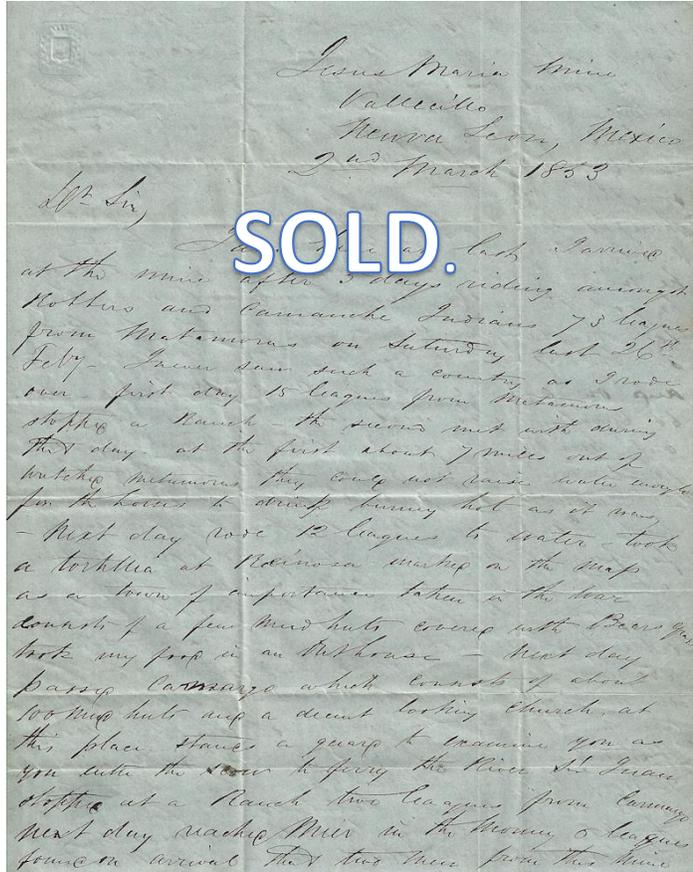
1853 – Letter from a mining engineer describing his arduous 300-mile journey across northern Mexico to inspect the Jesus Maria Silver Mine and explore abandoned Spanish colonial mines for additional investment opportunities

This three-page stampless folded letter was sent by W. W. (Walter William) Palmer to C. G. (Charles Gerard) Havens, a prominent New York attorney and real estate investor. The letter measures 16.5 x 10.5" and is datelined "Jesus Maria Mine / Vallecillo / Neuvo [Nuevo] Leon, Mexico / 2nd March 1853". It bears no Mexican postal markings indicating it was privately carried to Brownsville, Texas where it received a circular postmark dated March 20 and a "5" rate handstamp. Docketing indicates it was received on "April 11th at 2pm". In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Palmer's trip across Mexico was arduous; the letter reads in part

"I am here at last. I arrived at the mine after 5 days riding amongst Robbers and Camanche Indians. . . . I never saw such a country as I rode over . . . stopping at a Ranch . . . about 7 miles out of wretched Matamoras [where] they could not raise water enough for the horses to drink burning hot as it was. Next day . . . took a tortillia at Reinosa [Reynosa] marked on the map as a town of importance [but it only] consists of a few mud huts . . . took my food in an outhouse. Next day passed Carmago which consists of about 100 mud huts . . . at this place stands a guard to examine you as you enter the scow to ferry the River St. Juan. . . . Next day reached [Ciudad] Mier [and learned] two men from this mine had returned home . . . and that they would stop at a Ranch . . . the only one on the road . . . traveled until dark when my guide began to say something about Indians being on the road . . . on arrival about 9.30 surprised about 50 Cavalry who were laying on their arms out hunting Indians who had murdered some people the day before. I wonder the patrol did not fire on us . . . they kept out of the road for fear of Indians. Very glad to arrive at the Mine. . . . All the way from Matamoras to this place is a thirsty wilderness nothing but where happens to be water can habitation be found the plain is covered by a sort of underbrush the few trees are stunted for want of moisture. . . . Tomorrow I start for the Interior as I cannot see anything satisfactory [at this mine] until they have completed a certain piece of work. There is plenty of silver in this country. The Extent of the old mines abandoned by the Spaniards astonish – there are miles of mines here but this one is the only one working – a population of about 250 persons are on the property and as soon as there is anything to steal the Robbers & Indians will visit them I go for Monterey [Monterrey] two days Journey tomorrow . . . hope that you have good news from the Wheal Kate. . . ."

Walter William Palmer, an engineer from the silver mines of Cornwall, England, arrived in Canada in 1848 and began work for the Quebec Mining Company as a surveyor at the Mica Bay copper mines. He later



served as the superintendent of the Bruce Mines and was associated with the Wheal Kate mine in Michigan. After spending time in North Carolina, he journeyed to Mexico as this letter attests. While there, he married Francesca Dolores Jenkins around 1856 and established a family of at least three children. He returned to the United States to become the general superintendent of Nevada's booming Ophir Mine and Mill silver mining complex from 1862 to 1864. The Mortuary Census reported his wife and children died of diphtheria in 1870, and, although records are confusing, he returned to Mexico. The 1900 Census reported that had he returned to the United States and was living in Greenville, North Carolina, where he died a year later in 1901.



It is likely that C. G. Havens was acting on behalf of the Vallecillo Silver Mining Company of New York and its consortium of owners, including Cornelius Vanderbilt. Just before Palmer's visit, Vallecillo had installed a huge Cornish Bull mining pump at its Jesus Maria Mine in Mexico to extract water from the depths of the mine. Palmer would have been familiar with these pumps from his Cornish mining experience and likely had been sent to inspect the machinery or train employees on its operation. While he was there, Palmer published an impressive "Plan of the Old and New Works at Jesus Marie" showing its above ground complex, underground tunnels, and the Cornish pump installed above a new shaft extending downward to the deepest part of the mine.

(For more information see "Vallecillo Mining Company" in *The Mining Magazine and Journal of Geology, Mineralogy, Metallurgy, &c., &c. Vol. II. - January 1854*, Stiles's *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*, and "Walter William Palmer" online at Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet: Southern and Colonial Genealogies.)

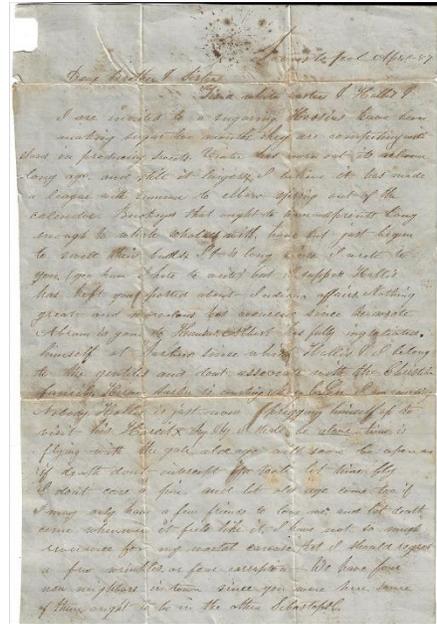
Very scarce. At the time of listing no items for sale in the trade, having appeared at auction, or residing in institutional collections provide a first-hand account of travel across wasteland to reach remote silver mines in the Mexican interior. However, a much later 20th century letter regarding American investments in Mexican silver mines is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub identifies an example of Palmer's Jesus Maria mine plan, probably removed from *The Mining Magazine*, having appeared at auction in 1979. OCLC reports nothing similar in institutional collections

SOLD #9924

26. [BUSINESS & TRADES – LUMBERING & SUGARING] [MINING – GOLD RUSH] [SERVITUDE – SLAVERY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

1857 – Letter from a California pioneer who had gone into the lumbering business in the Sierra Nevada.

This two-page letter measures approximately 7.25" x 12.5." It is datelined "Sevastopol April 11 -57". Although there were several Sebastopols/Sevastopols in California, the letter's description of weather and lumbering indicate that this was probably written from the one in Nevada County. No mailing envelope. In nice shape with a small rectangle clipped from its upper left corner.



The letter's contents suggest that three Gadson brothers were drawn to California during the Gold Rush years of the 1850s. Two, Hiram and E.C. (the author of this letter) remained, while the third, Monroe, returned home to marry their cousin, Martha, and care for their mother. In this letter, E.C. describes his life in the Sierra Nevada, and, perhaps surprisingly, mentions slaves being used to make "sweets."

"'Tis a white Easter & Hollis & I are invited to a sugaring. Hossins have been making sugar two months and they are competing with slaves in producing sweets. Winter has wore out its welcome long ago, and still it lingers. . . We have four new neighbors in town since you were here. Some of them ought to be in the other Sebastopol. . . Dear Monroe do you remember the last time we were together [and] I advised you to go home and be married to cousin Martha and take care of the old folks. . . . you have carried it out to the letter, and I know you are much happier than if you were an old bachellar wandering in the bilious west. . . I cannot sell my lumber without taking it to the R.R. and the roads are so bad it cant be hauled at present. I have 150 run stacked in my yard and shall have nearly as much more by fall. . . They will commence a R.R. four miles south of here this summer if should keep my lumber till that is built I could get from 15 to 20 per run. . ."

Despite California's Constitution that declared, "Neither Slavery nor involuntary Servitude, unless for the punishment of crimes, shall ever be tolerated in this State," African-American chattel slavery flourished. Most slaves were put to work in the gold mines, but as this letter attests some were used to perform other tasks, like sugaring, as well. The "sugaring" that E.C. refers to is the making of syrup by tapping maple trees. Although Sugar Maple trees are not found in California, Big Leaf Maples are, and they can also be tapped to make syrup. That slaves would be used to produce "sweets" from maple sugar is especially ironic as it was promoted by abolitionists as a "free" alternative to the cane sugar that slaves were forced to produce at the plantations of the West Indies and deep American South.

The railroad E.C. mentioned was likely the Sacramento Valley Railroad which was incorporated in 1852 with the intention of linking Sacramento to Marysville in the north and Placerville in the East. By 1856, trains were regularly running between Sacramento and Folsom.

(For more information, see "Big Leaf Maple Sugaring" at the Oregon Maple Project, Beecher's "How Maple Syrup Played a Surprising Role in the Abolition of Slavery" at Vice, Waite's "The little-known story of how slavery infiltrated California and the American west" at The Conversation, all available online.)

A nice firsthand account with a reference to the slavery that flourished within California despite the political and legal lip-service that declared it illegal.

\$300 [#9925](#)

27. [BUSINESS & TRADES – IRON MANUFACTURING] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR]

1862 – Request from the Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry to the Shelby County Iron Manufacturing Company for iron to complete building of “Iron Clad floating batteries . . . for securing the safety of Mobile.”

This one-page manuscript purchase order was placed with the Shelby County Iron Manufacturing Company, Alabama by a Confederate Ordnance Department agent at the Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry on September 29, 1862. There is some marginal computational docketing related to the purchase. No mailing envelope. In nice shape.

In placing this order for a total of 24,600 running feet of square and round iron needed to complete the construction of “Iron Clad floating batteries now being built at Mobile,” the agent notes that

“I am requested by Genl Forney to impress on you the urgent necessity of securing the safety of Mobile and to ask you to put this through as soon as possible. . .

