

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA and ASDA

Paper Americana and Postal History

Catalog 23-3 – June 2023



10. 1835-1888 – An exceptional archive of letters and documents from a North Carolina plantation that also includes considerable material related to the famous nearby Portis Gold Mine.

There are 115 letters and documents in this archive that provide details about Archibald Davis Alston's Saxham Hall Plantation in Warren County, North Carolina. Of special note are many items related to enslaved workers, regional gold mining, freedmen labor contracts, and sharecropping.

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

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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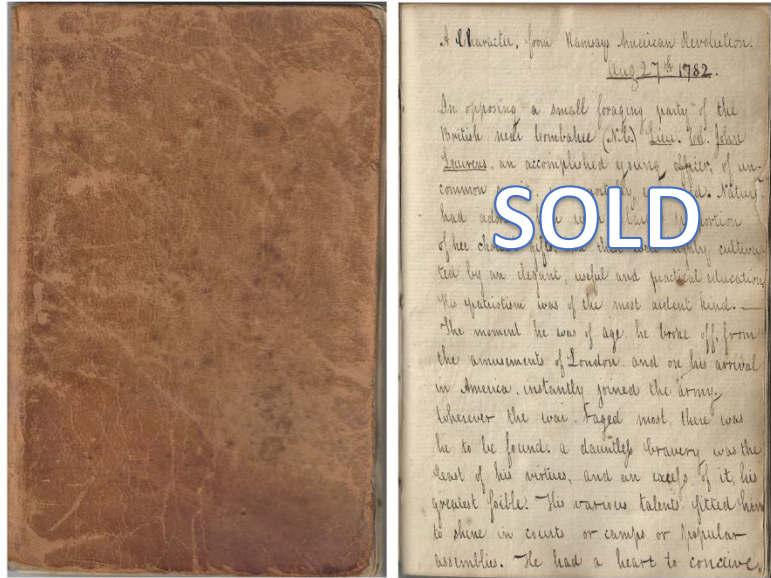
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1. [COMMONPLACE BOOKS]

1783-1815 – A beautifully scribed 80-page commonplace book chock full of poetry, song lyrics, essays, aphorisms, and a nursery rhyme

The 4¾" x 7¼" leather notebook contains 80 pages that are completely filled with approximately 50 entries, some of which are dated. Written in a beautiful script by its unidentified compiler. Although the binding string has snapped the text block is in nice shape although its leaves are unbound. Almost no internal wear or soiling, although the one laid-down nursery rhyme illustration has darkened.



Entries include:

"Death's Final Conquest by Shirley"

"A Dirge. By D'Urfey"

"A Character from Ramsays

American Revolution / Aug 27th, 1782"

An extract from "Ramsays American Revolution / New York Nov: 25th 1783"

"The Wanderer: to the evening Star by Richard Nesbit"

"Mary Queen of Scotts Farewell to France"

"The Wizard of the Rock / W. M. Smith"

"Verses written by the Sea, in a Heavy Gale / Freneau."

"From Moore's Irish Melodies / 'The Vale of Avoca.'"

An "Extract from Goldsmith's England"

"Extract from the Lady of the Lake / a Poem by Walter Scott, Esq."

"Lines written by Sir Walter Raleigh the night before his execution."

An extract "From Miss Bowdler's Essay on Politeness"

An extract "From Davis's travels in America / Philadelphia, Autumn of 1797"

"Sonnet to Pocahontas by Mr. Rolf."

"Extract from Wilson's Pedestrian excursion to the Falls of Niagara. 1800"

"Sonnet to a Fly. . . Decr 6th 1815"

"Thank you, pretty cow . . . Nursery Rhyme"

And many more

SOLD #10059

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

2. [AUTOGRAPHS – FISHER AMES] [CONSTITUTION – 1ST AMENDMENT] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS – FEDERALISM]

1789 – Letter supporting Alexander Hamilton’s proposal for the nation to assume debts incurred by the states during the Revolutionary War that was sent by a founding father who today is discounted because of his Arch-Federalist politics

The two-page stampless letter measures 14½” x 9” unfolded. It was sent by Fisher Ames of Boston to Thomas Dwight of Springfield, Massachusetts. It is datelined “Boston Decr 16, 1789” and straight-line “BOSTON DEC 14” and “PAID” handstamp along with a “2,,/6” rate mark. While the letter is complete, attractive, and easy to read, it is worn and has amateur repairs using what appears to be transparent archival tape. The letter reads in part:

“Men’s minds are ripening for the assumption of the debt. This is very important to America, and to the Govt. . . . A good Inspection of our Reports of Beef Butter Pork Potash &c is excessively needed [by] the country. . . . Her disgrace . . . cosed by the many frauds . . . make foreigners believe that New England people are born knaves. . . .”

Fisher Ames represented Massachusetts in the first four national Congresses as one of the most important leaders of the Federalist Party. He distrusted “the power of the people” which, he believed was] “licentious and mobbish” and despised the Republican Party, especially its “Virginia faction” led by Jefferson and Madison. Ames believed that a strong, centralized government led by a wise, educated, and impartial “natural aristocracy” was needed for the survival of the United States. Although Ames discounted the Bill of Rights, he nonetheless crafted the final version of the First Amendment. More significantly, Ames was one of the most important allies of Alexander Hamilton, especially with regard to federal assumption of the states’ Revolutionary War debt. After the Federalist Party was dismantled during the 16 years of the Jefferson and Madison presidencies, Fisher Ames’s contribution to the founding of the country was forgotten by all save political historians.

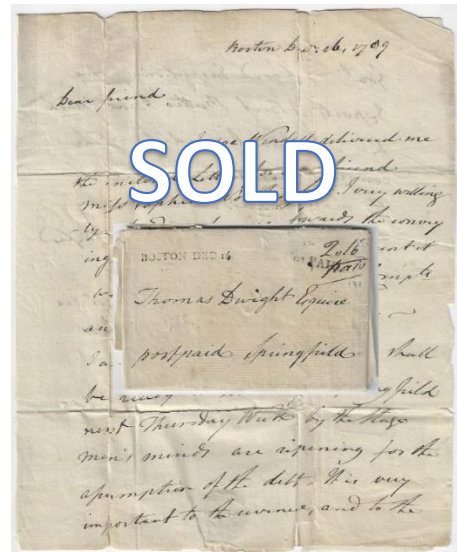
At the time of this letter, Thomas Dwight was a recent graduate from Harvard and a budding Federalist who would go on to serve in the Massachusetts House of Representative, its Senate, and eventually represent the state in the U.S. Congress.

(For more information, see Malsberger’s “The Political Thought of Fisher Ames” in the *Journal of the Early Republic* Spring 1982, Douglass’s “Fisher Ames, Spokesman for New England Federalism” in *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 15 October 1959, “Fisher Ames (1758 - 1808)” at the George Washington Presidential Library online, “Dwight, Thomas” in the *Biographical Director of the United States Congress* online, and online genealogical records.)

Ames material is seldom found outside of institutions. At the time of listing, a receipt documenting his payment for serving a local writ is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only one Ames letter has appeared at auction since 1922. OCLC shows that Fisher Ames papers are held at Harvard, the University of Michigan, the New York Historical Society, and the Chicago History Museum.

An uncommon, signed Ames letter evidencing his support for Hamilton. Unfortunately, with several repairs, so priced accordingly.

SOLD #10060



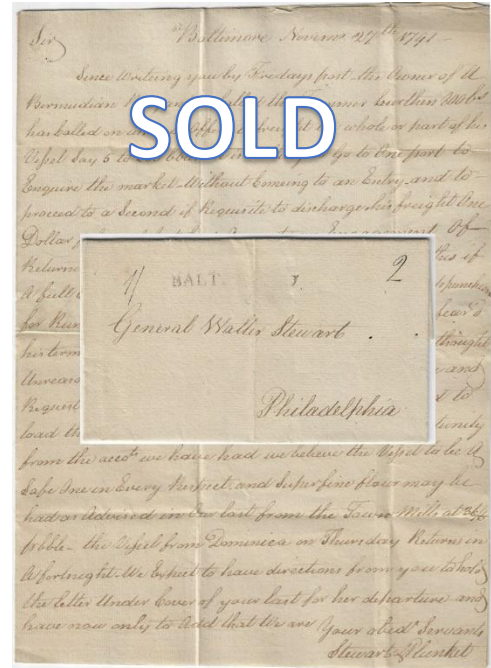
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3. [BUSINESS – TRADE] [MARITIME] [MILITARY – REVOLUTIONARY WAR] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY – TRIANGLE TRADE]

1791 – Letter from a Baltimore shipping firm engaged in the triangle trade offering to transport sugar and rum for a former Revolutionary War General who helped instigate the Newburg Conspiracy

This one-page stampless letter sent by Stewart & Plunket of Baltimore to General Walter Stewart in Philadelphia measures 15" x 10" unfolded. It is datelined "Baltimore Novemr 27th 1791" and bears a straightline "BALT" postmark along with two manuscript rate markings "1/" and "2". It is docketed "Stewart & Plunkett / Baltimore 24th Nov / 1791" presumably in General Stewart's hand. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided. The letter reads in part:

"The Owners of a Bermudian Brigantine called the Trimmer burthen 800bs has called on us, and offers to freight the whole or part of her Vessel Say 5 to 600 bbls _ he is willing to go to One port to Enquire the market – without Coming to an Entry – and to proceed to a Second if Requisite to discharge his freight One Dollar pr barrel – but he is Averse to an Engagement of Returning to Philadelphia _ he will tho agree to this if a full Cargo is Engaged to him at the Rate of 30 p puncheon for Rum in proportion for Sugar. . . The Vessel from Dominica on Thursday Returns in a fortnight. . ."



Stewart & Plunket were Baltimore commission merchants involved in the triangle trade of molasses, rum, and slaves, between Africa, the Caribbean, the Mid-Atlantic, and New England. When sufficient free white labor could not be found to build the canal system in northern Virginia, the Patowmack Canal Company offered Stewart & Plunket a contract to purchase black "servants" to do the work.

Walter Stewart was an Irish-born officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution who gained fame in 1780 as the commander of the Pennsylvania State Regiment helped diffuse a mutiny over rations within the First Connecticut Brigade. Later, in 1783, during the Newburgh Conspiracy, he was sent by General Washington to calm the dissatisfied and dispirited officers, but instead, he secretly inflamed the situation by informing the cabal that Congress intended to disband the army and deny them back pay.

(For more information, see "From George Washington to Thomas Johnson and Thomas Sim Lee, 10 September 1785" at the National Archives website, Hugh's *The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade 1440-1870*, Covo's *Entrepôt of Revolutions: Saint-Domingue . . . and the French-American Alliance*, "Dateline: Connecticut, May 1780 of Mutiny With No Bounty" at the National Park Service Fort Stanwix blog, Kohn's "The Inside History of the Newburgh Conspiracy: America and the Coup d'Etat" in *The William and Mary Quarterly* April 1970, and Boatner's *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*.)

An unusual letter that couples a hero-cum-villain of the Revolution with prominent members of the triangle trade. At the time of listing, no triangle trade letters and only one Stewart letter are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports three triangle-trade letters and about a dozen Stewart letters have appeared at auction since 1940. OCLC shows archival collections of triangle trade papers are held at ten institutions and Walter Stewart's papers are at the Winterthur.

SOLD #10061

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

4. [BUSINESS – TRADE] [MARITIME] [MILITARY – PRIVATEERING & QUASI-WAR] [VIRGINIANA]

1797-1798 – Archive of documents relating to the capture of an Alexandria-based merchantman by French privateers that was one of several such incidents that led to the Quasi-War with France

This archive consists of 11 documents related to the voyage, seizure, plundering, and eventual return of the Sloop *Diana* out of Alexandria, Virginia. The ship was captured twice by French privateers while bound for Cape Nicholas Mole, Saint-Domingue, and Port au Prince, Haiti. This was one of the incidents that led to the United States' Quasi-War with France between 1798 and 1801.

On 15 December, Captain Henry Nicoll departed Alexandria, Virginia, on the Sloop *Diana* with a cargo of flour, pilot bread, butter, beef, pork, onions, and spermaceti candles.



Although just “off the pitch of Cape Henry [with] the wind blowing fresh, one of his Crew named Thophilus Townshend fell overboard and was drowned.” Nothing else out of the ordinary occurred until the ship neared Cape Nicholas Mole, Saint-Dominique. There,

“When being within Gunshot of Cape Nichols Mole, his Vessel was captured by the Armed French Privateer Schooner called The Flying Fish [and was] carried into the port of Jean Rabel [where] his papers were sent to Cape Francois for Trial at which he attended with considerable Trouble and Expence, and both the Vessel and cargo were cleared. . . . On his return to Jean Rabel, he found his Vessels Hatches had been broke open by the privateers Men and the following articles stolen there by them, one Barrel of Beef, One barrel of Pork, Two boxes of Candles Two Ferkins of Butter, Two Barrels of Pilot Bread, Three Hundred Bunches of Onions, and the greatest part of his Cabin Furnishings. . . .”

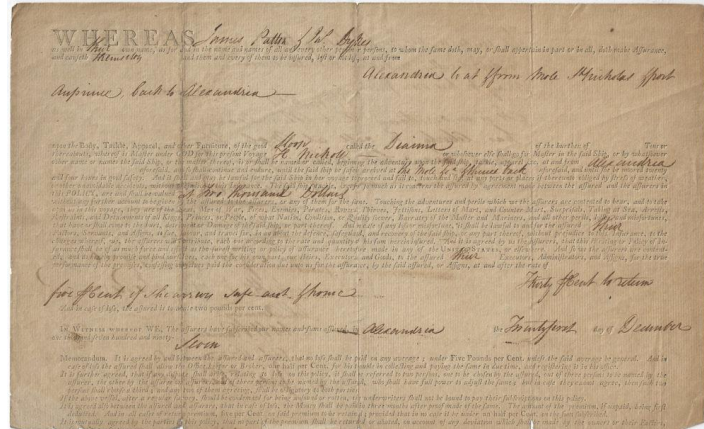
Nicoll next applied for clearance to sail to Haiti but was refused, and

“At the same time the Administration signified to him that they must have his flour, for which they would allow him eighteen Dollars per Barrel payable in Coffee at the Market Price, and would Deliver the Coffee in the Course of sixty Days. . . . From the manner this Intimation was made, he found it was impossible to resist, [for] he was advised . . . if he had made a positive refusal they would assuredly have taken it by Force [and] all Hopes of payment would have been at an end. . . . After the sixty Days were expired, he made various applications for Payment, but found it was in vain to expect it as he was informed by the Administration an Order had reached the Island forbidding the payment of such Debts. . . . Being much distressed for the want of provisions, and having no money to purchase any, he applied to the administration for one Barrel of Beef, but they refused to let him have it. . . . Being uncertain when, if ever payment would be made . . . he resolved [to go to] Cape Francois . . . with the expectation of selling his Bread at some price or other. [He next purchased] five Hundred Bushels of Indian Corn [and after sailing to the] Grand Caicos [and after] he there purchased with his Corn one thousand four hundred and fifty Bushels of Salt [he] sailed for Alexandria. [Unfortunately] he was captured by the armed French Privateer Schooner called Le Trepied commanded by Captain Pelligren who carried him into Port de Paix, where after much ill usage and long detention his Cargo was condemned [i.e., seized]”

Nicoli, however, was allowed to keep the *Diana*.

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

“The Tribunal declares a Good Prize the Merchandizes of the Cargo of the said Sloop Diana of Alexandria . . . and awards them to the Owners, Captain and Crew of the said French Privateer le Trepied, Captain Antoine Pellegrin. . . The Tribunal declares also that the Sloop Diana of Alexandria, Captain Henry Nicoll is not a good Prize, and must be entirely delivered to the said Captain, together with his Sails and Appurtenances. . .”



While his ship was impounded during the tribunal at Port de Pais, it was “plundered of part of her Rigging and Sails” and Nicholls was forced to use personal funds “to purchase some provisions, and to ballast his Vessel” in order to sail for Alexandria, where he arrived on June 4, 1798.

Considerably more detail is provided in this archive, much of it from a French perspective that also provides a rare, detailed inside view of the “Deliberations of [a] Tribunal of Prizes” and the maritime laws, dating back to 1661, used to determine whether a captured ship and/or its cargo was a “good prize” which could be sold and the proceedings distributed between a privateer’s owners, captain, officers, and crew, or “not a good prize” in which case it was returned to the vessel’s captain.

Additionally, this archive documents Captain Nicoll’s and the *Diana*’s “underwriter’s” dissatisfaction with the French tribunal’s decision. However, their “protest” apparently did no good; State Department records show that as of 1801, a claim of \$6,018 against France for damages to the Sloop *Diana* and its cargo had not been paid. However, the underwriters were successful in their attempt to obtain partial compensation via an insurance claim.

The 11 documents contain 22 pages of often densely packed text. All are in nice shape, however one, as noted below has chipping to the lower margin of one page that affects one line of text. Transcripts of the most important documents will be provided. The documents include:

1. Partially printed agreement, dated December 24, 1797, between James Patton & J W Dykes and William Hodgson, et al., insuring “the good Sloop called Diana” for the duration of this voyage.
2. Hand-delivered, folded letter, dated 14th January 1798, from Patton and Dykes reporting the capture of the *Diana* to arbitrators who would examine their eventual insurance claim.
3. Manuscript “Protest” (in French) by Captain Henry Nicoll to “the Notary Public in the North part of the Island and Coast of St. Domino, residing at Jean Rabel,” dated “the sixth Pluviose the sixth Republican Year [15 January 1798 per Morse’s online “French Calendar Conversions in One Step”].
4. Translation of Nicoll’s “Protest,” (see item 3 above) which is affixed by ribbon to items 5 and 7.
5. Translation of an “Extract of Deliberations of the Tribunal of Prizes,” dated “the third Floréal, the sixth Year of the French Republic” [22 April 1798]. (Attached by ribbon to items 4 and 7.

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

6. Manuscript certificate in French from the National Customs at Port-de-Pais, Saint Domingue authorizing Captain Nicoll, his crew, and the Sloop *Diana* to depart the island, dated 25 Floreal, Sixth Year [14 May 1798].

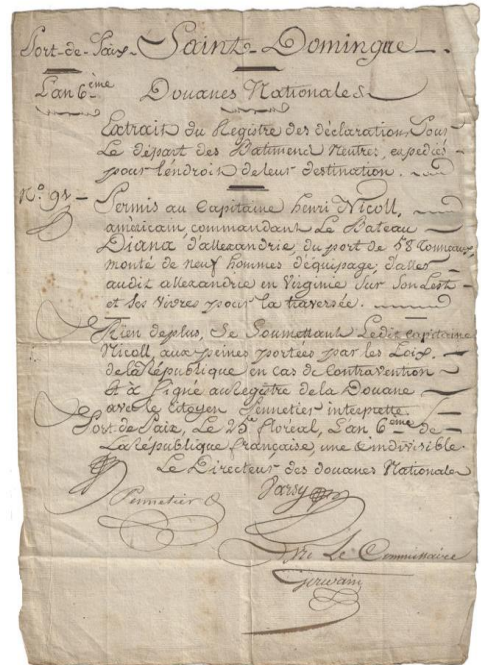
7. Statement from Henry Moore, translator, notarized by Cleon Moore, Notary Public, dated June 6, 1798, stating that items 4 and 5 "are just and true literal Translations of certain French Writings concerning the Sloop *Diana* of Alexandria." This is attached by ribbon to items 4 and 5.

