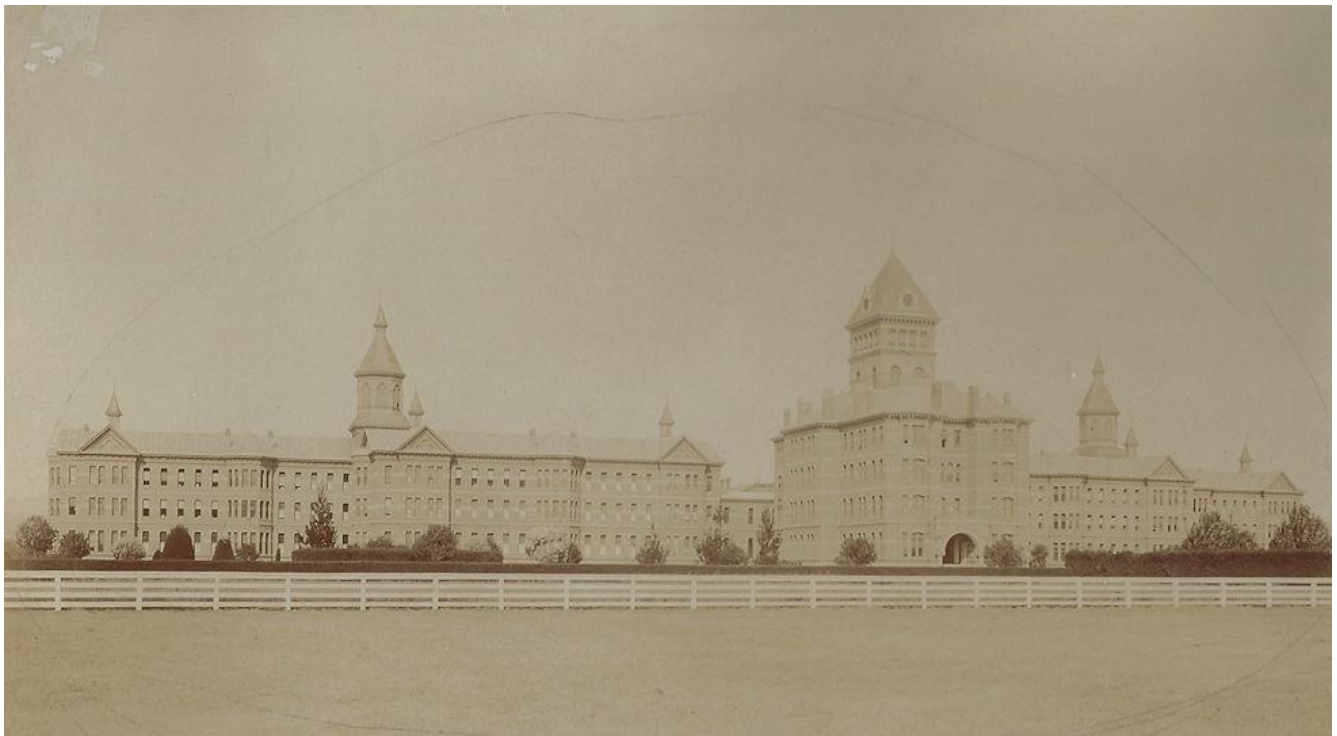


burges

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA and ASDA
Paper Americana and Postal History
Catalog 23-2 – April 2023



29. [CALIFORNIANA] [DISASTERS – SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE] [MEDICINE & NURSING – INSANITY]

Circa 1906 – An extensive album of 38 large albumin photographs documenting life at the Agnews State Asylum for the Insane. This asylum was the site of the greatest loss of life during San Francisco Earthquake, and in addition to the albumins, it contains another 43 snapshots showing the extensive damage to the facility caused by that disaster. 81 photographs in all.

Our focus is on providing
unusual ephemera and original personal narratives including

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

We specialize in unique items that provide collectors and researchers insight into American history, society, and culture while telling stories within themselves. Although we love large archives, usually our offerings are much smaller in scope; one of our regular institutional customers calls them “microhistories.” These original source materials enliven collections and provide students, faculty, and other researchers with details to invigorate otherwise dry theses, dissertations, and publications.

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Prices are in U.S dollars. When applicable, we must charge sales tax. Unless otherwise stated, standard domestic shipping is at no charge. International shipping charges vary. All shipments are sent insured at no additional charge. Any customs or VAT fees are the responsibility of the purchaser.

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Reciprocal trade discounts are offered to dealers who are members of the ABAA, IOBA, ILAB, ASDA, and NSDA, as well as APS Dealer Members and members of the Abebooks, Biblio, and Alibris selling communities provided they pay by check, money order or no-fee bank transfer.

Institutions, established customers, and ABAA/ILAB members may be invoiced; all others are asked to prepay. We appreciate institutional constraints when it comes to complying with acquisition rules, dealing with foundations, and courting donors, so we are always willing to hold items for a reasonable time for you to meet organizational purchasing, funding, and billing requirements.

Any item may be returned for a full refund for any reason if the return is initiated within ten days of a purchaser's receipt and the item arrives back to us in the same condition as when originally shipped. Prior notice of any return is appreciated. Return shipping costs will be paid by the buyer. All items are guaranteed as described. If a recognized authority finds an item or signature not to be genuine, the original purchaser may return the item at any time for a full refund including all shipping costs.

Regards, Kurt and Gail

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



Catalog Number Index

By Location

Alabama: 18
Arkansas: 30
California: 28-29
Connecticut: 14, 25
Colorado: 9
Dakota Territory: 32
Florida: 4, 7
Illinois: 19
Iowa: 30, 34
Indian Territory: 24
Kentucky: 20, 33
Maryland: 36
Massachusetts: 32
Michigan: 21
Missouri: 3, 9, 20
New York: 8, 10, 13, 27, 30
North Carolina: 11, 21
Oklahoma: 24
Pennsylvania: 1-2, 22-23, 33
South Carolina: 11
Tennessee: 17
Vermont: 12
Virginia: 1, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14-18, 31
Washington, DC: 22, 25

Austria-Hungary: 28
Bahamas: 4
Belgium: 27
China: 36
France: 4
Germany: 27
Great Britain: 27
Holland: 21
Ireland: 19
Italy: 27
Japan: 35
Switzerland: 27
Spain: 4

By Topic

African-Americana: 1, 8-9, 35
American Indians – Cherokee: 24
American Indians – Seminole: 7
Art – Art Nouveau: 28
Art – Landscapes: 6

Astronomy - Comets: 10
Business – Banking – 11, 16
Business – Cloth: 5
Californiana: 28-29
Carnivals & Fairs – Merry-Go-Rounds: 33
Class – Avocations: 1
Cultural Appropriation: 30
Dancing – Buck Dance: 30
Deltiology: 28, 31
Disasters – Fire: 7
Disasters – San Francisco Earthquake: 29
Education - Boarding Schools: 3
Education – Native Americans: 24
Education – V.M.I.: 17
Entertainment – Vaudeville: 30
Facsimiles: 6
Fashion – Hoop Skirts: 9
Finance – Bonds: 16
Floridiana: 4, 7
Food & Drink – 10, 14
Foreign Aid – China: 36
Holidays – Fourth of July: 10
Holidays – Valentine’s Day: 5
Horses – Thoroughbreds: 1
Humanitarian Support – China: 36
International Relations - China: 36
Irish Independence – Fenians: 19
Law – Replevin: 2
Law – Tenure of Office Act: 22
Maps – Congo: 26
Maritime – Blockade Running: 11
Maritime - Salvage: 4
Maritime – Shipwrecks: 4
Medicine & Nursing – Fevers: 7
Medicine & Nursing – Hospitalization: 14
Medicine & Nursing – Insanity: 29
Medicine & Nursing – Patent Medicines: 23
Medicine & Nursing – PTSD: 12
Military – 7th Cavalry: 32
Military – Bushwhackers: 20

Military – Conscription: 13
Military – Civil War: 10--21
Military – Reconstruction: 21-22
Military – Seminole War: 7
Military – Great Sioux War: 32
Military – World War II: 35
Mining – Gold Rush: 9
Museology – Smithsonian: 25
Music – Parody: 13
Music – Song Sheets: 13
Philately: 2-3, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 21-25, 27-28, 30, 36
Photography: 31
Politics – Anti-War: 13
Politics – Corruption: 36
Politics - International: 4
Politics – Presidential: 22
Race – Blackface: 30
Race – Cultural Appropriation: 30
Race – Intermarriage: 24
Recreation – Roller Skating: 30
Religion – Missionaries: 26
Religion – Catholicism: 19
Religion – Pentecostalism: 8
Religion – Third Great Awakening: 8
Resorts: Hot Springs: 6
Rural America: 31, 34
Slavery: 3, 15
Slavery – Comfort Girls: 35
Sports – Horse Racing: 1
Transportation – Canals: 2
Transportation – Railroads: 7, 10
Transportation – Steamboats: 7, 26
Transportation – Steamships: 27
Travel: 27
United Nations – UNRRA: 36
Valentines – Mechanical: 5
Valentines – Vinegar: 5
Virginiana: 1, 6, 17, 31
Women & Girls: 3, 18, 24, 28, 34-35
Youth Organizations – 4-H: 34

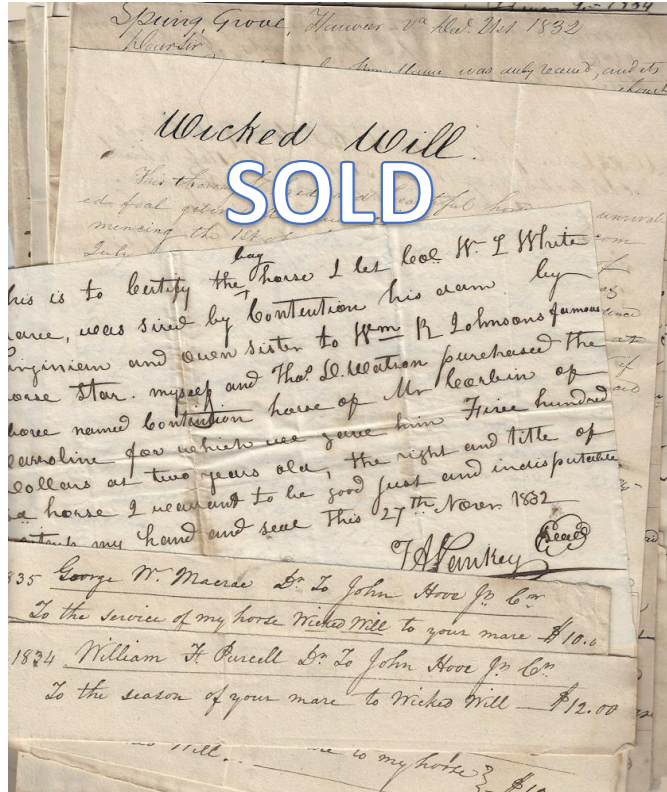
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1. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [CLASS – AVOCATIONS] [HORSES – THOROUGHBREDS] [SPORTS – HORSE RACING] [VIRGINIANA]

1832-1845 – An archive documenting the ownership of a famous stallion, Wicked William that sheds considerable light on thoroughbred breeding and racing in early 19th century Virginia.

There are 19 documents and letters in this archive that provide a detailed first-hand, original source account of thoroughbred breeding and racing in Virginia during the early days of the republic: three pedigrees, four stud service tickets, five sales records, and seven stampless letters. All of the items are in nice shape with some minor wear and soiling. Transcripts will be provided.

The Virginia aristocracy was at the heart of horse racing in colonial North America. Although enjoyed by commoners and even slaves, the sport belonged to elite planters who owned thousands of acres, and whose race horses were usually groomed by enslaved workers. Virginia racing horses were a cross-breed of imported English racers and Spanish horses that had long been present in North America. Although, racing all but stopped during the Revolution, it quickly revived after the war. The most successful horse in the early United States was Sir Archy, the first thoroughbred horse bred in the United States as well as the best racer of his time.



Sir Archy features prominently in Wicked William's pedigree, which can be traced back generations to the Bellsie Arabian and Sister Turk. Wicked William was

"the half brother of the celebrated race horse Snow Storm, was sired by the distinguished race horse Contention, who was by Sir Archy, Dam by the imported Dare Devil, which was also the dam of Thaddeus, Weazel &c &c His dam the Virginian filly, was full sister to Col. Wm R Johnson's celebrated race horses Star and Restless which were sired by the noted race horse Virginian."

Unfortunately, Wicked William, who had been acquired by Captain John Hooe Jr. of Prince William County, a member of one of the most wealthy and influential Virginia families, could never race. He was

"From bad management he had his eye injured by the groom, [however,] his colts are remarkable for their fine eyes, size, form, and action. Indeed Wicked Will colts . . . compare with the get of any horse in the United States. . . He could not have failed to have distinguished himself had he been trained. No person can doubt, that he is equal to any horse in this Country in richness of blood. . ."

Hooe had purchased the Wicked William specifically as a breeding stallion from Colonel William L. White of Hanover County.

"The said horse is this day delivered to the s^d John Hooe Jr. who is to keep him, and stand him [for stud] according to his own discretions, and he the s^d Hooe . . . hereby binds himself to pay as soon as collected

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

to the s^d White such money as may be made .
.. untill there shall have been made the sum of
Eight hundred Dollars. . .”

Hooe’s breeding of Wicked William was apparently successful enough (receipt tickets in the archive show that stud service brought in \$12 per mare) that he purchased the horse outright with “a bond [of] four Hundred Dollars together with [a] Sir Charles mare called Fanny Kemble. . .”

At one point, Wicked William was stolen but soon recovered in Pennsylvania.

“Mr Sandt . . . brought him in.. .. By your Description of him I can See no Difference. . . This Horse was very Mutch road Down . . . he was lame in the right fore leg. . . I requested he . . . get him Shod [as] his shoes were wore out. . . The thief [and his accomplices were captured in Richmond.] One of your Banks . . . took up this man [when he] Changed the Check of \$600 Dollars and Tomorrow he is to be araniened. They took [all] three of them and found Better than five thousand Dollars with Them. . .”

Wicked William
This thorough bred horse, is a beautiful
bay with black legs, main & tail - 5 feet
2 inches high - large bone & muscles of
commanding appearance
only 3 years old this Spring, was sent
by the celebrated race horse Contention
who was by Sir Archibald - dam by the
imported Marekivil who was also the
dam of Thaddeus Bunsell, Keagle &c
His dam was full sister to the great race
horses Star & Rattle, that was got by
the noted race horse Virginian
Grand dam Meritux by Magog - Star -
= ciba by imported Shark, = Rosella by
Wilkins - Centinel - Bianca - Cladius -
Jolly Painter, by the Beelsige Arabian
(see Free Press September 18, 1893)
Page - 53 - Wicked William was
raised by Mr J. Corbin of the County
of Caroline County, Va who received for
him at Two years \$500 - (see Mr J. L.
Pauker's Certificate of Pedigree) - He was raised
trained but from his activity, from &c

White and Hooe used enslaved workers within their racing business. In one instance, White requested that Hooe provide a pass for two enslaved jockeys to travel without escort so they would not be arrested by a slave patrol or harmed by fearful whites.

“[I] presume I shall be disappointed in getting the rider he promised me [but] Mr. Higgason writes me that I shall have his boy and if the other one can be obtained . . . they can come together, give them a good pass, mentioning the particulars in the pass. Mr. Higgason writes in too bad a hand to be trusted with the boys. I mention this, in order that pains may be taken, so that no difficulty will take place. . .”

The archive contains much more information including an 1840 receipt for a “Sorrel filly from John Hooe Jr. [purchased for] Two Hundred & fifty flour Barrels” and an 1845 pedigree for “Morgan Ratter . . . a thorough bred Horse . . . sired by Wicked Will. . .”

The “mare called Fanny Kemble” was named for a famous British actress who had married the owner of a Georgia plantation. Several years later, Fanny scandalized the planter class by authoring a best-selling abolitionist book condemning slavery. One can’t help but wonder if White then renamed the mare.

(For more information, see “Early History of Thoroughbred Horses in Virginia (1730-1865) at the Virginia History Series website, “Racing in Colonial Virginia” in January 1895 issue of *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, “Fanny Kemble 1809-1893” at the online *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, and online genealogical records of the Hooe family.)

A remarkable archive documenting the “sport of kings” in early 19th century Virginia. At the time of listing, there is nothing similar for sale in the trade. The Rare Book has no record of any similar collection having ever appeared at auction, and OCLC identifies no similar collection held by an institution.

SOLD #10023

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

2. [LAW – REPLEVIN] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION – CANALS]

1836 – Letter regarding the disputed ownership of a Schuylkill Canal boat

This three-page stampless folded letter measures 15½" x 10" unfolded. It was sent by Isaac Koons of Philadelphia on April 14, 1836 to William Swetland in New Troy, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The letter bears an octagonal red Philadelphia postmark dated "14 Apr" and a "12½" rate mark (indicating postage up to a distance of 150 miles). In nice shape.

Koons was a Philadelphia sugar merchant, and Swetland was a farmer-merchant in Kinston. By some undisclosed transaction both claimed a share of a canal boat on the Schuylkill Canal. At some time, both lost control of the boat and it ended up in the possession of another man. In this letter, Koons informs Swetland of his attempt to regain the boat or compensation and requests advice on how to proceed.

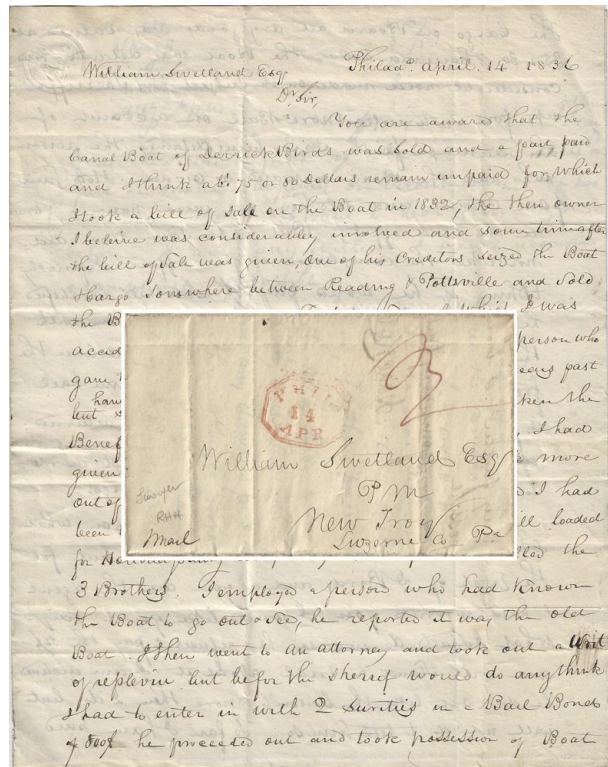
"You are aware that the Canal Boat of Derrick Birds was sold and a part paid and I think at 75 or 50 Dollars remain unpaid for which I took a bill of sale on the Boat in 1832, [however one of the former owner's] creditors seized the Boat & Cargo somewhere between Reading & Pottersville and Sold the Boat at Constable or Sheriff's Sale. . . I had given up all hope of ever getting any think more out of the concern. Two or three days since I had been told that the old Boat was at Schuylkill loaded for Hollodaysburg. . . I then went to an attorney and took out a writ of replevin . . . before the sherif would do anythink [and take] possession of Boat. The Cargo on Board all dry goods was valued at 25 to 30 Thousand Dollars, the Boat was detained . . . and the person who had the Boat appeared as owner. I told him of our claim and told him we . . . would see the end off it. . . I finally told him if he would pay 50\$ I would be satisfied he told me he was desirous of proceeding on with the Cargo as his [delivery] time was stipulated. . . I left him proceed by his given me bail to pay the 50\$ or Stand a lawsuit when he returned. . . I would like you to say what I shall do in case he refuses to pay the 50\$ and will stand a trial about it. I am enclined he does not like the business more than I do. . . I want to hear from you before I act any further I would recommend a complimise if possible. . ."

The Schuylkill Canal was opened in 1825. At the time, eastern seaboard cities were experiencing an energy crisis due to deforestation, and the canal expedited the transfer of anthracite to fuel industries east of Pottsville.

A writ of replevin is a prejudgment process ordering the seizure or attachment of alleged illegally taken or wrongfully withheld property to be held in the U.S. Marshal's custody or that of another designated official, under order and supervision of the court, until the court determines otherwise.

(For more information, see "A Look Back . . . Canals Played Key Role In Developing Region" at the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader website, "Schuylkill Canal" at Wikipedia, online genealogical records for Koons and Swetland, and the U.S. Marshal's Service website.)