And in conclusion he directs that

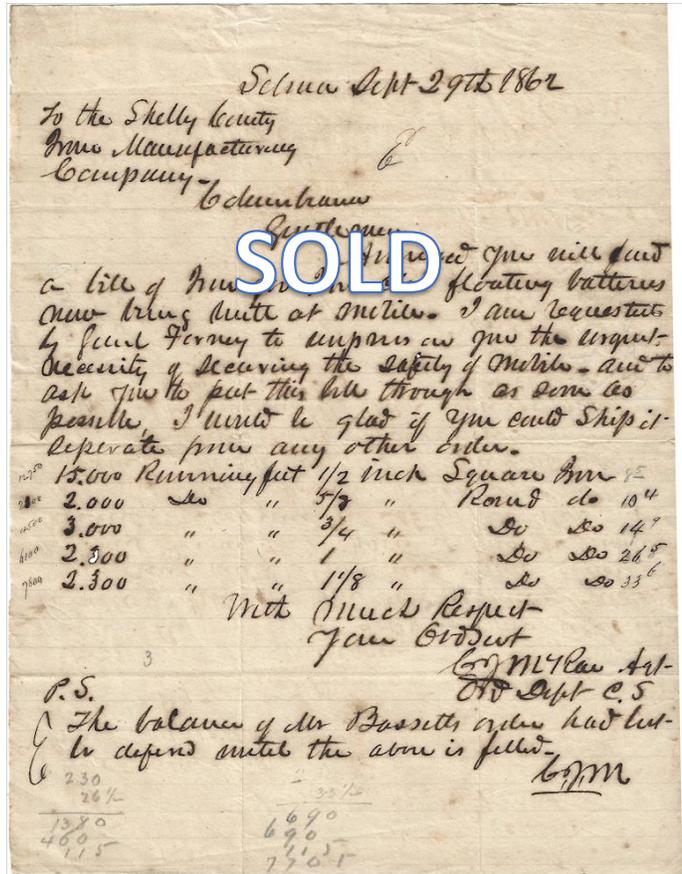
“The balance of Mr Bassetts order had better deferred until the above is fulfilled”

Following the fall of New Orleans in April 1862, Mobile became, arguably, the most important open port for the Confederacy, and the center of blockade running in the Gulf of Mexico. Its defense fell under the overall command of then Brigadier General John Horace Forney who was the commander of the Departments of Alabama and West Florida and the District of the Gulf Department No. 2.

Three land forts defended the port, and plans were made to provide a defensive naval fleet consisting of three traditional sidewheel gunboats and eight iron clad vessels. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, only the CSS *Tennessee* was floated down the Alabama River in time to fight in the main engagement of the Battle of Mobile Bay, where Union Rear Admiral David Farragut lashed himself high up in the rigging of his flagship for a better view of the fight and issued his famous command, "Damn the torpedoes. Four bells, Captain Drayton. Go ahead, Jouett, full speed." Two other Selma ironclads, the CSS *Tuscaloosa* and the CSS *Huntsville*, arrived in time to defend the city of Mobile but were too late to fight in the main battle in the lower bay.

(For more information see “American Civil War: Blockade and the War at Sea” at the History of War website, Sifakis’s *Who Was Who in the Civil War*, and various articles (“Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry,” “Shelby Iron Works Park,” “CSS Huntsville,” “CSS Tennessee,” and “CSS Tuscaloosa”) at the online *Cyclopedia of Alabama*.)

SOLD #9926



**28. [BUSINESS & TRADES – BARTENDING] [CARTOONS – POLITICAL] [FOOD & DRINK – COCKTAILS]
[LINCOLNIANA] [POLITICS – PRESIDENTIAL]**

1862 – Print of a political cartoon depicting President Lincoln as a shifty-eyed, devilish bartender mixing truth and lies about the Civil War progress into a cocktail palatable to the American public.

[*The Latest from America; Or, the New York “Eye-Duster,” to be taken Every Day* by Sir John Tenniel.] This untitled print of Tenniel’s political cartoon measures 10” x 12.5” with a Lincoln image of about 6.5” x 7.75”. Although the heavy paper bears a pseudo engraving plate indentation, it is a lithograph. A smaller titled version image was printed in the British satire and humor magazine, *Punch*. In nice shape with some very light soiling.

The image depicts a demonic Lincoln, dressed in a showman’s “Stars and Stripes” suit mixing a cocktail of “Victory” and “Defeat” for the “New York Press.” On the bar stand bottles of Bunkum (lies), Bosh (nonsense), Brag (boasting), “Soft Sawder” (insincere flattery), and Treacle (intensely sweet molasses) and *The New York Herald*.



The smaller *Punch* version was accompanied by a long poem that appeared on a separate page, *Old Abe at the Bar (of Public Opinion)* that ridiculed Young Jonathan’s (Americans’) fondness for sweetened cocktails over beer and alcohol as preferred by John Bull (England). It reads in part

“Young Jonathan, in liquorin’ tastes has long dropped beer and mocked ale / For julep, sherry-cobler, gin-sling and brandy-cocktail . . .

“Until at last his liquors he has grown so fond of mixin’ / He scorns the charms of alcohol without some artful ‘fixin’ . . .

“The caterers for Jonathan with bunkum, brag and bluster / Spice up defeat to victory, and call it ‘rael eye-duster . . .

“From Victory’s goblet to Defeat’s this way and that he tosses / Retreats, advances, fronts and rears / Facts, figures, gains and losses . . .

“The mixture’s handed from the bar so cunningly compounded / Few can pick out the truth with lies, the lies with truth confounded. . .” (A full transcript of the poem will be provided.)

As the Encyclopedia of Virginia notes, “Politically-minded Londoners had ready access to copies of the New York newspapers. . . Tenniel, like many of his readers, held the American press in low esteem, [especially the *New York Herald*] frequently questioning the truthfulness of its news reporting. . . Sometimes the London press reprinted the most inflammatory excerpts . . . and followed these up with responses that were as likely to dwell condescendingly on perceived deficiencies of American vocabulary and writing style as they were to provide substantive rebuttal of content.”

(For more information, see “The Latest from America. . .” at Bridgman Images website, and “Old Abe at the Bar” at the *Encyclopedia of Virginia* website.)

Scarce. Although copies of the small version on poor quality paper torn from a copy of *Punch* occasionally appear for sale on eBay, no examples of this larger print are for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book shows none having appeared at auction. OCLC shows no examples held in institutional collections.

SOLD #9927

29. [BUSINESS & TRADES – ORCHARDS] [MINING - GOLD RUSH] [PHILATELY] [WESTERN EXPANSION]

1870 – An orchard farmer describes business challenges during the California Gold Rush including water quality, droughts, game depletion, heat, and fires while expressing satisfaction that mining operations are drawing to a close.

This four-page letter, dated July 25th 1870, was mailed from a California setter, Jesse Mason, in 1870 to his mother back home in Vermont. It is franked with a 3-cent ultramarine locomotive stamp (Scott #114). It bears a manuscript postmark that reads “Buena Vista July 27th 1870 / Cal”. In nice shape.

In this letter from Amador Country, California, Mason reports that

“I have about 50 trees now ripening; plums are also getting ripe as well as peaches. We have quite a quantity of plums, but few peaches: the latter do not do well here unless irrigated. the roots go down into the ground after water and are sour and dry. I have a few moist places that I am settin out to peaches and will have a better supply in a year or two. We are having very hot weather the thermos standing at 98 to 104 in the shade. It is injuring the fruit somewhat. . . .

“A fire raged all day yesterday in the hills east of us, burning a good deal of fence and a house and barn. In the summer season everything gets dry and burs like tinder. The wind blows the fire away from us, but we are always fearful of fire here in the summer. . . .

“I write to you about our fishing excursion. [At sunset,] the fish commenced jumping out of the water, but as an Arkansas man would say “nary bite.” Every one was satisfied that the fish were there, but how to get them! It was determined at last to construct a seine and it is now nearly finished will be about 70 ft. by 9½ Elizabeth knit 3/10 of it or three shares out of ten. We expect to put it in the water this week.

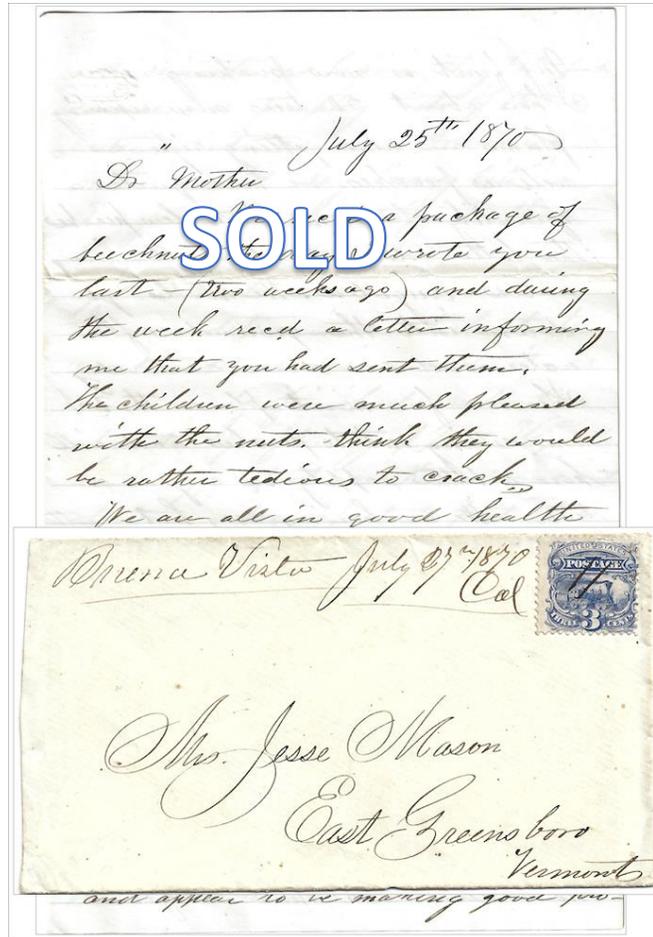
“We are a little excited about fishing as we have heretofore had no fish of consequence, the rivers having been so muddy from mining as to drive the fish all out. as the streams get clear the fish are coming back.

“Game is also becoming plentier as the mines leave the mountains above. . . .

[Still,] we have raised good crops here while many parts of the state have totally failed.

Fires, droughts, extreme heat, runoff, and water scarcity; Californian concerns of 150 years ago don't sound much different than Californian concerns of today.

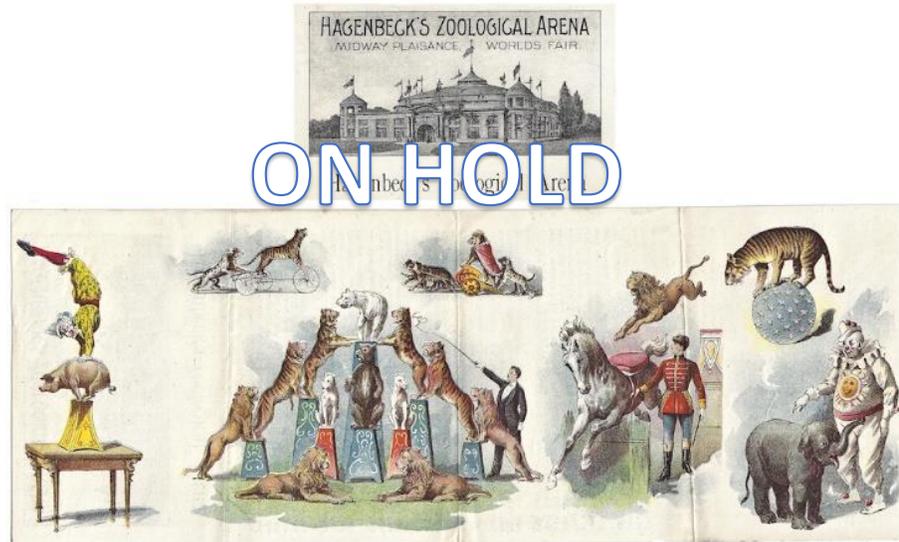
SOLD #9928



30. [CIRCUS] [EXHIBITIONS – CHICAGO WORLD’S FAIR] [ZOOS]

1893 – Colorful handbill advertising Hagenbeck’s Zoological Arena at the World’s Columbian Exposition.