8. Notarized statement by Henry Nicoll and two crew members, dated June 6, 1798, that describes in detail the voyage of the *Diana* and its capture by two different French privateers. This is attached by ribbon to item 9.

9. "An Account of the Sales of the Cargo of the Sloop *Diana* . . .," dated June 7, 1798, and signed by Captain Nicoll. This is a detailed, itemized list of sales and disbursements related to the Sloop *Diana's* voyage. (Attached by ribbon to item 8.)

10. Written opinion by arbitrators William Wilson and John Janney, dated July 6, 1798, concerning the underwriters' obligations regarding the *Diana's* loss of cargo and furnishings.

11. Bond, dated July 9, 1798, between James Patton and James Dykes, and the voyage underwriters, William Hodgson, et al., for \$3,000 in payment for the losses suffered to the Sloop *Diana* and its cargo.



The Quasi-War was an undeclared naval war between the United States and France that was primarily fought in the Caribbean and along the U. S. east coast between 1798 and 1800. French discontent with the United States had been brewing since 1792-1793 when France declared war upon Austria, Britain, and Spain. With the signing of the Jay Treaty of 1794 that formally ended the American Revolution, trading increased between the United States and Britain, and in 1796 France retaliated by chartering privateers to seize over 300 American ships involved in that commerce. In March 1798, Congress reestablished the U. S. Navy, which had been dissolved following the Revolution, and by the end of 1799, American warships were engaging French privateers and merchantman, reducing U.S. losses and inflicting significant damage upon French shipping. Later negotiations led to the Convention of 1800, which ended the conflict.

(For more information see, Williams's *The French Assault on American Shipping, 1793-1813*, "French spoliations. Report of the Secretary of State relative to the papers on file in the Department of State concerning the unpaid claims of citizens of the United States against France for spoliations prior to July 31, 1801," *Document 84, Senate Documents, 61st Congress, 1st Session, March 15 to August 5, 1909*, and Weld's *Our Naval War with France*.)

An exceptional collection of first-hand material from the perspective of an American sailing master, his ship's owners, and French officials in the Caribbean that reflect the building tension and animosity between the U.S. and France which would soon spill over into a maritime conflict.

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and no similar archives have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. While OCLC shows several letters regarding the seizure of ships by privateers, it identifies no institutions that hold significant similar collections documenting any seizure from start to finish from multiple first-hand French and American perspectives.

\$7,500 [#10062](#)

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

5. [AUTOGRAPHS – FULWAR SKIPWITH] [FLORIDIANA] [MARITIME] [MILITARY – PRIVATEERING & QUASI-WAR] [VIRGINIANA]

1799 – Letter from the U.S. Consul General in France, who would later become the Governor of the independent and short-lived Republic of West Florida, to the French Maritime Minister requesting the release of a passenger taken prisoner from an American ship when it was captured by privateers

This two-page letter measures 7½" x 12½" and is written in French on official "Le Consul General des Etats-Unis de L'Amerique" letterhead. It is dated "Paris Ventose 23 an 7" (13 March 1799) and signed by Fulwar Skipwith on the reverse. In nice shape, although slightly trimmed along the right margin. A translation will be provided.

Translated into English, it reads in part,

"In [your] letter of the 24th of this month, [you] informed me that one of my correspondents, by the name of John Lennon, was handed over to you. He was a passenger on the American ship Patapsco and had documents which, I believed were going to make it possible for me to regard this person as an American citizen, and consequently ask for the passport for him which he needed to continue to Hamburg. . . . Enclosed I am sending you a new petition for M. Lemmon [and] asking you to add it to the other documents and to let me know your decision. . . . You will also find a notarized certificate from Dieppe confirming M. John Lennon was listed on the Patapsco's manifest. . . . I had believed as a simple traveler and under American authority, he cannot be held as a prisoner or deprived of the ability to leave or call on his business affairs. Please be so kind as to take my observation into consideration. . . ."

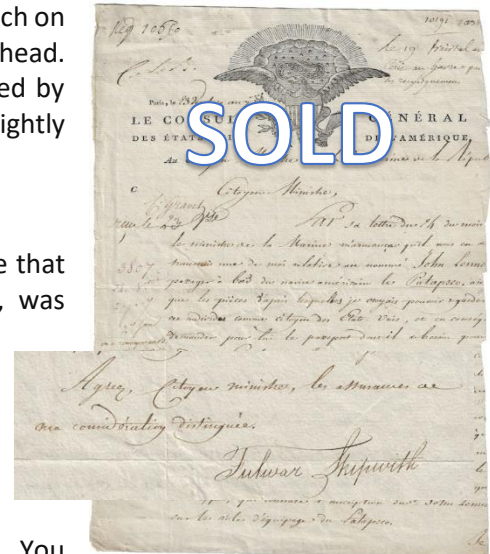
Lennon was eventually freed, although Skipwith was less than candid in this letter. Lennon had been an officer in the British Navy during the American Revolution had recently commanded the Marqueschooner, *Favorite*. Later, during the War of 1812, he led four merchantmen, carrying cargo valued at half a million pounds, safely through an American blockade of St. Thomas.

Fulwar Skipwith left the College of William and Mary to fight in the American Revolution and later served as a U.S. Consul in West Indies. At the time of this letter, he was the U.S. Consul General in France. In 1803, he assisted Robert Livingston in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase and helped finalize the transfer of those 828,000 square miles to the United States. Skipwith relocated to Baton Rouge and took part in the successful Florida rebellion against Spain, after which he served as the first Governor of the short-lived independent Republic of West Florida until it was occupied by the U.S. Army in December 10, 1810.

(For more information, see "Skipwith, Fulwar" in the *Dictionary of Louisiana Biography* at the Louisiana Historical Association website, "Patapsco" in William's *The French Assault on American Shipping, 1793-1813*, and Arthur's *The Story of the West Florida Rebellion*.)

A scarce and important letter, signed by the future Governor of the independent Republic of West Florida, while he was embroiled in the seizures of American merchant ships by French privateers that led directly to the Quasi-War. At the time of listing, nothing related to Fulmar Skipwith is for sale in the trade. Although a few letters to Skipwith have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, there have been none written by him. OCLC shows that the College of William and Mary holds the Skipwith Family Papers although those deal primarily with "Prestwould," his father's Virginia plantation and his schooling in Williamsburg.

SOLD #10063

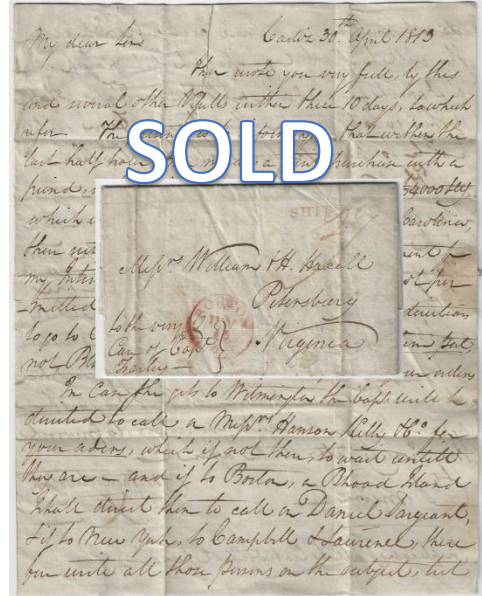


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6. [BUSINESS – TOBACCO & TRADE] [MARITIME] [MILITARY – BLOCKADES & WAR OF 1812] [PHILATELY] [VIRGINIANA]

1813 – Blockade-run letter from an American ship captain in Cadiz to a Virginia merchant providing detailed instructions for conducting business with a follow-on cargo vessel to avoid the Royal Navy

This stampless letter, measuring 15½" x 9¾" unfolded, was sent from Captain Josiah Cowper in "Care of Capt Farley" to William & H. [Harry] Haxall in Petersburg. It is datelined "Cadiz 30th April 1813". It bears a "SHIP" handstamp, a manuscript 27 rate mark, and a Boston postmark indicating that the letter was forwarded from there to Petersburg via another ship. It was docketed "Josiah Cowper / 30 April 1813" upon receipt. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.



The letter, signed anonymously with an "X", reads in part:

"I have made a joint purchase with a friend in Germain foods, to the Amot of about £4000 by which will be ordered for Wilmington N Carolina. . . Incase the vessel is not permitted to enter that port, she will have directions to go to Rhoad Island, a the most Northern part, not Blockaded. . . In case she gets to Wilmington the Capt. will be directed to call on Messrs Hanson / Lilly & Co. for your orders, . . . & if to New York, to Campbell & Laurenel, there for write all those persons on the subject, but do not mention my name. . . They will be shipped as Spanish, but may be under a Danish Sweedish, or Portuguese Flag. . . The Vessell is to be Dispatched as soon as possible with a Cargo of Tobc. . ."

On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war upon Great Britain for maritime aggressions including the impressment of American sailors. In return, the Britain ordered the blockade of American ports. In February 1813, Chesapeake and Delaware Bays were blockaded; in May 1813, New York Harbor, Long Island Sound, and New London. In September 1813, it was the Carolinas and Georgia. However, they remained open until April 1814 and explains why this letter was delivered to Boston for forwarding.

The Haxall brothers were important Virginia merchants. William arrived in Petersburg from England and by 1795 had established a trading company. He was soon joined soon by brothers Harry and Phillip. They opened the Petersburg [Flour] Mills and purchased the Ross Mill in Richmond. By 1830, the Haxall Mills were among the country's largest, using 30 enslaved workers to produce up to 45,000 barrels of flour annually, and making the family one of the wealthiest in the South. Josiah Cowper was a member of the Norfolk-based maritime family firm Cowper & Company, who, as one of its ship captains, sailed between Virginia, Europe, and the Caribbean.

(For more information see Walske's "Annals of the War of 1812: An Arduous Trip" in *The Chronicle of the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society* Vol 69 No 4, "Old Letters of the Revolution" in *The William and Mary Quarterly* Vol 12 No 1, Berry's "The Rise of Flour Milling in Richmond" in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol 78 No 4, and *Warrington v. United States*, 37 Ct. Cl. 303.)

Quite scarce. War of 1812 blockade run mail appears only infrequently in philatelic auctions, and of those letters do, few, like this example, sent anonymously and providing plans for evading the Royal Navy. None are currently for sale in the trade. The largest collection of approximately 65 War of 1812 blockade run letters was assembled by Steven Walske and sold at a Seigel auction in 2017.

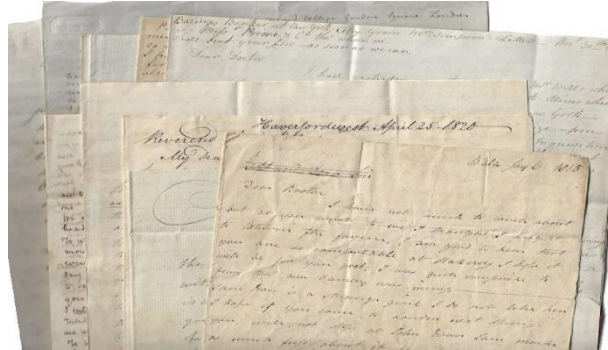
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Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**7. [BUSINESS – REAL ESTATE] [IMMIGRATION] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION] [SLAVERY – ABOLITION]
[WOMEN & GIRLS]**

1815-1849 – Archive of letters received by a minister and his wife who journeyed from England to New Bedford, Massachusetts to establish the city's Trinitarian Church

This fascinating archive of 12 letters containing 28 densely packed pages of text was saved by the Reverend James Austin Roberts and his wife Sarah Gilby Robert. Besides addressing religious matters, they are filled with insight into 19th century immigration law, westward expansion, social mores, family relationships, and concerns about health, illness, and death. They additionally provide glimpses into abolitionist thought, businesswomen, whaling, canal investments, and British politics. The letters bear a myriad of U.K. and U.S. postal markings. In nice shape. Transcripts will be provided.



Roberts was born in England and attended the Hackney Theological Seminary. Upon graduation, he was sent to serve in Ireland. Upon his return, he left the Anglican church and became a nonconformist minister in Warminster. In 1827, he married Sarah, the daughter of an influential physician, at his ancestral home in Wales. After the birth of a son, the family sailed for New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1832 where Roberts became the pastor of the new Trinitarian Church where he served until asking for a leave of absence in 1843 to be "released from the cares of the church." After spending time in the U.K. to include assisting a friend Thomas Jenkyns who was the President of Coward College, Roberts and his family returned to Massachusetts where he lived until 1872. A few tip-of-the-iceberg excerpts from his letters include:

1815 – Letter to Roberts at Hackney from his brother Lewis at Bala, Wales showing the concerns of a divinity student were not much different from other young men of the same age. "Jane Green is a strange girl I do not like her. . . . She seems very spitfell of you because you took so much notices of Mrs Owens Daughter. She said you was kissing her as sone as she went out off the room . . . that Jane as yet so long tongue, she . . . told Davis Chartles the doctor that you was Drunk, a pretty fellow said D Charles to be a Minister, and he would have beleave it only William told him it was not so. . . . I think Miss E Lloyd was very fond of you as she was always talking about you. . . ."

1818 – A letter of commiseration to Roberts in Salisbury, England from an associate regarding his pending assignment in Ireland. "I am sorry on your account, . . . however your honor is committed and . . . you must go. Perhaps your heavenley Father has some souls to be called in that Isle. . . ."

1820 – Letter to Roberts at Tralee, Kerry, Ireland from a vicar in Haverfordwest, Wales discussing his return from Ireland and two young women and their parents who see him as a possible catch. "Mr & Mrs Evans are continually talking about you [and ask me] to remind you that they shall expect you in August without fail [also] Mrs Warlow and family are quite well (you appear to be the reigning favorite with them) and are anxious to see you (Miss P. Warlow is quite well). . . ."

1825 – A letter to Roberts at Warminster, Wiltshire, England from Alicia Ann O'Connor at "Horrid=Wood" (Norwood), England reminiscing about Ireland and suggesting they meet. "Glad to find you propose Coming to London. . . . I quite long to hear [about] the good people of Hireland . . . which never fails to set me off in almost a laugh. . . ." (Norwood, the Great North Woods, was long the legendary

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

home of vindictive fairies, a hairy cave-dwelling hermit, and antler-headed Herme, perhaps this accounts for the sobriquet, Horrid Wood)

Circa 1830 – A letter to his wife, Sarah, at Clifton, Bristol, England from Roberts at Bala, Wales, describing a hiking journey with his nonconformist minister friend, Thomas Jenkyns. “This day has been a very fatiguing one and . . . I am more set for bed than for any thing else. But I cannot suffer another night to pass . . . without the assurance that my letter is on the way to my Dear Sarah. To write before, I could not – to occupied is been my time with climbing mountains, making way glens, viewing underwater falls & taking enough sketches of the scenery. . . I write now to say that I am tired of the mountains and of every thing else without you. . .”



1833 – A two-part letter from Sarah’s mother, Elina Gilby, in Bristol to both Robert’s and her daughter in New Bedford, Massachusetts containing her lawyer’s advice concerning U.S. immigration law along with questions and advice about their new home.

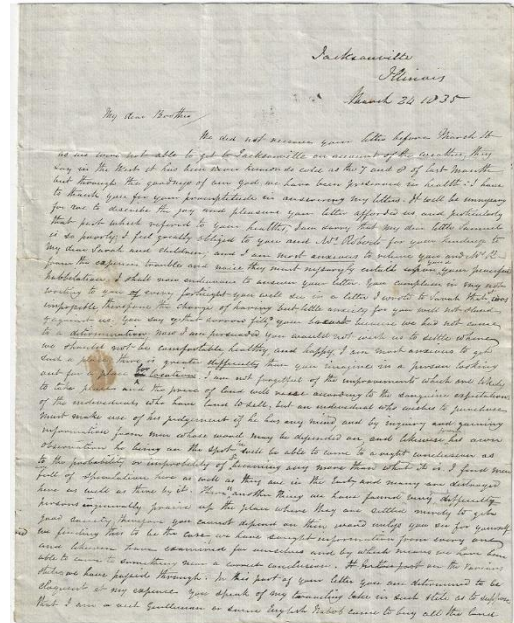
“Mr. Wills . . . gave me the perusal of the acts of Congress relating to aliens which he had lately received from. . . The Government may at any time seize upon Property purchased by an Alien . . . and [it] becomes the property of the State. . . Mr Wills informs me the usual way of getting over the difficulty is to have the purchase made in the name of a Citizen in whom you can rely. . . what ever you do now or hereafter look before you leap. . . Getting a Whale Ship or have a part in one it would be far better than buying a House. . . My poor Harriet has been confined for more than a month by Scarlet Fever. . . The great Lawrence (Sir William Lawrence, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of London and Serjeant Surgeon to the Queen) attended [which will] lighten Gilby’s purse. . . Jane Haverlock married a poor Lieut. in our Navy. [She now has] two lovely little Girls . . . they think of settling here if her poor man can get anything here to live upon. Jane’s Fr has now become a bankrupt so all of them will not have a penny. . . I mean to advise Mrs C. to go to you. it would be better than starving here. . . I am reading now Mrs Carmichael’s domestic manners of ye white, colour’d & Negro Population of the West Indies which all our M.P.s ought to [have] read before they had granted 20,000,000 [pounds to Caribbean planters in compensation for the forced emancipation their enslaved workers] when poor England wants it so much. . .”

1834 – Letter from Elina Gilby in Bristol, England to Sarah in New Bedford explaining she fired two worthless female servants and helped establish one as a real estate agent and housekeeper for a successful female landlord. “On the 8th of May last parted with Oliver & her Sister Jane – for the truth was simply this, we were keeping them much more for their benefit than for our own. . . To there great surprise as well as mortification I gave them notice. . . They are going to keep a grocer shop [however] since they were out of place I recommended Oliver to Mr Creah who is Agent for Mrs Brookes who owns 21 Houses [and she will now] be Mr Creah’s under Agent to look after and to shew them to whoever wishes to see or take them this is a famous good thing for Oliver being certain of 6S a week and if to clean a . . . house 2/6 besides wh makes her mightily well pleased. . .”

1835 – A letter to Roberts in New Bedford from his brother in Jacksonville, Illinois, who had recently immigrated to take advantage of inexpensive homesteads offered by the U.S. government. In this letter he offers lengthy descriptions (actually, disparagements) of several cities. “Cincinnati . . . is unhealthy and the water is not good. . . I have seen a number of persons from the state of Ohio and they invariable look sickly. . . Louisville is . . . full of Blacks and the people’s houses are like the streets. . . I have a great

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

objection to a Slave state. . . The people are dirty their houses are the same. . . Instead of the white population making the blacks fall into their habits they fall into the habits of the blacks . . . most of the inhabitants carry dirks in their pockets, . . . St. Louis is a good size City. . . The greater part of the Inhabitants are French and dutch; it is considered very sickly and the countenances of the people conforms it. There are a great number of slaves and it is a very ungodly city. . . Alton is certainly a rising thriving place [but] there is no good land [except] at an extravagant price, but it is a very sickly place, I am pleased with its appearance . . . but what is that if we cannot enjoy our health . . . Illinois River is beautiful [but] it must be very unhealthy as I understand it is covered with green weeds. . . [Here in Jacksonville] are some of the best people I have met. . . but there is no land to be had at Congress price [or] I should have been inclined to have bought. . .”