\$200 #10024



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

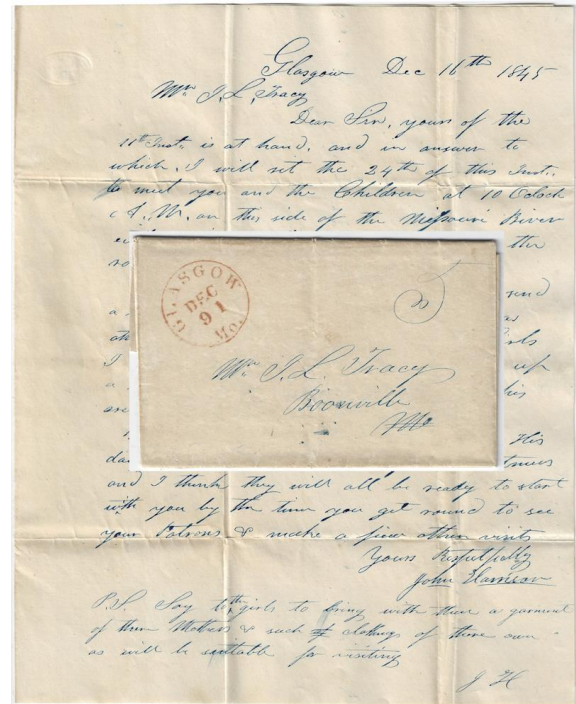
3. [EDUCATION – BOARDING SCHOOLS] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1845 – Letter from a wealthy Missouri landowner informing a boarding school headmaster that he will have one of his enslaved workers pick up his daughters for Christmas vacation by carriage or sleigh.

This one-page stampless folded-letter measures 15½ x 9¾” unfolded. It is datelined “Glasgow [Missouri] Dec 16th 1845 and bears a circular postmark dated “Dec 91” (sic) and a manuscript “5” rate mark. It was sent by John [Strother] Harrison to “J. L. [Joshua Lazelle] Tracy” in Boonsville, Missouri.

The letter reads in part:

“I will set the 24th . . . to meet you and the Children at 10 Oclock A/M. on this side of the Missouri River either with a Sleigh or carriage as the roads may best suit. I think most likely that I will send a black Boy, & on that account as well as others I wish you to come with the Girls I will direct the Driver to hold up a red Hankachief for the signal of his areval. . . Say to the girls to bring with them a garment of their Mothers & such clothing of there own as will be suitable for visiting.”



He also informs Tracy about his daughters return to school after the holiday.

“Mr. John Y Stam will send one of his daughters down with mine after Christmas . . . they will all be ready to start with you by the time you get round to see your Patrons & make a few other visits. . .”

John Harrison, who owned several grist mills and a 400-acre farm, was one of the wealthiest men in Chariton County. As a prosperous slave-owning Unionist, he would later be harassed by both Southern bushwhackers and Union troops during the Civil War. Despite his success, Harrison, who had no formal education, always felt he could have done better in life if he been able to attend school. So, he enrolled at least two of his children, Sarah Elizabeth and Mary Fanny, in Missouri boarding schools; first at Monticello, a little town north of Glasgow, and later at Tracy’s academy in Booneville.

Professor Joshua Tracy was the headmaster of Boonville’s Female Collegiate Institute, an important boarding school founded in 1840 that earned a reputation as a distinguished female educational institution. Although most of its students came from Missouri, a number matriculated frm other states including Texas, Virginia, and Vermont. Its curriculum included study in the arts, sciences, mathematics, music, medicine, and moral philosophy. In 1855, the Institute was renamed Adelphai College, which remained in operation until at least 1869.

(For more information, see Denny’s “Personal Memoirs of Ida Shackelford Hemenway” in *Boone’s Lick Heritage Quarterly* Vol 18, No 3 Fall 2019, Stack’s “A Memorial to Scholarly Sisterhood” in *Missouri Life* March 2021, and “Adelphai College - Boonville, Mo” at Waymarking.com.)

\$250 #10025

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

4. [FLORIDIANA] [MARITIME – SALVAGE & SHIPWRECKS] [POLITICS - INTERNATIONAL]

1847 – A document verifying the identities and signatures of two prominent Key West citizens signed by a founder of the city who settled there after being shipwrecked and later served as a city counselor, the mayor, and, eventually, a Vice-Consul for both France and Spain.

This one-page document from Key West, Florida measures 8" x 12" and is dated 13 April 1847. It is titled "Agent Consulaire de France / Key West" and bears two double-circle "Vice Consulat de France Key West" handstamps. It is signed by F. A. [Fielding Archer] Browne. In nice shape with storage folds. Written in French.

It reads in English,

"Consular Agent of France / Key West /

"We, F A Browne, Consular Agent of France at Key West, certify that the Signatures appended hereto are truly those of Messrs. Joseph A. Hroman and Alexander Patterson notaries for this City. . .

"In testimony whereof, we have hereby signed and affixed thereto the stamp of this agency at Key West on April 13, 1847."

Fielding Browne was one of the first settlers of Key West. A Virginia native, Browne was shipwrecked on the near empty island in 1830 while enroute to join his brother in Mexico. Finding it to his liking, Browne decided to remain. The island's population grew as fisherman and other mariners realized the nearby treacherous waters provided ample and very profitable shipwreck salvage opportunities.

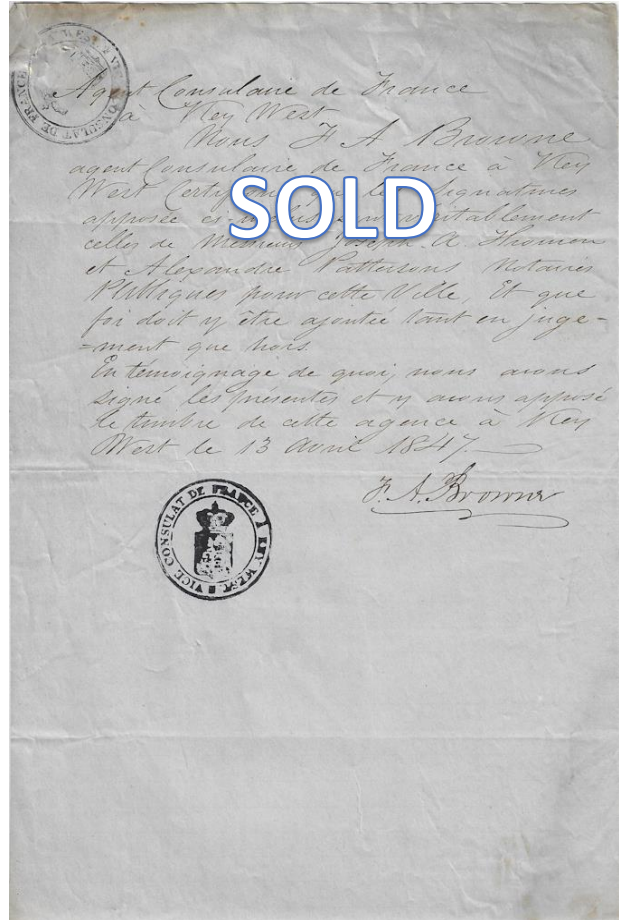
Browne became a prominent citizen and wealthy merchant dealing in salvaged goods. He served on the first city council. After that council's charter was revised, Browne became the city mayor. During his tenure, Browne encouraged many white Bahamian salvagemen to settle in Key West. At the time of this letter, Browne had accepted offers from both France and Spain to serve as their vice-consuls on the island. Fielding Browne's grandson, Jefferson B. Browne, became an important public figure, eventually serving as the President of the Florida Senate and Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

Like Browne, Alexander Patterson was a wealthy salvage merchant. He, however, intentionally came to Key West from Connecticut in the 1820s and served multiple terms as mayor.

(For more information, see Castellanos García's *Motivos de Cayo Hueso (contribución) a la historia de las emigraciones revolucionarias cubanas en Estados*, Werner's "Wreck Ashore! The History of the Florida Keys and Wrecking", "Key West Old & New" at the Exploring Florida website, "Browne family of Key West, Florida" at PoliticalGraveyard.com, and Benner's "Scruffy Florida Made Their Fortunes Salvaging Shipwrecks" at the HistoryNet website.)

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade or listed at the Rare Book Hub or OCLC.

SOLD #10026



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

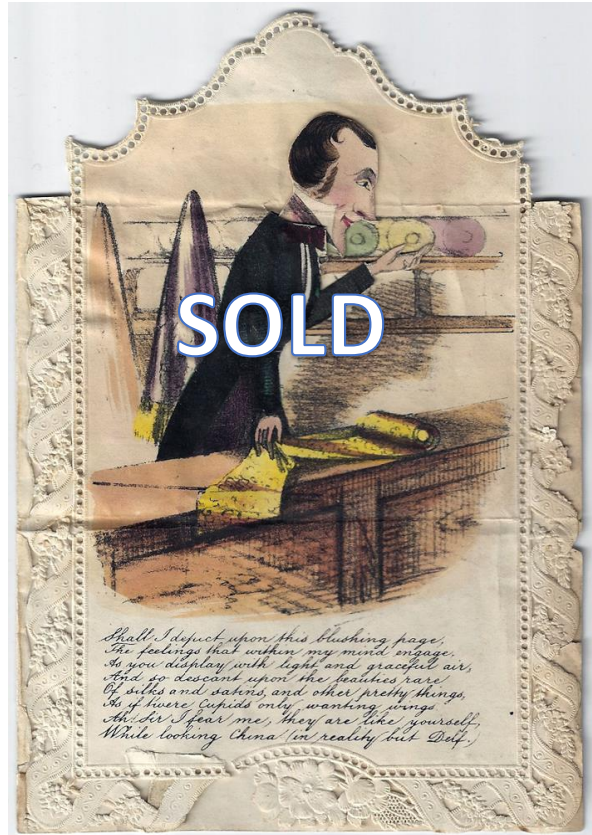
5. [BUSINESS – CLOTH] [HOLIDAYS – VALENTINE’S DAY] [VALENTINES – MECHANICAL & VINEGAR]

[Circa 1855] A mechanical vinegar valentine insults the integrity of a cloth seller.

This one-page movable valentine measures approximately 5” x 7”. No publisher or author is identified. It features a hand-colored illustration of a cloth seller standing at the counter in his draper’s shop with bolts of cloth on shelves behind him. When the tab is pulled, a hidden mechanism causes the draper’s head and hand move as if he is engaged in an animated conversation. An insulting verse is printed below. The mechanical is bordered by embossed lace paper; The top third of lace border is missing, and it is torn above the lever. Small scrapbook remnants on the reverse.. Light toning along the right margin. The tab still operates the animation.

The verse insults both the draper’s character and the quality of his cloth.

“Shall I depict upon this blushing page,
The feelings that within my mind engage.
As you display with light and graceful air,
And so descant upon the beauties rare
Of silks and satins, and other pretty things,
As if I were Cupids only wanting wings
Ah! Sir I fear me, they are like yourself
While looking China (in reality but Delft.)



After the development of the “penny post” in the 1850s, the sending of Valentine’s Day cards became quite popular. Many of the early cards employed embossed lace paper which had only been invented the decade prior. Although the overwhelming majority of early valentines were nice, a small subset contained sarcastic verses that heaped scorn upon their recipient. This card, sent anonymously by a young woman accuses a draper of being duplicitous and his cloth of poor quality. The online article “Victorian Lace Paper” at the Georgia Tech Museum of Papermaking notes lace paper vinegar valentines “were anonymously sent cards that humorously insulted the receiver, especially in terms of romantic rejection or offense of personal quirks. Unfortunately, due to [their] unflattering and often crude nature, . . . very few have survived in comparison to the plethora of sweet cards. . .” The vinegar valentines, or ‘penny dreadfuls’ of the later 19th century are far more common.

(For more information, see Kreider’s *One Hundred Years of Valentines* and *Valentines for the Eclectic Collector*. See also, Rosin’s “The Valentine – A Tribute to Love” at the *Victoriana Magazine* website and Ponti’s “Victorian-Era ‘Vinegar’ Valentines Could Be Mean and Hostile” at the History Channel website.)

Lace-paper, hand-colored, mechanical, vinegar valentines from the mid-19th century are quite scarce. At the time of listing, none are for sale in the trade. OCLC shows one institution holds a vinegar valentine collection that may contain a similar item. The Rare Book Hub shows no similar valentines have appeared at auction, however they occasionally pop up on eBay or in philatelic auctions. Some border issues so priced accordingly.

SOLD #10027

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

6. [ART – LANDSCAPES] [FACSIMILES] [RESORTS – HOT SPRINGS] [VIRGINIANA]

[1857-1858] 1980 – The Virginia State Library's superb reprint of Edward Beyer's *Album of Virginia: or Illustration of the Old Dominion*.

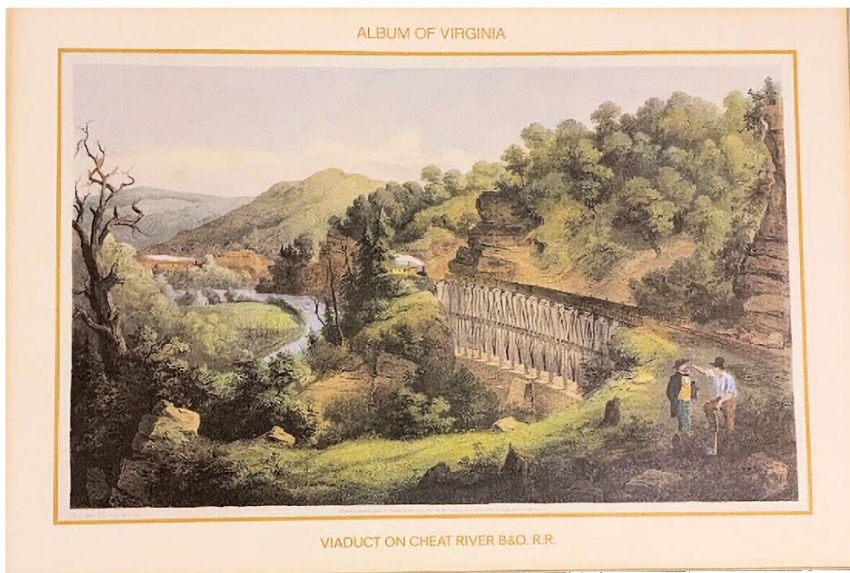
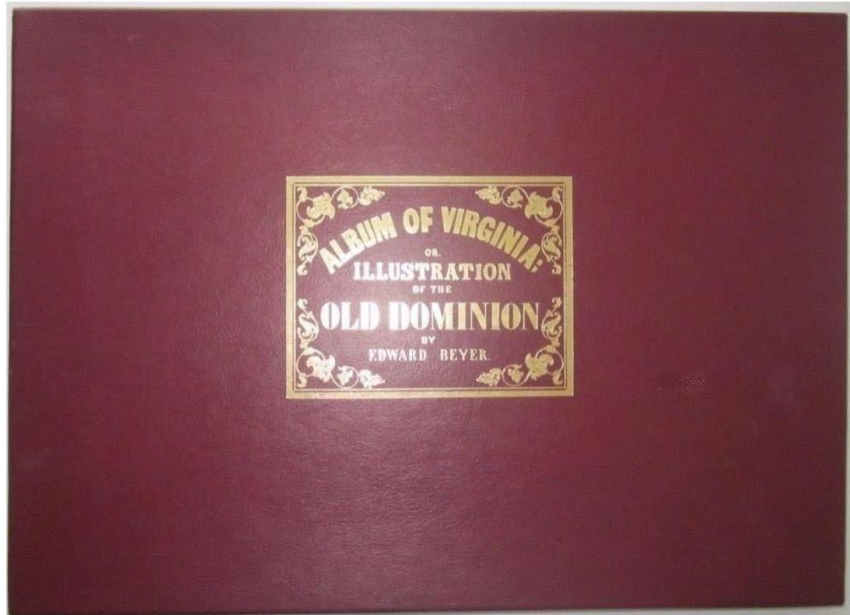
Beyer, Edward. *Album of Virginia: or Illustration of the Old Dominion*. Richmond: State Library of Virginia, 1980 reprint of the 1857-1858 publication. 17½" x 12½" clam-shell box portfolio in gilt-lettered faux burgundy Morocco containing 41 loose color lithograph facsimile reproductions of Beyer's original prints, a 40-page softcover pamphlet describing the prints, and a laid-in subscription card promoting the *Virginia Cavalcade*, the library's quarterly illustrated publication. The plates measure 17" x 12"; 40 are numbered, the title plate is unnumbered. The original prints were produced by Rau & Son of Dresden and W. Loeillot of Berlin. As new.

If the images seem a little fuzzy or distorted, it's from my lack of photography skills; the prints are in great shape.

Beyer was a German-American artist who traveled throughout Virginia from 1854 to 1857 sketching and painting beautiful landscape views including the famous Natural Bridge, hot springs resorts, Harper's Ferry, Weyer's Cave, railroad bridges and tunnels, and the mouth of the James River. The original portfolio of prints is exceptionally rare. (See Bennett p.10; Deak 721; Howes B413, and Sabin 5125.)

An exceptionally nice example of a scarce collection of facsimile prints. Only a little shelf-wear to the box; otherwise, just like it left the bookstore. Gift quality.

\$600 [#10028](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**7. [DISASTERS – FIRE] [FLORIDIANA] [MEDICINE & NURSING – FEVERS] [MILITARY – SEMINOLE WAR]
[TRANSPORTATION – RAILROADS & STEAMBOATS]**

1858 – A long letter from a recent arrival in Florida describing life and current events in and around Jacksonville.

This four-page letter was sent by A. G. Scranton to Wm. Barton in March of 1858. There is no postal envelope. In nice shape. A full transcript will be provided.

In this letter, Scranton reports that despite some problems, he is enjoying life in Florida.

“The people generally in the south are very kind & hospitibal, but I need hardly to tell you that Florida has got some hard times as every new state or Territory has but there is a more healthy Emigration coming in every year I have been fortunate enough to find some Northern people here which makes it seam a little more like home to me. . . I like it first rate. . . ”

He also provides information about two disasters that had recently befallen Jacksonville.

“Jacksonville . . . at one time about 3,000 Inhabitanes it is not as large as it was once some three years ago it was visited by a very destructive fire & burned nearly half of the town. Last Summer there was some kind of Fever here that almost prostrated the place some called It the Yellow Fever & some the African but none could tell for certing. . . about a hundred & fifteen or twenty that died here in 3 months & a grate many left the town nearly all the stors wer closed, not a sound of a hammer was to be heard. When cold weather came it stoped the sickness [and] it seams quite lively now.”

Scranton also discusses the transportation systems that served the city.

“It . . . is connected with Charleston & Savana by a regular line of steamers that runs . . . a hundred miles to a place called Platka whare Emigrants land & then travel by land in to the interior to settle the country, thare is a railroad building from this place to Tallahassee [and] another in progress from Fernmidna . . . to a place called cedar keys on the gulf . . . to carry the U S mail direct . . . insted of going round by Key west & will shorten the time a considerable.”

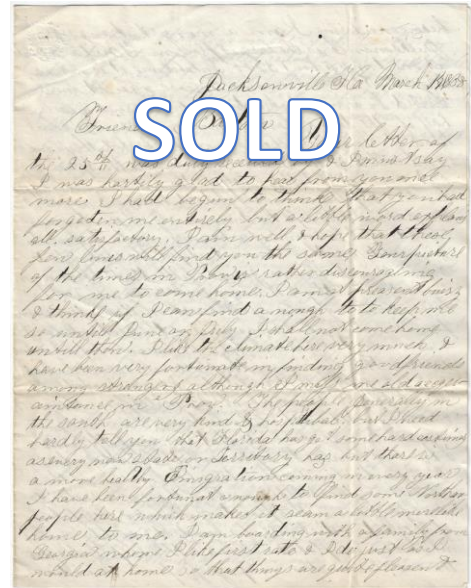
And lastly, he reports that the Seminole Wars had finally run their course.

“Florida has cost uncle Sam a large some of money. . . the government . . . will make a treaty with them & send them into the Indian Territory & then close the Indian war in Florida.”

The mentioned epidemic was likely malaria. At the time of this letter, steamboat service was provided by the *Darlington*, *Welaka*, *Carolina*, *St. Johns*, *St. Marys*, and the *Everglade*. The Florida Railroad ran only as far as Starke and construction of the Florida, Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad to Pensacola had just begun. Almost all the remaining Seminoles relocated to the Indian Territory in 1858.

(For more information see Merrit’s “Physicians and Medicine in Early Jacksonville” and Muller’s “East Coast Florida Steamboating, 1831-186” in the April edition of *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, as the “Timeline of the Florida Seminoles” and “Florida’s First Cross-State Railroad,” available online.)

A terrific, first-hand summary of Jacksonville’s significant events during the late 1850s.



SOLD #10029

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

8. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION – PENTACOSTALISM] [RELIGION – THIRD GREAT AWAKENING]

1858 – Although enmeshed in the Third Great Awakening, a New York woman finds a nearby African-American church service to be an “unpardonable” “mock of religion.”

This four-page letter was sent by “Mary” is datelined “Po’keepsie Apr 11, 1858” to a friend in Nile, New York. The accompanying envelope bears a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #26) that has been canceled with a circular Poughkeepsie postmark dated April 12. The letter is in nice shape.