The handbill measures approximately 14” x 5.25”. The front is illustrated with seven colorful images of performing animal acts that were shown within Hagenbeck’s Zoological Arena at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair. The reverse includes an image of the Arena, which was located on the exposition’s Midway Plaisance, as well as a map showing its location and a description of what could be found inside. In nice shape with three light storage folds.



Carl Hagenbeck was a German wild animal merchant who supplied many European zoos as well as P. T. Barnum's Grand Traveling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan & Hippodrome, and its later incarnations. He created the first modern zoo that featured animals in unbarred enclosures that resembled their natural habitats and was founder of Germany's famous *Tierpark Hagenbeck*. He was also a showman, and created this circus, Hagenbeck's Zoological Arena, specifically for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. He perfected his exhibition for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904, where it was one of the most popular attractions. After the fair, Hagenbeck sold his circus to B. E. Wallace who merged it with his own to form the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, which for many years was the second largest American circus and Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's biggest rival.

The advertising text touts some of the highlights within Hagenbeck's Arena, some of which are illustrated on this handbill. It reads in part.

“Hagenbeck is renowned the world over as the most successful animal trainer and as the largest dealer in wild animals. . . . The menagerie shows to visitors a large collection of lions of all sizes and ages, numbering twenty-two, one Polar bear, Thibet bears, Malay bears, a collection of the finest boarhounds. . . . a number of panthers, leopards and Bengal tigers. The large monkey show and parrot exhibit comprises the rarest varieties ever collected.

“The arena serves the purpose of showing the wonderful training which . . . NO VISITOR TO THE FAIR SHOULD FAIL TO WITNESS. . . . The most prominent features of these performances are THE TRAINED LIONS ON HORSEBACK, TRAINED PIGS PERFORMING EVOLUTIONS . . . FIVE NUBIAN GIANT LIONS [and] the DWARF ELEPHANT 'LILLY,' which is the smallest elephant ever known.”

A scarce piece of circus and world's fair history. At the time of listing, no other examples are for sale in the trade, and none are held in institutional collections per OCLC. The Rare Book Hub identifies one as having appeared at auction mixed within a lot of circus ephemera.

\$200 [#9929 On hold](#)

31. [DANCE CARDS]

1877-1940 – Collection of 30 different dance cards from the 1870s to the 1940s

Dance cards were used by women at balls or formal dances to record the names of men with whom they intended to dance. They first came into widespread use in 19th century Vienna.

The cards were usually small booklets with decorative covers that often included the name of the sponsoring organization. Normally, string cord was attached that was worn around a wrist or attached to a gown. Sometimes a small pencil was attached to facilitate entries. Until the 1920s, the inside dance lists would usually include the types of dances for the evening as well the order in which they would be played. After the event, dances cards were often kept as souvenirs of the evening, frequently in scrapbooks. Dance card use stopped with the arrival of World War II in the early 1940s as dances and dance etiquette became much more casual. However, some related phraseology lives on, e.g. “My card is full” or “Pencil me in.”



Some cards in this collection have glue stains or scrapbook remnants on their reverse. They include:

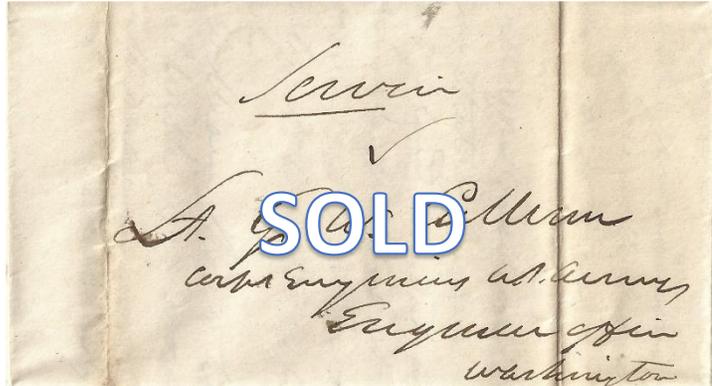
- 1877 – Select Dance, Lincoln Hall, District of Columbia
- 1880 – Senior Promenade, College Hall, New Haven so probably Yale
- 1900 – Eighth Annual Officers’ Party of the Medford High School Battalion
- 1903 – Dance sponsored by Harvard University’s *Pi Eta* Society/Club
- 1908 – U.S.S. *Albany* dance card in the shape of an elongated Battle Efficiency Award (Meatball) pennant with attached pencil. This card was kept by a man, as all the filled in names are female.
- 1908 – Sophomore Hop, New Hampshire College, Class of 1910 with attached pencil
- 1911 – Robert Burns Supper, Concert, and Dance, Clan McGregor, No. 5 O.S.C., Quincy, Massachusetts. First page is illustrated with an image of Robert Burns.
- 1922 – Harvard University 1922 Senior Spread
- 1922 – Women’s Scholarship Association Dance held at Whitney Hall, Brookline, Massachusetts
- 1929 – Tenth Annual Burdett Night in the Imperial Ball Room at the Hotel Statler in Boston, (Burdett College of Business)
- 1939 – YMCA Valentine’s Day Dance. Unidentified YMCA, but in support of pre-World War II mobilization as the Dance Committee was composed only of Army officers and enlisted men.
- 1940 – United State Military Academy at West Point, Summer Hop, First Class
- 1941 – Easter Ball of the Norfolk (Virginia) German Club at Town Club with attached pencil
- Undated – Tuft’s University *Beta Tau* Formal Dance at the Goddard Gymnasium

SOLD #9930

32. [ENGINEERING] [ERIE CANAL] [MILITARY & WAR – COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY & WEST POINT]

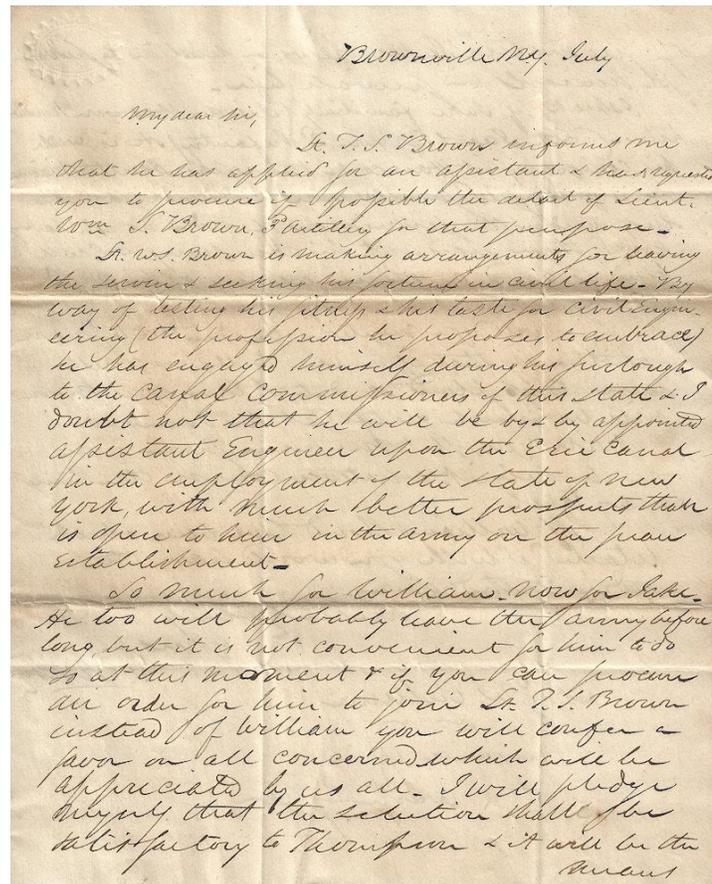
1835 – Letter regarding the future of three young army engineer lieutenants, two sons and one nephew of the recently deceased Commanding General of the Army, Major General Jacob Jennings Brown.

This two-page stampless letter addressed to Lt. G. W. Cullum / Corps Engineers US. Army / Engineer Office Washington” is datelined “Brownville N.Y. July”. It was docketed by Cullum, “Maj. Ed. Kirby / Paymaster U.S.A. / Brownsville N.Y. / July 1835”. The letter bears no franking or postmark, and the annotation “Service” suggests it was likely carried by Army courier. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.



In this letter, Kirby, writes to Cullum on behalf of the young lieutenants and the widow of Major General Jacob Jennings Brown’s regarding their desired postings.

“Lt. T. S. Brown informed me that he has applied for an assistant & has requested you to procure if possible the detail of Lieut. Wm. S. Brown 3d Artillery for that purpose. [However,] Lt. W.S. Brown is making arrangements for leaving the service & seeking his fortune in civil life By way of testing his fitness & his taste for Civil Engineering . . . he has engaged himself during his furlough to the canal commissioners of this state & I doubt not that he will be by & by appointed Assistant Engineer upon the Erie Canal. . .



“Now for Jake . . . if you can procure an order for him to join Lt. T.S. Brown instead of William you will confer a favor on all concerned which will be appreciated by us all. . . I speak of Jake familiarly believing that you know him. (Lt. Jacob Brown 2d Infantry) He is with his company at Hancock Barracks, Hatteras Maine. He is qualified for selection or detail for Extra duty . . . & I call him as good a soldier as any of his grade in the army.

“Will you mention the matter to General Gratiot & say that if he can with propriety have Jacob placed on duty at Erie Mrs. Brown will be much gratified at his doing so. Will you let me know from you on this

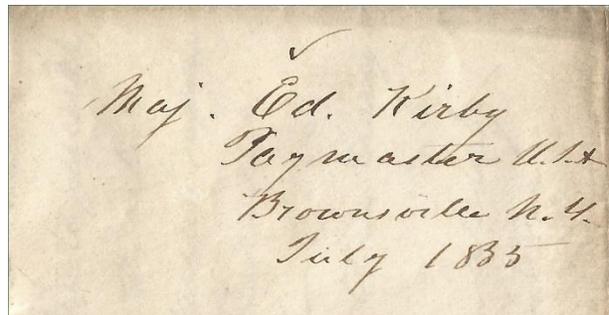
subject whatever course the thing may take. If William should have been already detailed I wish you would have the order withdrawn.”

Major General Jacob Jennings Brown, known as “The Fighting Quaker” and “The Sword of the Border,” is the most important ‘forgotten’ American general. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in 1790, he and his family settled the Black River region of New York where they established a store, mills, and road network that became known as Brownville, the place where this letter was written. As one of his county’s leading citizens Brown was appointed an officer in the 108th Regiment of the New York Militia. Although he opposed the War of 1812, as a Brigadier General in the militia, he organized the defense of the Great Lakes and defeated British regulars at the Battle of Sacket’s Harbor, Battle of Chippewa, and the Siege of Fort Erie. He was promoted to Major General for his performance, and after the size of the force was reduced was appointed as the Commanding General of the Army in 1821. Although he soon suffered a stroke, he held that position for seven years until his death, during which time he reorganized Army headquarters into a structure it would keep for the rest of the century, provided cogent advice to Secretaries of War and the Presidents, laid the groundwork for the U.S. Army War College and Command and General Staff College, and established an Army-wide recruiting program.

William and Jacob Spencer, two of the general’s sons, both attended West Point. William Spencer left the army soon after this letter was written, and after a short-time working on the enlargement of the Erie Canal, he went on to build railroads throughout the South where he drowned while constructing a bridge for the King’s Mountain Railroad across the Broad River in South Carolina. Jacob graduated from West Point in 1835 but served for only four years. He died in 1841 at St. Augustine while serving as the Acting Paymaster of the Army in Florida during the Seminole Wars.