1837 – Letter to Sarah in New Bedford from her mother in Bristol expressing relief that she did not attempt to cross the Atlantic for a visit since she was so seriously ill that she likely would not have survived the voyage.

1839 – Letter to Sarah in New Bedford from her mother in Bristol bemoaning the current political crises in England and reporting their friends were moving to Australia. “I pity all those who are Radicals. . . If we have not soon some great Interposition of Providence poor England will soon go to the dogs. What with Birmingham & Newport Riots and the Chartists gathering all by the Aid of the present bad Ministry and that Vile Viscount Mal bone (as I call him) wicked Government we see at this moment not at all . . . to be envied and then our Doll of a Queen now going to marry a Boy her Cousin Albert Coburg we have not paid enough to his Uncle but we must now pay more to his Nephew. . .”

1847 – Letter to Sarah in New Bedford from Roberts at Coward College, London providing an account of his participation in a series of revivals and concluding to resign from his New Bedford church.

1849 – Letter to Roberts in care of the “President of Coward College” in London from an associate in New Bedford asking for a reminiscence to be include in a memory book to be printed in honor of his recently deceased daughter and expressing hope that the Roberts family will return to the United States.

(For more information, see “Trinitarian Church” in Ellis’s *History of New Bedford and its Vicinity*, Wheelock and others’ *History of the Churches of New Bedford*. . ., Ashley’s “Historical Address” in the *Semi-centennial anniversary of the Trinitarian Church of New Bedford*, “Coward College” at the UCL Bloomsbury Project website, The Coward Trust website, Eads’s “The Early History of Norwood” at the Norwood Society website, Gilbert’s *Mischief Acts*, and genealogical records at Ancestry.com.)

Scarce. At the time of listing there is nothing similar for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar has appeared at auction. OCLC notes two of Sarah’s diaries are held at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Bodleian Library holds a small collection of “Correspondence of the Rev. James Austin Roberts, his wife, and son.” Additionally, a letter from Robert’s advising President Lincoln that although English aristocrats and the economics of the cotton trade make it appear that the United Kingdom might support the South, the U.K. government “will not go contrary to the general feeling of the people and that feeling is for us: for the north, and as long as it is so we are safe in respect to that quarter.”

\$1,750 [#10065](#)

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8. [AFRICAN-AMERICANS] [SLAVERY – FUGITIVES]

1828 – Letter of introduction for a planter traveling from North Carolina to Virginia to retrieve a fugitive slave who was held in a Norfolk jail

This one-page stampless folded letter measures 16" x 10" unfolded. It is datelined "Richmond County N^oC June 27th 1828." The letter was sent from [Colonel] Stephen Wall of Richmond County to Dolph A. Davis in Fayetteville, North Carolina, introducing "Mr. George Thomas". It bears no postal markings as it was carried by Thomas. In nice shape.

The letter reads:

"This will be handed you by Mr George Thomas, with whom perhaps you have no acquaintance. Mr Thomas, Sir, is a Gentleman of the first respectability, his is on his way to Norfolk Va. Where he has a negroe fellow Lodged in Geoal, the circumstances of which you are somewhat acquainted, any assistance you can give to Mr Thomas in the case will be duly appreciated by me and kindly received by him. ..."

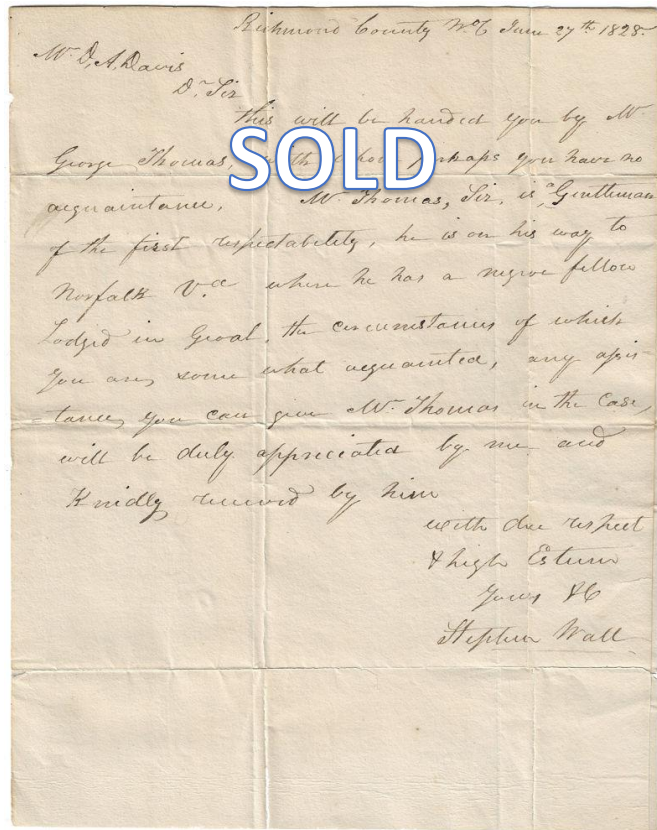
George Thomas was a Richmond County cotton planter who owned 17 enslaved workers according to the 1830 Census. Apparently one of his workers had been recovered after escaping or being stolen and was held in jail at Norfolk.

Colonel Stephen Wall, who held a commission in the state cavalry, was a cotton planter who also owned a fishery on the Pee Dee River. He fathered eight mulatto children with his enslaved workers and sent all of them to the "Harveysburg Negro School," which he helped found. All were emancipated when he died in 1845. The history of Wall's African-American descendants is told in Sharfstein's *The Invisible Line*; "The Walls were fixtures of the rising black middle class in post-Civil War Washington, D.C., only to give up everything they had fought for to become white at the dawn of the twentieth century."

Dolph A. Davis was an important Fayetteville cotton broker.

(For more information, see online genealogical records for Thomas, Hall, and Davis.)

SOLD #10066



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

9. [AFRICAN-AMERICANS] [PRINTS] [RACE- CARICATURES]

Circa 1833 – An exaggerated caricature of an African-American town-crier with four other caricatures (two white and two black) in the background

Summers, William (artist) and Charles Hunt (engraver). *Life in Philadelphia. A Crier Extraordinary*. London: W.H. Isaacs, [circa 1833]. Hand-colored aquatint. Approximately 7" x 9" (margins trimmed). Minor soiling. Four small pieces of scrapbook remnants on the reverse.

Life in Philadelphia was originally a series of 14 satirical cartoons drawn and engraved by Edward Williams Clay between 1828 and 1830. It was revised and reprinted several times between then and 1835. This print is from a London edition which contained 19 others.

This racist print depicts an African-American town crier wearing a straw hat, patched white pants, blue jacket, striped shirt, and red cravat as he rings a bell and cries out the news capturing the attention of two whites and two blacks who look on from the background. The caption contains five lines his cries,

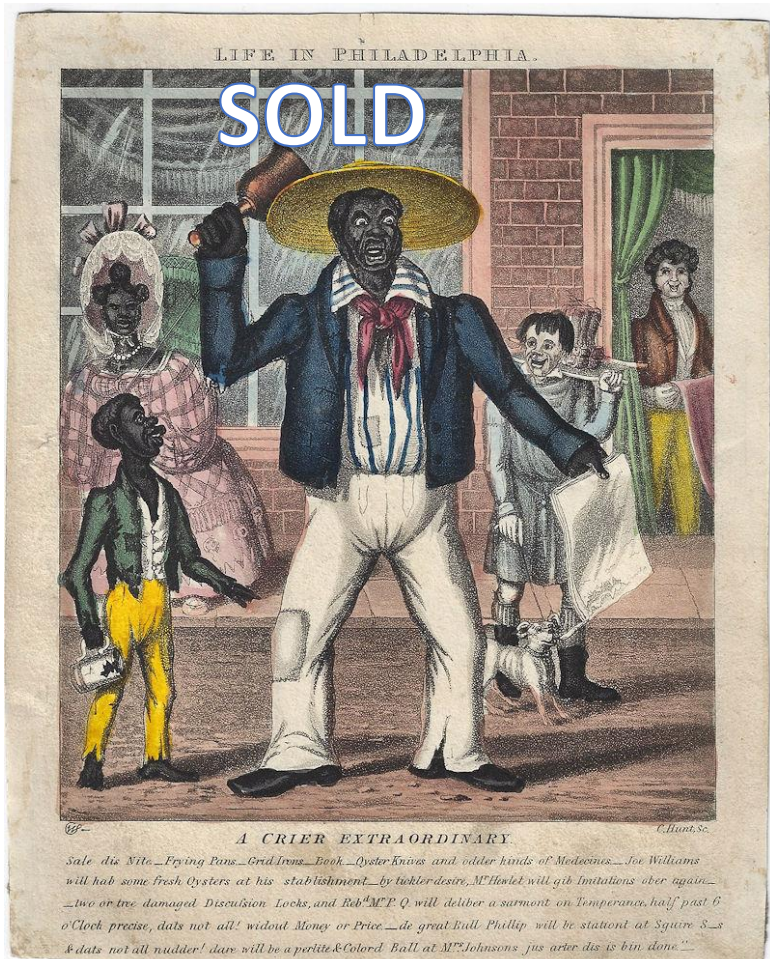
"Sale dis nite_Frying Pans_Grid

Irons_Book_Oyster Knives and odder kinds of Medicines_Joe Williams will hab some fresh oysters at his stablishment_by tickler design, Mr. Hewlet will gib Imitations ober again_two or tree damaged Discussion Locks, and Rebd. Mr. P.Q. will deliver a sarmont on Temperance, half past 6 o'Clock precise, dats not all! widout Money or Price _de great Bull Phillip will be station at Squire S__s & dats not all nudder! dare will be a perlite & Colored Ball at Mr. Johnsons jus arter dis is bin done"

Individual prints from *Life in Philadelphia* infrequently appear at auction or for sale in the trade.

Trimmed margin and light soiling so priced accordingly.

SOLD #10067



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

**10. [AFRICAN-AMERICANS] [AGRICULTURE – PLANTATIONS] [BUSINESS – COTTON & TOBACCO]
[MINING – CAROLINA GOLD] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY – PLANTATION LIFE]**

1835-1888 – An exceptional archive of letters and documents from the A. D. Alston plantation in North Carolina that also includes considerable material related to the famous nearby Portis Gold Mine

There are 115 letters and documents in this archive from Archibald Davis Alston's Saxham Hall Plantation in Warren County, North Carolina. Of special note are many items related to his enslaved workers, regional gold mining, freedmen labor contracting, and sharecropping. The documents are in nice shape with some minor soiling, wrinkling, wear, predation, and splits. Two of the documents have been mended on the reverse with archival tape. An inventory list with transcriptions of the most interesting items will be included.



The items related to enslaved workers include:

Three inventories of enslaved people living on Alston's plantation

"A List of Negroes hired out for the Year 1845 belonging to Elizabeth C. Alston" It includes the names of 17 hired-out slaves, the names of the individuals who hired them, and the revenue each transaction netted Elizabeth Alston. It also identifies five women with children for which no fees were collected.

An 1856 list containing the names and birth years of 63 enslaved workers; Several entries also include birth months and birthdays.

An undated inventory of 61 enslaved people living on the Alston Plantation, known as Saxham Hall, identifying 35 adults by name as either "Hands that Worked" or as "Hands that did not work". 27 workers were identified including three house servants and one blacksmith. There were eight named adults and 26 unnamed children that did not work.

An itemized settlement "for the Estate of Edgar M. Alston. . ." with entries from November 1849 to May 1851 that record payments including one for \$2,252 annotated "By this sum received of Mrs Sarah M Alston for the purchase of six Negroes namely Mariah and child Martha. Laura. Gus. Emma and Ellan due July 16th 1850"

A bill from an associate for "the work done by Jessey please to measure it up and send me the money by him and this shall be your receipt for the same as I have not hired him for the ensuing year you will oblige in in so doing / January the 1 1852 / A. J. Johnston"

Four overseer payment receipts issued for services performed between 1859 and 1861.

An 1860 receipt documenting the payment of \$19.64 to "the negroes belonging to the Estate of the PG. Alston decd for their crop of corn . . . bought for the use of the plantation."

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

Part of a page from an 1861-1862 ledger that contains 13 entries including three that read “division of negroes 66.66”, “cash paid B J Collier Overseer for year 1861”, and cash paid B J Collier overseer the year 1862. . .”

An 1863 slave-carried letter to “Cousin Baldy” that reads in part, “I send Mac up with a script for the cotton I sold you. . .”

Two Freedman Labor Contracts, one with Oscar Clements in 1872 and the other with Sol Alston in 1888. While all Freedman Labor Contracts are rare, these two are especially so as few were made after 1868, and it appears there are no extant post-1872 contracts. While it may seem draconian that the contracts specifically state no medical care was to be provided, this was a Freedman’s Bureau requirement to facilitate former slaves’ self-reliance. Both contracts are similar and read in part,

“This agreement made and entered into this day between A. D. Alston of Warren County of the first part and the Freed Man Oscar Clements/Sol Alston, whose name is hereunto subscribed of the second part. . . In consideration of the sum of One hundred dollars to him in hand paid at the end of the present year . . . the first party is to furnish Rations at the following rates . . . 1½ Pecks of Corn meal and three pounds of meat per week. In consideration of these presents the party of the second part binds himself to faithfully and diligently labor for the said A. D. Alston for the year . . . on his Plantation on time account . . . and he must be charged with the time lost. The first party is in no way responsible for medical attention. If he of the second part to this contract shall by disorderly conduct or other wise fail to comply with this contract the party of the first part shall have perfect right to discharge him . . . and no person shall be harbored on this Plantation without the permission of the party of the first part except the members of the family of the laborers who are dependant on them for support. . .”

An 1880 sharecropper’s promissory note from Edmond Alston, a freedman who had been one Alston’s slaves, pledging to deliver one thousand pounds of seed Cotton to A. D. Alston in return for a year’s rent.

Of the seven items related to North Carolina gold mining

One is a contract in which Alston and his partner sold the mineral rights to a gold mine for \$7,000

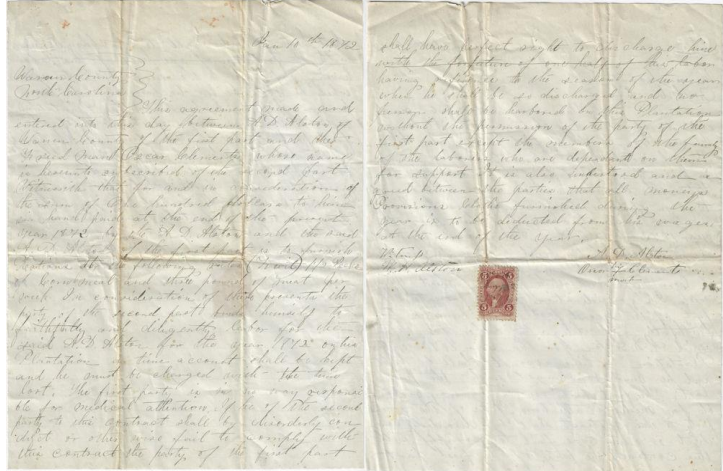
The other six are letters from Thomas G. Portis and relate to his family’s famous gold mine. This gold site was the first discovered in the Eastern Slate Belt and led to the first American gold rush after it was reported in the *Weekly Raleigh Register* on 10 November 1831: “A new Source of Gold. — In the land of a Mr. [John] Portis, in the vicinity of Ransom’s Bridge Post-Office . . . a very rich deposit of Gold has been discovered. . .”

Thomas’s letters reveal that he had become estranged from most of his family in 1835 after attempting to make improvements at the mine. He was “diabolically” ousted by two brothers, Elijah and Rix and “the old devil in female form,” apparently his mother. After moving to Alabama to avoid his “hereditary contamination,” Portis and settled in the state’s first capital, Cahawba. Soon after arriving, he began his correspondence with his friend, Alston, and after the mine was put up for questionably legal sale in 1850

Hands that worked	Hands that did not work
Martha & Betsy	May & Jenn & 2 children
Billy	Betsy & 3 children
Antony	
Cozy	Lige & 1 child
Harwood	
Tim	
Burton	
Booth	
Brittania	
Phineas	
Henry	
Amos & Mary	
William	
Jake & Smith	5 children
Endy	
Susanna	
Paul	
Telf	
William	
Barney	
Albert	
Cozy	
Jim & Billy	4 children
Antony	
Davy	
	Penelope & 1 child
	2 children

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

by its lawyer-manager, Thomas tried to convince Alston to buy it. That didn't happen; instead, the lawyer-manager established a corporation which bought the mine despite Portis's official "protest." The Portis Mine was purported to have produced between 3 to 7 million dollars in gold between 1831 and 1936 when it finally closed.



Other items in the archive address purchases of land, food, hardware, clothing, dry goods, building repair, guano, etc. There are also loan requests from friends and family, and several sales records for cotton and tobacco, the plantation's major crops.

Several post-war items suggest the plantation was teetering on the edge of fiscal survival.

In one, Alston is informed by commission merchants that the sale of his tobacco crop was almost a total failure, "The truth is that except for very desirable grades of Tobacco the market is very dull and prices very low, with no prospect that we can see of being any better soon."

In another, Alston signed what must have been a dangerous and particularly disheartening agreement in 1876 with one of his prior suppliers to raise money to "carry on his farm" for the remainder of the year. To obtain the funds, a line was placed on the plantation, its mules, 17 head of cattle, and its farming equipment. If Alston had been unable to pay off their loan in either cash or bales of cotton, the former suppliers would have been allowed to seize his property.

(For more information see, "Alston Mine" at mindat.org, "The Portis Gold Mine" at the Northeastern North Carolina Stories website, "Local Attorney Helped Develop Portis Gold Mine" at The Tar River Center for History and Culture website, "The Portis Goldmine" at portisfamily.com, the Portis Gold Mine website, the Archibald Davis Alston Papers at the University of North Carolina website, "Saxham Hall Plantation" at the Preservation Warrenton website, Savitt's "Politics in Medicine" in *The Kent State University Press* March 1982, "Freedmen's Bureau Labor Records" at The Freedmen's Bureau Online, and Alston and Portis genealogical records at Ancestry.com.)

This important and fascinating archive of an antebellum plantation that survived the Civil War and the subsequent post-war economic punishment imposed on the South by the Radical Republican Congress includes a treasure trove of original primary source material regarding plantation life, African-American genealogy, and the North Carolina gold mines.

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only a few comparable plantation archives have been sold at auction, and OCLC shows only a few comparable archives are held in institutional collections. A small collection titled the "Archibald Davis Alston Papers" is held at the University of North Carolina, but its finding aid suggests that the preponderance of materials relates to other family members. With regard to the Portis Gold Mine, there are no auction records listed at the Rare Book Hub. OCLC lists only three Portis Gold Mine original source items: the University of North Carolina holds a much later blueprint map of the mine made in the 1910s, and the University of Virginia holds a four-page mining engineer report and a four-page prospectus about the mine, both dated 1894.