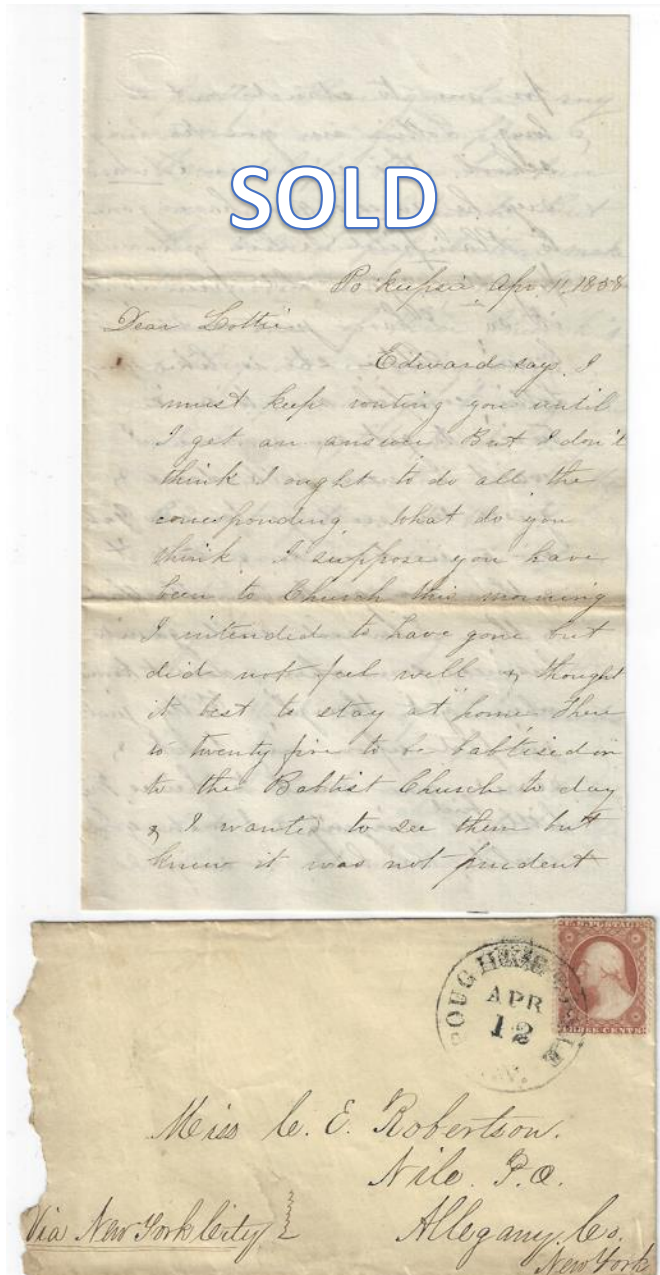
In the midst of Third Great Awakening, Mary begins her letter by expressing her regrets that illness prevented her from witnessing the baptism of twenty-five new members of her Baptist Church. She further queries her friend if she had been to any revivals, noting there had been one in every Poughkeepsie church. However, she reports that services held by

“The colored population make the most noise. We live near one of their Church’s & they dance, sing, scream & jump enough to craze the whole neighborhood. They are not converted unless the Convert gets on to the floor & rolls around & jumps up so as to touch the wall. Then they form a ring around them & dance & sing. It is said that two of their members have been in a trance & that last Sabbath one was to tell what she saw while in that state. Father & Edward have been to see them & said they were disgusted with such actions. Some say it is as good as a Theatre. I would not like to go to such meetings. God I do not think is deaf or requires us to dance in order to be one of his chosen ones. I like to hear a good sermon & prayer as well as any one, but a mock of religion is unpardonable to me. . .”

A to-the-point description of an antebellum African-American church service from a decidedly white perspective.

Scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub lists nothing similar as ever having appeared at auction. OCLC identifies three institutions that hold similar descriptions of African-American church services.

SOLD #10030



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

9. [AFRICAN AMERICANA] [FASHION – HOOP SKIRTS] [MINING – GOLD RUSH]

1860 – A letter discussing slavery, African-American fashion, and the Pikes Peak Gold Rush from an New Englander who had settled in Missouri and about whether to continue westward.

This four-page letter written by Charles H. Cram in Missouri to a friend in New England is dated “April Fools Day 1860”. There is no mailing envelope. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Crams letter reads in part.

“Everybody is going to Pikes Peak but me. . . . They have got the gold fever and nothing else will cure them. . . . Most of them have to sleep on the ground and depend on the rifle for something to eat. . . . I can git 15 dollars a month to drive a team to Santa Fe. If I do cross the plains I shall go to California. . . . I do not like to live in a slave state. . . .

“You wanted to know if niggers wore hoops. Some do and some don’t, some slaves in broadcloth and silk and some go nearly naked. Slaves have there stent to do so much & and if they do more they are payed for it. Most of them have a piece of ground that they call their own. What time they get they work on it. That is [how] they git their fine cloths. There is not a nigger in Missouri that works as hard as I do but I have consolation that I can work [only] when I am a mind to. . . .

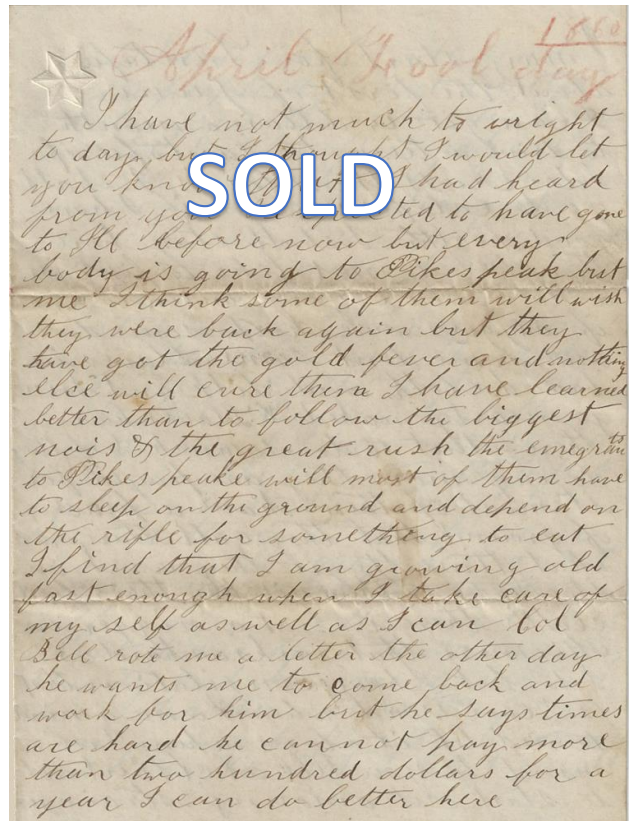
“I wright two or three letters every week mostly to people that I have got acquainted with since I came west. Some in Texas, some in Oregon and California. . . . If you can persuade Andrew Marshall to go west it will be a good lesson for him. . . .”

Although some today claim hoop skirts stifled women’s freedom and mobility, that would surprise most women in the mid-1800s, they viewed them as liberating. Even erroneously some claim they were articles of exclusion, especially in the Confederacy, and as a result, today many southern universities and organizations prohibit their wear at social functions and historical events. The truth is that “hoops” appealed especially to free-thinkers and suffragists, and many considered their wear to be heroic. Hoops were a symbol of rebellion, and women found them liberating. Their spacious lightweight and inexpensive cages, light crinoline, and accompanying bloomers provided women mobile freedom. Their inexpensive cost proved especially popular with free women of color and even, as noted in this letter, slaves, which some have suggested led to the hoop skirt’s eventual loss of popularity among whites.

(For more information see Povey’s “Hoop Skirts – Actually, They Were Feminist” at The Illusion of Choice website, “The Complex History of the Hoop Skirt at the Wardrobe Shop website, and “The Difficult-to-Wear Skirt Helped to Break Down Class Barriers” at the Racked website.)

A terrific letter that belies frequently held misconceptions about the past with regard to enslaved workers ability to earn, save, spend money, and even present a fashionable appearance.

SOLD #10031



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

10. [ASTRONOMY – COMETS] [FOOD & DRINK] [HOLIDAYS – 4TH OF JULY] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION – RAILROADS]

1861 – Soldier's letter describing the guarding of telegraph lines and an Independence Day celebration with "splendid" food and a parade of "fantastics"

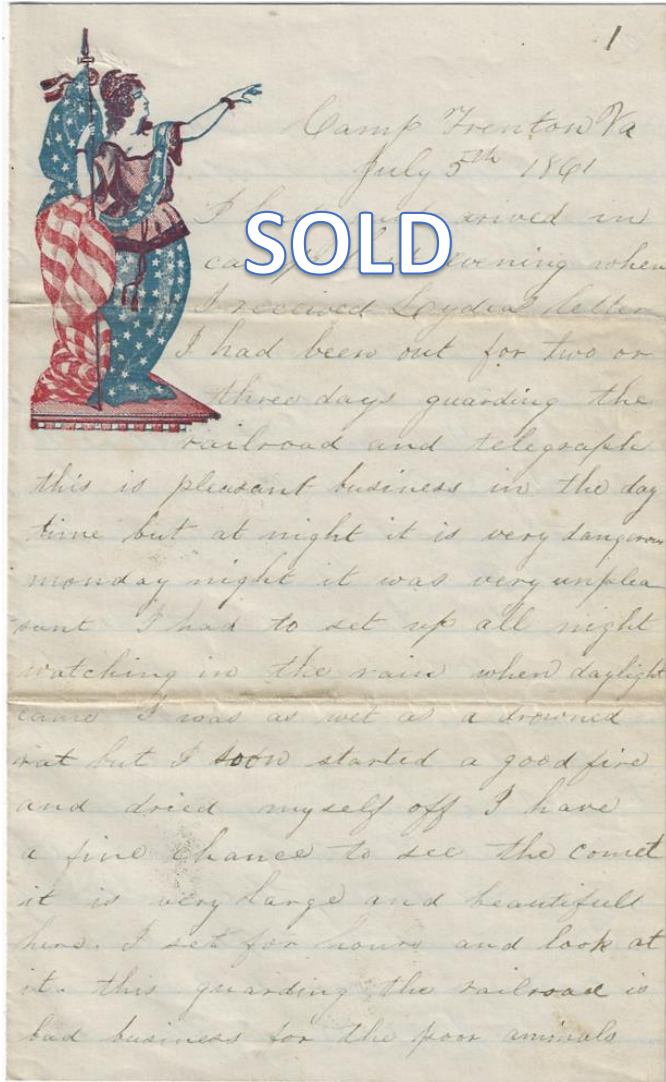
This unsigned four-page letter on colorful patriotic stationery, datelined "Camp Trenton Va / July 5th 1861", was sent to Orrin Gridley at Caton, New York. It is enclosed in a blue patriotic "Loyal States – New York" envelope franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) canceled with an indistinct circular Washington, DC postmark. In nice shape; there is a tiny "JWM" handstamp at the end of the letter; it stands for James W. Milgram, a noted philatelic collector. A transcript will be provided.

The letter provides two fascinating accounts. One describes guarding telegraph lines along a railroad line in northern Virginia.

"I have been out for two or three days guarding the railroad and telegraph. . . . At night it is very dangerous Monday night it was very unpleasant I had to set up all night watching in the rain when daylight came I was as wet as a drowned rat but I soon started a good fire and dried myself off. This guarding the railroad is bad business for the poor animals when we go on guard they give us orders to shoot all that do not stop when we give the word halt and on a dark night we cannot tell an animal from a man. . . . Wednesday night the man that was stationed at the next telegraph pole from me heard something rustling in the bushes and all at once it gave up a start towards him. . . . he fired from where the sound came and in the morning he had shot a poor horse dead but no one can blame him for it. The horse belonged to a poor old darkey that lived along the railroad but the Government will pay him for it. . . ." The sender also noted that guard duty provided a wonderful opportunity for him to observe Tebbutt's Comet. "I have a fine chance to see the comet it is very large and beautiful here I set for hours and look at it." This guarding the railroad is bad business for the poor animals.

The letter also gives a description of how the soldier celebrated the Fourth of July.

"In the morning I went out in the fields and picked about a quart of blackberries . . . came back and eat my breakfast consisting of blackberries Salt Junk and a cracker after breakfast I took a nap [and] then passed the rest of the morning walking around and shooting at a Target about noon [we had] a splendid fourth of July dinner. . . . Dont your mouth water at the mentioning of it . . . Salt Junk and a cracker in the afternoon I got tired of doing nothing I went and helped a man build fences. about for O Clock I took a



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

cup and went out in the fields where there was some cows and milked one of them you don't know how good it tasted to me about 6 o'clock the third regmt came and relieved us. I got back to camp about 7 o'clock in the evening we had a nice time we built bonfires and there



were a few fireworks. We had a fancy dress parade we were headed by the drum corps and we looked like a lot of fantasticals with our coats turned inside out and old straw hats on with sticks for muskets we had a good time till half past nine when the drums beat the tatoo we then had to all turn in for the night. ..."

Considering the date, location, addressee and patriotic envelope, the soldier was likely a member of the 41st New York Infantry. The 41st arrived at Camp Trenton in early July and was initially used to guard the Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad, a 37.5 mile line that ran from Alexandria to Clark's Gap just beyond the town of Leesburg which was held by the Confederate army until May of 1862. Although partially destroyed by General Robert E. Lee, the tracks between Alexandria and Vienna were the center of continuous indecisive skirmishing and a successful raid upon Herndon by Confederate Captain John S. Mosby, who reported to General J.E.B. Stuart that "I brought off 25 prisoners – a major (Wells), 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, and 21 men, all their arms, 26 horses and equipments . . . My loss was nothing . . . In this affair my officers and men behaved splendidly."

Salt Junk was the soldiers' term for dried salted beef or pork. Cracker, no doubt, refers to hardtack, a nearly unperishable dense biscuit made from flour, water, and salt that was said to be so hard that it could stop a bullet.

The Great Comet of 1861, first observed by John Tebbutt, an amateur Australian astronomer, was visible to the naked eye for approximately 3 months. Observers across the globe reported that its tail spanned over one-quarter of the night sky, and some claimed it was bright enough to have cast shadows.

(For more information, see "Volunteers, Fourth (Reserve) Division: Forty-First New York Infantry" at FirstBullRun.co.uk, "Alexandria, Loudon & Hampshire Railroad" at the Civil War in the East website, and Hale's "Comet of the Week: Tebbutt 1861 II" at RocketStem.org."

SOLD #10032

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

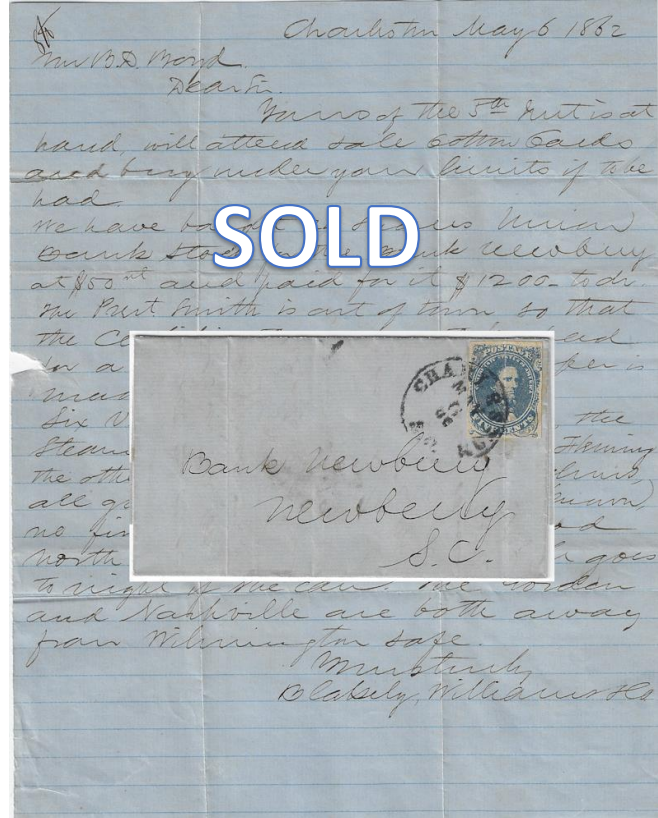
11. [BUSINESS – BANKING] [MARITIME – BLOCKADE RUNNING] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1862 – Letter from a commission agent in Charleston to a bank in Newberry reporting that five blockade runners had successfully slipped out of port the night before, one was leaving that evening, and two others had evaded the blockade at Wilmington.

This folded letter from Blakely Williams & Company is datelined "Charleston May 6 1862" and addressed to "Bank Newberry / Newberry / S.C." It is franked with a Hoyer & Ludwig lithographed 5-cent blue, Stone 3 stamp nice margins. It is canceled with a circular Charleston postmark also dated May 6. In addition to the letters mailing folds, it also has light two storage folds; one runs through the stamp. In nice shape

In this letter, a commission agent reports that he has purchase bank stock as instructed and will attempt to purchase cotton under the price limit provided by the bank. He then continues to report on a successful evening of blockade running.

"Six vessels sailed last night, the Steamer Nellie, the Brigs Ella Fleming, the other French Brig and three Schooners, all got off safe so far as is known, no firing heard, with a good north west wind. The Cecile goes to night if she can. The Gordon and Nashville are both away from Wilmington safe. . ."



Charleston was the Confederacy's main port from November 1861 to July 1863. During that time 36 steam-powered blockade runners, like the Steamer *Nellie*, carried out almost 30,000 bales of cotton. Despite the departure of the other vessels, sail-powered ships were not as successful in evading the Union warships. Most of the Charleston blockade runners were based in Nassau, although some called Havana and Bermuda home. The Charleston ships were primarily commercial vessels. Government blockade runners, like the *Gordon* and *Nashville*, operated out of Wilmington, North Carolina. In July of 1863, blockade running from Charleston ceased after Union forces captured Morris Island completely sealing off the city's harbor. After that time, the Charleston blockade runners operated from Wilmington instead.

The *Gordon*, which also served as a privateer, was one of the most famous Confederate blockade runner. It captured two Union ships, and most importantly successfully smuggled two Confederate Diplomats, John Slidell and James M. Mason, to Cuba and then on to the West Indies. It was this incident that led to The Trent Affair and soured political relations between the United States and Great Britain.

(For more information, see "Blockade Running" at the online *South Carolina Encyclopedia*, "Theodora" at the Naval History and Heritage Command website, and "The Trent Affair, 1861" at the State Department's Office of the Historian website.)

A nice first-hand account of blockade running from Charleston, South Carolina.

SOLD #10034

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

12. [MEDICINE & NURSING – PTSD] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1862 – Letter filled with details of the casualties suffered by the 1st Vermont Cavalry while skirmishing with Confederate forces throughout northern and central Virginia

This four-page letter, datelined “Camp Near Alexandria / Va Sep 27 1862”, was sent by D. [David] P. Freeman of Company C, 1st Vermont Cavalry Regiment to a friend back home. It is enclosed in an envelope franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) that bears a Frederick, Maryland postmark dated September 24, 1862. (The post office probably neglected to change the handstamp’s date slug. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Between June and October of 1862, the 1st Vermont Cavalry was continuously scouting throughout Virginia, and skirmishing with Confederate forces at McGaheysville, Middletown, Winchester, Luray, Culpeper, Lynchburg, and Manassas. While no single engagement produced a large number of casualties, they mounted up over time, and took their toll on Freeman’s nerves.

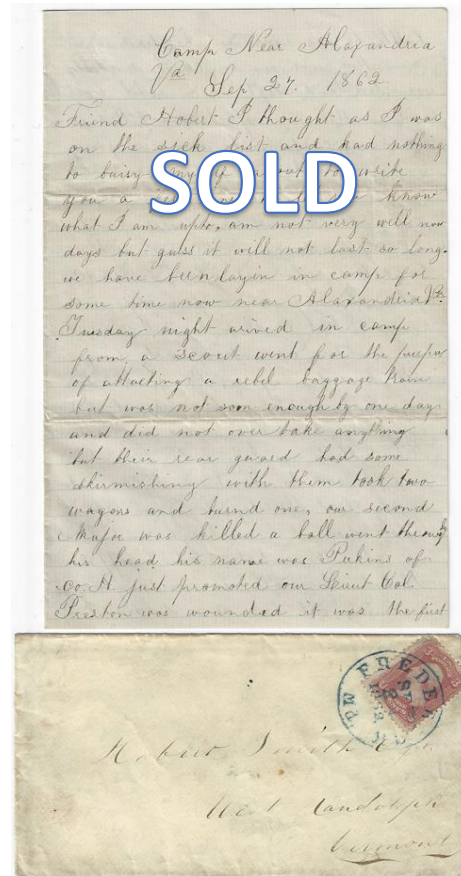
“Tuesday night arrived in camp from a Scout went for the purpose of attacking a rebel baggage train . . . took two wagons and burned one. [In other action] Major was killed a ball went through his head . . . our Lieut Col. Preston was wounded it was the first battle he was ever in he died a brave man, there was one in co B mortally wounded and left in a rebel hospital and another we expect was killed from the same company. he was seen going into the woods and did not come out but his horse came running in, There was quite a number more wounded. we captured 8 or 10 prisoners with one Lieut Co who was glad to surrender after having three or four clips with a saber that cracked his skull . . . Langdon H. Nicols dead at Linchburgh. . . it is not so funny when the grape and canister shot and shell are flying plenty around then is when our hair sticks up, at Bull Run is where we had a rite smart time of it when they flanked us they just played the shell into us good . . . and it was there a nigger stampede a shell came over burst and killed 10 nigs on the spot it was fun to see the rest run. . . my hand trembles very bad and I am not in a thinking condition guess it best to stop writing. . .”

Freeman’s battle fatigue progressed, and he deserted at Hagerstown, Maryland during the Gettysburg Campaign. He was captured by Confederates and held prisoner until paroled at Annapolis. He deserted again but was caught and returned to his unit. Later, Freeman turned up in Northfield, Vermont, where although a physician certified he could not return for health reasons, he was sent back to his unit. In August 1864 he once more absented himself and was eventually released from service in November.