Thompson S. “T. S.” Brown’s nephew, was the most successful engineer of the three. While in the Army, he led projects to improve navigation on the Arkansas River, construct Fort Adams at the Newport Rhode Island harbor, build the Cumberland Road in Illinois, construct the defensive fortifications at Charleston South Carolina, and modernize Lake Erie harbors and lighthouses. After resigning in 1836, T.S. went on to serve as the Chief Engineer of the Buffalo & Erie Railroad, the Supervising Engineer of the New York & Erie Railroad, and the Consulting Engineer for the Russian Czar’s St. Petersburg & Moscow Railroad. He died of unrecorded cause at Naples, Italy in 1855, shortly after leaving the service of the Czar.

Edmond Kirby was commissioned in the Army from Litchfield, Connecticut in 1812 and served and entered the army in 1812. He served as General Brown’s aide, later marrying Browns daughter Eliza. He served with distinction of the staffs of Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott during the Mexican War and died at Brownville in 1849. A number of Kirby descendants served in the military, the most famous being the Edmund Kirby Smith, who graduated from West Point in 1845. Kirby Smith, the Commanding General of the Trans-Mississippi Department (Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, western Louisiana, Arizona Territory, and the Indian Territory), was the last Confederate general to surrender a sizeable field force during the Civil War.



✓
Maj. Ed. Kirby
Paymaster U.S.A.
Brownville N.Y.
July 1835

(For more information see *Morris’s Sword of the Border: Major General Jacob Jennings Brown, 1775-1828* and Cullum’s *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, since its establishment in 1802*.)

Brown-Kirby family papers collections are held by the University of Michigan and St. Lawrence University.

SOLD #9931

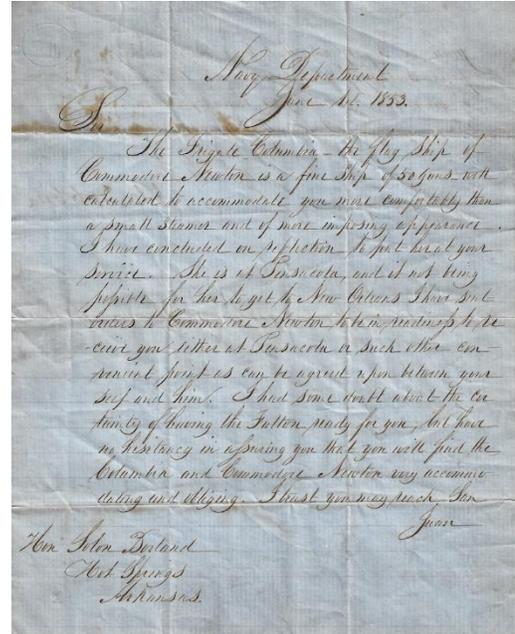
33. [DIPLOMACY] [FILIBUSTERING] [WESTERN EXPANSION]

1853 – Letter from the Secretary of the Navy placing the flagship of the Home Squadron at the disposal of one of the worst ambassadors ever appointed who destroyed U.S. credibility in Central America and whose diplomatic filibustering gave rise to William Walker’s attempt to conquer Nicaragua.

This one-page letter is datelined “Navy Department / June 1st. 1853.” It is addressed to the Honorable Solon Borland of Hot Springs, Arkansas and signed by James C. Dobbin, the Secretary of the Navy. There is no mailing envelope. The letter is in nice shape with some minor foxing.

Dobbin’s letter reads in part:

“The Frigate Columbia – the flag ship of Commodore Newton – is a fine ship of 50 guns – well calculated to accommodate you more comfortably than a small steamer and of more imposing appearance. I have concluded upon reflection to put her at your service. She is at Pensacola, and it not being possible for her to get to New Orleans I have sent orders to Commodore Newton to be in readiness to receive you either at Pensacola or such other convenient point. . . . I trust you may reach San Juan in safety and that your mission may prove successful and conducive to the honor of your Country and your reputation.”



Borland reached San Juan safely, but his mission was far from successful or honorable. Borland, a Democratic senator from Arkansas, had helped secure the Presidency for Millard Fillmore and as a reward was appointed to be the first ambassador to Nicaragua. Like most members of the Democratic Party, Borland eyed U.S. expansion into Central America as an opportunity to increase the number of slaves states and thus guaranty its future control of the United States. However, his conduct not only outraged the Whigs, but it infuriated President Franklin Pierce and embarrassed the rational members of his party.

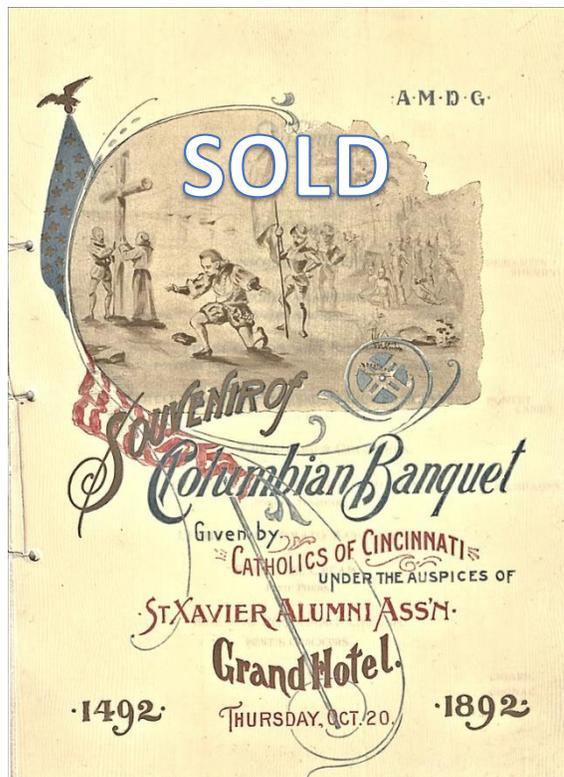
Borland brought the U.S. within a hairbreadth of a war by threatening to attack to evict British interests from the Mosquito Coast with the intention that the United States would fill the resulting void. He alienated and terrified Central American republics by publicly proclaiming it was his “greatest ambition to see the State of Nicaragua forming a bright star in the flag of the United States.” His over-zealous protection of the American-owned Accessory Transit Company helped drive Nicaragua into a civil war, which in turn, led to William Walker’s filibustering attempt to seize control of the country. After Borland finally received a rebuke from the Secretary of State, he resigned his appointment, but before leaving he created an international incident that would harm U.S. relations with Nicaragua for years. Borland antagonized a group of Greytown officials angry that he had protected an Accessory Transit Company ship captain following his murder of a Nicaraguan during a boating accident. During the confrontation, Borland was struck by a thrown bottle, and the incident mushroomed into a U.S. naval bombardment of the city and the landing of a Marine detachment that burned what was left of the town. Later, Borland served as a Confederate officer during the Civil War until after having one of his orders reversed, he resigned in anger and moved to Texas, where he died before the war’s end.

(For more information, see “Expansionism as Diplomacy: The Career of Solon Borland in Central America 1853-1854” in *The Americas* Vol 40, No. 3.

34. [EDUCATION] [EXPLORATION – COLUMBUS] [FOOD & DRINK – MENUS] [RELIGION - CATHOLIC]

1892 – Souvenir Menu from a “Columbian Banquet, Celebrating the Four Hundredth Anniversary of Columbus’s Landing in the New World that was Given by the Catholics of Cincinnati under the Auspices of the St. Xavier Alumni Association

This souvenir menu measures 5” x 7”. It contains five, heavy paper leaves, string-bound between two celluloid covers. The front cover is illustrated with a scene on Guanahaní depicting Columbus kneeling in prayer as two priests raise a wooden cross as a Spanish standard bearer and Lukku-cairi watch from under palms in the background as three ships lie at anchor in the harbor. There is an illustration of St. Xavier College on the rear cover. The celebration was “Given by / Catholics of Cincinnati / under the auspices of / St. Xavier Alumni Ass’n” at the Grand Hotel on Thursday, October 20, 1892. The initials “A.M.D.G.” (*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, For the Greater Glory of God), the motto of the Society of Jesus or Jesuits, appear in the upper right corner. In nice shape; the string binding may have been replaced.



The souvenir contains

A menu

- Canape Mazarin
- Blue Points
- Consommé Richelieu served with Pemarten Sherry
- Bouchee a la Reine with Celery, Salted Almonds, and Olives
- Fillet of Pampano, Normande with Potatoes Parisienne and Cucumbers
- Cotelettes of Sweetbreads, Sauce Perigueuse with French Peas and served with Pontet Canet
- Punch – Christopher Columbus
- Golden Plover Rotis au Cresson with Pommes Julienne and served with Champagne
- Lettuce and Tomato Mayonnaise
- Fancy Ice Cream and Petit Fours.
- Brie and Roquefort Cheese with Bent’s Crackers
- Coffee, Cigars, and Cognac

A program, mostly speeches about Columbus and Catholics in America, ending with the initials “L.D.S.” (*Laus Deo Semper*, Praise to God Always), and

A short tribute to Columbus that had been excerpted from the October, 1892 issue of *The Catholic World*.

Prior to 1930, Xavier University was known as St. Xavier College.

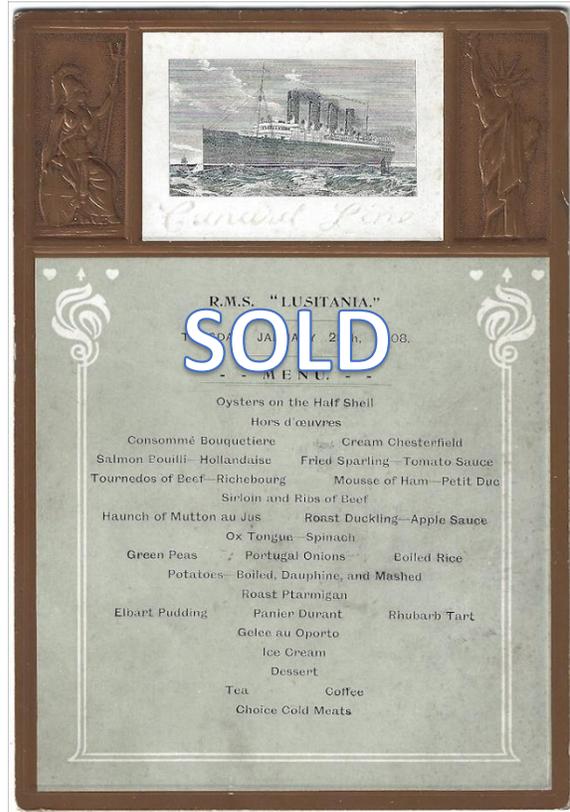
A scarce menu. At the time of listing, no other examples are for sale in the trade, and one have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. Although OCLC shows no institutional holdings, one example is held within the Alumni Association records at the Xavier University Archives and Special Collections.

SOLD #9933

35. [FOOD & DRINK – MENUS] [MARITIME]

1908 – First Class Dinner Menu from the Famous R.M.S. *Lusitania*

This bronze-finished, folding tent card measures 5.5” x 7.25”. Its upper corners are embossed with 1” x 2” images of Britannia and the Statue of Liberty with a 2.75” x 2” b/w lithograph of the R.M.S. *Lusitania* affixed between them. “Cunard Line” is embossed on the lower margin of the lithograph. The first-class dinner menu for Tuesday, January 28th 1908, measuring approximately 4.5” x 4.75” is affixed below the embossings and lithograph. The inside of the tent-card is blank. Crossed UK and US flags and the legend “Cunard Line” are printed on the reverse. In nice shape with light soiling and edgewear.