SOLD #10068

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

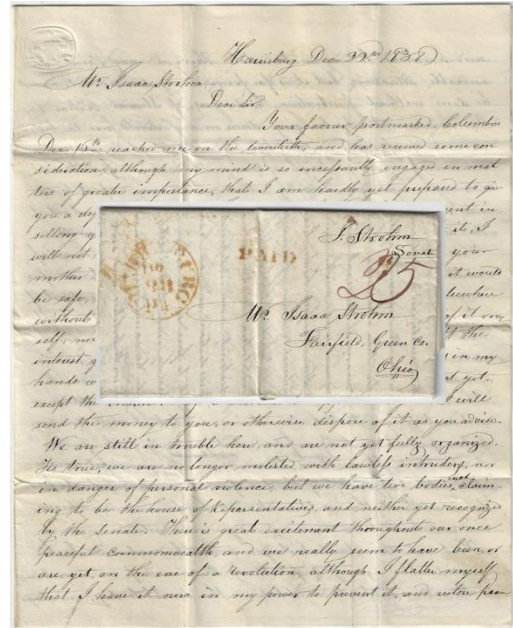
11. [POLITICS – CONTESTED ELECTIONS] [MILITARY – BUCKSHOT WAR] [PHILATELY]

1838 – Letter from a Whig state Senator whose vote against his party allowed Democrats to take control of the Pennsylvania's House of Representatives during the contested election of 1838 which, in turn, led to an armed standoff in streets of Harrisburg

This stampless folded letter, which was sent by John Strohm to a relative in Ohio, measures 15½" x 9¾". It is datelined "Harrisburg Dec 22nd 1838". It bears a circular Harrisburg, Pennsylvania postmark, a paid handstamp, and a manuscript 25 rate mark. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In it, Strohm described some of the events since both the Whigs and Democrats presented differing ballot tallies certified by partisan judges that would decide the control of the state's House of Representatives. The Whigs already controlled the Governorship and the Senate, so a victory in the House would have given them complete control of the state. Tempers ran hot, and violence appeared imminent.

"Tis true, we are no longer molested with lawless intruders, nor in danger of personal violence, but we have two bodies each claiming to be the house of Representatives. . . . There is great excitement . . . and we really seem to have been, or are yet, on the eve of a Revolution [but] I have it now in my power to prevent it. [However,] it cannot be done without frustrating the designs of Stevens, Ritner, & Burrowes, and thereby bringing down on my devoted head the bitter excoriations of those worthies [of my party], and what is still worse, the denouncing and contempt of many who were my friends, and whose good opinions I highly esteem. You may expect to see me branded as a coward and a traitor, although I went out of the door when some of the above went out the windows. . . . I have at length determined to sacrifice myself for the good of my Country. . . . Although [my constituents] may not appreciate my motives at first, perhaps they may in time. . . ."



Strohm's reference to Whig leaders fleeing out of windows is not fictional; three of them were forced to do so to escape assassination when a violent mob of Democrats invaded Senate Chamber with shouts of killing Penrose, Stevens and Burrowes. Fears of open conflict had merit, and after Democratic President Van Buren refused peacekeeping assistance from the Army that was requested under Article IV of the Constitution, the Governor armed between 1,000 members of the state militia with buckshot-loaded muskets to stem the riot in the streets outside the legislature, thus giving the crisis its name. Inside the legislature the Democrat mob remained in control. In the end, no one was injured as State Senator Strohm and two other Whigs voted with the Democrats in order to restore peace.

(For more information, see "Pennsylvania's Buckshot War of 1838" at the Pennsylvania Heritage website and "Letters of Honorable John Strohm" in Volume XXII of *Historical Papers and Addresses of the Lancaster County Historical Society* online)

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub reports no similar accounts have appeared at auction, although two militia copy books containing militia pay and administrative orders during this period sold in 2012. OCLC reports the Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds a diary describing the disorder.

\$300 [#10069](#)

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

12. [AFRICAN-AMERICANS] [BUSINESS – TRANSPORTATION] [FLORIDIANA] [TRANSPORTATION – STAGECOACH & RIVERBOAT]

1858-1885 – Collection of letters and way bills related to the stage and steamboat transportation system developed by the ‘father of Florida tourism’

Five items related to Hubbard L. Hart. Includes two letters sent to Hart and three partially printed Way-Bills from Hart’s Florida Stage Line that ran from Pilatka to Tampa with connecting steam boat service to Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, and Key West; one of the way bills contains a note to Hart.



1857 – “Way Bill. / Florida Stage Line / From Tampa To Starke Friday Nov 19th 1857”: It lists three passengers traveling to “Gain’sville”, Micanopy, and Starke, as well as two shipped items: a Carpet Bag

and a Cigar Box. It also indicates that along the “way,” the stage picked up a shipment of “five Negroes” from the town of Waldo. Lastly, the document is annotated along the bottom margin to show that the line’s office in Tampa had included a package of “cards” and a package of “Way Bills” for delivery to its office in Ocala. It also contains a note from the line’s manager in Tampa to Hart discussing horses and employees that reads, “Mr. Hart, Greys are doing a little better Jenny is very tenderfooted. Basks will not move to Tampa this week wants to hear from you first I will commence and leave Tampa in the Morning after Sunday that is leave Tampa Sunday Night and on Tuesday Stay till Monday. M. McCarty is dead. No other news Yours DBMF”

1858 – “Way-Bill. / Pilatka to Ocala, Friday Oct 29th 1858”: It lists 10 passengers, all traveling from Pilatka to 5 Mile House, Orange Spring, or Ocala, as well as two packages, two boxes, one case, one trunk, one watch, eight “Buchles” of something, two bags of apples, one bag of bread, and 100 oranges.

1858 – “Way-Bill. / Pilatka to Ocala, Sunday Oct 31st 1858”: It lists two passengers, one traveling to Orange Springs and one to Ocala. Shipments included assorted bags, boxes, packages, syrup, apples, sponges, and a gin roller. One of the passengers, William Spears, owned the Orange Springs Hotel, which Hart used as a stage stop. The 70-person hotel was built three years prior by John W. Pearson, a wealthy South Carolina planter, with hopes of establishing the small community as a tourist destination. An advertisement in the 24 March 1855 issue of the *Columbus, Georgia Times* boasted “This valuable property . . . is acknowledged to be one of the most favorable for Pulmonary invalids; while one of the finest Sulphur Springs in the Union attached to the hotel affords fine bathing, &c. for those laboring under other diseases. . . .”

1881 – “Rockledge Line / Indian River Steamers. / Capt. Joe H. Smith. Manager. / Sanford, Fla., Dec 23d 1855: The letter features an illustration of a sidewheeler steamboat. In this two-page letter, Captain Smith, who owned the Rockledge line in partnership with Hart, informed him that as Mr. Wood, a potential buyer of the company, was “enquiring about more details of the business,” he recommended selling the line,

“I do not have much idea [if] he will buy but I would like very much if he would . . . as I do not have much faith in this route when the Road is finished and the get boats on Indian River. . . . Do not need

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

any engineers at present. Sent the Waunita up to day and hope to get her out again by the 1st Jan or as near it possible. . . .”

1885 – “Debary – Baya and People’s Lines of Steamers. /E. C. Culepper, Agent, Sanford, Fla., Dec 7 1885”: The letterhead features an illustration of a sidewheeler riverboat. This line was not owned by Hart or Smith and operated on the St. John’s River and not the Indian River. In this letter to Col. H. L. Hart, C. D. Taylor (the captain of the Rockledge steamer *Tuskawilla*) reported that the *Astatula*, had reached Sanford, but apparently left “without bringing the mattresses that belong in the forward hold for the crew.” He also provides a list of other items left behind: “Colored Blanket / 2 Tin Pans 2 Carving Knives / 2 Large Iron Spoons 4 baking pans / 2 Tin Buckets.” The items had been removed from the boat when it was “laid up.” Taylor also requested, “Please have them sent up by first boat.”

Hart, a native of Vermont was a pioneer in developing Florida’s tourist industry. He first moved south in 1848 and there was awarded a contract to carry mail between Savannah and Darien, Georgia. In July of 1855, he moved to Palatka, a growing transportation hub where he opened a general store and began a forwarding, receiving, and commission business. He also purchased The Concord Stagecoach Line which ran along the Pilatka to Tampa Post Road that included a 100-mile segment of an even older military road which had run from Fort Brooke (Tampa) to Fort King (Ocala). At the time, he also won a Post Office Contract: “Florida Route No. 6804 from Pilatka to Tampa, 159 miles, twice a week; four horse coach to Ocala, two horse coach to Tampa. . .”

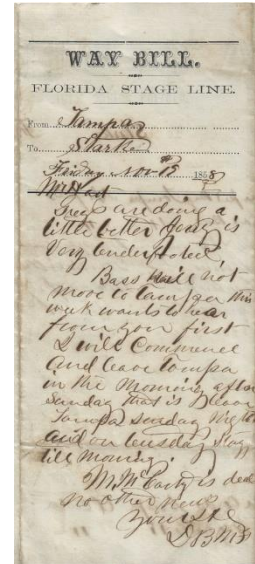
It’s said that while traveling along that route, Hart became enamored with the beauty, climate, and springs of the region, and realizing its potential to attract northern tourists and invalids, he acquired two river boats to provided easier access for visitors. Business boomed after the Civil War, and he soon owned several Ocklawaha River steamboats, a cypress lumbering business, orange groves, and one of the most fabulous manor houses in the South. In addition of providing simple transport of goods and people beyond the northeast corner of the state, some of his boat trips began with a stay at his Putnam House hotel in Palatka and included tours of his orange groves, opportunities to shoot alligators, and swimming in the Silver Springs. In 1882, he partnered with Joe H. Smith to enlarge and extend the line to run on the Indian River between Sanford and Lake Poinsett, the head of the St. Johns River. However, by 1895, their riverboat business, as predicted in Captain Smith’s letter, was eclipsed with the completion of the railroad from Enterprise to Titusville, and the Rockbridge Line shut down in 1886.

(For more information, see Lera’s Hubbard L. Hart’s *Influence on Stagecoach and Steamboat Travel and Commerce in Central Florida*, the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Orange Springs Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery available online, *The Florida State Gazetteer & Business Directory 1884-1885*, *Webb’s Sanford Directory 1887* available online, and Mueller’s *St. Johns River Steamboats*.)

An uncommon collection of Hubbard L. Hart material from his time as a pioneer in Florida’s early stagecoach business as well as his later years when his Ocklawaha and Indian River steamers dominated the state’s burgeoning transportation and tourism industries.

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports a group of bank statements sent to Hubbard has appeared at auction. OCLC reports a “small set” of business papers, photographs, and ephemera related to Hart’s business operations are held at the University of Florida, and an even smaller collection of Hart family papers related to is business operation in Georgia is held by the Georgia Historical Society.

SOLD #10070



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

13. [AUTOGRAPHS – CHARLES T. JAMES] [CALIFORNIANA] [CRIME – LAND FRAUD] [MINING – GOLD RUSH] [LAW – JUDICIAL LEGISLATION] [POLITICS – PRESIDENTIAL]

1859 – Letter on behalf of John C. Fremont forwarding an article from the *San Francisco Bulletin* defending his ownership of the Mariposa Ranch that was sent to the influential Washington DC journalist-politician, Francis P. Blair, from San Francisco by the poet-politician Colonel Charles James.

Both Blair and James had been free-soil Democrats who were instrumental in both forming the new Republican Party in 1856 and securing John C. Fremont to run for President on its ticket. Although, Fremont was not one of the major candidates to represent the Republicans in his hat was still in the ring, and this letter suggests that he, Blair, and James were preparing to defend against lingering political charges of fraud regarding his ownership of the most important California goldfield, the Mariposa Ranch.

James's letter is datelined "San Francisco / April 5th 1859 reads, "My Dear Sir / At the request of Col Fremont I send you the inclosed answer to the charge made at the Attorney Genl's Office of fraud in the Survey of his Mariposa Grant."

Its envelope is franked with a 10-cent green type 1 Washington stamp (Scott #31) tied to the cover by a circular New York city steamship receiving postmark. It is annotated "Uncle Sam" in the upper left corner indicating the name of the steamship that carried it out of San Francisco harbor.

The article is in two columns totaling about 29" in length, with an additional 5 ½" square map. It was cut into two pieces, perhaps to facilitate mailing. The article is titled "The other Side of the Mariposa Grant," and the map of Fremont's Rancho Mariposa is titled "Map Referred to in Col. Ransom's Letter." It was prepared by Fremont's Mariposa Attorney's "Shafter, Park & Heydenfeldt" and lays out ownership details in exceptional detail. An abbreviated excerpt from the article that leaves out the details due to space constraints reads:

"To the Editor of the Bulletin. . . . Col. Fremont and others . . . have hitherto refrained from publicly noticing these charges. . . . But lest this silence should be misconstrued we have thought it desirable to submit to the public [proof that] the present location of the Mariposas was established in conformity to the directions of the Supreme Court. . . . There has been . . . ever since the survey was made so much misrepresentation [although] "the Land Commission confirmed the claim [as] being the same land described in the grant and map filed in the office of the United States Surveyor General for California, No. 21, 1851. . . . The result of the final survey . . . formed a compact figure, and the lines corresponded with those of the public surveys. . . ."

In 1844, the Mexican Governor of Alte California granted ten square leagues of property (70 square miles at the time) along Mariposa Creek to one of his predecessors, Juan Bautista Alvarado. The terms of this "floating" grant allowed Alvarado to select his land anywhere within a much larger region within the boundaries set by the Sierra Nevada, Merced River, Cowchilla River, and San Joaquin River. Alvarado never finalized the location of this "floating claim" as Mexicans attempting to settle there were frequently attacked by the Miwok tribe. In 1847, Fremont, who was anxious to settle along the Pacific Ocean adjacent



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

to San Francisco, bought what he believed was such a property for \$3,000 from California land speculator, Thomas Larkin. To his chagrin, he later discovered he had purchased Alvarado's grant which was located far inland in the Yosemite region. He was unable to contest the sale, because at the time he was preoccupied fighting a charge of mutiny made by his military rival, Brigadier General Stephen Kearny in a ludicrous court-martial.

By the time Fremont's legal issue was behind him, the California Gold Rush was well underway, and he began to build a homestead on his grant with the hope of establishing lumbering operation. However, gold was found on his land which led to the discovery of a five-mile vein producing hundreds of pounds of placer gold each month. Overnight, Fremont became a very rich man. As he had no desire to run a mining operation himself, Fremont hired a team of San Francisco bankers to establish the Mariposa Mining Company to lease property to mining companies willing to do the hard work.

Unfortunately, because of the imprecision of Fremont's 'floating' grant, squatting prospectors began to lay claim to his land. Worse, large scale mining companies did as well. To fight the squatters, Fremont had his property surveyed, and it became clear that several mine complexes were located on his land. The situation reached a head when Biddle Boggs leased the property upon which the Merced Mining Company had illegally squatted. Merced took both men to court declaring that Fremont's survey was a fraud, and the original grant did not specifically include the property's mineral rights. After numerous court decisions and counter-decisions, in a travesty of justice, in January of 1858, the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Merced Company in one of the most egregiously acts of judicial legislation based upon Congressional mind-reading, stating "The defendant is occupying the premises simply and solely for mining purposes, under the general license of the Federal Government. It is true that there has been no express Act of Congress creating this license, but such seems to be its will."

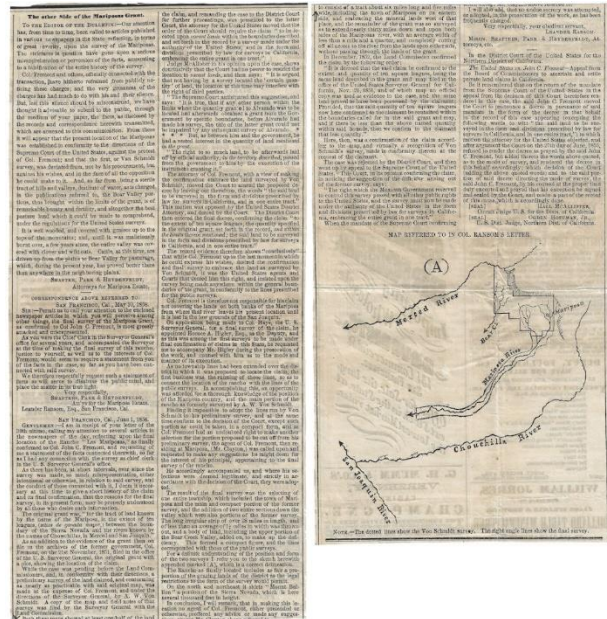
A request for a rehearing was granted, and it was during this time that Fremont provided Thomas and Blair with the article detailing his defense against fraud charges to prevent damage to his reputation and possible political future.

When the California Supreme Court revisited the case for the last time, it found in favor of Fremont after which the Merced Company and other squatters were finally forced to leave Rancho Las Mariposas.

(For more information, see Grossman's "John C. Fremont, Mariposa, and the Collision of Mexican and American Law" from *Selected Works of Lewis A. Grossman*, Kens's "John C. Fremont and The Biddle-Boggs Case: Property Rights versus Mining Rights in Early California" in the *Mining History Journal* Vol 5, R. H. Banks's "Forging a Republican Party" in *King of Louisiana*. . . , Harrington's "The Reception of the Frémont-Robinson Letter. . ." in *The New England Quarterly* Vol. 12 No. 3, Chamberlain's *The Call of Gold*, and "Colonel Charles James" in Raymond's *Poems by Charles James*.)

An important historical piece with connections to the California Gold Rush, the birth of the Republican Party, and the life of John C. Fremont. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the, has ever been offered at auction trade per the Rare Book Hub, or is apparently held by an institution per OCLC.

\$1,500 [#10089](#)



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

14. [BUSINESS – IRON] [SOCIAL MORES – CONSANGUINITY & COURTSHIP] [VIRGINIANA]

1859-1860 – Correspondence archive between one of the Forrer family who owned and operated the Shenandoah Iron Works and his cousin, Fannie, with whom he was head-over-heels in love.

There are 14 letters in this archive. 13 were written by Judah Forrer, who worked at his family's Shenandoah Iron Works near Luray in Page County, Virginia to his cousin, Frances "Fannie" Amanda Brumback, the daughter of a prosperous, non-slave-owning farmer, who owned land near Ida in the same county. While the letters identify Fannie and Judah as cousins, from online genealogical records; it does not appear that they were either first or second cousins. No mailing envelopes. In nice shape; one with splits along a mailing fold.



The letters reveal that Fannie and Judah first met in 1856 when they were 19 and 20 years old. Although attracted to each other, Fannie's parents objected to any romantic relationship although the reasons why are not clear. Perhaps they worried about the blood relationship, maybe they had an out falling with the Forrers, or possibly they just disliked Judah.

The most interesting non-romantic content in this collection deals with a calamity at the iron furnace.

"One of our hands By the name of Waters was instantly killed by the affects of gas, at the Furnace; I regret Sincerely the sad casualty that deprived him of life as he was a good man and generous hearted lad, and was the pride of his heartbroken Mother, whose husband made it her so by his disipation & prodigality, deeply do I feel for the heart-stricken mother. . ."

To which Fannie replied,

"That was indeed a sad accident, the death of that young man. What a shock for his poor Mother, and you my good Cousin I hope you will take warning and be careful, for remember your friends. . ."