(For more information, see Greenleaf’s “Vermont: First Regiment Cavalry” at the American Civil War Database, related only line genealogical and military records, and a short typewritten biography that was enclosed with the letter.)

A superb first-hand account of the exhausting and dangerous life of Union cavalrymen reconnoitering throughout Virginia in the early years of the Civil War and its effect upon some soldiers’ mental health

SOLD #10035



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

13. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR & CONSCRIPTION] [MUSIC – PARODY] [POLITICS – ANTI-WAR]

1863 – Civil War Union Song Sheet: *When this Cruel Draft is Over!*

When this Cruel Draft is Over! Anonymous parody of *When this Cruel War is Over* by Charles C. Sawyer. Published by "H. [Henry] De Marsan. Songs, Ballads, toy books. 54 Chatham Street, N.Y." "Sold by P. [Patrick] Jesse dealers in books, stationery, and Newspapers, &c. No. 183 Bowery. Corner of Delancy Str." [1863]. Repairs on the reverse with old removable stamp hinges. Some soiling and wear.

During the Civil War, popular songs were often parodied. This song is a somber parody of Charles C. Sawyer's earlier anti-war song, *When this Cruel War is Over*. It bitterly laments President Lincoln's recently imposed draft and centers on the possibility that a loved one will soon be drafted, while rich men who live in urban brownstones could buy a substitute for \$300 and avoid serving in the army. Both were sung to the tune of *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

Dearest William, they will draft you;
They have placed your name on the list;
If you possessed a brown stone front,
Three hundred dollars wouldn't be miss'd.

Chorus: I hope they will not draft you,
Or put your name in the wheel;
When this cruel draft is over,
Oh, how contented I will feel!

They tell me that when you are drafted,
You'll be sent to the seat of war;
Then in battle you'll be wounded,
And come home with many a scar.

Chorus

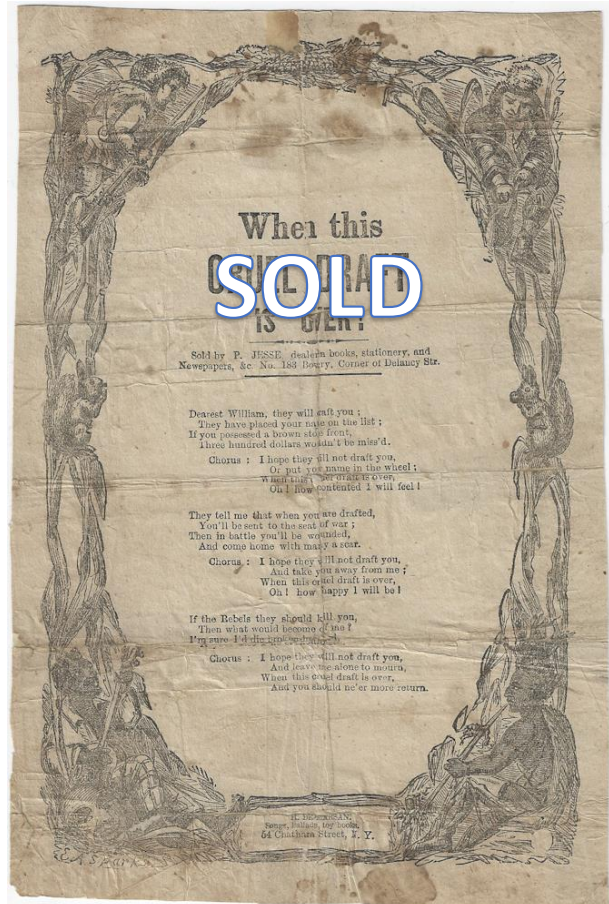
If the Rebels they should kill you,
Then what would become of me?
I'm sure I'd die broken hearted,
If your face I ne'er should see.

Chorus

Scarce. Several variations of this song sheet were printed. At the time of listing, no others are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows that none have ever appeared at auction. OCLC show that seven institutions hold examples.

Some faults, so priced accordingly.

SOLD #10036



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

14. [FOOD & DRINK] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [MEDICINE & NURSING - HOSPITALIZATION] [PHILATELY]

1863 – Letter from a Connecticut private recovering in the General Hospital at Aquia Creek, Virginia

This four-page letter, datelined “General hospital Aquia Creek / Jan. 30th ‘63”, is enclosed in its mailing envelope which bears a “Due 3” handstamp and is postmarked “Soldiers Letter / John Hile / Asst. Surgⁿ 1st Div 11 Corp”. The letter was sent by Isaac Mead, a sergeant in the 17th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, to his wife at Greenwich. In nice shape with a near invisible archival tape repair and a little soiling. A transcript will be provided.

Mead doesn’t explain why he has been hospitalized, but he may have been wounded at Chancellorsville.

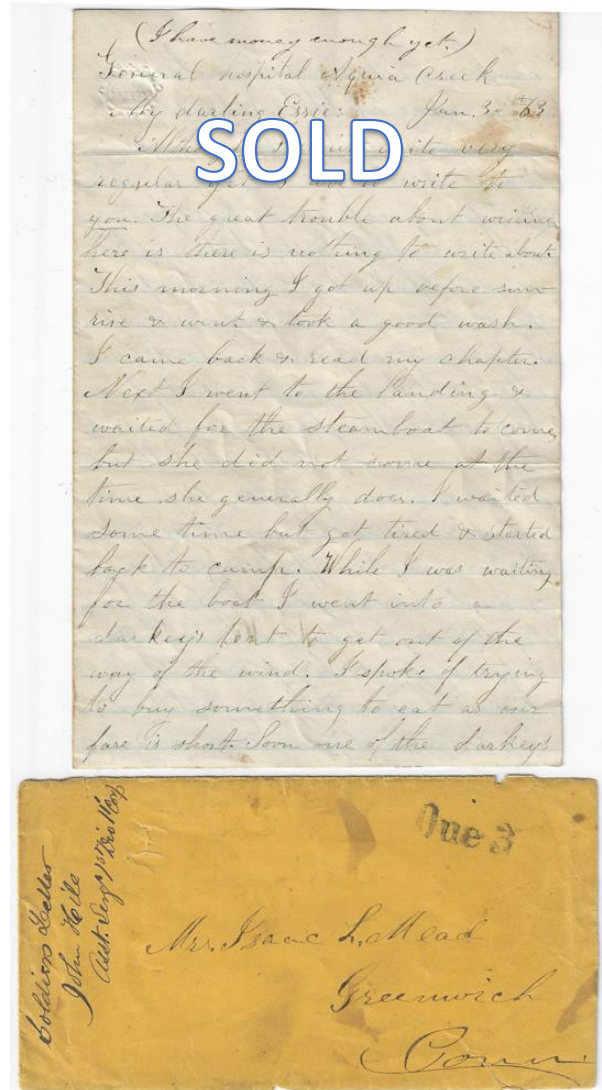
The Windmill Point Hospital was located at Aquia Landing on the shore of the Potomac River. It was a huge facility with over 400 tents and more than 4,000 patients, many awaiting transport by steamboat to Washington. It was built within four weeks, and although an impressive feat, its size, population, logistical issues resulted in poor care. A relief worker railed, “Nothing but hard tack and salt pork for 4,000 poor sick men! . . . No kettles to cook with, not even wash basins for washing, nothing, nothing, nothing, but indifference.” A regimental chaplain reported “Many died . . . others suffered much. . . . Would . . . the people north know how the government treated its sick soldiers at Windmill Point there would be a storm.”

Mead’s letter supports these charges; thankfully for Mead, as he reported in this letter,

“I have money enough yet. . . . I went to the landing & . . . while I was waiting for the boat I went into a darkey’s tent. . . . I spoke of trying to buy something to eat as our fare is short. . . . One of the darkeys gave me a piece of corn bread & a piece of boiled beef. . . . This made a very good Breakfast with what I had that was two hard tack. [Later] I bought 12 cakes for 20 cts [and] a skirt of beef at the slaughter house . . . It is good meat & will make good soup. . . . I guess I will get along though. . . . One of the boys . . . complained of the ground itch. This morning one of the boys began to pick rebels (lice) off the back of one of the other boys. This made the rest of us look to see if we were troubled in the same way. . . . In short quite a number of the boys found themselves lousey. I have not found any on myself yet. . . .”

Perhaps the only extant first-hand account from a Windmill Point patient. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar has appeared at auction. OCLC shows nothing similar is held by institutions.

SOLD #10033



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

15. [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY]

1863 – Letter to one of Richmond's principal slave traders from a disgruntled customer.

This two-page folded letter, dated June 3d 1863, measures 9¼" x 7", was sent by T. A. Frottle to E. H. Stokes in Richmond. It is franked with a 10-cent blue Confederate stamp (Scott #11) and bears a manuscript "J' Ordry" (Jennings Ordinary) postmark dated "June 5/63". Some minor soiling

In this letter, Frottle complains about the sale of an enslaved worker he had placed on consignment with Stokes.

"I see you have sold Tilman at \$2605 I wrot you positively not to take less than \$2800 nett cash & I am surprised at you selling him. I did not care whether he would bring 2800 or not. I could bring him home & keep him what I bought him for but hearing he had been in the habit of running away I thought it best to sell him but put a price on him of \$2800 nett – I had no idea of selling him at auction to pay 5 per cent, but will be private about your selling him though I wish you had not sold. . ."

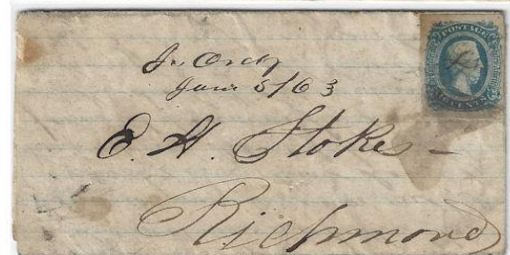
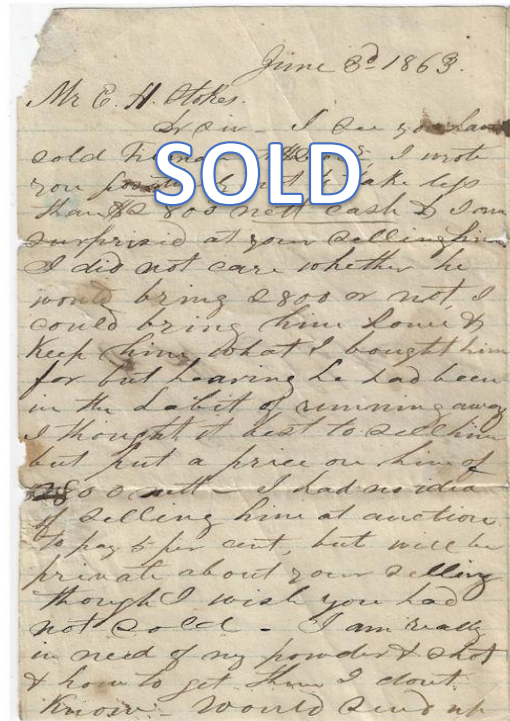
Jennings Ordinary was a country store located about 50 southwest of Richmond in Nottoway County.

E. H. Stokes was a prominent Richmond slave trader, and at least one reference identifies his business as the largest in the city. Not only did Stokes buy and sell slaves locally, but he also dispatched a network of agents by train throughout the South who stopped at promising rail junctions to rent wagons and scour the country side for buying opportunities. Stokes 'drummers' kept in contact with Richmond by telegraph, reporting their purchases and, if necessary, obtaining approval to complete their deals. They also provided Stokes with market reports from their territory that he used to set prices in Richmond. Even as the war progressed, the market for slaves remained relatively high. Although the price of individual slaves may have somewhat diminished, many saw this reduced cost as an investment opportunity. So, they bought low, believing that when the South was victorious, their return would be considerable. Stokes was still trading in slaves in late 1863 even after the Confederate disasters at Gettysburg and Chattanooga.

(For more information, see Thomas's *The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War, and the Making of Modern America*, "The End of the Domestic Slave Trade" at In Motion, and Colby's "'Negroes Will Bear Fabulous Prices': The Economics of Wartime Slave Commerce and Visions of the Confederate Future" in the *Journal of the Civil War Era*.)

Very scarce. At the time of listing, no similar items are for sale in the trade or shown at the Rare Book Hub as having ever appeared at auction. OCLC reports the Library of Congress and the New York Historical Society hold Stokes related items within larger collections of slavery papers. This letter is from the *Randy L. Neil Collection of Confederate 10-Cent Steel Plate Issues of 1863-65* and was sold in a Kelleher stamp auction on April 28, 2022.

SOLD #10037



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

16. [BUSINESS – BANKING] [FINANCE – BONDS] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY]

1863 – An important Virginia banker, who had enlisted in the 12th Virginia Infantry, discusses his profitable sales of Confederate bonds to fellow soldiers with the most prominent Richmond-Petersburg financial brokers, and sleazily ponders whether he could improve business by becoming a commissioned officer in the Quartermaster Department

This one-page stampless letter, datelined “Norfolk 3 April 1862”, was sent postage due by Fred R. Scott to the Thomas Branch banking consortium in Petersburg, Virginia. It bears a circular Norfolk postmark also dated on the 3rd. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter Scott advised that his sales for bonds – not just from the Confederate Treasury, but also those issued by North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana – had been so brisk that he expected to sell one million dollars’ worth the next month.

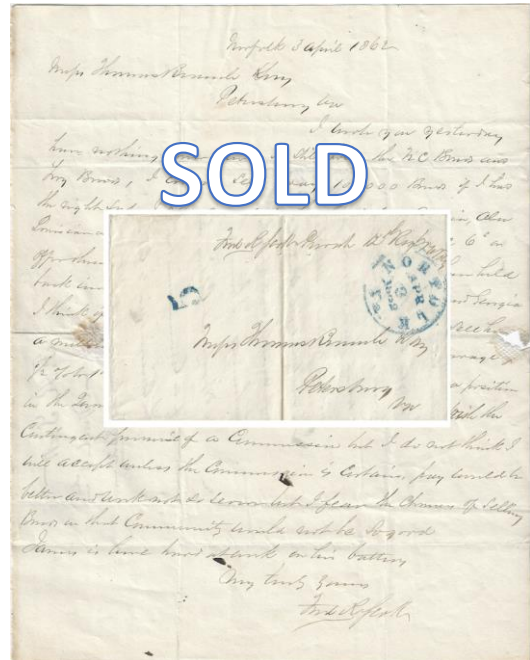
“I Shall hold the NC Bonds and Tsy Bonds. I could sell treasury 100,000 Bonds. . . . I hope you will buy freely, NC, Georgia, Ala, Louisiana. . . . Shall I hold onto these NC 6^s or offer them and at what price? Several parties have held back investing waiting for me to get Alabama and Georgia. I think if you supply me well . . . I can sell here a million in the next month and at intr an average of ½% to 1%. . . . I have an offer of a position in the Quartermaster Department Colstons Brigade with the contingent promise of a Commission. . . . Pay could be better and work not so severe but I fear the chances of selling Bonds in that Community would not be so good. . . .”

Scott accepted a commission on Colston’s staff, and he soon moved up to higher echelons that were more closely related to Thomas Branch and Son (which was instrumental in brokering funding for the Confederacy). After the war and the collapse of the southern economy, he partnered with Thomas’s son James, and together they revived the Branch family business. Simultaneously, Thomas Branch went on to establish the Merchants National Bank of Richmond; Fred Scott became the president of both the Richmond & Petersburg Railroad and the Petersburg Savings and Insurance Company, and James Branch became one of the founders of three important Virginia business exchanges: the Merchants’ Exchange, the Corn and Flour Exchange, and the Tobacco Exchange. Together, this rich and powerful trio did much to reestablish Virginia’s post-war economy. They could have possibly become even stronger as James entered politics and probably would have been elected to one of Virginia’s Senate seats had he not drowned while electioneering from a small bridge that collapsed during a campaign rally.

(For more information, see the Branch Family History Website, “Frederick R. Scott at the American Civil War Database, and multiple entries in Wood’s *The Industries of Richmond*.)

Original source material from the Branch-Scott financial partnership is surprisingly scarce considering the important role they played both financing the Confederacy during the Civil War as well as the Virginia’s economic revival during Reconstruction. At the time of listing, no other original source document from the trio are for sale in the trade or held by institutions per OCLC. Neither have any appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub.

SOLD #10038



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

17. [EDUCATION – V.M.I.] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [VIRGINIANA]

1863 – Letter from an officer in a Confederate Partisan Ranger Battalion informing his family that following the shelling of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the unit will be moving to defend Knoxville and inquiring about his brother who had become embroiled in a scandal at the Virginia Military Institute

This four-page letter from “Wilber” (Legh Wilber Reid) to his parents is datelined “Head Qtrs 27th Va Bat / Russell Co. Aug. 24 1863.” There is no mailing envelope. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Reid, a company commander in the 27th Virginia Partisan Ranger Battalion, informed his family that he received word that Chattanooga was being shelled, and his unit was placed on alert to advance westward.

“After ruralizing quietly in the mountains for some time . . . our Camp was disturbed last night by a report from Col. Hodge . . . that Chattanooga was being shelled, that a column of the enemy thirty thousand strong was advancing upon Knoxville and that there were ten thousand of the “Blue Bellies” at Paintville. . . . About dark this evening we received orders for our wagons to move at 4 a.m. tomorrow to Abingdon. . . . Col H has indicated that he can there dispense with our wagons. . . . I have no doubt we go to, or towards, Knoxville and most probably dismounted – the later feature is especially disagreeable to our men but I trust they will show the proper spirit and act as it becomes us all in this crisis. . . .”

In fact, Reid’s prediction was correct. The 27th did end up defending Knoxville.

Also in the letter, Reid requested information about his brother, James Henry, who been home while pending the outcome of an investigation at the Virginia Military Institute (V.M.I.).

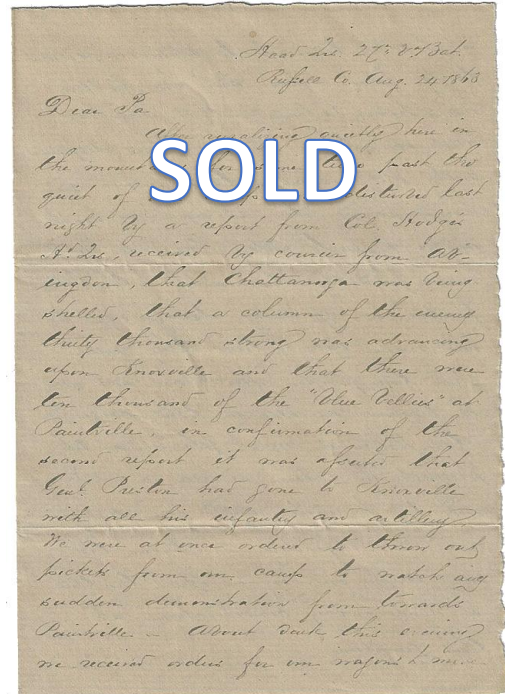
“Brother I hope by this time has had a pleasant visit home and returned to Lexington free from any implication of the . . . slight (except as to the consequences which are liable to be misconstrued) charges which were alleged against him. . . .”

Legh Wilber Reid graduated from V.M.I. in 1858. He was appointed as a lieutenant colonel in the 36th Virginia Infantry and detached to command the 50th Virginia Infantry at Ft. Donelson. After being wounded in the shoulder, he left the army until September, when he became the commander of Company E, 27th Partisan Ranger Battalion. Reid lost a leg at Woodstock, and while recuperating, requested an appointment as a Colonel to command one of the proposed “Negro” regiments being considered in Richmond. After the war, Reid became the president of the Charlottesville & Rapidan Railroad. John Henry did not return to V.M.I. It is unclear if he was expelled or resigned. He enlisted in the 15th Virginia Cavalry.

(For more information, see the “Historical Rosters” at the Virginia Military Institute Digital Archives and online genealogical and military records for both brothers.)

Scarce. At the time of listing no other firsthand accounts from Virginia Partisan Ranger Battalions are for sale in the trade, and none are listed as having appeared at auction by the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows none held by institutions, however a pre-war Reid letter, photograph, and *Bible* have sold online.

SOLD #10039



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

18. [MILITARY – 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. 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. Its soldiers were from the counties of Coosa, Montgomery, Chambers, Lowndes, Butler, Pike, and Henry. The regiment was placed under the command of General Archibald Gracie III at Knoxville, but it relocated to Virginia and fought at the Battles Bean’s Station, Dandridge, Chester Station, and Drewry’s Bluff before 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.