The menu included:

Oysters on the half Shell
Hors d'oeuvres
Consommé Bouquetiere and Cream Chesterfield
Salmon Pouilli-Hollandaise and Fried Sparling
Tournedos of Beef-Richebourg
Mousse of Ham-Petit Due
Sirloin and Ribs of Beef
Haunch of Mutton au Jus and Roast Duckling
Ox Tongue-Spinach
Green Peas, Portugal Onions, and Boiled Rice
Potatoes – Boiled, Dauphine, and Mashed
Elbart Pudding, Panier Durant, and Rhubarb Tart
Gelee au Oporto
Ice Cream, Dessert, Tea, and Coffee
Choice of Cold Meats.

The Lusitania was launched in 1906, and at times during this luxury liner's short life, she held records as the world's largest and fastest passenger ship. However, the Lusitania is most famous for having been sunk by a torpedo fired by a German U-Boat during World War I. The attack occurred during her 202nd trans-Atlantic crossing on 7 May 1915 off the southern coast of Ireland and inside the declared maritime warzone surrounding Great Britain just after Germany had announced that it would initiate unrestricted submarine warfare in response to the blockading of her ports. 1,198 passengers and crew were killed; 716 survived. 123 of the casualties were American

The attack galvanized public opinion in the United States against Germany, and images of the sinking of this 'peaceful' passenger were used heavily in the propaganda campaigns that steered the United States into the war on the Allied side. However, it was eventually discovered that besides people, the Lusitania was also transporting an immense amount of war supplies: 4 million rounds of machine-gun ammunition, 50 tons of shrapnel shell casings, and 3,240 artillery fuses.

A scarce menu from a famous ship.

SOLD #9934

36. [MAPS] [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR – MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR] [PHILATELY] [TEXIANA]

1847 – Letter from a Quartermaster officer, recently arrived at the principal Mexican War Gulf Coast supply depot and transportation hub illustrated with a hand-drawn map of the Brazos Santiago, Texas showing the sand bar that impeded offloading of transports and slowed the movement of supplies personnel up the Rio Grande.

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 15.5" x 10" unfolded. It is datelined "Brazos Santiago / Feby 18. 1847" and was sent by Lieutenant Arthur Breese Lansing to his father, Barent Bleeker Lansing, at Utica, New York. It bears a New Orleans postmark dated March 1 and a bold 10 rate stamp, both in black. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

The first page contains Lansing's letter, the second his hand-drawn map. The text reads in part:

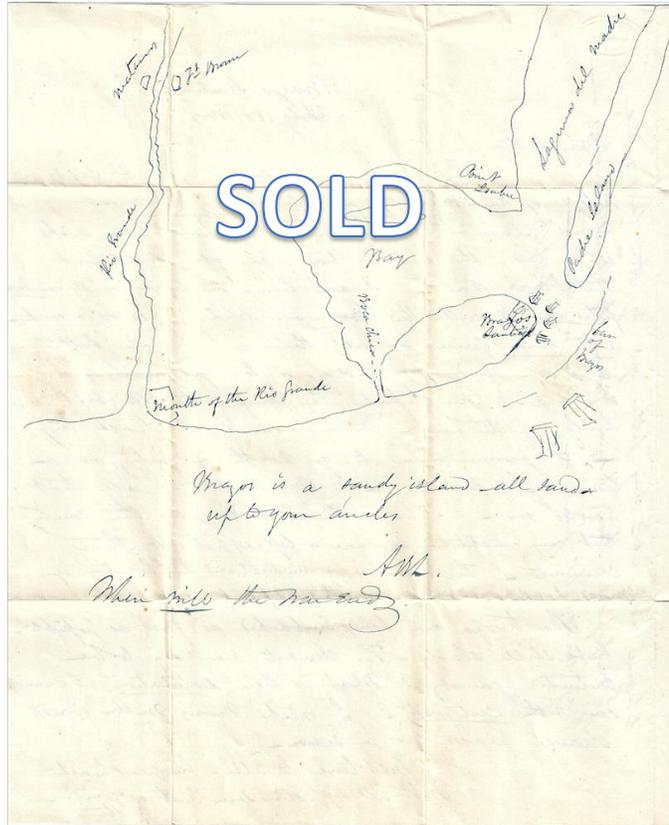
"I have been ordered to report to . . . the QM Dept at this place – the most humid place in Christendom (worse, by far that Fort Brown.) I have been sick since here. the water is bad – my old complaint the Diarrhea. I am living on board a steamboat fitted up & called the "Greenwood Hotel" - \$10.00 a week – Astor house prices in all things. . . Gen Jesup, the Chief of the QM Dept. is daily expected here. On his arrival, I shall try to procure orders to go North. . . I have been so long in the

country that my constitution is more or less affected by the climate. That you may understand the location of Brazos, I add a sketch, on the opposite side. The troops are being Embarked as fast as possible but still slowly. The elements are more to be contended against. What is their destination I cannot say with certainty. . . I have not recd any letter yet by the last mail. I suppose they have gone to Matamoros. They may be here in a day or two. . . Brazos is a sandy island – all sand up to your ancles. . ."

Lansing's map shows the Mexico-Texas coast, the Rio Grande, Fort Brown and Matamoros, Point Isabel, Laguna del Madre, Padre Island, Brazos Santiago, and the sand "Bar of Brazos" that hampered shipping. Lansing shows large ships anchored outside the sand bar, and smaller vessels around Brazos Santiago.

During the Mexican War General Zachary Taylor established a supply depot and transportation hub at Brazos Santiago where supplies and personnel were offloaded because seagoing ships could not cross over the sand bar. Supplies were then transported to Fort Brown and Matamoros by smaller vessels or oxcarts to Fort Brown and Matamoros. During the war, several thousand American troops transited through the port.

Brown's mention of the Greenwood Hotel is interesting. Other army travelers mention it as well, reporting that the wreck of a beached steamboat "was firmly wedged in the sand. It had been repaired and rendered weather-proof by the mud and mortar generally made use of for building purposes in these primitive regions. A bar-room and eating-room formed the principal apartments, with several sleeping rooms of



limited area adjoining, which were the accommodations of the boarders. It was kept by an old woman and her pretty little granddaughter about twelve years old, who was receiving an education to fit her for the responsible position of bar-maid to this 'Hotel Texian.'" As well, a tongue-in-cheek " article in the *United States Magazine and Democrat Review* reported a room at the Greenwood cost "four dollars a day with no extra charge for fleas, mosquitoes and dirt!"

Lansing was an artillery lieutenant when he was detailed to quartermaster duties at Brazos Santiago. Prior to that he served on the Northern Frontier near Buffalo, NY, during the Border Disturbances with Canada, in the Military Occupation of Texas, and at the Defense of Fort Brown. Later he served as the Assistant Quartermaster at Forts in Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, Arkansas, and the Indian Territory before leaving the service in 1851.

(For more information, see Cullum's *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, since its establishment in 1802*, Hathcock's "No Extra Charge for Fleas, Mosquitoes and Dirt" at the *Port Isabel South Padre Press* website, and "Brazos Santiago, TX" at the *Texas State Historical Association* website.

Quite scarce. There are no Brazos Santiago letters or printed/manuscript maps for sale in the trade. No printed or manuscript maps of Brazos Santiago and only one Brazos Santiago letter have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows only one institution holds a printed map of the Brazos Santiago region, and no institutions hold hand-drawn maps. OCLC shows two institutions hold letters from Brazos Santiago.

SOLD #9935

Brazos Santiago
July 18, 1851

Dear Mother.

I have been ordered to report to Capt. Hatzel of the 2nd Regt at this place - the most ^(worse by far than Fort Brown) remote place in Christendom - I have been sick since here - the water is bad - my old complaint has returned - I am living on board a steamboat ^{called the "Greenwood Hotel"} \$10.00 a week - ^{with house prices in all things} - I am better to day - but for a day or two past I was very sick - Gen. Buford, the Chief of the 2nd Regt, is highly expected here - on his arrival, I shall try to procure orders to go north on duty, or a leave of absence - My health is all that troubles me - I have been so long in the country that my constitution is more or less affected by the climate - that you may understand the location of Brazos, I add a sketch on the opposite side -

The troops are being embarked as fast as possible - but still slowly - The elements are now to be trusted against - What is their destination I cannot say with certainty - I wish Mrs. Miller would change places for a season -

Best love to all - In great haste
With all affection
B. B. Lansing
Mother

10

B. B. Lansing Esq
Utica
State of N York

37. [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR – PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN]

1822 – The captain of a U.S. Navy schooner is killed during a battle with the infamous pirate Diabolito during which his out-manned and out-gunned ship rescued five American merchant vessels.

“The Pirate Fight (The Action of 9 November 1822)” by “An Officer on board the Schooner Alligator” in *The National Intelligencer*. Washington, D.C.: December 5, 1822.



This article, which is included in the entire four-page newspaper, recounts in detail the battle between the American Schooner USS *Alligator*, commanded by Lieutenant William Howard Allen, of the West Indies Squadron and three pirate ships, probably commanded by Diabolito. The battle took place off the coast of Cuba on November 9, 1822. It occupies over 18" of front-page column space and has a large, capitalized headline. The paper is toned but supple; generally clean with some staining at the upper right. The spine appears to have been neatly mended.

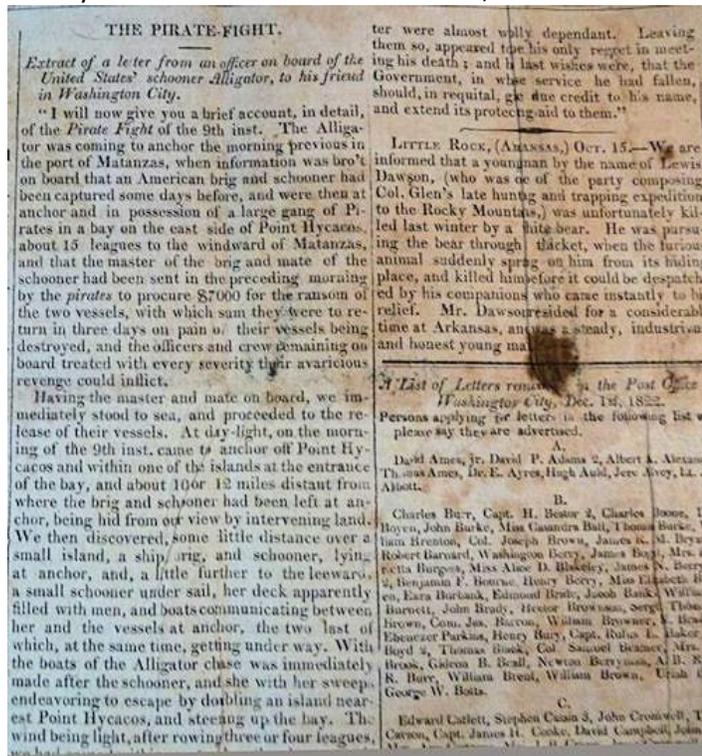
At the time of battle, the pirate force had in its possession five US merchant vessels. The *Alligator*, although out-gunned and out-manned, had an experienced crew which recently captured another pirate ship after a bloody battle, and its commander, Lt. Allen, had previously commanded the USS *Argus*, when it engaged the HMS *Pelican* during the War of 1812.