The rest of the content details their 14-month long relationship beginning with Judah's initial salvo or reasons that Fannie should not doubt his love.

"On the 8th of August three long, long years ago, I had the pleasure of seeing you for the first time in my life and there it was that I experienced my first love, did I love then and have I loved through the long time that has intervned since? . . . Have I not persevered under the most discouraging circumstances. . . Let us review of which I speak. . . I met opposition from your parents. . . [You said] that we must meet only again as friends. . . our correspondence . . . came to a very sudden termination. . . You told me that you did not like to marry against your parents will [which] could not be obtained. . . I had but a slender hold on your affection [but] I have endured. . ."

Judah's letters are written with heartfelt emotion and eventually Fannie succumbed to her emotions and began to meet with Judah at the home of a mutual friend. As silly as it may sound, these letters create an aura of suspense as to whether Judah would succeed in wooing his cousin. He was clearly excited when she first declared her love, when they first shared a kiss, and when she convinced her parents to allow their relationship. When she accepted his marriage proposal, Judah was overjoyed.

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

The couple was married on November 8, 1860, less than a month after Fanny accepted his proposal, and they raised two children. During the Civil War, Judah served with the 43rd Virginia Cavalry Battalion, better known as Mosby's Rangers, and one source claims that Judah was "among Mosby's bravest men." Judah died young at the age of 39 in 1875. Fannie never remarried and died at in 1915 at the age of 78.

In 1836, the Forrer brothers purchased approximately 1,100 acres of land in the Shenandoah Valley and established an ironworks. They built a cold blast furnace, taking advantage of nearby deposits of limestone and ore as well as the surrounding forest for charcoal. Eventually, they built two more furnaces and added a forge, becoming an 'iron plantation' and one of the largest producers of pig iron in Virginia. A post office was even established at the site under the name of Shenandoah Iron Works. Other iron plantations were built in the valley, along the current route of Interstate 81, and all of them relied on slave labor to at least some degree, especially after the beginning of the Civil War when enlistments and conscription reduced the availability of white workers. Enslaved workers were used to mine the ore, make the charcoal, prepare the limestone, mix the ingredients, tap the furnaces, and form the pigs.

These valley iron works were critical to the Confederacy's ability to produce weapons throughout the war and by its end, almost all, save this one, had been burned by the Union army. One reference suggests that the Forrers' iron plantation was not burned because the Union commander operating in the area, was a Pennsylvania iron man and couldn't bring himself to destroy the complex.

The devaluation of Confederate currency following the war crippled the family's finances. The Forrers sold the iron works to a group of industrialists from Pennsylvania, and it continued to grow. By the 1880s, its monthly payroll was over \$35,000. In 1884, the complex was officially incorporated as a town, and renamed Milnes, in honor of one of the industrialists who had revived the business after the war. It was renamed Shenandoah in 1890. Although the iron works closed in 1907, the town continues on today.

(For more information, see Bruen's *Christian Forrer: The Clockmaker and his Descendants*, Ballard's *The Shenandoah Iron Works, 1836-1907*, "Forged In Print: The Shenandoah Iron Works' Riverside" at the Virginia Library's Uncommonwealth website, "History" at the Town of Shenandoah's website, Bonan's *The Edge of Mosby's Sword*. . ., "Judah Forrer" at the online American Civil War Research Database, "Shenandoah Valley's 'Iron Plantations'" at the Shenandoah Civil War History Blog, and online genealogical records.)

SOLD #10071

Shenandoah Iron Works Va January 15th 1860
My dear Fannie
Not unknown to you that I am
being vividly before my mind the image of her
who is dearer to me than all the world, and I believe that
you and I must be so long separated, we shall have a
world of work to do. My life is a struggle and
most painful, and I am and I shall want sympathy
most to love, and be loved, want a kind word accom-
panied with a smile to make the rough places of my
faring to seem smooth and to fill the waste places of
the heart with hope and gladness.
Without some object to cling
to, without something to attach the affections to, and find in
heart after, man would soon become a blank and
would become a perfect drone in the hive. There
as love is one of the most commendable attributes of man
Why not love with all your might and strength, for
thy own part. I am sure that I cannot love more than
where there is generally allowed man to do, and I hope that
the intercourse with the world and the hardships which
it is must undergo in any event, will not weaken the
attachment that we now have for each other. Give it to that
I am saying too much. Love Fannie - I have said too
much. Before upon it, I could not help it -
I have nothing of importance to communicate
One of our hands by the name of Malan was lately

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

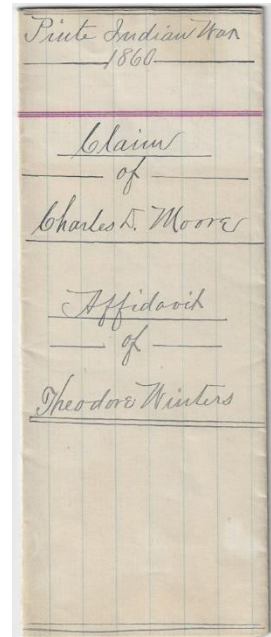
15. [MILITARY – PAIUTE WAR] [NATIVE AMERICANS – PAIUTE]

[1860] 1890 – Affidavit request made to a famous Washoe Valley rancher to verify an individual's claim of service during the Paiute War in the Utah Territory

This affidavit and letter of transmittal were sent to Theodore Winters of Washoe Valley, Nevada by an attorney, Thomas J. Tennant, in 1890 to verify "Charles D. Moore's Piute Indian War Claim" that was spurred by an attached newspaper clipping that announced the Nevada Secretary of State was convening a board on the 23rd of April offering individuals a chance (perhaps their last) of "proving up Piute Indian War and Indian Depredation Claims."

The transmittal letter, dated April 21, 1890, reads in part: "Inclosed find Affidavit relative to Charles M. Moore's Piute Indian War Claim, which if it meets with your approval, you will please sign, swear to, and if possible return to me in time for the meeting of the Board of Examiners. . . ." Recognizing that Winter would be unable to return a notarized affidavit in time, Tennant informed him that "the Board will accept your letter, if you can not send affidavit. . . ."

The affidavit, prepared by Tennant from information provided by Moore, reads in part: "Theodore Winters . . . was a resident of Washoe Valley, now in Washoe County, State of Nevada [and] at said time he knew one Charles D. Moore, [and that he] assisted said Charles D. Moore, in outfitting for said Campaign by furnishing him . . . with a saddle horse, [and that he] believes the Claim of said Charles D. Moore to be just and correct. . . ."



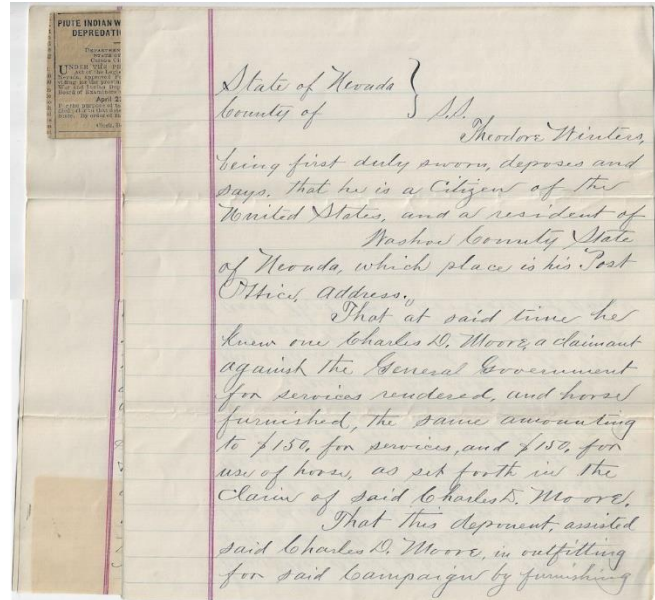
Since the affidavit remained unsigned in Winters's possession along with the transmittal letter, it is likely that he responded by sending a letter to the examination board.

Moore was undoubtedly a member of the Washoe Regiment that fought at the Second Battle of Pyramid Lake, and Theodore Winters had become wealthy running a freighting business and investing in real estate. By 1860, Winters was the most prosperous man in the region.

During the mid-1850s, the relationship between settlers and the Paiutes was cordial. Despite some tension, peace was kept, primarily through the efforts of the elderly Paiute leader, Winnemucca, also known as Captain Truckee, who was a longtime friend of white settlers, and had even enrolled family members in white schools. In 1857, he allied with a stagecoach agent, William Olmsby, and together established a force of about 20 settlers and 300 Paiutes to defend against raids by the Washoe people and Pit River Indians. Both sides also agreed to a no-vengeance pact; whenever whites or Paiutes were accused of theft or murder, there would be no revenge. Rather, accused individuals would stand trial. An easy peace continued until the discovery of the Comstock Lode which brought in thousands of miners and settlers who disrupted the Paiutes' way of life, especially by the wide-spread felling of Pinyon groves whose nuts provided a major component of their diet. Additionally, the Pony Express began to establish stations at water holes that had formerly been used exclusively by the tribe. In frustration, some Paiutes began to extort cattle from some settlers and murder others. Tensions rapidly increased following an especially bitter winter in 1859 during which many Paiutes starved despite being provided with free food supplies by the settlers which they refused to eat fearing they contained poison.

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

With the death of Chief Truckee in 1860, his successor, Numaga, renounced the no-vengeance pledge, and a settler, Dexter Demming, was murdered by a band of marauding Paiutes. Still, an uneasy peace continued until a group of Paiutes massacred and mutilated three to five white men (accounts vary) at Williams Station, a stop on the Pony Express route. Accounts also vary widely as to why that raid occurred. Some claim that it was simply a raid without cause by a band of renegades. One reports it was a deliberate attempt to provoke a war. Another suggests it was in retaliation for the stations staff's abuse of a Paiute man and rape of the woman who accompanied him. A fourth version, first offered by Captain Truckee's granddaughter in her 1880 autobiography, claims that the station crew kidnapped and raped two young Paiute girls. Interestingly, in a lengthy interview recorded at the same time by Myron Angel, one of the massacre's perpetrators never mentioned any Paiute girls being held captive or raped.



Regardless, when the news of the slaughter reached nearby white settlements, 105 men volunteered to "apprehend the perpetrators" and selected Olmsby to be their leader. Anticipating no resistance from the Paiutes, this 'militia' carried more whiskey on their campaign than firearms, and some accounts report that almost none of those firearms were rifles. When the disorganized posse encountered a handful of Paiutes near Pyramid Lake, the warriors fired upon them and fled. Olmstead led a charge in pursuit, following them into a ravine. Immediately, hundreds of Paiutes arose from the surrounding high ground and fired into the group, killing Olmstead and another 75 men on the spot; the rest of the command fled to safety. Reports suggest that only three Paiutes were killed in the battle.

A month later, a second campaign – the one in which Moore no doubt participated – kicked off. It was composed of a larger and better-led settler militia, known as the Washoe Regiment, augmented by a detachment of soldiers from Fort Alcatraz. This force of between 500 and 800 men found the Paiute war party near the first battle site and routed the warriors, killing about 120 (although some have reported considerably less) while only losing 3 men. Although at least one contemporary newspaper article judged the war to be "indecisive," the Paiutes ceased harassing the settlers and never returned to Pyramid Lake.

One lasting effect of the war was the dissolution of the Pony Express. Every station between California and the Great Salt Lake had been destroyed, their horses stolen, and many staff and riders killed. Replacement costs were estimated to be \$75,000, far more than the company could afford.

(For more information, see Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins's *Life Among the Paiutes*, Amgel's *The History of Nevada*. . ., "The Pyramid Lake War" at the National Park Service Pony Express website, Tapahe's "The Paiute War of 1860" at the Intermountain Histories website, and "Theodore Winters" at the Historical Society of Winters website.)

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing, there is no Paiute war original source material for sale in the trade. Rare Auction hub lists none as having ever appeared at auction. OCLC identifies none held by any institution.

\$950 [#10072](#)

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

16. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [POLITICS – PRESIDENTIAL]

1862 – A four-page letter from a Union soldier written on scarce colorful Magnus stationery describing the thousands of wounded and dead piled in the hospitals, churches, and along the roads following the horrendous Battle of Antietam

This letter is written on scarce, colorful bifold stationery sold by Charles Magnus during the civil war. It measures approximately 5" x 8½". The letter is datelined "Harpers Ferry Sept 28th 1862" and was sent by Private Peter King of the 130th Pennsylvania Volunteers, to his wife. The letterhead image features black images of President Lincoln and General McClellan inside frames colorfully supported by four Union soldiers carrying rifles and flags. A scroll below reads "Review of the Army." In nice shape with some minor soiling and internal mends with what appears to be archival tissue.

An astonishing account of the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam:

"I was left behind as a camp guard and of course owing to that fact, I was not in the battle. . . I must give you some account of our march to this place. . . We then first saw the miseries of war; Heavens what a sight! Our wounded fellow soldiers laying in the open air with no covering but the canopy of Heaven, wounded in all the different ways possible for men to be maimed, and scarcely any of them with their wounds dressed. . . Along the road we met many wounded soldiers, who had passed along the road from the battlefield, having no place to stop, when we passed through the Hospital we found it filled with sick and wounded soldiers. . . After we passed Frederic, we also found wounded soldiers along the road not being able to get in any place by hundreds; [At Middleton] we there found two large churches converted into Hospitals, yet their accommodations were short to keep all the invalids they were called on to accommodate. We started and still found hundreds of wounded soldiers along our road [when] we came to the hospital where a number of our wounded soldiers lay. Great God! Just to think what misery war will cause. Men whom only a few days before were hale harty men, now laying in a stable and some in barnyard on straw, maimed for life with not a single relative to sooth their aching heart. . ."

The Battle of Antietam was the single bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War. Combined, both forces suffered almost 23,000 casualties and the medical support for both sides was overwhelmed. General McClellan's army outnumbered General Lee's by two-to-one, however his indecisiveness prevented a resounding Union victory. Although it ended in a military draw, it was the first battle to show that the Union army could stand against the Confederates, and it gave President Lincoln an opportunity to issue the preliminary Emancipation at a moment of strength and not desperation.

Magnus's "Review of the Army" stationery are among the scarcest and most sought-after Civil War lettersheets. All depict Lincoln with one of his generals, and in this case, it's the general who would oppose him in the 1863 presidential election.

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(For more information, see "Antietam: Aspects of Medicine, Nursing and the Civil War" at the National Library of Medicine website and Milgram's "Federal Patriotic Stationery During the Civil War.")

A classic account of the enormity of death and suffering that followed the Battle of Antietam written on a very scare Civil War letter-sheet.

SOLD #10090



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

17. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR & PRISONERS] [VIRGINIANA]

1863 – Letter from a Confederate surgeon prisoner of war at the Union's Balfour General Hospital in Virginia thanking a relative who was serving as the Acting Surgeon General of the Union Army

This four-page letter, datelined "Balfour Hospt Portsmouth Va. / July 29th 1863", was written by Asst. Surgeon James C. Green, 5th Virginia Cavalry, to Dr. Joseph Rowe Smith, Acting Surgeon General of the U. S. Army. There is no mailing envelope. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In this allusion-filled letter, Green expresses his gratitude to Smith for his kindness in having him transferred from prison to the hospital at Portsmouth. The letter reads in part:

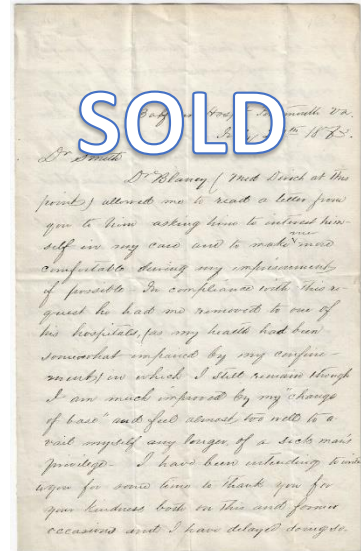
"I am much improved by my 'change of base' and feel almost too well to avail myself any longer of a sick man's privilege. I have been intending to write to you for some time to thank you for your kindness [However, I doubt that] a letter from me would have reached you owing oi the rigid inspection to which my correspondence was subjected by my non-commissioned custodian. The presiding Divinity of my Inferno who I verily believe looked upon writing as one of the Black Arts and myself as a resurrected Paracelsus. . . . Aside from the inconvenience attending such "durance vile" the fellow was really amusing. Thanks to the amusement this military Dogberry afforded me and the creative comforts which my fair friends in Norfolk were allowed to furnish me with I was enabled to pass the winter quite pleasantly. An order was received for bidding me such luxuries since which I have been gradually "wearing awa" until my fair proportions are considerable diminished. . . . I think I shall again be able to return to my Medical Confreres of whom there are seven confined in my quarters at the Fort and wait patiently for something to turn up as Mr William McCawber so happily expresses it. I see no prospects of an early release for myself but hope that it may be arranged in some way so that medical officers may not be held as prisoners for it follows as a necessary consequence that as long as the present state of affairs exist the wounded on both sides will suffer."

Dr. James Colquhoun Green, a native of Danville, Virginia who attended both the Universities of North Carolina and Virginia, was captured at Dumfries, Virginia, in December of 1862, after remaining behind to care for the wounded when his regiment moved on. He was imprisoned at Old Capital Prison in Washington where he developed a "debilitating" condition. With Smith's assistance, he was transferred as a prisoner-patient to Balfour General Hospital at Portsmouth. When his health improved, Green requested to return to prison, and was eventually exchanged for a Union surgeon after which he returned to his regiment.

Brigadier General Joseph Rowe Smith, Jr., a graduate of the Universities of Michigan and Buffalo, entered the army in 1854 and served in the Indian Wars. He became an assistant surgeon in 1861, the Acting Surgeon General 1863, and Surgeon General in 1865. Another recently sold Smith letter reveals that Green was related to his wife, so perhaps the transfer was not only based on professional courtesy.

(For more information, see entries for Green and Smith at both the American Civil War Research Database, the Find-a-Grave website, and Ancestry.com.)

An interesting letter demonstrating that although the Civil War did divide families, familial relationships could still run strong. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade or held by an institution. A companion letter from Green to Smith recently appeared at auction.



SOLD #10074

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

18. [PHLATELY] [SOCIAL MORES – COURTSHIP] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1864 – In a flirty letter, a young woman recovering from an illness in Missouri writes to a young man in Kentucky slyly fishing for compliments and suggesting he invite her to visit after she fully recovers

This four-page letter from “Mollie” in Glasgow, Missouri, to Dick [Richard P.] Baston in Rodgersville, Kentucky is dated January 25th, franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65), and postmarked on the 27th. The letter is in nice shape with a rough upper edge, and the envelope was used to pencil some mathematical computations. A transcript will be included.

Mollie’s letter reads in part:

“It has been sometime since I received your kind letter. . . . I was taken sick and do not sit up all day yet though I am improving very fast now. I have kept your letter in my pocket ever since I received it and read it I don’t know how often. . . .