The letter reads in part:

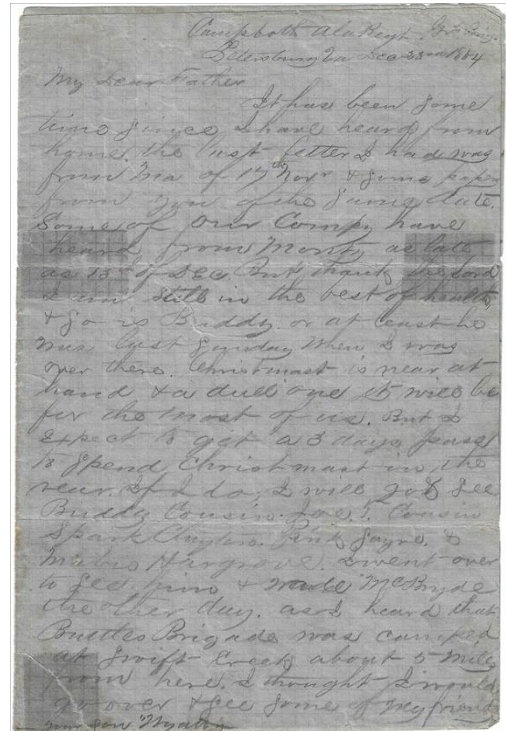
“Col Troy leave in a few days. There is about half of the officers in this Regt on furlough. . . I don’t expect a furlough this Winter But I do expect to get a discharge next spring when the campaign opens up here. by a Yankee Bullet. “

“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 Johny 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.



\$750 [#9940](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

19. [IRISH INDEPENDENCE – FENIANS] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [RELIGION – CATHOLICISM]

1864 – Letter from the Commander of the Illinois Irish Brigade denying membership in or endorsement of the Fenian Brotherhood and pledging his support of the Chicago Bishop James Duggan whose hostility to the secret revolutionary society was legendary

This retained copy of a two-page letter from James A. Mulligan, the commander of the 23rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment (also known as the First Irish or the Irish Brigade), was signed by his own hand, although it was recorded in the unit's file book, probably by his adjutant. It measures 7¼" x 12" and the file book's page numbers are at the top on both sides of the leaf. In nice shape.

In this letter, Mulligan responds to accusations published in the *Chicago Times* that he was a supporter or member of the Fenian Brotherhood.

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th. Feby. Enclosing Copy of the 'Chicago Times' wherein [my] letter to the 'Irish National Fair' is arrayed against the Circular of Bishop Duggan relative to the "Fenian Brotherhood". Whoever places me in hostility to the Church, misplaces me. Whoever construes my words in hostility to its Authorities, misconstrues them. . . I am not now and have never been a Member of the Fenian Brotherhood. I do not now Endorse and have never endorsed this association. . . I contributed to an "Irish National Fair" projected in our goodly City of Chicago [that] gathered many curious and valuable works of the art and Genius of grand, old, Ireland: wherein were to be repeated the Stories of her passionate Struggles for Freedom: wherein were to be exhibited the relics and mementoes of her Statesmen and Warriors dead on Scaffold and on battlefield and I ardently hoped that the display would inspire our people to Unity. . . I would no more hesitate at blood to achieve Irish Nationality than I now do in Sustaining American Unity. . . I am a Soldier & obey my General: I am a Catholic and obey my Bishop."

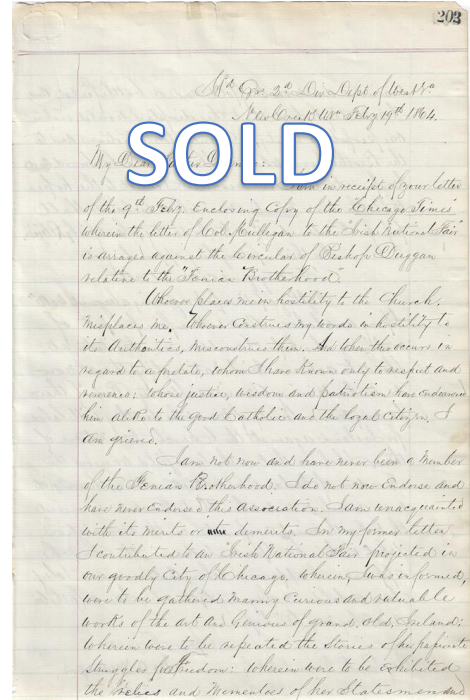
The Fenian Brotherhood was a secret Irish revolutionary society which was supported by many immigrants living in Chicago despite condemnation by the Catholic Church, led by Bishop James Duggan. The Civil War proved a boon to the Fenians, who rallied Irish Americans to the Union cause by promising that army training and experience would be eventually used to attack British interests. Following the war, the Fenian military units mounted several failed raids into Canada, after which the movement lost steam.

Although not advertised as such, the Irish National Fair was a Fenian convention that raised funds for the invasion of Canada.

(For more information, see "'Scallions, pikes and bog oak ornaments': The Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Chicago Fenian Fair, 1864" in *Studia Hibernica* No 29, "The Chicago Volunteers" at the Canadian Genealogy website, and "The Tribune and Bishop Duggan" available online.)

Unique. A scarce first-hand repudiation of the Fenians by the commander of the Illinois Irish Brigade. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar has ever appeared at auction, and OCLC shows nothing similar is held by any institution, however Colonel Mulligan's Irish National Fair contribution letter is held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

SOLD #10041



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

20. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR and BUSHWACKERS] [PHILATELY]

1864 – Two letters reporting bushwhacking activity that were sent to a slave-owning Missouri Unionist who had fled the state for his safety

Both letters were sent from Glasgow, Missouri by John V. Baston to his son, Richard, who had fled bushwhackers for the relative safety of Richmond, Kentucky. The first is dated August 20th 1864 and enclosed in a 3-cent postal envelope (Scott #U35) with an August 22 Glasgow postmark and “PAID” handstamp. The second is dated December 27th 1864. Its envelope franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) and postmarked December 28. In nice shape. Transcripts will be provided.

In August, Baston’s father informed him that “times has not changed much since you left bushwakers are plenty it is sed Holdclaws company numbers 150 men now they have not been to see me since you left Thomas L says Cliff says he will not pester me no more . . . the federals are still here. . . . I see from the papers time is no beter in Kentucky than they are her. . . .

Apparently, young Baston did not yet feel it safe to return home, so his father again wrote in December that “times are quiet here now I do not know whether you are any safer in Kentucky than you would be here . . . we are all well and want to see you very much. . . .”

The senior Baston also kept Richard posted on the status of his brother-in-law who had been wounded while fighting for the Confederacy: “we herd from James [sic, Jasper] Peery he is in Denerver(?) Citty he has one arm taken off and writes for me to bring him back and pay his expenses . . . he is well and wants to get out of prison very much. . . .”

The Baston family owned a farm near Glasgow where they and their three enslaved workers raised corn, hogs, and cattle. Despite being slave-owners, the Bastons, especially Richard, must have been staunch Unionists to draw the attention of the famed bushwhacker, Clifton Holtzclaw. By summer of 1864, vicious bushwhacking bands of guerillas remained to terrorize Unionist civilians and isolated Union army detachments. Holtzclaw formed the first band of Missouri bushwhackers, and was followed by even more ruthless guerillas led by William Quantrill and “Bloody Bill” Anderson. Holtzclaw’s most notorious actions were his raid upon Laclede, Missouri, and the massacre of a Union patrol that left fifteen Yankee soldiers dead, stripped, scalped, and mutilated.

Jasper Marion Peery made a fortune in the lumbering business, and when the Civil War began, he enlisted in the Missouri State Guard, a Confederate leaning militia unit commanded by Sterling Price. He was captured and held first at Gratiot Prison in St. Louis and later at Alton Military Prison in Illinois.

(For more information, see online Baston family genealogical records, *History of Howard and Cooper counties, Missouri*. . . , “Clifton Holtzclaw’s New Guerilla Band in Linn County” in Nichols’s *Guerrilla Warfare in Civil War Missouri*, Lay’s *Civil War Incidents in Howard County in Boone’s Lick Heritage*, Vol 6 No 1 March 1998, and online articles related to James Marion Peery.)

At the time of listing, there are no first-hand diaries or letters from individuals targeted by Missouri bushwhackers for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hubs shows only three accounts of bushwhacker raids having appeared at auction. OCLC lists none in institutional holdings.

SOLD #10042



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

21. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION] [PHILATELY]

1865 – Letter, in Dutch, reporting on early Reconstruction military activities in North Carolina by one of the original pioneers who had established the Holland Colony in Michigan

This letter was sent by Private Gerrit Jan Hesselink from New Bern, North Carolina to his parents in Holland, Michigan. It is in Dutch, dated December 8, 1865, and postmarked the same day. It is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65). In nice shape. An English translation, courtesy of my friend Anna Roelofsen, will be provided.

Hesselink, along with approximately 60 other first and second generation Dutch immigrants from Holland, Michigan, formed Company I of the 25th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Hesselink would have fought with the 25th throughout the Carolinas Campaign and been present at Bennet Place for the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston. The 25th then served on occupation duty in Salisbury, North Carolina, until it was mustered in June at which time Hesselink transferred to Company K, 29th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment at New Bern until his term of enlistment ended in early 1866.

In this letter, Hesselink provides a summary of ongoing New Bern activities.

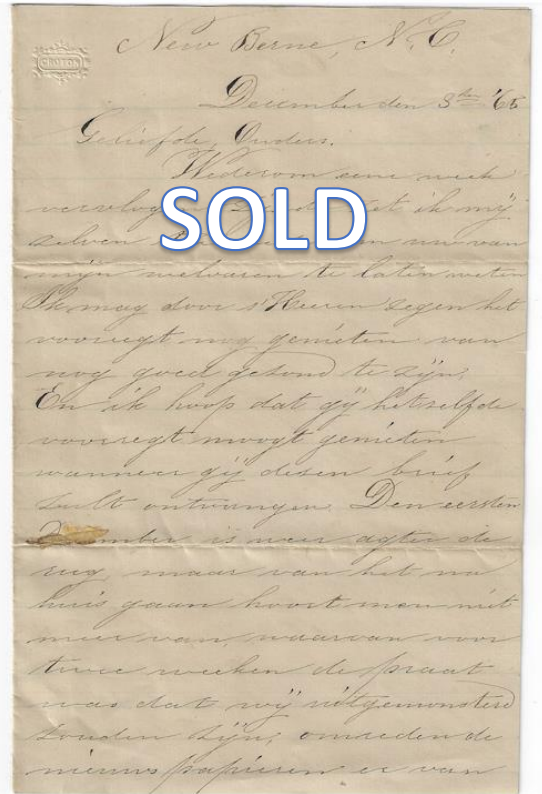
“There have again arrived negro troops this week and also one company left to be discharged. Why the companies arrive here I do not know. . . . We are still at the fort to guard the prisoners . . . and also because there is no shortage of thieves here. There were at least more than five hundred hospital blankets stolen. . . . Six have already been arrested but also released until further investigation. I think it will be hushed up as much as possible because the more there are identified the more it starts to stink. . . . I have heard some of the officers may have also had a hand. . . .”

Hesselink came to America with his parents who were members of a 100-person Dutch Reformed splinter group led by Albertus van Raalte where in 1847 they created the “Holland Colony” in the western wilds of Michigan. A smaller contingent of Holland men joined the Ninth Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment.

(For more information, see “Pioneer and Veteran Dead; Came In ‘47” in the *Holland City News* 21 Nov 1918, the 25th and 28th Regiment websites at Digital Holland Michigan, and Swierenga’s “Van Raalte's Holland Colony and Its Connections to Grand Rapids.”)

Quite scarce. No first-person Civil War accounts in Dutch or from an original settler of Michigan’s Holland Company are for sale in the trade. None are shown to have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC lists none in institutional collections.

SOLD #10043



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

22. [LAW – TENURE OF OFFICE ACT] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS – PRESIDENTIAL] [MILITARY – RECONSTRUCTION]

1867 – A letter from an officer in the War Department describing the turmoil caused by President Johnson's firing of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and appointment of General Grant to temporarily fill the position, an act which led to his impeachment by Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives.

This four-page letter from William Atwood in Washington, DC to a family member in Pittsburgh is dated October 26, 1867. Its mailing envelope is franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) canceled with a cork 'killer' and bearing a circular Washington, DC postmark. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Atwood's letter reads in part:

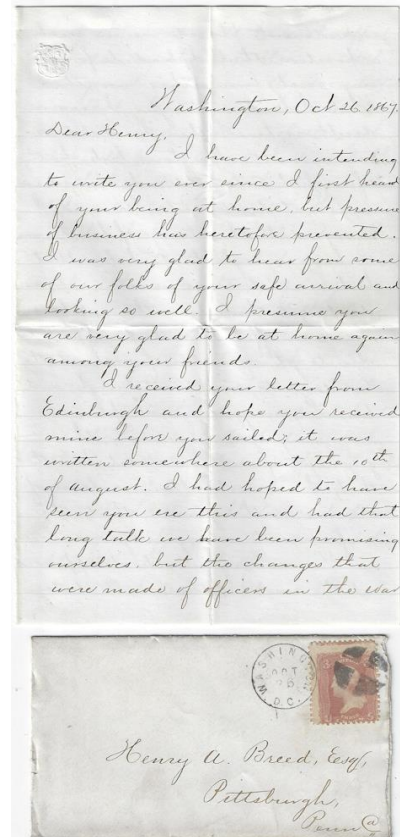
"I have been intending to write you . . . but pressures of business here heretofore prevented. . . The changes that were made of officers in the War Department placed me in such a position that I had to forego any visit home this month. . . Colonel Wood was relieved and sent to Atlanta, GA, [I was] assigned to the charge of his Bureau. . . It is as much as I can do to get through with my business in office hours.

"I was very much disappointed at the result of the recent elections but think it will have the effect of stirring the Republicans up to a grand victory in the Presidential contest. Grant will be our candidate, and a "tower of strength" he will prove too. I had a talk with Gov. Boutwell last week about 'the situation' generally. He seems to think that the impeachment scheme will be pushed immediately upon the assembling of Congress and that a majority of the House will favor it. He doesn't feel at all discouraged about the elections. My impression is that the President is going to head a moderate party in the Constitutional amendment, and mission of loyal white representatives from the Southern States and opposition to negro suffrage as the principal planks in its platform.

"We have many rumors about a successor to General Grant in the War Dept, the latest person named in that connection being Gov. Andrews of Mass. I like Grant very much as Sec of War and would be very sorry to see anyone else in his place unless it is Mr Stanton."

Following the surrender of the Confederacy, President Johnson began to 'reconstruct' the South along the lenient and forgiving line espoused by President Lincoln before his assassination. This enraged many Congressional Northerners, who dominated the body immediately following the war. They demanded draconian punishments be placed upon white Southerners. Further enraging them, Johnson vetoed their Civil Rights Act of 1866 noting:

"In all our history. . . no such system as that contemplated by the details of this bill has ever before been proposed or adopted. [They] go indefinitely beyond any . . . ever provided for the white race, [and are]



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

made to operate in favor of the colored against the white race. They interfere with the municipal legislation of the States; with relations existing exclusively between a State and its citizens, or between inhabitants of the same State; an absorption and assumption of power [that will] destroy our federative system of limited power. . ."

After, the Radical Republicans retained control of Congress following the 1866 elections, they voiced support for the 'military dictatorship' over the South imposed by Freedman's Bureau Director General O. O. Howard, who bragged that "almost unlimited authority gave me scope and liberty of action... Legislative, judicial and executive powers were combined in my commission." Further, they passed the patently unconstitutional Tenure of Office Act, which had been concocted by Representative George S. Boutwell in concert with Secretary of War Stanton to prevent Johnson from firing their allies in the Executive Branch.

Johnson ignored the act and dismissed Stanton, under whom Howard served, and appointed Ulysses S. Grant to assume the position while continuing as General of the Army. Enraged, the Radical Republicans immediately initiated their plan to impeach which Boutwell led from his seat in the House. After his dismissal, Stanton barricaded himself in his office until the Senate voted not to convict Johnson on the impeachment charge.

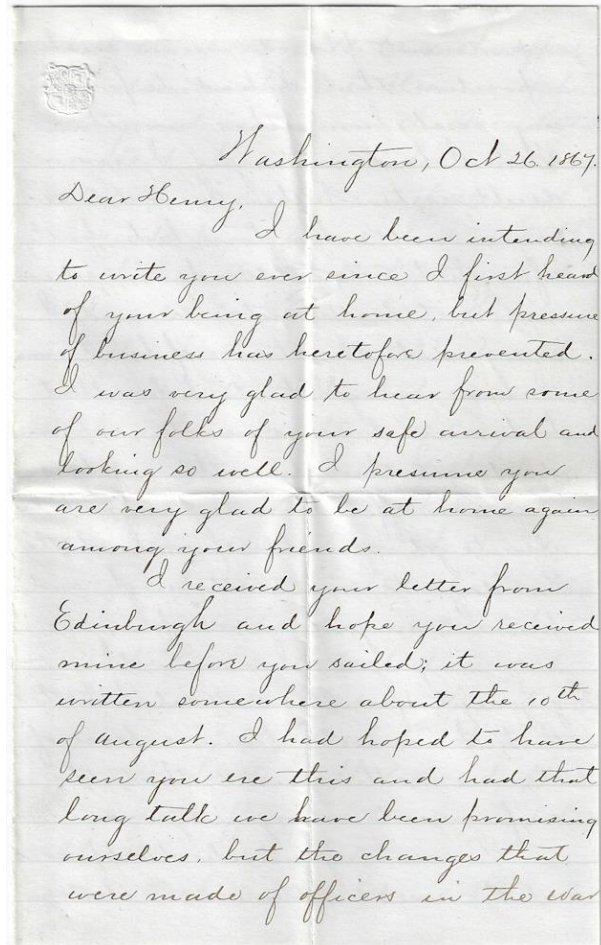
Johnson's temporary appointment of Grant as the Secretary of War placed both the general and his subordinates in a legal quandary, and Grant eventually resigned fearing possible punitive legal action by the Radical Republicans. Johnson next appointed Major General Lorenzo Thomas, who Stanton ordered his cronies to arrest for 'illegally seizing' the position. However, Stanton retracted his action, realizing that if Thomas was brought to trial, the house of cards surrounding the Tenure of Office Act would tumble.

After the impeachment attempt failed, Johnson completed his term of office. Returning to his home state of Tennessee was elected as a Senator in 1868; he died three months into his term. Stanton returned to his private law practice until he was nominated to the Supreme Court by General Grant in 1869; he died before taking office.

(For more information, see "The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson" at the HarpWeek website and "Impeachment Trial of President Andrew Johnson, 1868" at the U. S. Senate website.)

An important first-hand, ground-level view of the Stanton-Johnson conflict that directly led to the president's impeachment from an ambivalent junior officer serving right in the middle of the chaos.

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing, there are no similar items for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub identifies no similar items having appeared at auction. OCLC identifies no similar institutional holdings.



\$750 [#10044](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

23. [MEDICINE – PATENT MEDICINES] [PHILATELY]

Circa 1884 – Advertising handbill for Keasbey & Mattison’s medicines including its signature product, “Bromo Caffeine for Brain Workers.”

This handbill measures 6” x 9½” and is enclosed in a mailing envelope that proudly proclaims “Keasbey & Mattison / Manufacturers of / Chincona Alkaloids and Magnesia Products / Nos. 328, 330 and 332 North Front Street, / Philadelphia.” The envelope is franked with a 1-cent dark ultramarine Franklin stamp (Scott type A44) that was canceled with an undated double oval Philadelphia postmark. It is addressed to EG. Flanders of Sangerville, Maine. In nice shape.

One side of the handbill promotes the company’s “Granulated Effervescent Preparations” including “Granular Effervescent Citrate Magnesia” and “Granular Effervescent Mineral Salts.”

The other features Bromo Caffeine, the company’s signature product, an effervescent powder to be mixed with water or soda,

“A simple and almost certain means of relief for the headache and confusion of thought resulting from protracted mental effort. It especially commends itself to Lawyers, Clergymen, Teachers, and other brain workers.”

It was also touted as a remedy “for the fatigue of travelers . . . acute attacks of indigestion . . . nervous prostration following alcoholic excesses . . . sensitiveness of choral, morphine or opium habitue, and ‘backache . . . so common among ladies who are sufferers of neurasthenia, hysteria, and dysmenorrhea. . .”

There was truth to at least some of these claims. An 1896 issue of *The Pharmaceutical Era* reported that Bromo Caffeine was “the best general remedy for nervous headaches ever devised.”

Interestingly, while experimenting in 1886, Mattison discovered one of their medicinal chemicals, magnesium carbonate when combined with a little asbestos fibre, made an especially fire-retardant insulator, and, while not abandoning Bromo Caffeine, the company shifted focus and became one of the largest asbestos producers in the world. It’s ‘magnesium lagging’ was used to insulate locomotive boilers on most major American railroads, and the U.S. Navy extensively used the product to insulate its warship’s their boilers, steam pipes and other radiating surfaces. That was just the tip of the iceberg as the company developed a wide range of insulating and fire-proof papers, felts, boards, cements, and even theater curtains. In 1927, difficulties split the partnership and Keasbey sued Mattison for the misappropriation and embezzlement of company funds. Although settled out of court, the stock market crash and subsequent depression soon followed, and the company fell into receivership. After it was sold to a British firm, the reorganized company continued to market Bromo Caffeine until 1940. For more information, see “Bromo Caffeine (Keasbey and Mattison)” at the Bay Bottles website.)