Allen and his crew manned launches from the *Alligator* in an attempt to board the principal pirate vessel, the *Revenge*, which fired upon the Americans with grape and roundshot. Rather than attempt to fight off the boarding party, the pirates abandoned the *Revenge* and fled to their other two ships. As Allen turned his boats to continue the attack, they came under withering fire from the pirates. In an attempt to rally his men, Allen stood up and was cut down by musket fire. The two remaining pirate ships fled the battle during the resulting confusion, leaving the pirate ship, *Revenge*, and the five merchant ships with the *Alligator*.

Allen became an immediate naval hero, and his name was used as a rallying cry a year later when the Navy killed Diabolito while defeating another pirate force in the same area..

(For more information, see “Death of lieut. Allen: Official Account” in the *Niles’ Register* 1 Feb 1823, Calkins’s “The Repression of Piracy in the West Indies: 1814-1825 in the *United States Naval Institute Proceedings* December 1911, and Bradlee’s *Piracy in the West Indies and Its Suppression*.)

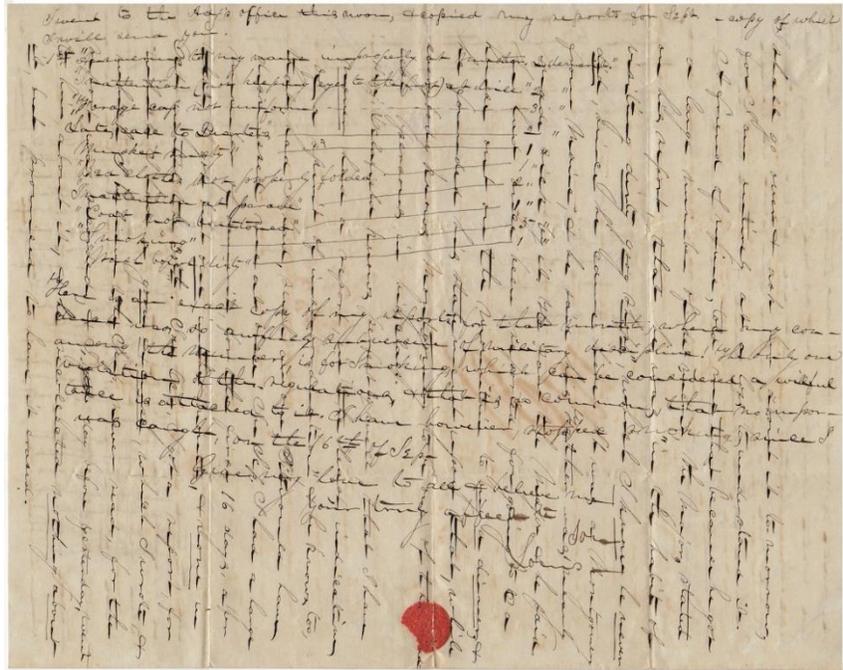
\$400 #8040



38 [MILITARY & WAR – WEST POINT] [PHILATELY]

1842 – Letter from a West Point cadet complaining about the academy's arbitrary and unjust demerit system

This one-page stampless folded letter Louis D. Welch to Welch's father in Brooklyn, Connecticut, measures approximately 8" x 10" unfolded. It is undated, but pencil docketing indicates it was received in 1842. It is postmarked with a circular West Point NY "Nov 11" handstamp in red. The word "Single" is written in the lower left corner indicating the letter consisted of only one sheet of paper. A manuscript "18 $\frac{3}{4}$ " is in the upper right corner indicating the postal rate to send a single-page folded letter a distance of 151 to 400 miles. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.



In his long, cross-hatched letter, Welch explains what he believes to be the unjust and arbitrary nature of the Military Academy's demerit system to his father who perhaps had received a report of his son's "spirit of insubordination." Welch sarcastically points out that his "conduct [which] was so awfully subversive of military discipline" included having a rusty musket, unbuttoned coat, improper forage cap, inattention at parade and drill, and smoking (which "is so common that no importance is attached to it.")



In a further effort to trivialize his infractions, Louis reports that the father of one of the academy's most honorable cadets, was "nearly made sick" by an unfounded report that his son was "in the habit of visiting dirty grog shops."

Welch managed to survive his demerits and graduate in 1845, receiving a commission in the 3rd Artillery Regiment. He was initially assigned to Fort Marion, Florida (the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine) following the Second Seminole War and later deployed with his unit during the Mexican-American War where he fought in the attack of Mexico City's Garita San Antonio in September 1847. Whether from wounds or sickness, Welch died the following spring at the age of 23.

A scarce window into life at West Point during the early 1840s.

\$300 [#9936](#)

39. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1863 – Letter from a soldier in the 25 Connecticut Volunteer Infantry written March 1863 during the Bayou Teche campaign as the unit skirmished its way from Port Hudson, Louisiana, to Brashear City at Berwick Bay in preparation for General Nathaniel Bank's Overland Expedition into Texas later that fall.

This three-page letter from Private Edwin Thorne at Donaldsonville, Louisiana to his mother in Connecticut is dated "March 30 / 60". It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope which bears a New Orleans arrival postmark dated April 6, 1863. Simultaneously, the envelope received an oval "Held for Postage" handstamp because when Thorne mailed it without a stamp, which was permitted, but neglected to write "Soldier's Letter" on the front, and as a result it was delayed at the New Orleans post office until someone affixed a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) in the upper left-hand corner. The letter then received a second New Orleans postmark dated June 4, 1863 and was sent on its way to Connecticut. The letter is in nice shape; the envelope has been opened on two sides and show some postal wear.

In the letter Thorne describes his regiment's activity after it skirmished on the bank of Mississippi at Port Hudson. The letter reads in part:

"We left Baton Rouge Friday March 28th about sun down on board the Transport St Mary and . . . arrived at this place about 9.0 Clock the same night it rained most of the night and we had to tought it out on the ground but we got our tents up the next day. . . it has ben very could indeed and most likely in a day or two it will be so dosed hot to rost a person. . . Dolensonvill is about 40 miles from Baton Ruge and is on the Operset side it is a small place and is divided in the middle by a Byiu witch runs into the river thearse is also a small foart with mounts about 20 guns thear is about 10 Thousand Trupes heare and 3 or 4 Batterys and more coming we Expect to leave heare to night or tomorrow . . . bound fore Texas as fare as I can larn. we are now to march to Liberdor that is south east from here about 30 miles and from thear we are to go to Frazor {Brashear} City or Berbick [Berwick] Bay . . . Thearse is a Railroad [the New Orleans Opelousas & Great Western Railroad] . . . to Berbick Bay and we may have a chance to ride part of the way any way we shall have . . . plenty of Rebels"

The overnight spent in the frigid rain on 28 March is referred to the regimental history as "Camp Misery," and one of the unit's quartermaster sergeants is credited with saving "many a man's life" by riding through the nighttime storm to bring back coffee from Baton Rouge. From Donaldsonville, the 25th fought its way through several more skirmishes until loading into boats that sailed through Atchafalaya bayou to Irish Bend where it drove "the enemy before us through the entire valley of the Tech from its mouth to its source. . . Four engagements and 300 miles march in twenty days" during which time of its 350 soldiers, 96 were killed or wounded. (For more information, see Bissell's *Brief History of the Twenty-fifth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, from the pen of Colonel George P. Bissell*, available online.)

A fine first-hand account, enclosed in its unusually-handled mailing envelope, of a seldom-remembered campaign that cleared rebel forces from Bayou Teche in south-central Louisiana in preparation for General Bank's follow-on Overland Texas Expedition later that fall.



SOLD #9937

40. [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1863 – Letter written on the last day of the battle reporting the Union defeat at Chancellorsville from an infantry soldier who had assisted in the construction of pontoon bridges that allowed the Union Army to cross the Rappahannock River to engage Confederate forces on the other side.

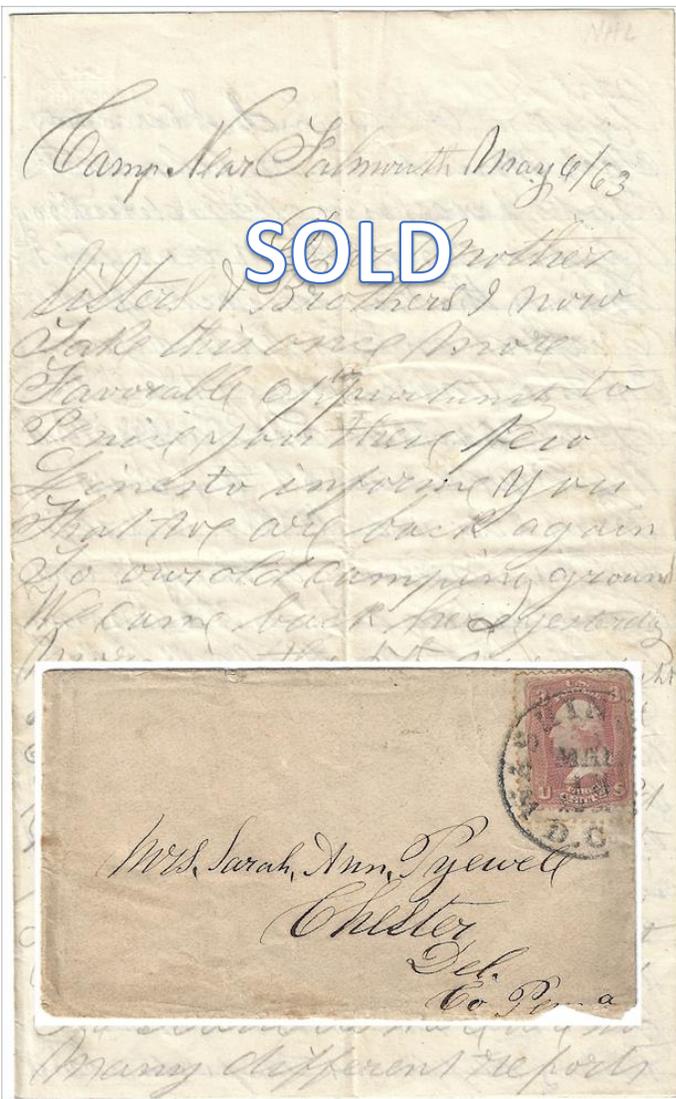
This four-page letter is datelined “Camp Near Falmouth May 6/63”. It was sent by Corporal Jacob Pyewell to his family in Pennsylvania. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope which is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp and canceled by a circular Washington D.C. postmark dated May 14th. In nice shape; the pencil text is a little faint but still easily readable. A transcript will be provided.