“I laughed . . . where you spoke of Lizzy the last time I seen her she was very friendly I asked here when she had hird from you she said not since you left. But was talking a great deal about you. Is it posible that you have not writen to your darling? What ails you. I suppose you are enjoying your self finely with so many pretty girls. I don’t see how you can think of the Missouri girls or write to them either. I know you had a nice time travling in the ladies car. . . . Ma nor Pa will not even let me go to the door and look out [but] pick me out a nice eseechair I am coming to Ky some of these days. I don’t think though I could make any impression where there is so many lovely girls. . . .”

While Mollie’s background is unclear, we’ve encountered Richard Baston before (see our 23-2 catalog). He was the son of a slave-owning, but Unionist farmer from Glasgow, Missouri. Richard must have been an ardent Unionist because he had fled to Kentucky, fearing for his safety after being threatened by Clifton Holtzclaw, who along with William Quantrill, “Bloody Bill” Anderson, and their gangs of Confederate bushwhackers, terrorized civilians throughout Missouri who sided with the Union.

For its time, Mollie’s letter seems rather forward to me.

\$150 [#010040](#)



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

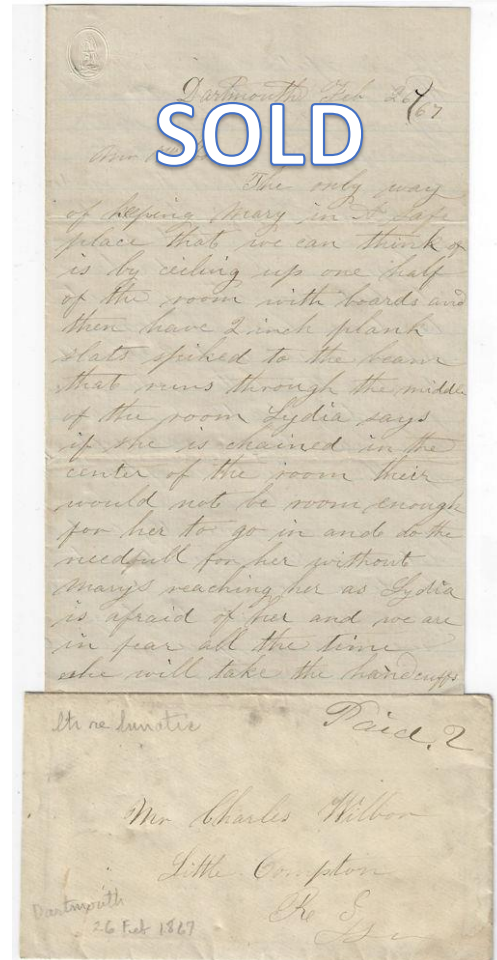
20. [MEDICINE & NURSING – INSANITY] [PHILATELY]

1867 – Heartrending but terrifying letter regarding an insane woman whose family is seeking a more humane way to protect her and themselves other than keeping her handcuffed inside a sealed room

This two-page letter from E. K. Swain of Dartmouth, Massachusetts to Charles Wilbor of Little Compton, Rhode Island is datelined "Dartmouth Feb 26 / 67". It bears a "Paid 2" manuscript "drop letter" rate mark indicating it was probably hand-carried the short distance from Dartmouth to Little Compton and left at the post office for Wilbor to pick up.

The letter reads in its entirety:

"Mr. Wilbor, The only way of keeping Mary in a safe place that we can think of is by ceiling up one half of the room with boards and then have 2 inch plank slats spiked to the beam that runs through the middle of the room. Lydia says if she is chained in the center of the room their would not be room enough for her to go in and do the needfull for her without Mary's reaching her as Lydia is afraid of her and we are in fear all the time she will take the handcuffs off in spite of everything that can be done by planking up with those thick slats through the centre of the room one half of the window would be clear so it could be opened. I don't know as you will understand it but something must be done here or somewhere else and I should prefer the latter. She is perfectly dreadfull when she has those ravings spells which is often. Please write as soon as you can conveniently and let us know what is to be done for living in such fear we cant do it--we want you should come over as soon as your health and traveling will admit as there is some things about it that I cannot write."



It is unclear why the family asked Charles Wilbor for advice, just as it is unclear to which Charles Wilbor it was addressed. Charles, Sr. was a prosperous farmer, and at the time his son, Charles Edwin Wilbour (he apparently changed the spelling) was a lawyer, author, and journalist (and later the most prominent American Egyptologist). Perhaps somebody in their family suffered from the same type of maniacal and violent rages.

Today the Wilbor House farmstead is a museum and serves as the headquarters for the Little Compton Historical Society.

The Swains were a prominent family in the Dartmouth-New Bedford region of Massachusetts. It is unclear how this branch of the family fits in with the others, making this letter an ideal candidate for further research.

A sad first-hand account of a mid-19th century family caring for a deranged and violent member in the only way they knew how.

SOLD #10076

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

21. [MILITARY – NAVAL OFFICERSHIP] [MARITIME]

1870 – Handwritten personal reference book used on his first voyage by a midshipman who had recently graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy

This 3¾" x 6" notebook was used by Midshipman H. M. Jacoby to create a personal reference manual for his first voyage. One flyleaf is annotated, "H. M. Jacoby. / Plymouth. Spezia, Italy." It contains approximately 140 manuscript pages written in ink of tables, forms, and reference notes with an additional 10 or so penciled pages of computations and sketches. Several of the ink tables contain pencil entries. In nice shape.

Jacoby was assigned to the USS *Plymouth* which departed New York on 12 July 1870 bound for the Mediterranean Sea. There, the vessel was selected by Rear Admiral Boogs to serve as the flagship of the European Station. The *Plymouth* cruised the Mediterranean for two years before heading to the African coast and the West Indies in February of 1872, before returning to the European coast until sailing for home in June of 1873.

Jacoby's notebook contains

Tables containing the names of crewmembers scheduled for Port and Starboard Forecastle, Foretop, Main-top, Mizzen-top, Afterguard, Hold, and Petty Officer Watches

Third Division Gun and Bright Work Assignments

Gun crew equipment and small arms lists

Gun station diagrams for casting off

General Fire Bill overview, stations, and duties

Instructions for bending and unbending all sails

Instructions for loosing sails

Instructions for making sail

Tacking and weaving guidance and notes

Instructions for shortening sail and coming to anchor

Instructions for furling sails

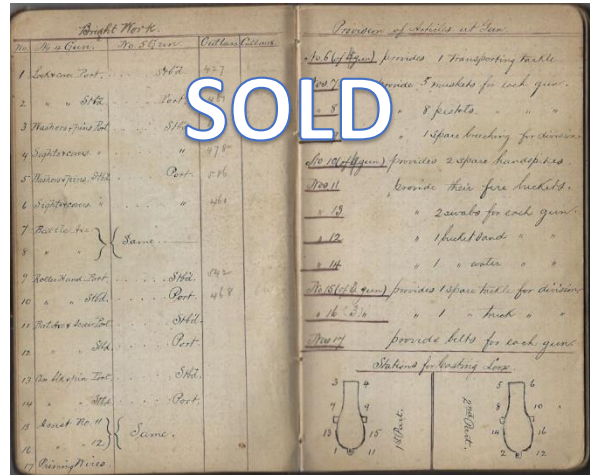
Instructions for clearing the ship for action

And much more.

Jacoby was subsequently promoted to Master (the grade just above Midshipman) and assigned to the USS *Wabash* and on to the USS *Yantic*, which operated in the Asiatic Station from 1873 to 1877, after which he transferred to shore duty with the Branch Hydrographic Office where he served until retiring as a Lieutenant in 1902.

(For more information, see various issues of the *Army and Navy Journal*.)

SOLD #10077



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

**22. [BUSINESS – TRANSPORTATION] [CALIFORNIANA] [TRANSPORTATION – STAGECOACH]
[PHOTOGRAPHY]**

Circa 1873-1876 – Large photograph picturing the exterior of the Louis Lichtenberger Carriage Manufactory in Los Angeles including its staff and line of carriages including a stagecoach for the Telegraph Stage Line

This photograph measures 9½" x 7½" and shows the exterior of the Lichtenberger carriage factor that was located at Main and First streets in Los Angeles. It appears to be a promotional photo as bright new teamless carriages, buggies, and a stagecoach are parked in front as employees pose in door fronts. The stagecoach is identified as belonging to the "Telegraph Stage Line, U.S.M."

To my untrained eye, it appears to be a carbon print photograph: it has no signs of fading, there are some very tiny 'cracks' in the dark areas, paper fibers are slightly visible under a binding layer, and the surface sheen falls between semi-gloss and matte.

It is in nice shape with several small (¾" or less), hard-to-see tears on the bottom edge.

The Telegraph Stage Line, along an old telegraph line through California's Central Valley, was founded by Amos Thomas. For four years between 1872 and 1876 it served as the only land transportation between Los Angeles and San Francisco over the Tejon Pass and was said to have reduced the traveling time from 58 to 23 hours. It used old Butterfield stage stops to refresh passengers and crew and replace horses. Six-horse teams were used to climb up to Tejon Pass. Contemporary advertisements indicate that it also served Sacramento, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Bakersfield, Havilah, Lone Pine, and Cerro Gordo.

Louis Lichtenberger was born in Prussia in 1835 and emigrated to Chicago where he served as an apprentice in the carriage and wagon making trade until 1860 when he relocated to California and opened his carriage factory, at first in partnership with another man. He retired from active business in 1886 as a wealthy man, in part from his business and in part from wise real estate investments. He was elected to the Los Angeles City Council and after serving one term was elected City Treasurer.

(For more information, see Robinson's "Crossing the Tehachapis" in the *Los Angeles Corral*, Summer 2001, "Rapid Transit, Circa 1872" at the San Diego History Seeker website, and Lichtenberger's obituary in the April 1892 edition of *The Hub*.)

At the time of listing, no similar photographs are available for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub lists no others having been listed at auction. OCLC shows another photograph made from the same negative is held by the Los Angeles Public Library, however an online image of it suggests that print from the negative does not match the quality of this one.

SOLD #10078



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

23. [CRIME – FORGERY] [ETHICS – CONSORTING] [LAW – ATTORNEYS] [VIRGINIANA]

1874-1875 – Four letters relating to charges against a Virginia politician and attorney that he was carrying on with a ‘loose woman’ and, more seriously had committed forgery

From the content of these letters, it seems quite likely that political opponents were attempting to besmirch Captain Richard S. Parks' name. The earliest is datelined "Chester Valley Pa / July 28th 74". In it, R. Y. Coffman explained to Parks that he was only joking about Parks of carrying on with a "loose woman" and it wasn't his fault that others used his joke to "spin thir yarns to suit themselves until the neighborhood [was] webd over with lies."

In nice shape. It reads in part,

"I recd you letter some time ago and the reason I did not reply sooner I have sickness in the family. [I] ws sorry to hear that such a report had been circulated about you and espesily that it started fromme as regards seeing the man & woman in question behind church is all true but I did not say positively it was you nor could I be qualified who the parties were as I did not see thir faces I could not identify them but I did tell Harvey the horse I saw hitched at or near the church looked like the same I saw you ride the same day at Graves old store house, but I told him this in a Joking way. . . . Harry told me he was going to tease the Capt. About it but I told him not to do so as I was not certain. . ."

The other three similar letters were written to associates in Page County, Virginia on July 20 and 21, 1875 using letterhead that reads, "Rich'd S. Parks, / Attorney at Law, / Luray VA". Two of the letters have their associated mailing envelopes which were probably hand delivered as they bear no postal markings. All address his arrest on charges of forgery, which he strongly denied. All are in nice shape. They read,

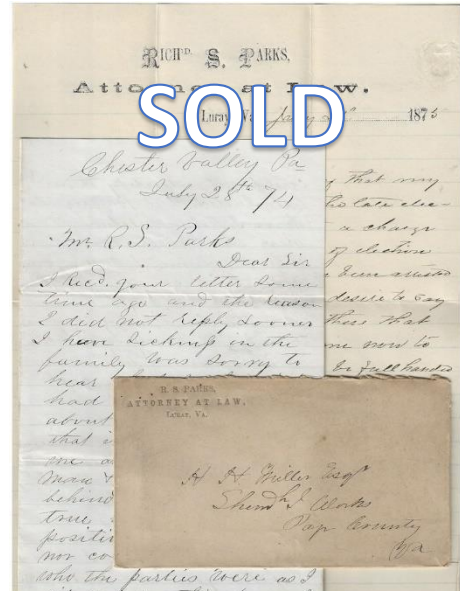
"Dr. Sir – Knowing that my friends who supported me in the late election fee anxious in reference to a charge brought against me on the day of the election and in reference to which I have been arrested by U. S. authorities Since, I desire to say to you and through you to others that while it is not prudent for me now to disclose my defense, I shall be full handed at the proper time with unimpeachable testimony not to to protect myself but fully to establish my innocence. My enemies think they have me but they will find out their mistake. I did not commence this war but I propose to fight it out. . ."

During the Civil War Parks served as the commander of the Page Volunteers (later known as Co. K, 10th Virginia Infantry) until he was severely wounded at the Battle of McDowell. So, it's quite possible that the odds were stacked against him in the Reconstruction era federal court where the trial was held. It may also have been that his election opponent or accusers were scallywags or carpetbaggers. Regardless, Pars was found guilty of forging a signature on a document that was introduced in a bankruptcy hearing and jailed in Harrisonburg until he was soon pardoned by President Grant.

Neither of these incidents affected Parks' career. He retained his law license and later served multiple terms as a Commonwealth Attorney, three terms as a state representative, and one term as a state senator.

(For more information, see "Capt Richard Stewart Parks" at the Find-A-Grave website and *United States Circuit Court, at Richmond, May 20th, 1876. Ex Parte Richard S. Parks*, available online.)

SOLD #10079



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

24. [ASIAN-AMERICANS] [BUSINESS – BANKING] [CALIFORNIANA] [CRIME – BANK FRAUD] [JUDAICA]

1875 – Three documents relating to bank drafts written to a Chinese man by the Jewish owners of the most prominent bank in Montana that were refused payment in San Francisco when the most important bank in the west, the Bank of California, failed as the result of its president's felonious fraud

The three documents are all in nice shape. They are:

A two-page "State of California / City & County of San Francisco" partially printed "Public Instrument of Protest," dated August 28, 1875. The document reads in part:

"Quong Sing Tie Kee . . . did between the hours of 2 o'clock P.M. and 3 o'clock P.M. of said day, present the said original drafts at the Counter of the Bank of California in this City, and then and there demanded payment thereof from the Paying Teller of said Bank, which he refused, the Bank being closed, and payment suspended. . . ."

Two notarized claims against "L. H. Hershfield Bros / Helena Montana" filed by Quong Sing Tie Kee, both dated August 28, 1875. One is for "Five hundred Dollars . . . in Gold Coin" and the other "Two hundred & fifteen <215> Dollars . . . in Gold Coin."

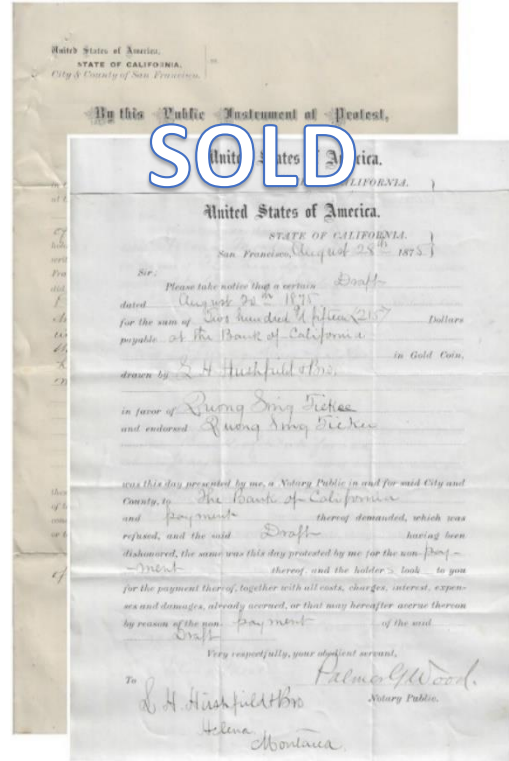
While not specified, it appears that Quong Sing Tie Kee was a San Francisco merchant who had done business with L. H. Hirshfield & Brother of Helena, Montana.

The Hirshfield brothers, Aaron and Lewis, were the preeminent bankers in Montana. The Jewish Museum of the West notes that Lewis Hershfield was among the most prominent, successful Jews in the American West

"In the early 1860s, Lewis Hershfield journeyed with a team of oxen from Leavenworth, Kansas to Central City, Colorado. In Colorado, Hershfield collected 26 wagons full of dry goods. He drove this collection of goods through Colorado and Utah and settled in Virginia City, Montana in 1864. He found success among the miners of Virginia City. In addition to his dry goods store, he established a bank, storing gold as well as exchanging gold dust for money. During the 1870s, Lewis Hershfield moved his bank to the mining boom town of Helena, Montana."

The *Montana Blue Book* of 1891 adds, "His brother Aaron was admitted as a partner in the business in 1868," until he initiated what became a sensational combination of divorce trail (driven by his Jewish relatives who wanted his marriage to a Catholic woman annulled) and a simultaneous investigation for check fraud. In his defense Aaron claimed that the stress of his divorce diminished his ability to make rational decisions, which, in turn, provided a legal excuse for his kiting bad checks. The court did not agree.

The Bank of California opened for business in 1864, with Darius Ogden Mills as president and William Chapman Ralston as its cashier. It grew and expanded rapidly through dealings with other San Francisco bankers and through unethical, but legal, machinations, it earned enormous profits by providing loans to Comstock Lode miners on terms that would almost certainly end with default. When that occurred, the bank pounced and with its vast wealth was able to control industry and commerce in San Francisco and



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

Virginia City. On the morning of August 26, 1875, the San Francisco morning papers reported that a rival group of silver investors had withdrawn two million dollars in gold coin from the Bank of California at the same time the bank spent an additional four million dollars on a speculative investment in grain. As word spread, a crowd began to gather at the bank, and by 11 a.m. withdrawals were noticeably brisk. By 1 p.m. the panic had begun, and the lobby was soon jammed, and before 2 p.m. a shoulder-to-shoulder crowd surrounded the bank clamoring to be let in, and when the bank ran out of gold coins at 2:30 p.m. it locked the doors. That afternoon, per the *Sacramento Daily Union*, Ralston answered questions from reporters.

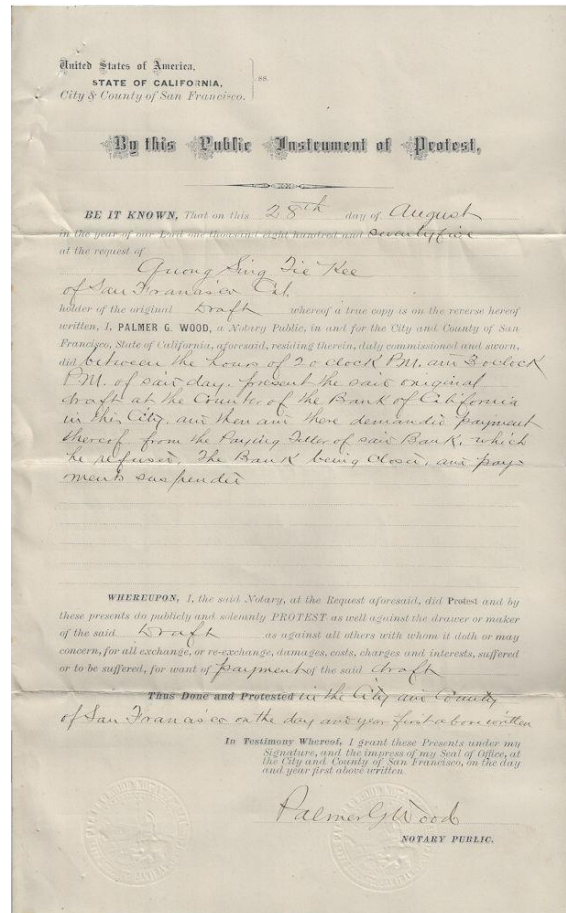
"Question – 'Will you resume in the morning?' / Answer – 'No, sir.' / Q. – 'How soon will you resume?' / A. – 'We will not resume.' / Q. – 'Not at all?' / A. – 'No, sir. Not at all.'"