SOLD #10045



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

24. [AMERICAN INDIANS – CHEROKEE] [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] [RACE – INTERMARRIAGE] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

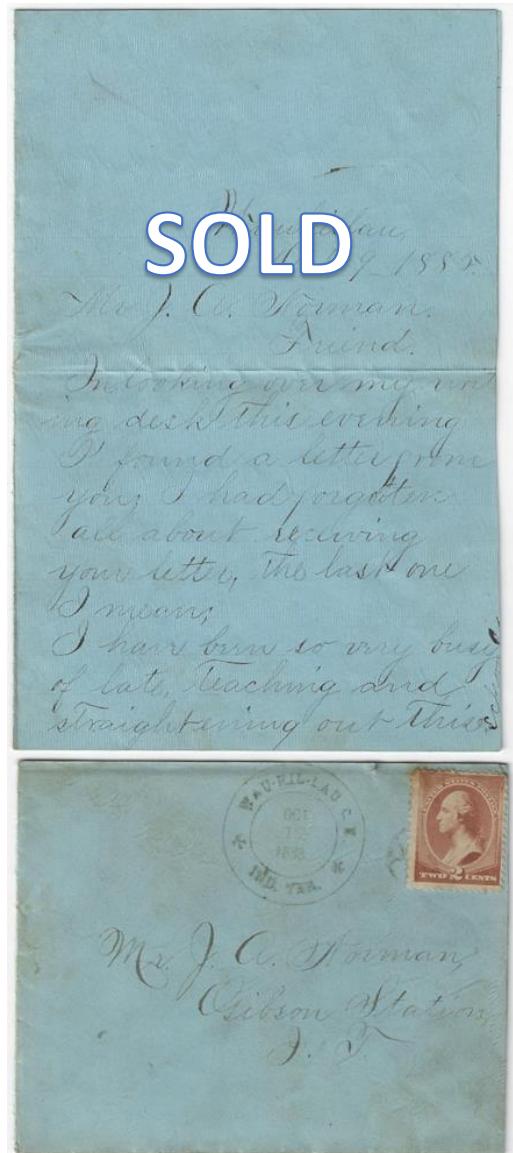
1885 – Letter from white schoolteacher at Wau-Hil-Lau, Indian Territory, the grand-niece of the famous Cherokee Principal Chief, John Ross Sr., who later became an official member of the Cherokee Nation through intermarriage.

This four-page letter on blue stationery, which measures 4½" x 6¾", is datelined "Wauhilla. / Oct 9_1885". It was sent by Florrie Caleb to an acquaintance, Mr. J. A. Norman, at Gibson Station, Indian Territory. The matching envelope is franked with a 2-cent stamp (Scott #210) and bears very nice examples of three scarce Indian Territory postal markings: a double-ring "Wau-Hil-Lau C.N / Ind. Ter." postmark dated October 12, a toothed "Gibson Station / Ind. Ter." receiving postmark dated October 13, and an American Shield killer handstamp.

At the time, Florrie was a young white school teacher at one several schools, probably the Rabbit Trail School, operating in and around Wau-Hil-Lau. Her letter reads in part:

"I have been so very busy of late, teaching and straightening out this school. I have been so busy of late that I neglected many of my correspondents. . . . I have a pine school here, 45 named enrolled. Some time I feel real old and dignified, but I am afraid some times I laugh when I ought not too. I went home two weeks ago and . . . visited the 'old Sem.' And saw the dear old girls, though there were many new faces. How good it was to be once more with Mary. She was well but very busy with her studies. While there I almost wished I was still in school. . . . My school is about 10 miles from home and across the river."

Florrie (Florence Ann) Caleb was the daughter of Catherine "Kate" Larzalere Caleb, a young widow from Delaware. Kate was the sister of Caroline "Carrie" C. Larzalere who married John M. Ross, Jr. the son of the famed Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross, Sr., while he was living in Philadelphia. When John and Caroline relocated to Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, they brought Kate and Florrie along with them. There, Kate eventually married the Reverend Walter Adair Duncan, who adopted Florrie. Duncan was a former Superintendent of Education for the Cherokee Nation, and, such had influence over Cherokee National Seminary which Florrie was allowed to attend despite being white. Following her graduation Florrie began teaching school at Wau-Hil-Lau, where she penned this letter. Shortly thereafter, she married Henry Benton Smith, a classmate from the Seminary who graduated along with her in June of 1885. Dawes Commission records and Cherokee Nation Roll Cards reflect that Florrie, Kate, and Carrie all became members of the Cherokee Nation based upon their interracial marriages: Benton was one-eighth Cherokee, Duncan was one-quarter Cherokee, and Ross was one-sixteenth Cherokee.



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

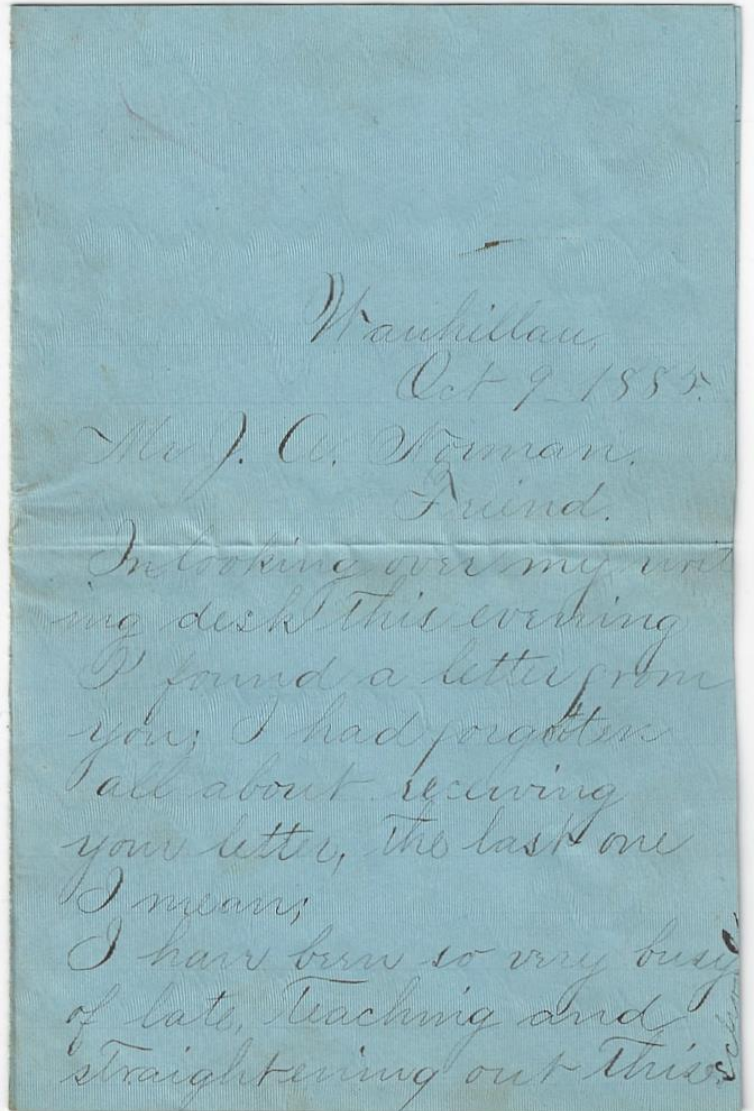
By the mid to late 1800s, the Cherokee Nation's public education system was one of the best in the United States. From time of the Nation's arrival in the Indian Territory, Principal Chief John Ross committed funding, much obtained as compensation for its forced relocation, to build its own educational system completely free of federal or missionary involvement. To that end, he insisted that the Nation establish its own male and female college-level seminaries, staffed with teachers from prestigious eastern colleges. As well, he directed lower-level public schools be established throughout the Nation. Rabbit Trap School, where Florrie likely taught, was one of 32 public schools opened by the Cherokee Nation following the Civil War.

Gibson Station was the first railroad station established in the Indian Territory. It was built by Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad in 1872. It was located about 10 miles north of Muskogee and 50 miles southeast of Tulsa. It was absorbed into the Missouri Pacific Railroad and, eventually, the Union Pacific. The current UP system map shows that while trains might pass by the old Gibson Station, trains no longer stop there.

(For more information, see online genealogical resources (including Federal Censuses and Cherokee Nation records), "An Old Citizen Gone" (the obituary of John Ross, Jr.) in the 8 July 1905 edition of the *Cherokee Advocate*, Chapter XI "Public School System Established. . ." within Starr's *History of the Cherokee Indians*. . ., Pylant's "Cherokee-White Inter marriages: Citizenship by Inter marriage in the Cherokee Nation", "Caleb-Smith" marriage article in the 2 January 1895 edition of the *Cherokee Advocate*, "Obituary" for "Henry Benton Smith" in the 14 August 1924 edition of the *Cherokee County Democrat-Star* and the *Oklahoma 2018-2020 State Railroad Map*.)

An exceptionally scarce first-hand account of a young white female schoolteacher in the Indian Territory, educated at the Cherokee National Seminary, and connected by marriage to the leadership of the Cherokee Nation. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows that another Florrie Caleb letter was sold at a philatelic auction without regard to the significance of its author or content. OCLC reflects nothing similar is held in institutional collections, however, it does report one 1827 pre-Trail of Tears school teacher letter from the Cherokee Creek Path Mission in Alabama.

SOLD #10046



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

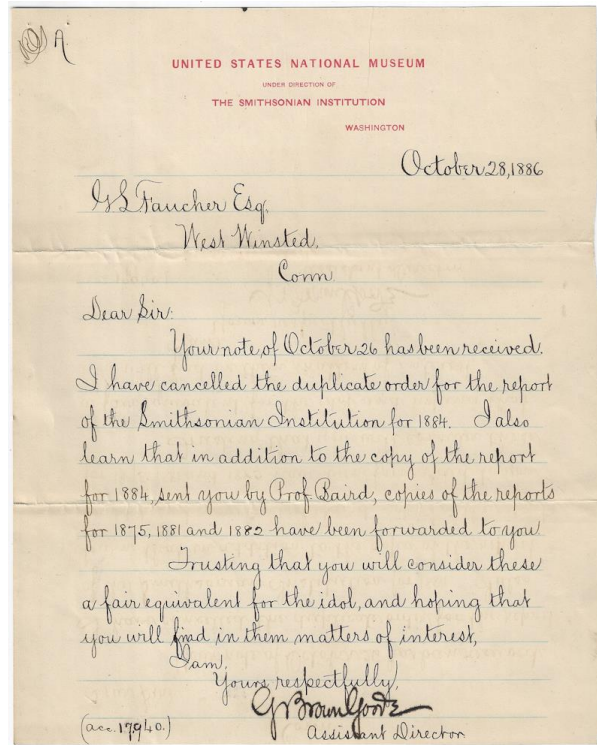
25. [MUSEOLOGY – SMITHSONIAN] [PHILATELY]

1886 – The “father of the modern American museum,” G Brown Goode, thanks a man for donation an “Idol” to the Smithsonian’s “United States National Museum”

This one-page letter to G. S. Faucher Esq. of West Winstead, Connecticut is written on letterhead that reads “United States National Museum / Under Direction Of / The Smithsonian Institution.” It is dated October 28, 1886 and signed by G. Brown Goode as the Smithsonian’s Assistant Director. The letter is enclosed in an official United State National Museum – Smithsonian Institution penalty envelope and has been canceled with a duplex Washington, DC postmark dated November 1, 1886. The envelope also bears a double-circle Smithsonian postmark-like handstamp also dated November 1. In nice shape with a little minor toning to the envelope.

Goode’s letter reads in part:

“I have cancelled the duplicate order for the report of the Smithsonian Institution of 1884. I also learn that in addition to the copy of the report for 1884, sent to you by Prof Baird, copies of the reports for 1875, 1881 and 1882 have now been forwarded to you. Trusting that you will consider these as fair equivalent for you the idol, and hoping that you will find them matters of interest. I am yours respectfully, G Brown Goode Assistant Director.”



Goode, an ichthyologist by training, was appointed to be the Assistant Curator of the National Museum in 1873 and served as such until 1877 when his title was changed to Curator. In 1881, he was promoted to become the Assistant Director of the Smithsonian Institution under the “Prof Baird” of this letter, Spencer Fullerton Baird, the Smithsonian’s Secretary. He simultaneously served as the Assistant Secretary of the National Museum. Today the U. S. National Museum is known as the Museum of Natural History, but then it was housed in what is now the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building.

Goode soon became the leading figure in American museum theory and display, revising the museum’s mission to educate visitors with its displays, not to simply entertain them. He organized the exhibits within standardized mahogany cases carefully and specifically placed with the museums large open halls lit with natural light from skylights, window and door whose glass was frosted to diffuse the direct sunlight falling on the collections. By 1883, he had replace all of the old gas lighting with electric fixtures and installed an unusual air circulation system that improved air flow. By the time of Goode’s death, the Smithsonian was renowned for its premier collection of anthropological artifacts, art works, historical objects and natural history specimens which was on par with the museums in Europe.

(For more information, see “Smithsonian History” at the online Smithsonian Institution Archives.)

A rather scarce signed letter by Goode. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub show no similar items have ever appeared at auction. OCLC lists no similar items in institutional holdings, however many are held by the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

\$150 [#10047](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

26. [MAPS – CONGO] [RELIGION – MISSIONARIES] [TRANSPORTATION – STEAMBOATS]

1887 – ‘Stock Certificate’ for the Henry Reed Steamboat Company that operated the *Henry Reed* missionary steamboat for the American Baptist Missionary Union with a map of the vessel’s route on the reverse.

This ‘stock certificate’ is printed on card stock that measures approximately 5¾" x 3½". It is in nice shape with a little discoloration in the lower left corner.

The front of the card notes that

“This Certifies that / Mrs Jennie M. Butler / by the Payment of Ten Cents is a Stockholder in / The Henry Reed Steamboat Company / for the Year 1887”.

It displays an illustration of the Henry Reed under steam as two loinclothed Africans wave from the shore.

The reverse contains a map of the Congo Free State and the Congo River. The route of the Henry Reed is shown by a dotted line in the upper half of the Congo River.

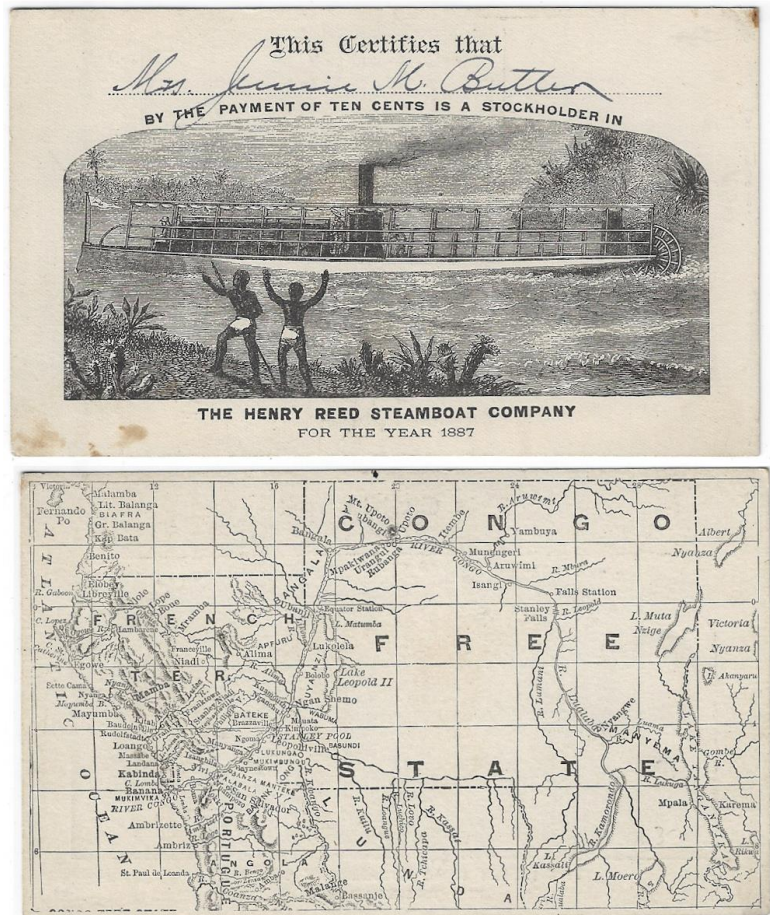
The *Baptist Missionary Magazine* of April, 1890 reported that

“The company which was started for support of the mission steamer “Henry Reed” in its work on the Upper Congo River has interested large numbers of old and young, and its members are scattered in all parts of the world. It has now been decided to send out a small steamer for the Lower Congo: and . . . the name of “The Henry Reed Steamboat Company” will be changed to “The Congo Steamboat Company,” and the funds received, used for the work of both vessels. . . . The price of memberships in the company, which remains the same as before, one dollar for life, and ten cents for annual. . . . The company has been the means of interesting many of the young [and] Sunday school superintendents and teachers will find it a good means of leading their scholars into active interest and effort for the kingdom of Christ among the heathen.”

(For more information, see April 1890 issue of the *Baptist Missionary Magazine* and “Rare Missionary Donation Card for Congo River Steamboat” at the Rare Charts website.)

Rather scarce. At the time of listing there is one similar, but corner-clipped, 1887 certificate for sale by a prominent map dealer, and one later badly stained certificate for the Congo Steamboat Company listed at Abebooks. The Rare Book Club lists no similar certificates having ever come up for auction. OCLC shows no similar certificates held by institutions.

\$350 [#10048](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

27. [TRAVEL – EUROPE] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION – STEAMSHIP]

1896 – Advertising packet for Frank C. Clark's Vacation Excursion to Europe, 1897

This advertising packet consists of three items: a form letter inviting Miss Emma Weatherbee to reserve her booking of the 1897 excursion, a four-page brochure providing information about the excursion, and the advertising envelope that was used to mail the items to Miss Weatherbee. All in nice shape with mailing folds as expected.

A one-cent, blue U.S. stamped envelope (Scott Type U69) was used to mail these items. It features an image of the S. S. "City of Rome", the Anchor Line Steamer to be used for the "Excursion to Europe, 1897" with the return address for Helen M. Tarr, the 'signer' of the form invitation. The envelope is canceled with an undated, double-oval postmark from Gloversville, New York.

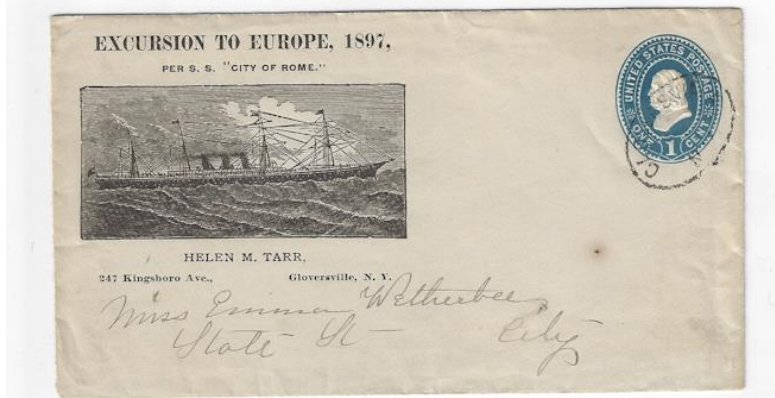
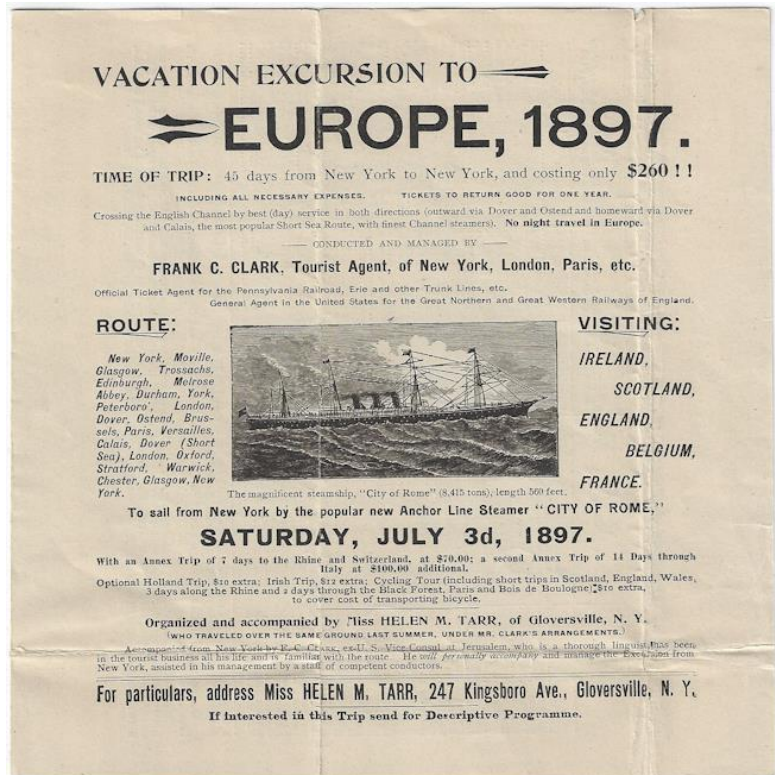
The form letter suggests that Helen Tarr was personally inviting Miss Weatherbee to join her "Select Private Party" on the excursion.

The four-page brochure is illustrated with an image of the S.S. *City of Rome* and provides the excursion's route, sailing dates and itineraries for the different tour options: A – the voyage plus England, Scotland, and Brussels, B – an add-on trip along the Rhine and through Switzerland, and C – an additional add-on trip through Italy. It also includes several testimonials from travelers on the 1896 iteration of the excursion, and a map showing the route of the various options including on not listed: D – an excursion to Berlin and Munich.