Pyewell’s report reads in part:

“We came back here yesterday morning the 5th Our Brigade was not in the fight . . . we were lucky Warren we were detached With the Ponton train [so] I cant give you any account of The Battle [but] I can say This much the rebels have Got prosession of Fredericksburg Again. . . Sedwicks forces Crossed on this side again On the morning of the 5th They crossed at Banks Ford . . . our Brigade was taken accross on the morning of the 4th and Crossed again on the morning of the 5th with Sedwicks Forces there is one thing Certain it is another skedaddle of the left wing of our Army but whether the Right wing is over there or not I cannot tell you on the right is were Hooker is at . . . some says that he is still across an others says that he ant but weather he is or

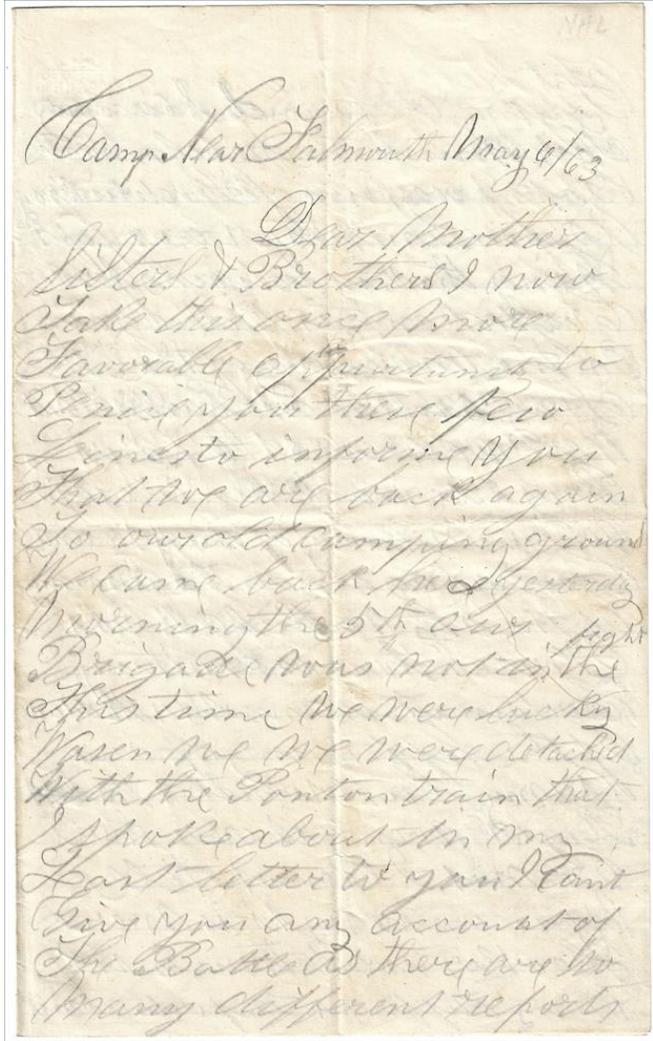
not I cannot tell you but I will say this much if he ant he soon will be I do beleve honestly that it is another grand failure and I tell you that I feel Thankfull that we were not in it I did feel partly confident that we would be successfull this time and I tell you things lookd that way. . . Sedwick Drove and Hooker drove them but they received heavy reinforcments and came in on Sedwicks flank And change the tide altogether They cut him of so that he could not fall back on Fredericksburg But had to cross at Bank . . . we were mighty lucky in getting accross as well as we did this has been a great Battle 6 days & nights hard fighting I suppose the loss must be great on both sides but it will be some time yet before we no what our lost is”

The Battle of Chancellorsville was fought from May 1st to 6th between armies led by Generals Robert E. Lee and Joseph Hooker. In preparation for the battle, Hooker planned to move his force across the



Rappahannock River using fords and pontoon bridges without alerting the Confederate forces on the other side. To that end, engineers augmented by infantrymen constructed pontoon boat bridges about two miles below Fredericksburg at Franklins Crossing. Although initially gaining the upper hand, Hooker's army was routed by Lee's execution of a risky plan that split the Confederate force. After General Stonewall Jackson led half of Lee's army through the near impassable "Wilderness" to attack the Union force in a flanking movement, Hooker ordered a withdrawal to the positions it had held prior to the battle. The rout of Hooker's army inspired General Lee to launch his Gettysburg campaign. However, that fight would be without General Jackson who was shot in the gloom by friendly forces and died several days later.

This first-hand letter written as the battle ended testifies to the rout and the repeated use of the pontoon bridges to cross and recross the Rappahannock. Pyewell was a corporal serving in the Pennsylvania 106th Infantry Regiment. Although, as Pyewell's letter confirms, the regiment was demoralized after the defeat at Chancellorsville, the 106th would emerge victorious two months later when it assisted in the crushing defeat of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg sending Lee's army back to lick its wounds in Virginia following the most important battle of the Civil War.



(For more information, see "Chancellorsville Campaign" at the Encyclopedia Virginia website, "Ponton [i.e., pontoon] bridges at 'Franklins crossing' at the Library of Congress website, and "Jacob Pyewell" and "106th Pennsylvania Infantry" at the American Civil War Database.)

At the time of listing, there are no original items for sale in the trade that discuss the use of pontoon bridges at Chancellorsville. The Rare Book Hub shows there have been three auctions in the past ten years offering letters about the pontoon bridges. OCLC shows three institutions hold original source pontoon bridge items; a diary, a hand drawn map, and a post-war memoir.

Sold #9938

41. [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1863-1870 – Collection of 14 Documents, Letters, and Ephemera related to Recruiting, Civil War Draft Substitution, and Pension Payments at Paris, Maine.

These 14 items vary in size. All came from a descendent of S. P. Maxim, a selectman of the town of Paris, Maine, and as such a member of its Civil War recruiting committee. Most of these items reference either Maxim or the town of Paris. The items are:

1. An undated, flag-illustrated business card for the “Recruiting Agency, No. 10 India Street, Portland Me.” that notes “Recruits wanted for the Army and Navy, Highest Bounties Paid. Substitutes Furnished and Town Quotas Filled.”

2. A handbill from Maine’s “Adjutant General’s Office, Augusta, Oct 5, 1863” noting that an order authorizing “payment of bills of Orderly Sergeants, and accounts of Examining Surgeons, for services in raising the nine months troops in 1862 [as well as] the transportation and subsistence of nine months troops.”

3. A letter, dated January 26, 1864, from Maxim to Capt Wm. A Barrows reporting “that our quota is now full If the men can save the Same bounty this town pays they had best improve the opportunity. If we can make any transfer we shall be happy to pay our own Paris Boys for their hard service.” No mailing envelope.

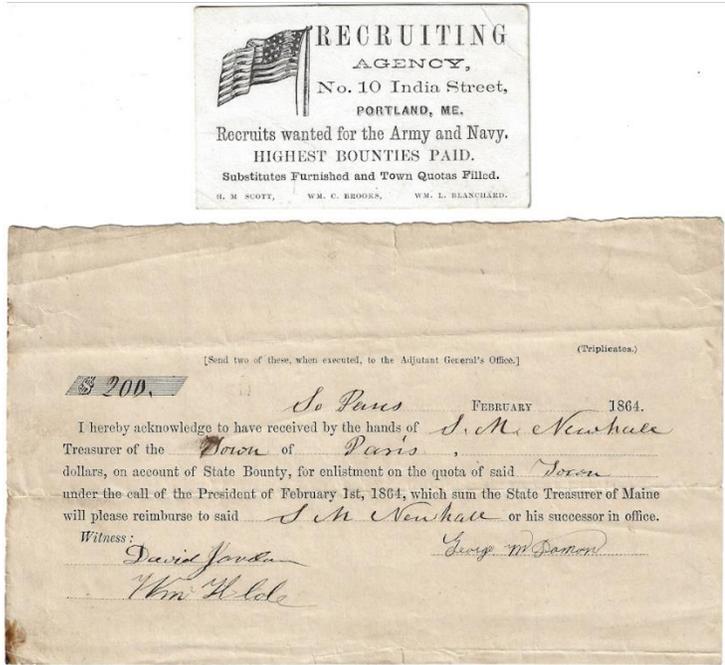
4. A partially-printed receipt from February 1864 signed by George M. Damon acknowledging his receipt of \$200 from “the hands of [the] Treasurer of the Town of Paris . . . on account of the State Bounty, for enlistment on the quota of said town under the call of the President of February 1st, 1864.

5. A letter from Wm. K. Kimble, datelined “Headquarters, Madisonville, La. / Febry 20th, 1864” to Maxim in response to a query regarding the current number and status of Paris soldiers in his unit to which he replied in part, “I have been detached from my Regiment, and now 5 companies of it compose a small part of my command and 5 companies are scattered for the distance of 30 to 80 miles from here. I think I have but Three (3) men from Paris. . . . No man from my regiment has ever rec’d one cent as bounty and they are suspicious that they never will. W never cost the state of Maine so much as a pair of shoes but still, we have done what we could for the ‘Old State’ and the ‘Old Flag’ . . .” No mailing envelope.

6. A partially-printed document from Maine’s Adjutant General’s Office dated March 29, 1864 acknowledging George Damon’s enlistment (see above) was applied to Paris’s quota.



7. A postally used envelope franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) from the "Provost Marshal's Office" addressed to "John Russell Esq, / Enrolling Officer / Cambridge Me." with a circular Augusta, Maine postmark dated May 27, 1864. No content.



8. A manuscript document dated August 27, 1864 recording a vote held at the Parish town meeting of "the 25th day of August, A.D. 1864" pledging to "raise thirteen hundred and seventy-five dollars as required by law for recruiting purposes to fille the quota under the last call." The document is franked with a 10-cent and a 5-cent Internal Revenue Inland Exchange stamps, Scott #s R7 and R36.

9. A manuscript document similar to the one immediately above dated September 2, 1864 and franked with five 10-cent Internal Revenue Inland Exchange stamps, Scott #R36.

10. A manuscript document datelined "Upton Sept 15th 1864" stating that "Warren O Douglas is not Enrolled in the Town and is at liberty to go for any Town he Chooses."

11. A telegraph message dated September 21, 1864 to Maxim reading, "Bryant done nothing lacks Eleven 11 men Will try to-morrow."

12. A manuscript document dated "Paris Oct. 25. 1864" signed by Elias W Murdock certifying that "the town of Paris has this day advanced me the State bounty of three hundred dollars and I do hereby assign my claim . . . to the said town of Paris."

13. A large "Pension Certificate" dated January 23, 1868 identifying Max as the "Guardian of the widow of Alanson Proctor late a Private in Co B 30th Regt of Infantry Maine Vols in the War of 1861, for the suppression of the Rebellion" and authorizing him to collect on her behalf "Four Dollars per month . . . for one year."

14. A letter on stationery of the Adjutant General's Office datelined Augusta November 10, 1870 acknowledge that its prior finding of a \$3,600 "deficiency" related to the "call of Oct 17th 1863 . . . has been examined, found to be incorrect, so cancelled, and the State Treasurer notified thereof."

(For more information about the Civil War draft, bounties, and recruiting, see Marvel's "A Poor Man's Fight" at the National Park Service website, "Bounty System" at the *Encyclopedia Britannica* online, online genealogical databases, and Lapham & Maxim's *A History of Paris, Maine from Its Settlement to 1880*.)

While all Civil War recruiting and bounty documents are scarce, this collection contains to that are especially so: the Recruiting Agency business card, and the partially-printed receipt signed by Damon acknowledging receipt of an enlistment bounty.

A significant collection documenting the workings of a Union towns efforts to meet its Civil War recruiting quotas imposed by the Lincoln administration's imposition of the draft.

\$750 [#9939](#)

42. [MILITARY & WAR – CIVIL WAR]

1864 – Letter from a Confederate soldier in the 60th Alabama Infantry Regiment at Petersburg, Virginia reporting on desertions from his unit and the probable execution of one soldier caught in an attempt.

This four-page letter from Joseph “Wyatt” Wilson is datelined “Camp 60th Alabama Regt. Gr’s Brig. [Gracie’s Brigade] / Petersburg Va Dec 23rd 1864”. The letter was written in pencil but is easy to read except for two blurred lines that can be read using image enhancement software. No mailing envelope. In nice shape with several tape repairs.