The next morning Ralston met with the bank's board of directors (some of whom may have known what he was doing) and was fired. After the meeting Ralston, who enjoyed long swims walked into the ocean and swam toward Alcatraz. A witness saw him floundering after he was too far from shore to be saved. Officially his cause of death was listed as a stroke, but many believe it was suicide. The bank remained closed, until October while Ralston's "Ring" of cronies reorganized and raised capital to reopen. During that time, they discovered (although some sources suggest some members knew what was happening) that Ralston had embezzled nearly \$5 million dollars, which is equivalent to about \$135 million today. No depositors, other than those that left the bank with coins in hand on the afternoon of the 27th of August, are known to have recouped anything from the bank.

(For more information, see "Lewis Hershfield: Early Jewish Pioneer Merchant & Banker of Helena, Montana" at the Jewish Museum of the West website, *Montana Blue Book* of 1891, "History Professor Mallory Szymanski examines limits of 'neurasthentic defense'" in the 27 October 2022 edition of the *Albert University News* (online), Brechin's "Bank of California and William Ralston" at the FoundSF website, Lilly's "Ralston's Ruin" in *The System of the River*. . . at the Stanford University website, and "Failure of the Bank of California" in the August 27 edition of the *Sacramento Daily Union*.)

Rare first-hand documentation of the California Bank Failure from the time that it occurred, made even more intriguing by the connection to a Chinese merchant and the most important bank in Montana, which was owned by the most prominent Jews in the West. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Nothing similar has ever appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC lists nothing similar as held by an institution, although the California Historical Society holds two telegrams sent between August 26 and 28, reporting the bank's collapse.

SOLD #10080



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

25. [AFRICAN-AMERICANS] [DUELING] [EDUCATION – NORTH CAROLINA]

1878 – Letter from a governor's son to his mother reporting a belligerent professor at the University of North Carolina who brawled with one associate and challenged another to a duel

This letter from R. (Reuben) D. Reid, son of Governor David S. Reid, to his mother who was managing the family hotel in Reidsville is datelined "Chapel Hill N.C. / Sept 25th 1878". No envelope. In nice shape.

In his letter Ruben reports:

"It seems that our Baptist brother, Prof. Redd is getting to be quite a fighting character. He had a fight with Prof Graves about an air pump and Prof Winston made some remark about Redd whereupon he challenged Winston for a duel, he did not accept, consequently I anticipate no further difficulty. . ."

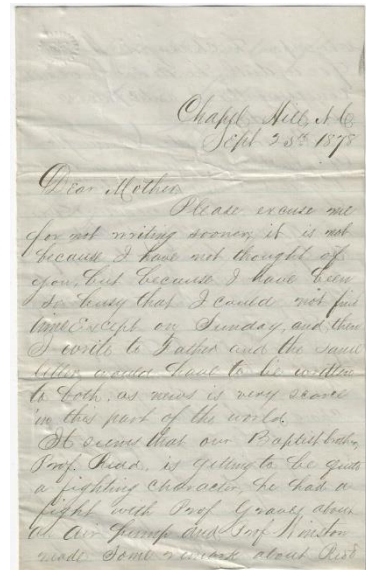
Three recently discovered items (an alumni speech by Francis D. Winston printed in a 1904 issue of the *Daily Tar Heel*, and two student cartoons) shed more light on the incident. When the university reopened following the Civil War, the few remaining pieces of scientific equipment were coveted by both the Physics and Chemistry departments. One item, a dilapidated 1850s air pump, was the flashpoint for Redd's behavior. An unnamed Physics professor laid first claim to the pump and took it to his office. While away, Chemistry Professor Alexander Fletcher Redd found the pump and directed the school's "servant" (Wilson Caldwell, formerly an enslaved worker owned by the university president) to take it to his office. Caldwell was intercepted by Physics Professor Ralph Henry Graves who seized the pump and, in turn, was violently challenged by Redd, the pair becoming "'mighty near fighting' with chemistry worsted" according to the alumni account or, more likely, blows as described in this letter and depicted in one of the cartoons, in which Redd shouts, "I'll be damned if you shall!"

Interestingly, the alumni speechifier apparently did not mention Professor George Tayloe Winston's refusal to accept Redd's dueling challenge; perhaps because he was Winston's younger brother. The time-honored Southern tradition of responding to an insult with a gentlemanly challenge of a duel was made illegal in North Carolina in 1802. However, dueling continued unabated for years. Although the last recorded fatal duel in the state occurred in 1856, challenges—most of which were ignored or rejected—continued to be issued until as late as 1885.

Reuben also notes in his letter that "My room mate . . . left last week, he was a good boy and I was sorry to see him leave. I am rooming by myself now and find that I am forced to study to keep from getting homesick. . . I was glad to hear from Father's last letter that Mr. Patterson was going to take charge of the hotel. I imagine it will be good company for you. . . Thanks to you for the manner in which you mended my clothes, packed my trunk and did various other kindness while at home."

(For more information, see "Dueling" at the North Carolina History Project website, "Wilson Caldwell (1841-1898)" at The Carolina Story website, "The Scientific Revolution as Cock Fight" and "A Cartoon Mystery Solved" both at the UNC Archives "For the Record" blogsite, *Register of the Officers and Faculty of the University of North Carolina 1795-1945* Electronic Edition, and online genealogical records.)

Unique. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade or has ever appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and other than the article and cartoons, nothing related is held by an institution.



\$350 [#10081](#)

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

26. [HOLIDAYS – CHRISTMAS] [PHILATELY] [SOCIAL MORES – BRAGGING]

1885 – A diminutive letter from an obnoxious boy in New York City to a girl in Selma, Alabama, bragging about the many wonderful Christmas presents he had received

This two-page “child-sized” letter measures 4¼” x 5½” and is datelined “New York / Jan 5th 1880”. It was sent by Ellis Barker to Lucia M. Weaver, probably his cousin. The mailing envelope measures 3½” x 2”. In nice shape.

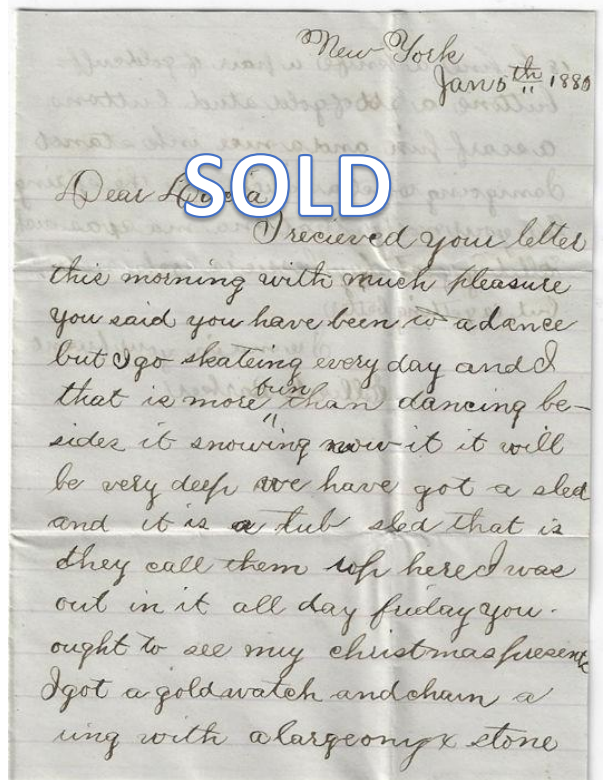
It reads in part,

“You said you have been to a dance but I go skating every day and & that is more fun than dancing besides it snowing now it will be very deep we have got a sled and it is a tub sled that is what they call them up here I was out in it all day Friday you ought to see my christmas presents I got a gold watch and chain a ring with a large onyx stone 18 k fine a knife a pair of gold cuff buttons a set of gold stud buttons a scarf ? and a nice ink stand I am going to get a bicicle in the spring tell you mother that ma ma was sick all day yesterday. . .”

An obnoxious little brat, wasn't he?

Lucia Minter Weaver, who was fourteen when she received this letter, was the sister of the important Alabama artist, Clara Minter Weaver Parrish, who excelled working with a wide range of media, but is best remembered for the magnificent stained-glass windows she designed for Louis Comfort Tiffany and several churches in Alabama.

SOLD #10082



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

27. [BUSINESS – FIRE APPARATUS] [FIREFIGHTING] [PHILATELY]

1886 – Advertising packet from a firefighting equipment company responding to a request from Virginia City, Montana Territory

This package of advertising materials (illustrated mailing envelope, sales letter, and catalog cuts of fire apparatus) was sent on March 26, 1886, by the E. B. Preston & Company of Chicago to the S. R. Buford & Company of Virginia City, Montana Territory.

The mailing envelope features illustrations of firefighting equipment on both sides. In nice shape; the envelope has some discoloration along its left edge.

The sales letter reads in part: “We mail you today a sample of our 1½ inch Fabric Fire Hose, Rubber Lined, which is the best and most durable Cotton hose in the market. This hose we will sell you coupled complete in 50 ft. lengths with the patent automatic screw couplings, at 35 cents, net, per foot. In hose carts we make several different styles. We enclose cut with our description of our regular Fire Department hand hose cart . . . \$80.00 net [and] our Portable hose reel which we make for hotels, factories, yards, etc. . . .”

One cut features an illustration of the company’s “Warehouse Portable Hose Reel” with pricing information and a description on the reverse.

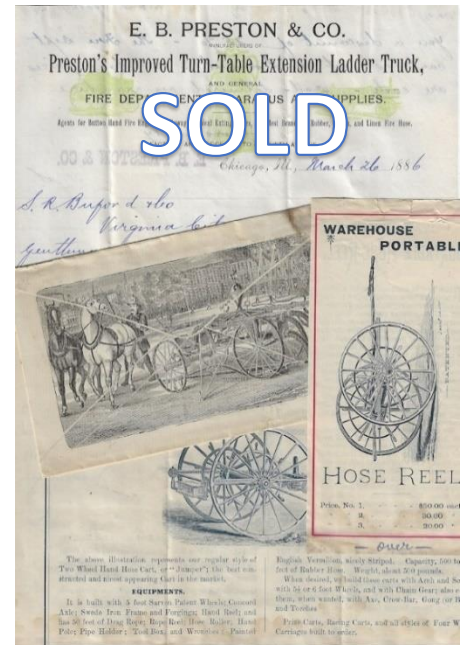
An additional cut features an illustration and description of the company’s “Village Hand Hook and Ladder Truck No. 4” on one side and its “Village Hand Hose Cart” on the reverse.

Virginia City sprang up in the early 1860s almost overnight when gold was discovered in Montana’s Alder Gulch, and thousands of miners flocked to the area. By 1865, it had become the territory’s capital. Simeon R. Buford opened the region’s largest grocery store in 1878 and became the supply point for most of southwestern Montana including Butte City.

The E. B. Preston & Company was one of Chicago’s first rubber goods manufacturers. It was established following the Civil War by a former Union Army officer from Connecticut, and by the time of this letter had expanded to include fire-fighting equipment featuring the use of its superior hoses. By 1887, its successor firm, W. D. Allen & Company, which became one of largest American industrial suppliers expanded the product line to include leather belting, sprockets, elevators, steam and water fittings, radiators, other hardware, and a high-quality line of lawn sprinklers. In time, it became one of the largest industrial suppliers in the country.

(For more information, see “W. D. Allen MFG Co.” at the online Made in Chicago Museum, “S.R. Buford & Company” at Historic Montana website, and “Historic Buildings of Virginia City” at the Montana State Library’s History Portal.)

At the time of listing, there were no similar advertising packets for firefighting apparatus for sale in the trade. Illustrated firefighting advertising envelopes occasionally appear on eBay and at philatelic auction, usually without contents; a similar advertising envelope to this one without the illustrated advertisement for hose carts and a hook and ladder sold at a Kelleher auction in 2018. OCLC shows no holdings related to the E. B. Preston company. Some soiling so priced accordingly.



\$150 (On Hold)

[#10083](#)

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

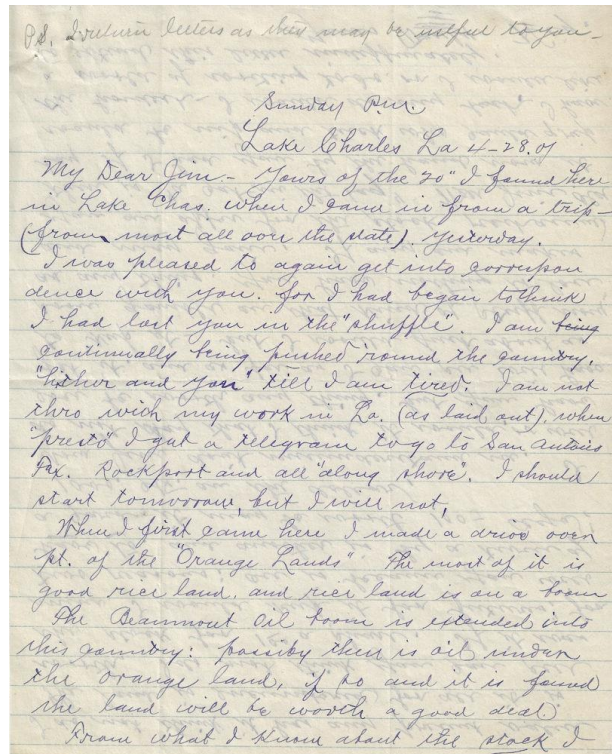
28. [AGRICULTURE – ORANGES] [BUSINESS – OIL]

1907 – Letter to the owner of land in Louisiana advising him to hold on to some worthless orange-grove property as an oil deposit may have been underneath

This two-page letter from Hig to Jim is datelined “Lake Charles La 4-28,07”. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In the letter, Hig (possibly a traveling salesman) advises his old friend Jim to hold on to stock he owns controlling some property in Louisiana’s “Orange Land”.

“When I first came here I made a drive over pt. of the ‘Orange Lands.’ The most of it is good rice land, and rice land is on a boom. The Beaumont Oil boom is extended into this country: possibly there is oil under the orange land, if so and it is found the land will be worth a good deal. From what I know . . . I do not think it has any present value. The land is encumbered for all it is worth. I do not think you can sell the stock for 1.00 a share. If it was mine I would keep it for ‘futures’, for two reasons: one is because you will have to, and another is by a turn of a card it may be worth 100 – Aya! 1000. etc. on the dollar.



pt. of Louisiana letters as this may be useful to you.
Sunday Rev.
Lake Charles La 4-28,07
My Dear Jim - Yours of the 20th I found here
in Lake Chas. when I came in from a trip -
(from most all over the state). Yesterday.
I was pleased to again get into correspon-
dence with you. for I had begun to think
I had lost you in the "shuffle". I am being
continually being pushed round the sundry,
"other and far" till I am tired. I am not
thru with my work in La. (as laid out), when
"first" I got a telegram to go to San Antonio
Px. Rockport and all along shore. I should
start tomorrow, but I will not.
When I first came here I made a drive over
pt. of the "Orange Lands". The most of it is
good rice land, and rice land is on a boom.
The Beaumont Oil boom is extended into
this country: possibly there is oil under
the orange land, if so and it is found
the land will be worth a good deal.
Draw what I know about the stock I

Now Jim don’t misunderstand me. I do not say that I think it . . . will ever be worth any thing, but you have got I, and as far as I can see will have to keep it, but I would just about as soon gamble on the kind of stuff now as any thing. You have nothing to lose and may gain. If any one makes you an offer for [it.] there is ‘a cat in that bag.’ . . .”

At the time, the number of commercial orange groves was relatively small as satsuma cultivars had not yet been introduced. “The small groves of orange trees, scattered all over Southern Louisiana . . . on numerous bayous and lakes in and near the sea marsh, five, ten, twenty, or fifty in a grove, and individual trees planted near dwelling houses, cannot be summed up . . . with any accuracy. . . The home consumption of oranges that never reach the market is immense. [and] there is orange land enough . . . to supply the whole Mississippi Valley with oranges. [but] most of the sea marsh of Louisiana [would need to be] leveed and drained, as the lands of the Netherlands have been reclaimed. . .”

If Jim held onto his land just a little longer, he probably became a very rich man, far richer than Hig imagined possible. The first oil strike in Louisiana occurred in 1901 at a rice field in Jennings, and in 1905 more than six million barrels from under the rice fields at the Jennings site with a value of almost \$4.5 million dollars (the equivalent of over \$150 million dollars today) and the boom was on as individuals and companies searched for more in the Louisiana orange lands.

(For more information, see Dennett’s *Louisiana as It Is*. . ., Spiers’s History of Gulf Coast Citrus in *HortScience* June 2017, “First Oil Well in Louisiana” and “History of Oil & Gas in Louisiana. . .” at the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources website,)

\$100 [#10084](#)

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

29. [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS] [MARITIME] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR 1] [PACIFISM]

1915 – A sash worn by pacifists during Henry Ford's anti-war cruise on the "peace ship." *Oscar II*, which sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey to Europe in an unsuccessful attempt to stop World War I

This narrow black silk sash is embroidered "Oscar II" in yellow-gilt thread which is centered between emblems featuring U.S. and Norwegian flags. The band has been folded and tacked together with black thread to facilitate display. It is accompanied by letter of transmittal from its original owner, Edgar Tremlett Fell, donating it to the original Luray Museum in Virginia that operated between 1938 and 1960. The band is in nice shape with a little wear and fading. The letter is toned with a few pin holes.

The donation letter reads in part:

"This band was given out to me on the Peace Ship at one of the large dinners. It was carried by me during the whole trip and worn at banquets in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany & Holland. We used to wear them across our dress shirt fronts. . ."



Fell's memory may have faded slightly, for there is no records of the ship visiting Germany.

The Oscar II was a passenger ship belonging to the Scandinavian-American Line that was chartered by the famous automobile manufacturer Henry Ford to transport his private peace mission to war-torn Europe. Ford invited the most prominent pacifists of the day including William Jennings Bryan, Thomas Edison, Jane Addams, and John Wannamaker; all refused to participate. Worse, President Wilson refused to endorse the voyage. Onboard dissention among Wilson supporters and detractors began before the ship (which was mocked in the press as the "Ship of Fools" and the "Good Ship Nutty") ever departed Hoboken, and participants broke into factions that never did agree on a united position and plan. At its first port of call in Oslo, the group was all but rebuffed by a visibly hostile Norwegian government. At that point, Ford abandoned ship, returning to the United States, perhaps because he had come down with the flu, or possibly because he saw the project would fail. Yet, the voyage continued amid scorn and rejection. Senator Chauncy DePew best summed up the world's opinion of the project, ""In uselessness and absurdity it will stand without an equal".