The cost of the 45-day basic trip, Option A, was \$260. The cost of 7-day add-on B was \$70, and the cost of the 14 day add-on was \$100. So the total cost for the entire trip 66 day "vacation party" including voyage and all option was \$430. Sounds like a pretty good deal, however in today's money that equates to \$15,400.

I could find no online reference to any Fred C. Clark Vacation Excursions.

\$100 [#10049](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

28. [ART – ART NOUVEAU] [CALIFORNIANA] [DELTIOLOGY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1903 – Set of four art nouveau, female portrait postcards by the California-Czech artist, Emil Kosa, produced while he was an assistant to his famed mentor, Alphonse Mucha.

All four portraits were done by Emil Kosa, Sr. in the same art nouveau style made famous by his mentor, Alphonse Mucha. The postcards measure 3.5" x 5" and are signed in print, "Kosa – Paris". They were published by "Kopal" (Koch & Palm), a German firm noted for producing high-quality lithographs. These cards were sent from various locations within the Austro-Hungarian Empire during 1903 to Marii Dlonhii in Paskova, Slovakia by her friend Erma. All are franked with blue-green Austrian 5 heller stamps (Scott #73); two have scuffs. Colors are bright, and the cards are in nice shape with some postal soiling and light foxing.

Kosa was born in Czechoslovakia in 1876, and from an early age assisted his father in making marionettes for the family's theater. In 1903, he moved to Paris with his long-time friend, the famous art nouveau artist, Alphonse Mucha. There he assisted Mucha in producing illustrations, advertisements, decorative panels, and, especially, theatrical posters. He also married and began a family when his son, Emil Kosa, Jr. was born. After his wife died of tuberculosis, Mucha eventually remarried and the family moved to the United States, where Kosa rejoined Mucha

(who had previously relocated) in producing posters and murals. After two daughter were born, the Kosa family returned to Czechoslovakia (today the Czech Republic). Following World War I, the Kosas moved back to the United States, and settled on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. There, their home became a center of an artistic and intellectual community, and Emil, Sr. continued to exhibit in Los Angeles until the mid-1950s. Meanwhile, his son, Emil, Jr., perhaps an even better artist, became a prominent member of the California Scene Painting movement, and served as the director 20th Century Pictures special effects department for over 30 years.

(For more information, see Hughes's *Artists In California 1786-1940* and McClelland's *Emil Kosa Jr.*)

Although scarce, Kosa's art nouveau cards occasionally turn up at auctions. Rare Books Hub lists none, however, Worthpoint and LiveAuctioneers show that 18 of various cards have been listed since 2006.

Quite scarce, but with some minor issues so priced accordingly.

SOLD #10050



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

29. [CALIFORNIANA] [DISASTERS – SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE] [MEDICINE & NURSING – INSANITY]

Circa 1890-1906 – An extensive album of 81 photographs, 38 large albumins documenting life at the Agnews State Asylum for the Insane at Santa Clara, California (the site of the greatest loss of life during San Francisco Earthquake) accompanied by an additional 43 silver gelatin snapshots showing the extensive damage to the facility caused by that disaster.

This 10½ x 8½" album contains 81 photographs in total: 38 affixed albumen photographs (8" x 6") and 43 snapshots (mostly 4" X 3") 28 affixed and 15 laid in. There are also two larger photographs of an unnamed woman and one real photo postcard (RPPC) of the Steam Ship *Venezuela* laid in. One of the snapshots is captioned "Agnews State Hospital / 1906" and two have penciled lists of names on the reverse. All the photographs are in nice shape; some of the albumins have a little fading. The album shows some minor wear, and there is a little warping to the cardboard leaves.



The pre-earthquake albumin images show

- Asylum grounds and buildings
- Staff and patients engaged in various activities as well as posing for formal photographs.
- Billiards room,
- Cattle pen and barn,
- Carriages in front of a carriage house,
- Interior of a food warehouse,
- Kitchen,
- Bakery,
- Female and male dining rooms,
- Male and female parlors,
- Paint shop,
- Mechanical room,
- Carpentry shop,
- Pharmacy,
- Greenhouse,
- Laundry,
- Boiler room,
- What appears to be the room of a wealthy patient,



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

- Patient workrooms,
- Staff offices,
- Small auditorium or theater, and various offices.
- Three additional albumins show men and women on a stage, playing baseball, and participating in a croquet match.

The post-earthquake snapshots show

- Extensive damage to the buildings,
- Women standing in front of a damaged building,
- Men inside several buildings apparently examining the damage,
- Large tents erected upon the grounds perhaps erected to serve as offices or living quarters, and
- Women and men milling around near smaller tents containing beds.

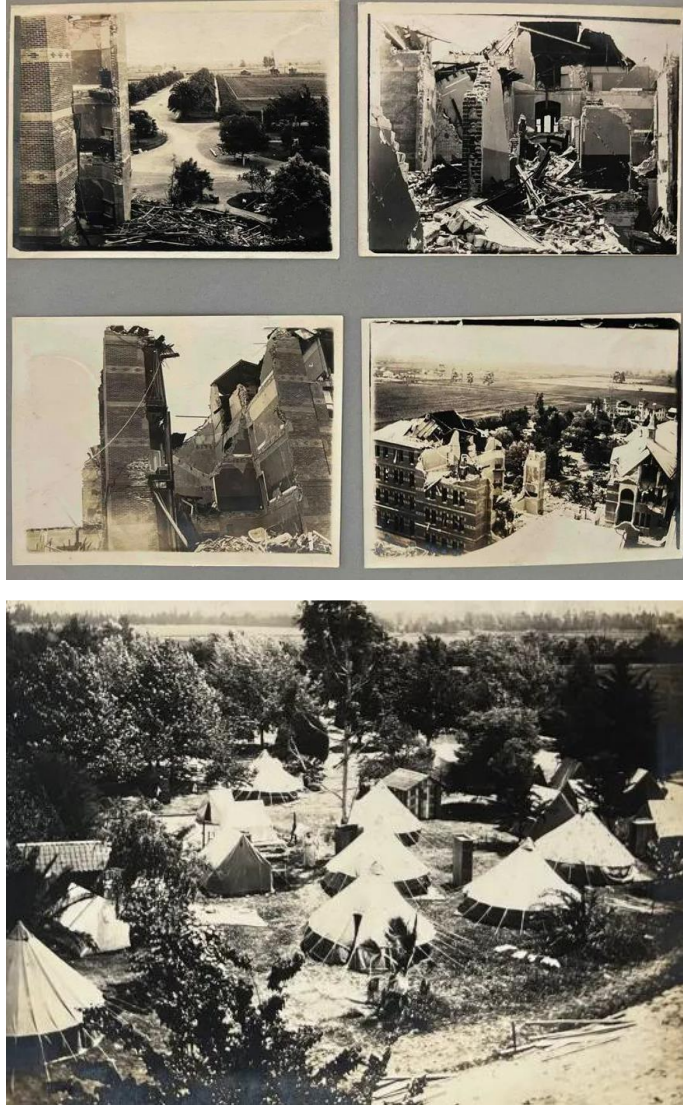
The main asylum building was built in 1888 at a cost of \$750,000 and could house up to 900 patients. The state-of-the-art facility was designed to provide efficient patient care, good health, and a cheerful atmosphere by ensuring all rooms were adequately lit by natural light and exposed to afternoon winds.

On 18 April 1906, the asylum was the site of the greatest loss of life during the earthquake when 101 patients and 11 staff members were crushed to death when its buildings collapsed. Local newspapers inflamed public fear by grossly exaggerating reports that "a number of insane having escaped from the demolished asylum, [were] running at random about the country." By 1911, the asylum had been fully reopened, and continued in operation until the mid-1970s when California's Lanterman Act transferred mental health treatment programs to local communities in an attempt to provide better care. It was purchased in 1996 by Sun Microsystems and several of its historic buildings were restored.

(For more information, see Pearce's "Looking Back: Agnews State Hospital" at the San Jose Public Library website.)

Certainly unique, this album is an incredibly important photographic record of both mental health care in the United States and the devastation caused by the San Francisco Earthquake. Nothing else similar is for sale in the trade or has been sold at auction per the Rare Book Hub. Individual stereoviews and RPPCs of asylum earthquake damage occasionally appear in eBay auctions. OCLC shows one institution holds three Bear Service Company "photographic prints" of the earthquake damage. A google search suggests that one early photograph of the asylum may be held by the San Jose Public Library.

SOLD #10051



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

30. [RACE – BLACKFACE & CULTURAL APPROPRIATION] [DANCING – BUCK DANCE] [ENTERTAINMENT – VAUDEVILLE] [PHILATELY] [RECREATION – ROLLER SKATING]

1910 – Multicolor, self-enclosed postal advertising flyer for the roller-skating, barrel-jumping, violin-playing vaudeville act, Wurnelle and Nelson

This self-contained postal advertising flyer which measures 10" x 6¼" when open and folds into an envelope-size mailer. The front cover features an illustration of a hanging violin, roller skates; and a barrel announcing "Presenting A Barrel of Novelties / Acrobatic Musical Skatorial . . . Permanent Address: White Rats of America, 1553 Broadway, New York, N.Y." It was sent to "Mr. J. C. Simpson (Secy.) / Iowa State Fair. / Des Moines, Iowa." The mailer is in nice shape.



Advertisements in *Variety* indicate that Wurnelle and Nelson were two vaudeville performers who joined together in 1910 to perform their "Barrel of Novelties." The flyer contains four illustrations.

One shows Wurnelle in blackface and a wooly wig jumping over a barrel wearing roller skates. The caption reads "Introducing Arnold B. Wurnelle's Acrobatic Barrel Jumping Buck Dance on Roller Skates . . . 12 minutes in Two or Full Stage."

Another shows Nelson holding a violin. It reads "Supported by Julie Nelson / Norway's Foremost Violin Virtuoso in a Repertoire of High Class Selections / Also Doing Acrobatic Barrel Jumping While Playing the Violin."



The third shows Wurnelle and Nelson standing together in a formal pose, and the fourth shows the shows Wurnelle jumping over a barrel while Nelson plays her violin.

Buck dancing originated among enslaved people in the American South as a solo improvisational dance performed by men and characterized by the rhythmic thumping or tapping of their feet with very little movement of the upper body. Appalachian whites adopted the dance, and today variations are performed at folk music contests and competitions. The term "12 minutes in Two or Full Stage" is related to the timing of vaudeville acts which usually lasted 10 or 12 minutes times varying depending upon whether they were performed on full or half stages. The White Rats of America was a fraternal union of vaudevillians that the United Booking Office (UBO) and Vaudeville Managers Association (VMA) over wages and work hours. The name derives from the scurrying of performers back stage and that only white performers were allowed to join.

(For more information, see various advertisements in *Variety*, the Vaudeville America website, "Buck Dancing" at the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* website, and "Actors Go On Strike: Members of the 'White Rats' Organization Refuse to Play" from the 22 Feb 1901 edition of the *New York Times*.)

SOLD #10052

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

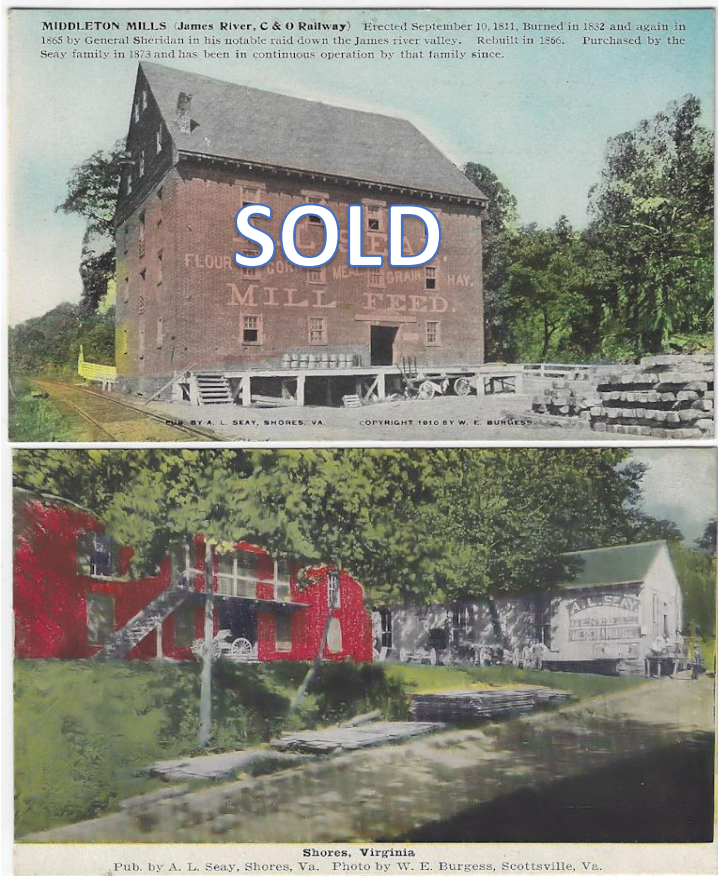
31. [DELTIOLGY] [PHOTOGRAPHY] [RURAL AMERICA] [VIRGINIANA]

Circa 1910 – A pair of scarce colorful lithographed postcards made from photographs by an important Virginia photographer, William Edward Burgess, who meticulously documented small town and rural life within the state.

These two unused, divided-back postcards picture the home and businesses of A. L. Seay in the tiny settlement of Shores, Virginia, just east of Scottsville on the north bank of the James River. Both unused cards are in very nice shape.

One of the cards shows a red house and nearby white store painted with letters reading, "A. L. Seay. / General / Merchandise." A title along the bottom reads "Shores, Virginia / Pub. By A. L. Seay, Shores, Va. Phot by W. E. Burgess, Scottsville, Va."

The other features a five-story brick building painted with letters that read "A. L. Seay. / Flour. Corn. Meal. Grain. Hay. / Mill Feed." It is captioned "Middleton Mills . . . Erected September 10, 1811. Burned in 1832 and again in 1865 by General Sheridan. . . Rebuilt in 1866. Purchased by the Seay family in 1873. . . ." It is credited along the bottom "Pub by A. L. Seay, Shores, VA. Copyright 1910 by W. E Burgess."



When Burgess's died in 1935, Idylwood (his combination home and photo studio) contained over 450,000 different images including family groups, clubs, veterans reunions, weddings, funerals, disasters, wildlife, and supposedly every house, store, outbuilding and scenic view in Albemarle and Fluvanna counties. Unfortunately, although some examples of his cards and photos are held by the University of Virginia and the Scottsville Museum, surprising few others have survived; "many . . . have been lost – victims to floods, fires, human carelessness, or the wear of time."

(For more information, see Walker's "Trial List of Burgess Postcards. . . ." as well as "William Edward Burgess, Scottsville's Photographer," Halliburton's "William Edward Burgess: Poet-Historian with the Camera," and Klippstein's "Life, in Black and White," all available online at the Scottsville Museum website.)

Exceptionally scarce. Worthpoint and the Valuable Rare Postcards website show many Burgess postcards sell for up to \$1,000 when they appear at auction. While Middleton Mills cards occasionally appear, the red house-general store card is exceptionally scarce. Only one other example is known to exist; it sold for \$873 in a 2019 eBay auction.

SOLD #10053

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

32. [MILITARY – 7TH CAVALRY & GREAT SIOUX WAR]

1912 – Letter from a survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn to a former 7th Cavalry comrade reminiscing about the battle, fellow veterans, and old times at Forts Rice and Lincoln

This four-page typed letter, perhaps a carbon copy, is signed in type by First Sergeant John Ryan to an unknown recipient he addresses as “Sir and Comrade.” It is on four separate leaves, each containing one-page of type. It is datelined “West Newton, Mass., / March 12, 1912.” In nice shape. No need for a transcription since the type is easily read.

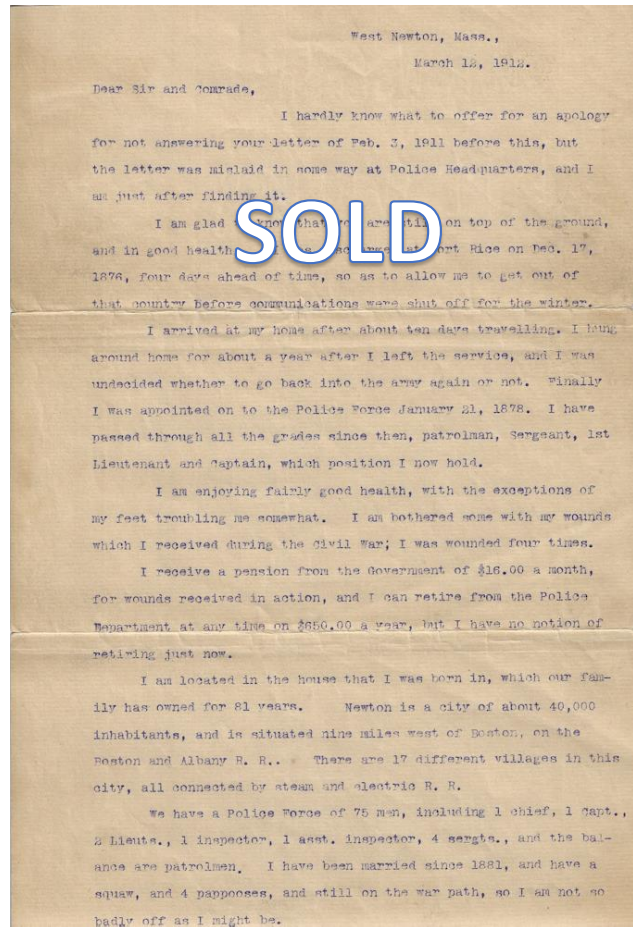
John Ryan enlisted during the Civil War and was wounded four times. He joined Company M, 7th US Cavalry on November 23, 1866. He rose through the ranks, being appointed to Sergeant and receiving his “blood stripes” after Sergeant Erwin Vanousky was killed during the Battle of Washita River. Ryan participated in the Yellowstone and Black Hills Expeditions of 1873-1874. He was promoted to First Sergeant in 1874, but reduced to private after a court-martial found him guilty of abusing a prisoner. One week later, Lieutenant Colonel Custer reappointed him as First Sergeant, and he participated in the Battle of Little Big Horn as a member of Reno’s Battalion. Ryan left the army in 1876, returned to his home in West Newton, Massachusetts, where he married, raised a family, and joined the police force. He was eventually promoted to police captain and retired in 1913 after he wrote this letter. Ryan died in 1926.

His letter reads in part:

“I was discharged in at Fort Rice on Dec. 17, 1876 [and] I was appointed to the Police Force January 21, 1878. I have passed through all the grades [to] Captain, which position I now hold. . . . I am bothered some with my wounds which I received during the Civil War; I was wounded four times. . . . I have been married since 1881, and have a squaw, and 4 papposes. . .

“Well, the old boys of the 7th Cavalry are passing off pretty fast. Within the last two or three years, Capt. Moylan, Capt. Mc.Dougal and Lieut. DeRudio have passed away. I believe I am the only man living today who was a 1st Sergt. In the old 7th, going into the Battle of the Little Big Horn. I understand that Sergt. Hinds of A troop who was wounded in that battle, died at the Soldier’s Home. . . . There is but one commissioned officer living today who commanded a company going into the Little Big Horn . . . E. S. Godfrey, Retire Brigadier General. . . . I met him at the unveiling of the Custer Monument. . . . I also met Godfrey at the National Encampment of the G.A.R two years ago. . .

“I receive a great many letters . . . in regard to the 7th Cavalry and the battle of the Little Big Horn. There was a man . . . W. [Walter] M. Camp, of Chicago, who is writing up a book on that battle, and he was here to see me about a year ago. . .



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

"I understand that there is nothing left of old Fort Rice today. . . . Are you located on the Fort Lincoln side. . . . I can almost see the location of that fort today. we put in some pretty good time and some pretty bad ones. . . . I received a letter . . . from William Slaper, formerly of my company who was in that battle. . . . He wrote all about the boat's crew at old Fort Rice, and also the cattle herd across the river.

"I understand that all the bodies of the men who were interred in that cemetery at Fort Rice have been remove to the Custer battlefield. I have been informed [it] contains the bodies of over 1200 men, collected from the different forts along the Missouri. . . .

"Do you remember the time that Spotty Whalen shot the other soldier at Whiskey Point. . . . When I was going on furlough . . . Whalen was a prisoner on the [same] train [being] taken from Bismarck to Fargo, Dakota. {The} jail at Fargo was a log shanty, where some other prisoners were confined. . . . The jailer went to a dance or something [and when he] got back, Whalen had made his escape. . . . The finally got on his trail [when he was] about to cross the Canadian line. . . . He was brought back [and] how he got out of that scrape I do not know but . . . Paddy Hall, formerly 1st Sergt. Of L troop . . . met him on the street one day, and emptied both barrells of a shot gun into him, killing him instantly. . . .