The 60th Alabama Infantry was formed at Charleston, Tennessee, in November, 1863, from companies of Colonel Henry Washington Hilliard’s Alabama Legion and placed under the command of General Archibald Gracie III during the Knoxville campaign. In 1864, it relocated to the Virginia theater and fought at the Battles Bean’s Station, Dandridge, Chester Station, and Drewry’s Bluff before taking up positions in the trenches defending Petersburg. It was at this time Wilson penned this letter home hoping for a leave, reporting rampant desertions during the winter, and predicting he would receive a wound in the spring that would result in his discharge. It reads in part:

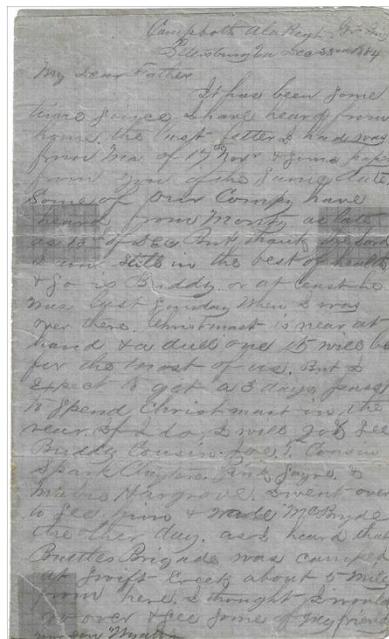
“Col Troy also has one and will leave in a few days. There is about half of the officers in this Regt on furlough & they have commenced furloughing the men at this rate 2 men to every 100 arms bearing men & an additional one to every compy that has 50 men for duty. At that rate it would take just ten years to furlough the men that have never been home let a lone the married men that are obliged to go home this Winter to make arrangements for their familys for another year. I don’t expect a furlough this Winter But I do expect to get a discharge next spring when the campaign opens up here. by a Yankee Bullet.

“There has been a good deal of deserting in our Regt during the last month or too. About 2 weeks ago 6 went one night & 7 the next and that night the Yanks hallowed for Johney Reb to tell Col Troy to come over & take command of his Regt. A night or two ago two of our company tried to make their way to Yankeedom. One of them, Thomas Pendleton started about 5 minutes before the other one John Shaw & So Tom P. got over but as Shaw was about half way our Pickets saw him and commenced shooting at him and calling him to halt but he kept on to the yanks as he thought but soon come back to our own lines & was caught & is now in jail in Petersburg & I expect will be shot. . .”

Wilson’s wounding premonition came true. The following April, he was shot in the shoulder while serving in the frontlines during the Battle of the Crater. At about the same time his commander, Colonel Gracie was killed by an artillery explosion while observing Union lines with a telescope. Wilson survived the war after receiving medical treatment was granted his sought-after furlough from the Confederate General Hospital at Danville, Virginia on April 9, 1865, the same day that his unit surrendered along with General Robert E. Lee and the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox.

(For more information see Shaver’s *A History of the Sixtieth Alabama Regiment: Gracie’s Alabama Brigade* available online at the Library of Congress and the American Civil War Database.)

An uncommon letter addressing desertions from the Confederate Army as it became increasingly clear that the war would soon be lost.



43. [PHILATELY] [TOLL ROADS]

1823 – A Printed Announcement of “An Act relative to Turnpike Road and Bridge Companies” sent by the Pennsylvania Secretary of State to the President of the Bedford and Stoystown Turnpike Road Company

This stampless folded, partially printed circular measures 7.75” x 12.75” (15.5” x 12.75” when fully opened). The Act is only printed on one 7.75” x 12.75” panel. It is datelined “Department of State / Secretary’s Office, April 15th 1823” and signed by Andrew Gregg. It was sent to “The President of the Bedford and Stoystown Turnpike Road Compy / Stoystown” from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and has a double-circle Harrisburg postmark dated April 16th along with several manuscript and handstamped markings including “On Public Service”, “Paid”, “6”. Apparently, the company headquarters had moved as the cover, which also bears a manuscript postmark “Stoysville Pa / April 18th” was forwarded to Bedford. In nice shape.

The Act states in part that

“A certain sum to be paid by subscribers of stock to the attending commissioner or commissioners . . . is hereby repealed . . . so far as the same relates to turnpike and bridge companies. . . .

“When money has been drawn from the treasury on the faith of the subscriptions having been bona fide made, it shall be the duty of such companies . . . to proceed immediately to collect . . . from its stockholders . . . such sum or sums. . . .

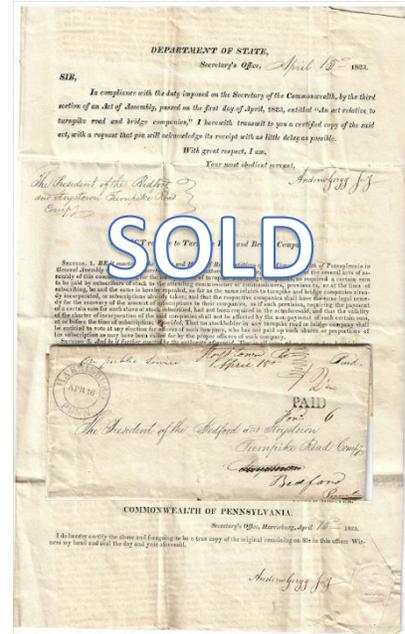
“It shall be the duty of the president of each turnpike road company . . . to make . . . a detailed report . . . showing the situation of the company [in which] shall be particularly stated the cost of the road . . . the amount of individual subscriptions . . . the amount paid by the state . . . and the amount of expenditures for repairs. . . .”

Initially, American roads were financed, built, and managed by town governments, typically by a ‘labor’ tax that required males of a town to perform road work or pay various fines and fees. Farming schedules resulted in disconnected and poorly supervised work, and inconsistent financing prevented road improvements and extensions. As a result, existing roads were inadequate and road networks all but non-existent. This changed in 1792, when taking inspiration from the “turnpike mania” flourishing in England, merchants of Philadelphia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania chartered a private company to build a privately financed toll road between their cities. It was an immediate success, and turnpike mania soon gripped the United States. By 1800, 69 companies had been incorporated, and by 1830, there were almost 1,000.

Around 1818, the Bedford and Stoystown Turnpike Road Company completed its 40-mile route between the two cities that followed a mid-18th century military road known as the Forbes Trail. The turnpike was later incorporated into the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30. The Flight 93 National Memorial is located along the turnpike route.

(For more information, see Klein and Majewski’s “Turnpikes and Toll Roads in Nineteenth-Century America” available online, the Stoystown Historic District website, the “History of Bedford: General Improvements” online at the Bedford County Genealogy website, and “Gregg, Andrew: 1755 – 1835” in the online *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*.)

SOLD #9941



44. [PHILATELY] [RELIGION – METHODISTS & MISSIONARIES]

1846 – Letter from the most important Methodist Bishop of his day attempting to dupe a well-respected New York preacher into accepting an appointment to run a dying missionary program in Oregon after his promised Superintendency of China missions was given to someone else.

This one-page stampless letter measures 15.5" x 10" unfolded. It was sent by Bishop Edmund S. James from New York City to the Reverend A. D. Peck at Fairfield. The letter is dated July, 10, 1846 and bears a red New York postmark and a manuscript 5 rating mark. In nice shape.

In this letter James apologizes to Peck that he will be unable to place him in charge of the China missions as promised but offers a mission in Oregon instead. It reads in part:

"Agreeably to my promise . . . I began to engine into China affairs [but] Bishop Hedding [now] informs me that he has appointed a Superintendent of the China Missions and if he accepts it he can not reverse it. . . . But for this previous decision we should have been very glad to have given that mission to you. . . .

"Now that the China Mission is provided for what do you and sister Peck say about Oregon? . . . I think myself that is a field of as much promise as China. I believe it and equally important and interesting post. Now what say you? . . ."

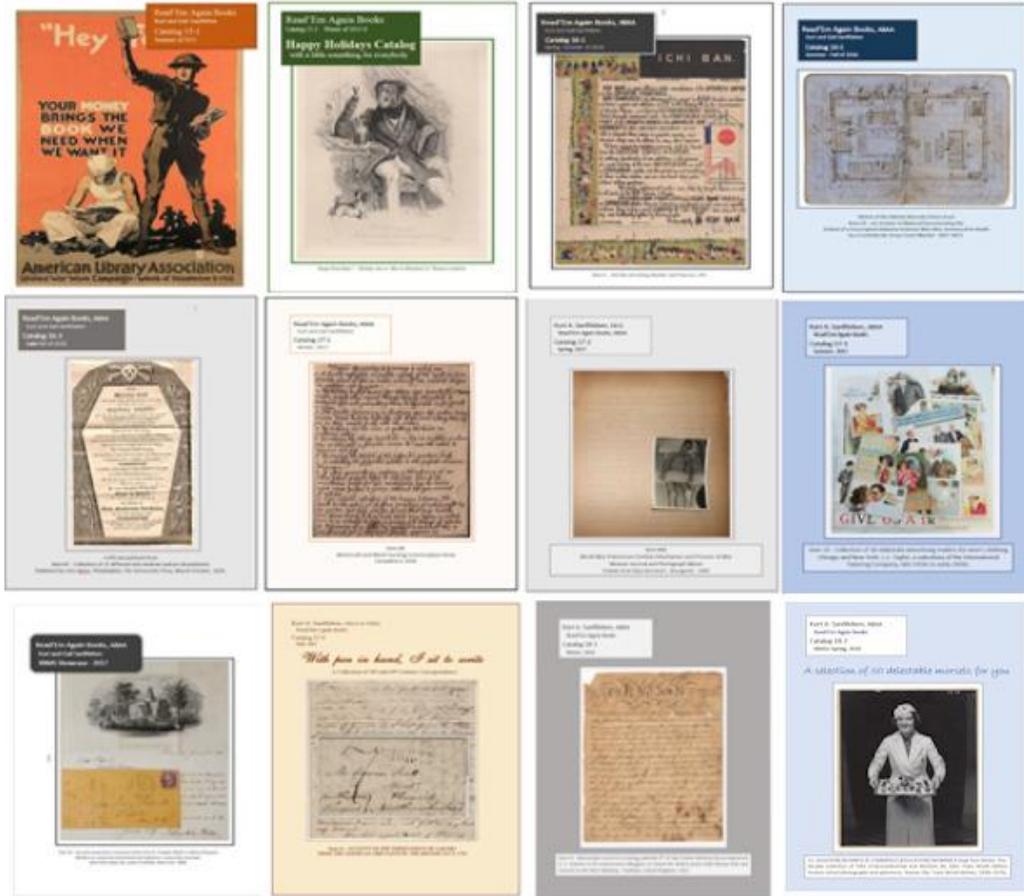
In fact, the Methodist Mission in Oregon was on its death bed and both Bishop James and Bishop Hedding knew it. The Methodist Mission in Oregon began on a sour note in 1834, when its superintendent, Daniel Lee, refused to locate his church at confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, instead settling 50 miles up the Willamette at what became known as Mission Bottom. However, the Methodists efforts to convert or 'civilize' the native tribes were virtually unsuccessful, although it became a boon to early white settlers, providing them with legal, constabulary, educational and religious services. Dissatisfaction with Lee's leadership increased over time, and he was fired for financial improprieties in 1844. The new Superintendent, George Gary, in conjunction with national leadership, determined that the unsuccessful mission should be abandoned and began selling off community assets to arriving settlers. By 1845, when Gary had reduced the mission to only two small stations, he requested that a new superintendent to replace him. This was the "important and interesting post" Edwards offered Peck instead of China. Peck apparently declined the offer, as records reflect the Reverend William Roberts of San Francisco was sent to replace Gary. After this date, Aaron Peck's name appears in very few Methodist records other than an 1847 note identifying him as "superannuated or worn-out preacher" as of June 16, 1847. Perhaps, Peck was involuntarily 'retired' for refusing this appointment to the failing Oregon mission.

(For more information, see *Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church* Volume 4, *Gorrie's Black River*, and *Northern New York Conference Memorial*, Gatke's "A Document of Mission History, 1833-43" in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* Vol 36 No. 1, Bronson's), *Jason Lee, Prophet of New Oregon*, and *Lee & Frost's Ten Years in Oregon*.)



SOLD #9943

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