Interestingly, Fell changed his tune following the voyage. He accepted a commission and during World War I served as a captain in the 7th Division. Subsequently, he remained in the reserves and served in a London staff job during World War II. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery and his gravestone indicates he retired as a colonel and had been awarded the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and a Bronze Star Medal.

(For more information see the 2018 University Companies item description which indicates this sash and letter was purchased by Gene H. Baber, a Virginia collector, when the Luray Museum sold its collection in 1960. See also, Watts's *The People's Tycoon: Henry Ford and the American Century*.)

Rather scarce. At the time of listing, no Peace Ship material is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows that band and letter appeared at auction in 2018. OCLC shows there are several collections of Peace Ship materials held at about a half-dozen institutions and Henry Fords papers are at the Library of Congress, Swarthmore's Peace Collection, and the Chicago History Museum. It is unknown if any contain one of the ceremonial sashes.

SOLD #10085

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

30. [ENTERTAINMENT – BROADWAY] [DANCE – BLACKBOTTOM] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1926 – A deluxe souvenir program for George White's Scandals of 1926, one of the most famous iterations of follies and scandals shows produced in the 1920s and 1930s, which started the *Black Bottom* dance craze that took the world by storm

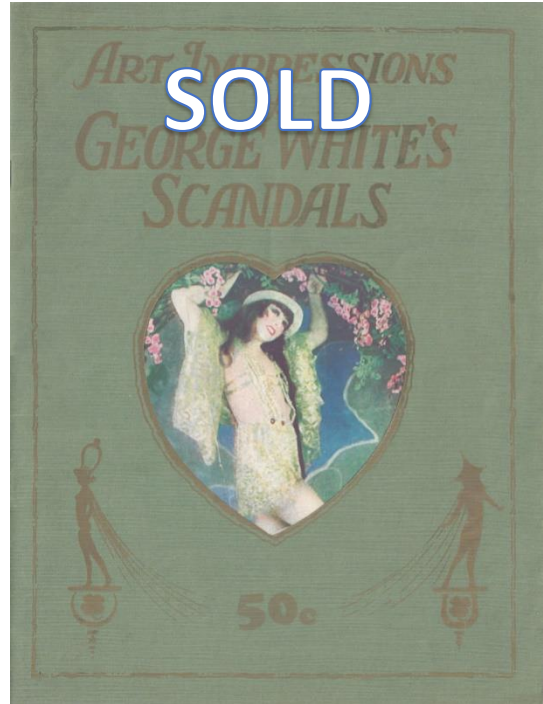
Art Impressions of George White's Scandals. Eighth Annual Edition. New York: Palace Publishing Co., Inc., [1926]. Chromolithographed cover bound within a thick, die-cut grey-green wrapper with gold lettering. In nice shape with a thin, near invisible 3" cut to the front cover that has left a corresponding darkened line on the first page of text.

There are 32 pages filled with b/w images of the show's female stars. Some are portraits and some from stage scenes. Women appear bare-breasted or in transparent costumes in ten of the pictures. Two images of two featured production numbers are in color, *The Birth of the Blues* (a double-page spread" and *Tweet Tweet*. Many of the images include unattributed scenery and costume designs by the famed Erte.

A separate two-page spread is dedicated to the *Black Bottom* production number that began a dance craze that made the world forget about the *Charleston*. One page shows the dancing chorus on stage performing the dance. The other contains an eight-image instructional sequence featuring the number's star, Ann Pennington, showing HOW the *Black Bottom* was danced.

"Ann Pennington Struts a New Step / A Dance Up From the Levee – 'The Black Bottom'"

1. "High Yaller / The Black Bottom takes its name from the muddy flats of the Mississippi. . .
2. "A New Twister / A characteristic twirl [which] turns in a dizzy whirl. . .
3. "Raggedy Trot / The pony sprint [spotlighting] ubiquitous knees. . .
4. "Bon-Bon Buddy / Let'er Rip . . . hold it as you squirm like the high-brown girl and her buddy on the Swanee. . .
5. "Clap Hands / For the Black Bottom made Nordic . . . calls for dancing hands and dancing eyes [and] abandon that ripples from the very tip of every figure. . .
6. "Down Baby / The stepper bobs up and down like the tides of the river where the dance began. . .
7. "Exaggerate it / Kick out and bend your knee . . . Start those shuffling feat. . .



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

8. "Step Out / The glide of the wriggling eels and the worm that crawls along the black bottom of the river. . ."

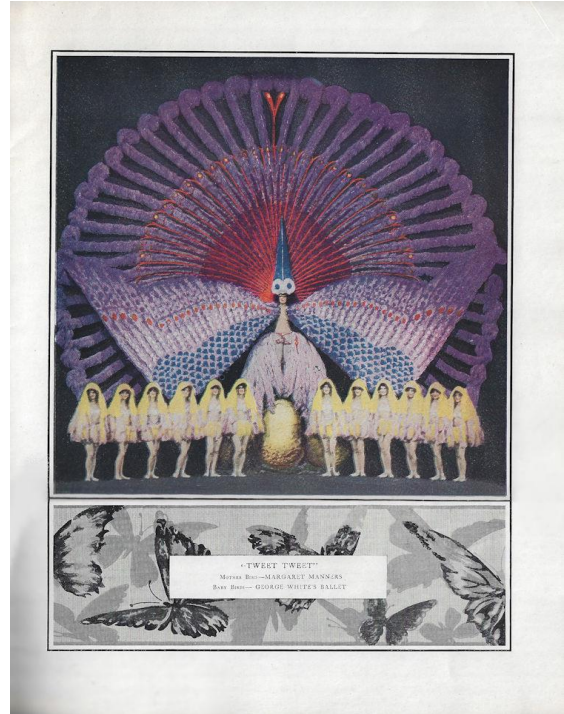
The show was held at the Apollo Theater (on 42nd Street, not in the one in Harlem), and the standard program contained advertisements just like modern Playbill; this souvenir program is much larger, filled with images, and ad free.

The origin of the Black Bottom melody and dance steps is murky. Some sources claim they were originated by Ma Rainey, Alberta Hunter, Jelly Roll Morton, Edith Wilson, and others; however, their versions of the Black Bottoms bear no resemblance to the one performed in George White's Scandals. A more likely predecessor was composed by another African-American musician, Perry Bradford. George White is said to have bought its rights from Bradford after seeing it performed in a Harlem nightclub, after which it was so extensively rewritten for the Scandals by the famous tin pan alley trio of De Sylva, Brown, and Henderson, that one can only detect traces of Bradford's piece. It was this upbeat Scandals' foxtrot version, made famous through its recording by Johnny Hamp's Kentucky Serenaders that the world knows today as *The Black Bottom*. The same show produced another smash hit for the trio that remains an American standard, *The Birth of the Blues*.

(For more information, see RCA Victor Recording 20101-B *Black Bottom – Foxtrot*, *Donald's Encyclopedia of Popular Music* online, "1920 – Blackbottom and Charleston" at the Dancetime Publications website, "Black Bottom & Other Scandals" at the New Yorker State of Mind website, "Black Bottom" at Sonny Watson's StreetSwing.com, and "The Black Bottom" at the Mass Historia website.)

Rather scarce. At the time of listing no other examples are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, although a half-dozen or so in varying conditions have been sold on eBay. OCLC identifies only one institutional holding.

SOLD #10087



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

31. [BUSINESS – PUBLISHING & TYCOONS] [CALIFORNIANA] [ENTERTAINMENT – BROADWAY & FILM] [MILITARY & WAR – WORLD WAR II]

1940 – A letter from a junior Army officer describing his stay as a guest of William Randolph Hearst and Marion Davies at the magnificent *La Cuesta Encantada* in San Simeon, California

This five-page letter from a junior artillery officer, named Paul, to his sister, Bobbe, is datelined "San Luis Obispo // 4/12/40". There is no mailing envelope. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

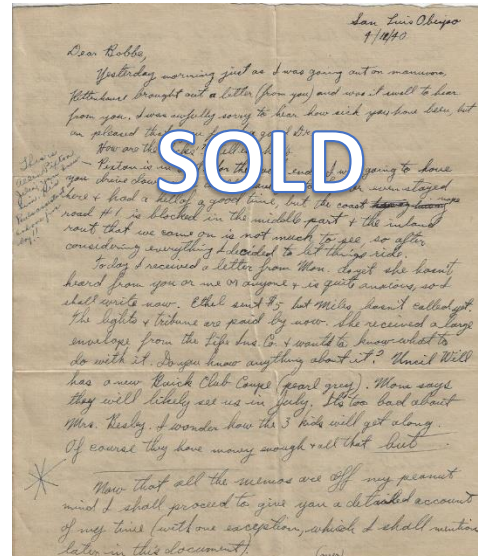
The letter provides no explanation as to why Paul was invited to Hearst Castle, although it contains clues suggesting he was assigned to one of two very recently established training sites in anticipation of World War Two, Camp San Luis Obispo or Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation on Castle ranch land Hearst just sold to the army to raise cash. Regardless, the letter provides fascinating details of the couple and their hospitality as well as the mansion and grounds, even as Hearst's creditors were nipping at his heels. It reads in part.

"After we got to San Simeon a man met us, phoned ahead & then sent us on, . . . thru heards of all kinds of wild animals from all over the world . . . When we arrived we . . . walked to a large Pateo [and were] escorted us to one of the little, (the size of the largest house at home) Spanish guest house . . . full of ancient rooms and modern baths etc. In the living room were gobs of lovely vases & wood carvings in chests etc., beautiful tapastries & silver antiques. After were all freshened up & had strolled thru the garden & around the outside swimming pool [we were] escorted to the Castle [and] introduced to Marion Davies [who] told us to make ourselves at home & showed us around. . . This is where we met Mr. Hurst. I mentioned what a beautiful pool she had & right [then] she made arrangements for a swim. While the suits were being placed in the dressing rooms we played pool & smoked 50c cigars. After the swim we were served beer . . . imported from Munich [and] the best Scotch & sodas I have ever had. . . Lunch was announced & we went to the hugh dining hall & were served bufett style at the long ancient table. Marion . . . served the meat . . . I have never seen so many kinds of cheese in my life & they just kept bringing [us things.] Ask for what you want, and they had it too. We couldn't stump'em. While we were eating Mr. Hurst received two direct wires about the Bremen [which had just been destroyed]. He took it kind of hard. After dinner we [enjoyed] a show in the most perfect theater. . . Marion in "Operator # 13.". . . I didn't see it at all, as I spent about half of the time lighting Marion's cigarettes. Two puffs & they are gone. . . After the show we had Burbon & soda . . . & discussed history & current events as well as wise-cracking. . . Marion has a very cute horse race game. . . It consists of a board with 5 popular horses names. . . We had a great time. . . I believe they get a little lonely up there."

An astonishing visit that differs little, apart from its duration, from those of Calvin Coolidge, Howard Hughes, the Barrymores, Cary Grant, Great Garbo, or scores of celebrity guests.

An uncommon first-hand account from an unusual guest whose Army connection is worthy of further research. At the time of listing no similar items by guests are for sale in the trade. Neither have any appeared at auction or are held by institutions. The Rare Book Hub shows San Simeon fiscal documents have appeared at auction, and OCLC shows institutions hold collections related to the Castle grounds and architecture. The University of California at Berkeley holds Hearst's papers.

SOLD #10086

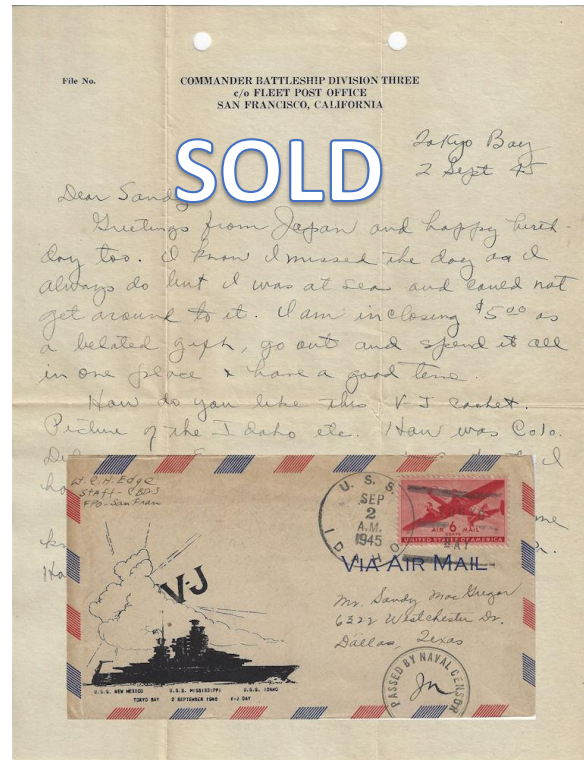


Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

32. [MARITIME] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR II] [PHILATELY]

1945 – Birthday letter sent from a sailor aboard the U.S.S. Idaho on the day the Japan surrendered ending World War Two

This unintentional military and philatelic souvenir documents the surrender of Imperial Japan to representatives of the nine Allied Nations at Tokyo Bay ending World War Two. Includes a belated birthday letter on stationery of the "Commander Battleship Division Three" sent by Lieutenant R. H. Edge from the battleship U.S.S. Idaho to Mr. Sandy MacGregor of Dallas, Texas as well as its mailing envelope. The envelope is franked with a 6-cent airmail stamp (Scott #C25) and was sent from Tokyo Bay where the Idaho was anchored during the surrender ceremony. It is canceled with a ship's postmark that reads "U.S.S./Sep/2/A.M./1945/Idaho". The return address reads "Lt. R. H. Edge/Staff-CBD-2/FPO-San Fran" A circular "Naval Censor" handstamp is in the lower right corner. The envelope features an illustration of an American battleship surmounted by the initials "V-J" ("Victory over Japan"); it is captioned "U.S.S. New Mexico U.S.S. Mississippi U.S.S. Idaho / Tokyo Bay 2 September 1945 V-J Day." Both items are in nice shape.



The letter reads in part:

"Greetings from Japan and happy birthday too. I know I missed the day as I always do but I was at sea and could not get around to it. I am inclosing \$5.00 as a belated gift, go out and spend it all in one place & have a good time. / How do you like the V-J cachet picture of the Idaho etc. . ."

A short article, titled "V-J Day Letters From Tokyo Bay Received here" from an unidentified publication included in an eBay auction for a similar cover stated:

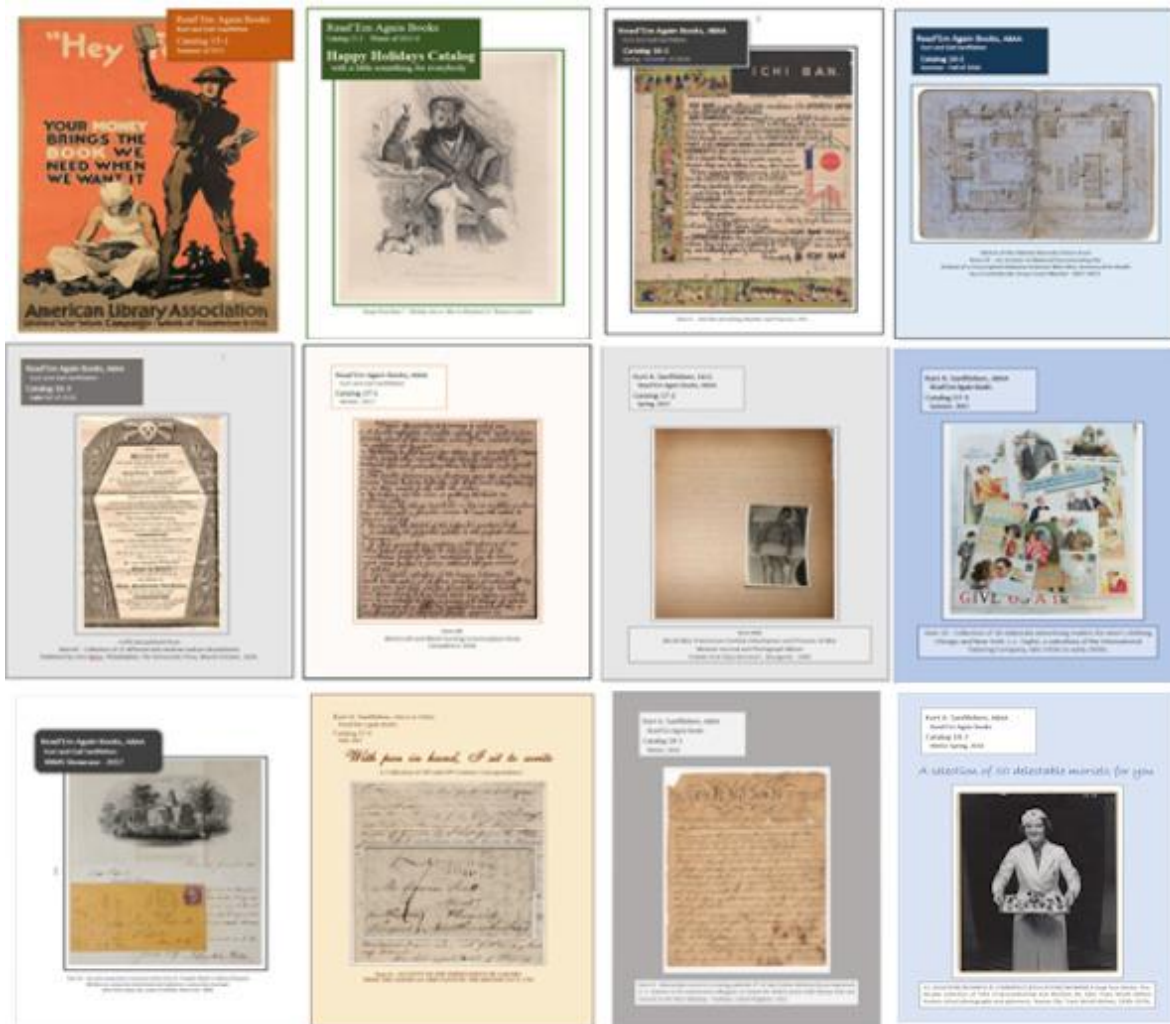
"The 'first day cover' for the USS Idaho for V-J Day was drawn by Ensign Ralph E. Ricketts, 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ricketts. [He] was chosen from a number of Navy men to do the drawing for the V-J Day envelope. Lieutenant Murphey of Texas, who was stationed aboard the USS Idaho with the ensign thought up the idea. . ."

The surrender ceremony was conducted on the last battleship to be commissioned during the war, the U.S.S. *Missouri*, the flagship of Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander for the Allies accepted the formal Japanese surrender.

Similar covers occasionally appear at philatelic and eBay auctions but seldom do they include any contents, especially any regular, run-of-the-mill correspondence.

SOLD #10088

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



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

10-13 Aug 2023 – [Great American Stamp Show](#) – Cleveland, Ohio

19-21 January 2024 – [Sarasota Stamp Show](#) – Sarasota, Florida

1-3 March 2024 – [Florida Antiquarian Book Fair](#) – St. Petersburg, Florida