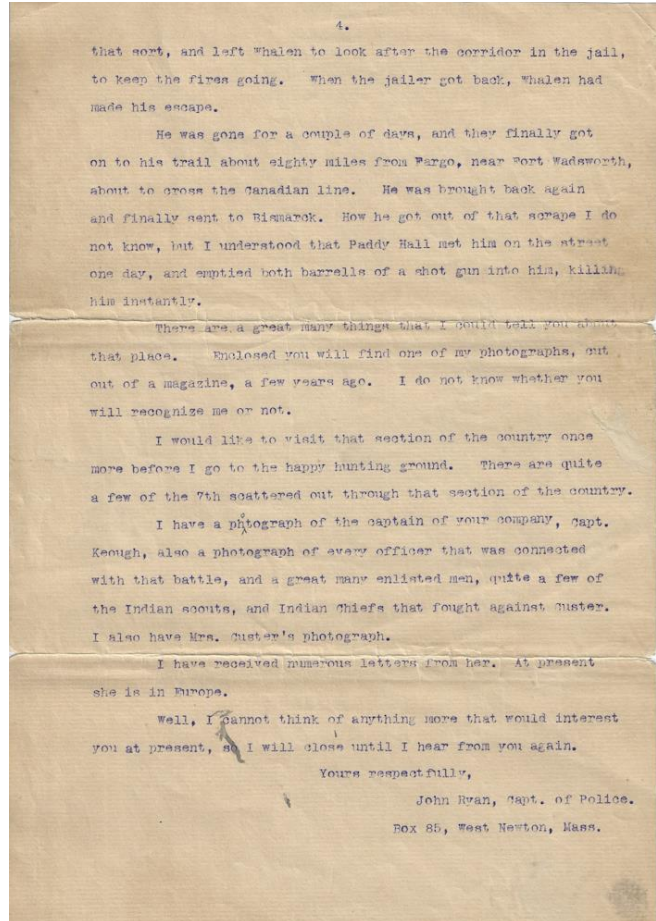
"I would like to visit that section of the country once more before I go to the happy hunting ground [where] quite a few of the 7th [are] scattered. . . .

"I have a photograph of the captain of your company, Capt. Keough, also photograph of every office that was connected with that battle, and a great many enlisted men, quite a few of the Indian scouts, and Indian Chiefs that fought against Custer. I also have Mrs. Custer's photograph. I have received numerous letters from her. At present she is in Europe. . . ."

For more information about First Sergeant Ryan, see "First Sergeant John Ryan (1845-1926)" at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site online.

A scarce reminiscence of a Little Big Horn survivor filled with remembrances of his old 7th Cavalry comrades. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports the sale of a spectacular 63-page manuscript memoir from an officer with Major Reno's force at the Battle of Little Big Horn. OCLC reports several institutions hold unpublished reminiscences about the 7th Cavalry and the Battle of Little Big Horn including a collection of twenty carbon copies of letters written by Lieutenant Frederick Benteen.

SOLD #10054



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

33. [CARNIVALS & FAIRS – MERRY-GO-ROUNDS]

1913 – Letter from the owner of a merry-go-round providing a detailed description of the ride which he is attempting to sell to a lawyer who apparently aspires to own a traveling carnival.

Two-page manuscript letter from Walter R. Javens, of Rochester, Pennsylvania offering to sell his merry-go-round to Mr. R. G. [Rowland Greenup] Railey of Forkton, Kentucky. Along with the letter is a two-page detailed mimeographed description of the ride. Both are enclosed in their original mailing envelope. In nice shape. A transcript of the letter will be included.

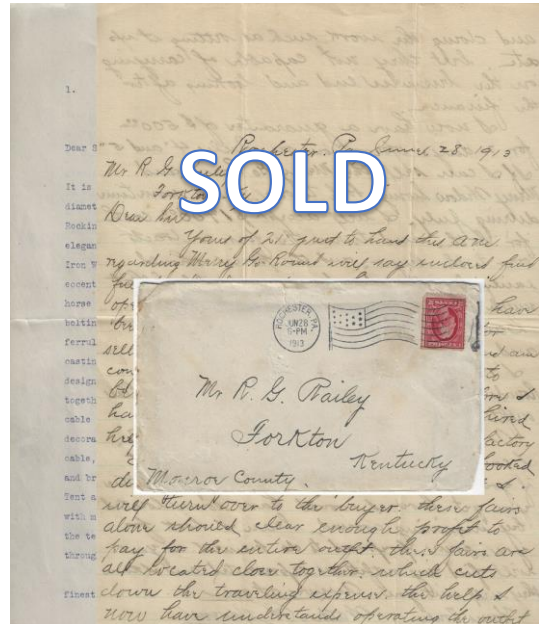
“Regarding Merry Go-Round. . .I now have same in operating since Decoration Day and have been doing big business. My reason for selling is that I have a rupture and am compelled to give up traveling, owing to being on my feet too much, therefore I have to depend almost entirely on hired help which hasent been very satisfactory. I have several good big Fairs booked during August and September that I will turn over to the buyer. these fairs alone should clear enough profit to pay for the entire outfit. . . I now have a guarantey of \$500⁰⁰ for 2 days operation on July 4” and 5” If I can sell the Merry Go Round and Merry Widow Swings both to one party sometime during July, I will accept \$1400⁰⁰ cash for both, and turn the fair contracts over to the buyer, and the price should easily be cleared up in a profit of the much during August and September. I really don’t know of any other Merry Go Rounds For Sale at present, only 2 old worthless outfits that are an old style and worn out. As to Ferris Wheels and Miniature R.Rs. I cant just locate any at present but if you would come on, but over by the time you get burn. I would have some located by inquiring around. Can I look for you. come prepared to do business as you will find my outfits as represented, and I know they will suit you. . .”

His description of the merry-go-roundreads in part:

“It is a North Tonawanda . . . 20” Century outfit, 32 ft. in diameter, in perfect order and condition, latest model, having 24 Rocking Horses, ‘2 abreast’, and two double-seated Chariots, all elegantly carved and decorated, . . . 12 new style horse rockers, whereby the horses set on instead of the old style bolting. . . Scenery, oil painted canvass for center, posts and braces for same. . . Tent and side wall is 10 oz. canvass in good condition and revolves with machine. . . The Organ is a ‘Rudolph Wurlitzer; make, one of the finest and best made for Merry Go Round use, has a rich, powerful tone, containing 10 selections of late and up-to-date music. The outfit runs by steam, having 10 horse power. . . There are gasoline torches; also a full equipment of electric fixtures . . . for illumination. . . This is the latest improved up-to-date outfit on the market. . . Nicely painted, striped and decorated, and practically as good as brand new. . . I also have a good set of six Merry Widow Scup Swings that are great money getters with a Carnival . . . or in a Park. . .”

A most unusual letter. At the time of listing, nothing similar if for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar has ever appeared at auction. Nothing similar is listed by OCLC, but Railey’s business papers are held by Western Kentucky University.

SOLD #10055



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

34. [RURAL AMERICA] [WOMEN & GIRLS] [YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS – 4-H]

1931-1936 – A huge handmade scrapbook documenting an Iowa teenager's participation and leadership in her county's 4-H program.

This handmade, cord-bound scrapbook, made by Blythe P. Bair of Rutland, Iowa, measures 8½" x 11" and is three inches thick. It contains over 75 cardstock pages filled with over 500 photographs, essays, documents, ribbons, tickets, pamphlets, booklets, programs, newsletters, clippings, and other ephemera including an pin featuring the tower at Iowa State College that document Blythe's 4-H career that culminated as a high school senior with her election as the Humboldt County 4-H President for 1936. All but one or two of the items are affixed to the pages. It is in nice shape with some edgewear; some of the pages have been reinserted and one of the front cover binding holes has been repaired.

Blythe entered the scrapbook into a state-wide 4-H competition jointly sponsored by the Iowa State College of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is neatly done and very well organized; chronologically within ten tabbed section's titled Photograph, Questionnaire, Letters, Record Books, Club Programs, Expense Record, Activities, Story of Clubwork, Kodak Pictures, and Clippings.

Blythe was an active participant in 4-H activities, not just participating club, county, and state activities, contests, and exhibitions, but taking on leadership and organizer roles for all six years. She won numerous awards for horticulture, flower arranging, baking, sewing, and canning. The state selected jars of her canned pork and beef for entry into the nationwide championship. After graduating from high school, Blythe attended the American Institute of Business in Des Moines. Following her graduation, she married Bradford J. Colbert and together they opened and operated a successful chain of shoe stores in Wisconsin and Minnesota, apparently until her death in 1983.

Although the Humboldt County 4-H program officially was organized in 1916 by the Cooperative Farm Bureau and Iowa State University Extension Program, it didn't truly begin until ten years later in 1926. Initially it was divided into to "committees" one for girls and one for boys. The boys program focused on raising cows, pigs, sheep, and, of course, corn. The girls' program focused on rural homemaking including canning, baking, nutrition, family health, and clothing including the making of brassieres and girdles (for which Blythe once won an award). Both boys and girls participated in athletic activities and were able to attend a summer camp.

(For more information, see online genealogical information related to Blythe Bair Colbert and "Humboldt County, Iowa 4-H History" at the Iowa 4-H Foundation website.)

An exceptional six-year pre-World War Two time capsule of 4-H programs for girls in the midst of the Great Depression. At the time of listing, no other similar items are for sale in the trade or has been listed for auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows only six institutions hold similar pre-war 4-H scrapbooks.

SOLD #10056



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

35. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MILITARY– WWII] [SLAVERY – COMFORT GIRLS] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1944-1946 – Scrapbook compiled by an African-American soldier while serving as a member of an Engineer Aviation Battalion that built and repaired airfields throughout the Western Pacific during World War Two

This 54-page handmade scrapbook measures approximately 9" x 12" and was assembled by T/4 Fred B. Metcalf using rattan twine and official file folders. It documents the deployment of the 1889th Engineer Aviation Battalion (Colored) to the Philippines, Guam, and Okinawa where it built and repaired some of the most important Army Air Force airfields in the Pacific. It contains nearly 120 items: photographs, clippings from service magazines and newspaper, cartoons, broadsides, documents, currency, and fiscal items. Almost all of the items, have been pasted down. Heavy edgewear; holds together well although the binding twine has snapped.

Most items in this scrapbook are ephemeral or clipped from newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets that were distributed to the troops. Although there are photographs, Metcalf included none of himself and only two are of his unit constructing an airfield; instead most are of things he found to be interesting.

Some of the clippings include images of:

A campaign map titled "Okinawa Finale" which Metcalf has captioned "The Route of the 1889th

A B-29 bomber on Guam

Black soldiers performing ordnance disposal, beachhead construction, food inspection, etc.

Eleven images of attractive, young Guamanian women

A naked, coyly posed, black woman

Two risqué cartoon to which Metcalf added suggestive captions

Photographs:

Two photos of an Okinawan shrine that Metcalf has captioned, "Where they do Hari Kari . . . to pay for a mistake with their life."

One photo of Okinawan horse carts

Two photos of the 1889th working on the Naha airfield and Route #5 on Okinawa

Two photos of destruction caused by a typhoon that Metcalf captioned, "Boy it was rough as hell a 150 mile per hour wind / Typhoon"

One photo of four attractive "Comfort Women" that Metcalf captioned, "They were left behind by the Japs / Husel was their Trade"



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

Ephemera

A broadside titled "Attention Colored Servicemen" announcing a special Thanksgiving Night "Barn Dance" with "real oriental barbeque 'pigs' and featuring "the colored Old Timers," "Snake 'hipped' Jerry and Mary Carmen a South Sea Island Dancer," and "a famous GI orchestra. . .

An Okinawan money order and ration book along with a Japanese war bond and a variety of Japanese and American occupation currency

The last issue of *The Flying Dozer* newsletter published by the 933rd Engineer Aviation Regiment (the higher headquarters of the 1889th and three other Engineer Aviation Battalions

A broadsheet "Award of Merit" certificate presented to the four battalions of the 933rd on which Metcalf has identified the 1889th as a "colored" unit with a proud caption, "The first Negro Battalion in the Pacific to get this Award"

A document authorizing Metcalf to take home a "Jap Bayonet"

As war approached in 1940, the army developed Engineer Aviation Battalions. These were self-contained organizations that could repair, rebuild, or construct airfields, even in inhospitable combat zones. They were manned by almost 800 officers and enlisted and equipped with tractors, bulldozers, graders, gas shovels, rollers, and an assortment of other construction tools. When these units activated, men with construction experience were steered toward these billets. Thirty Engineer Aviation Battalions were deployed to the China-India-Burma and Pacific Theaters; as the army was segregated at the time, 13 of the units were manned by white soldiers and 17 by "colored" men. The 1889th was organized at Davis-Monthan Field in Arizona in April of 1943, deployed to the Pacific in May of 1944, and inactivated at Okinawa in February of 1946.

Comfort Women, or *ianfu*, were young women and girls forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Army. Throughout the war, the Japanese officially and systematically seized young woman and girls in occupied territories and enslaved them in "comfort station" brothels where they were forced to provide sexual satisfaction for the "comfort" of Japanese soldiers.

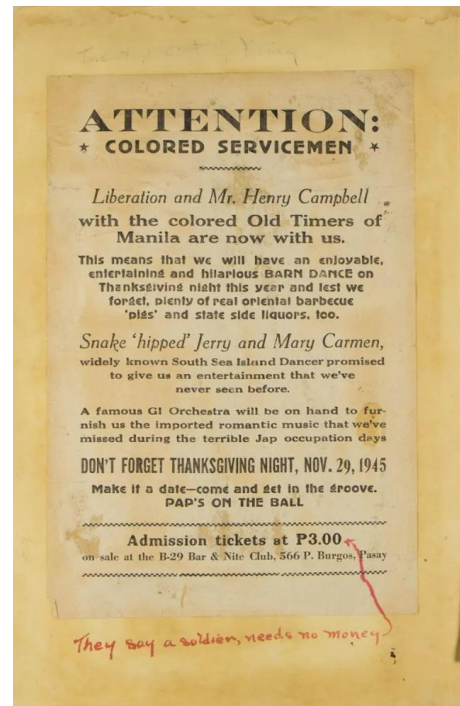
(For more information see, Craven and Cate's *Aviation Engineers in Europe, Africa, and the War with Japan* in *The Army Air Forces in World War II*, "CBI Order of Battle; Corps of Engineer Units" at cbi-history.com, "TME Looks Back: African-American Engineering Battalions in the Pacific Theater" at the Society of American Military Engineers website, and "Japanese Military and Comfort Women" at the Asian Women's Fund website.)

A terrific scrapbook documenting an often overlooked, but exceptionally important, facet of the Pacific War from the viewpoint of an African-American soldier.

Very scarce. At the time of listing, no other similar Engineer Aviation Battalion scrapbooks (black or white) are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC identifies two personal papers collections held by the Army War College with Engineer Aviation Battalion publications and ephemera; they may possibly include a similar scrapbook.

S

old #10057



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

36. [FOREIGN AID – CHINA] [HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT – CHINA] [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – CHINA] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS – CORRUPTION] [UNITED NATIONS – UNRRA]

1946-1947 – Two items related to the massive and unprecedented humanitarian support provided to China following the end of World War Two.

This lot consists of two items:

A United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) form letter, hand stamped April 17, 1946, from Washington DC intended for “Relatives and Friends of UNRRA Employees in China” that was sent to the “A.I.S. [Agricultural Industry Service] / CNRRA [China National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration] / Box #2 / Shaoyang, Hunan, China”. Wear and soiling to left margin.

This form letter explains that the Army Post Office (APO) system is being withdrawn from China and will no longer support the agency. Instead, it recommends mail to UNRRA employees be sent through the civilian mail system to the Embankment Building in Shanghai for forwarding.

A two-page typed letter with its original mailing envelope sent to “Mr. Luther R. Ray / c/o UNRRA / Embankment Bldg., / 370 North Soochow Road / Shanghai, China” by his wife. The letter bears several Chinese handstamps on the reverse. In nice shape

Ray’s wife notes that she was informed that he was still located at Shaoyang with the CNRRA and would remain there to finish building a cement plant build after which he would travel by “LSM” (a Navy Landing Ship (Medium) to Shanghai and then by SS *Lynx* to San Francisco.

UNRRA was established in 1943 after 44 Allied Nations agreed to provide supplies and services to areas occupied by the Axis Powers. By far, the largest UNRRA effort was made in China where a Shanghai office was opened in late 1944. It expended \$658.4 million dollars by the end of 1947 (over \$9.2 billion dollars in 2023 money). Almost 75% of that money was supplied by the United States. The Nationalist Chinese government, which was in the midst of a civil war against the Communists, insisted that it be involved in the actual distribution of all aid, so immediately arriving, the funds were turned over to the CNRRA, a quasi-official arm of the Nationalist government. Further, the CNRRA insisted that 25% of the aid be paid in cash to cover its overhead. The entire system was corrupt, and a substantial amount of the remaining 75% was siphoned off by officials to fronts, relatives, and associates. The Chinese Communist also wanted a cut of the loot, and after arm-twisting by UNRRA, the CNRRA provided about 5% to the Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Association (CLARA), which was every bit as corrupt as the CNRRA.

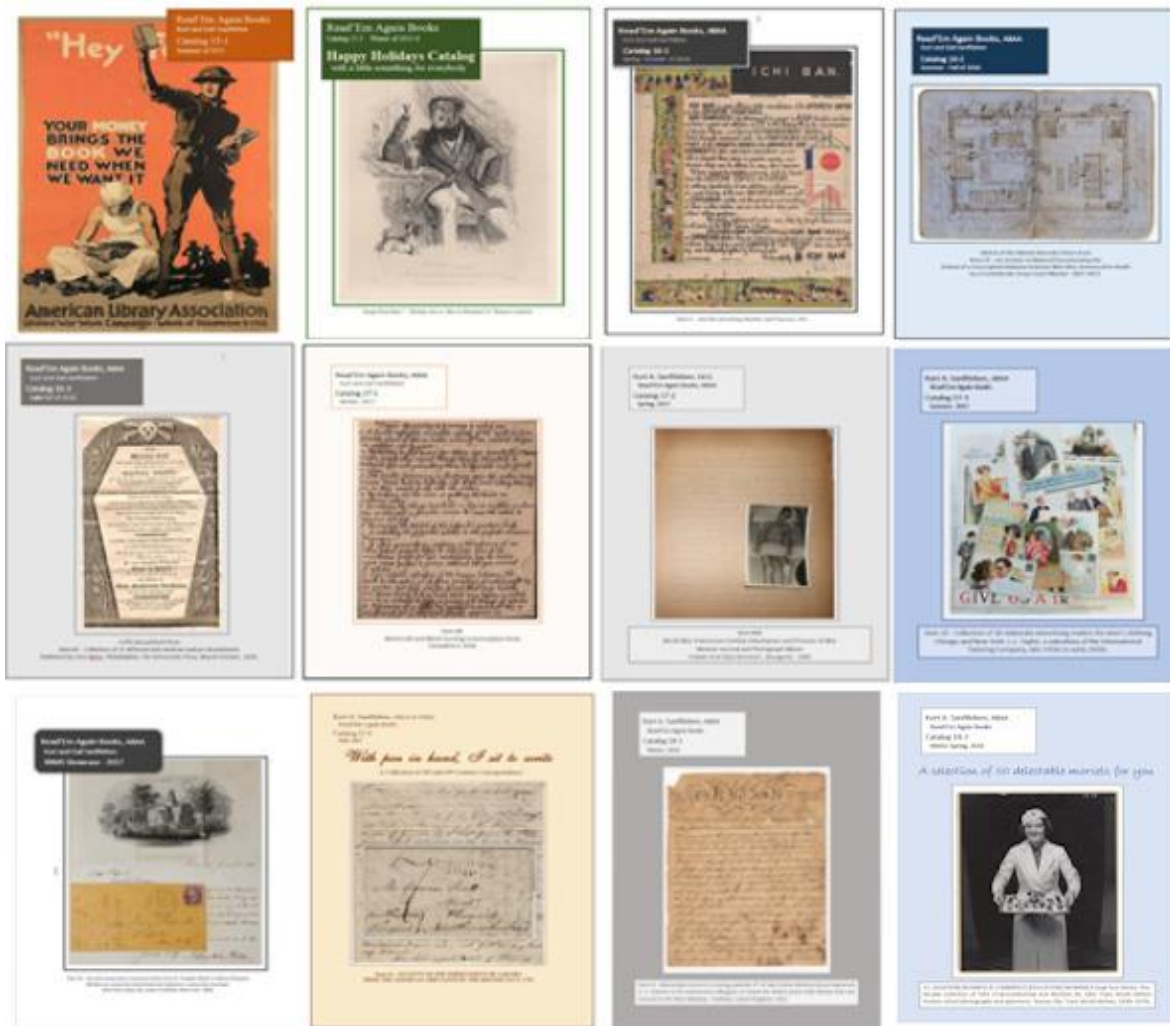
(For more information, see Greene’s “UNRRA’s Record in China” in *Far Eastern Survey* Vol 20 No 10, “The UNRRA-CNRRA Story” in *Formosa Betrayed*, Kerr’s *Formosa Betrayed*, and “Tung Pi-wu” at World Biographical Encyclopedia online.)

Scarce. At the time of listing, there is only one original source UNRRA-CNRRA item for sale in the trade, a typed letter signed by Zhou Enlai (Chou En-lai). The Rare Book Hub Shows that several related Zhou Enlai, Chiang Kai-shek, and T. V. Soong have appeared at auction. The Rare Book Hub shows no holding of original source items related to the UNRRA, CNRRA, or CLARA, however the Hoover Institution at Stanford University holds the retired records of the UNRRA’s China Office at Shanghai.

\$350 #10058



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