

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA and ASDA
Paper Americana and Postal History
Catalog 24-3 – March 2024



Item 5. 1820s-1850s – A combination cipher, copy, and commonplace book kept by members of a Pennsylvania Mennonite family with two full-page watercolor fraktur paintings including a vibrant illustration of Adam & Eve

Diaries, Journals, Correspondence, Photographs and Ephemera

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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The Manuscript Society

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1. [BUSINESS – IMPORTERS] [CITIES – URBAN DEVELOPMENT] [COLONIAL AMERICA] [LAW – PROPERTY SALES]

1761 – A deed transferring ownership of a “tenement” in the heart of Boston located between entrances to Faneuil Hall and the Great Town Dock

This three-page transfer of property on a bifold paper sheet measures 18” x 15” unfolded. The document is dated 30 July 1761. Payment was completed and the deed recorded at the Suffolk County Records of Deeds on 1 September 1761. In nice shape. Some storage fold splits have been neatly repaired with archival tape or tissue; one split along part of the centerfold of the first leaf has not been mended.

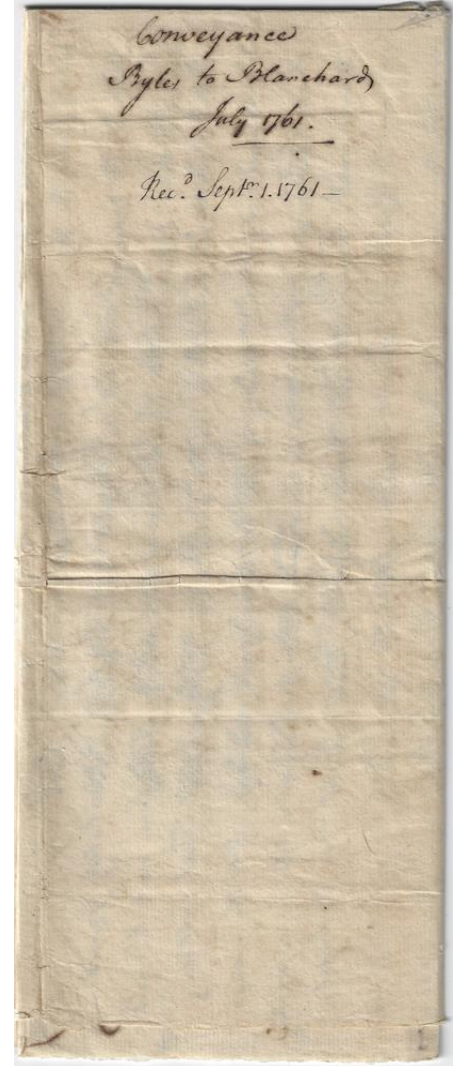
As noted in the document, this sale transferred ownership of a “tenement” between the entrance to Fanuel Hall (Boston’s central market) and the Great Town Dock of Boston. It reads in part:

“Elisha Byles of Boston within the County of Suffolk . . . Sends Greeting. Know ye that said Elisha Byles for & in Consideration of ye Sum of Eight Hundred Pounds Lawfull Money . . . well & truly paid by Caleb Blanchard of Boston afores^d Shopkeeper . . . Have & by these presents Do full & absolutely Grant Bargain Sell . . . Convey & Confirm . . . All That Certain Tenement or Dwelling house and land under & to the same belonging situate lying . . . at the Corner between Ann Street & Union Street near the head of the Great Dock being butted and bounded Southerly [by] Conduit Street now called Ann Street, westerly by the Street leading from the Town Dock to the Water Mill Called Union Street. . . . Northerly by ye land formerly in the Occupation of Henry Tomson & now in the possession of Joseph Scott . . . & Easterly by land formerly in the Possession of Edward Jackson, and now in the Possession of Samuel Wells. . . . Signed and Delivered Elisha Byles / Mildred Byles . . . Before me Belcher Noyes Justice Pease. . . .”

This area is mentioned in the National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for Fanuel Hall: “In 1770 the town decided ‘that the Passage Way [Conduit] leading from the North part of Faneuil Hall Market into Ann Street and Union Street, is so narrow as often times to obstruct the passing of Carts, Trucks, and other Carriages thereby endangering the Limbs and Lives of the Inhabitants and is a public Nuisance. . . .”

18th century “tenements” were not the squalid crowded apartments we think of today. Rather, they were usually single-family dwellings that included gardens and yards. Count de Rochambeau described these American houses as “built of brick, and wood . . . regularly and well provided with windows and doors. The . . . frame is light, covered on the outside with thin boards, well plained, and lapped over each . . . generally painted with a pale white colour, which renders the prospect much more pleasing. . . . The roofs are set off with balconies. [They are a] point of neatness and salubrity.”

Elisha Byles, the seller, was known as a “a good farmer, and most acceptable citizen, and deacon in the Congregational church.” He was also approved to sell “spirituous liquor.”



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

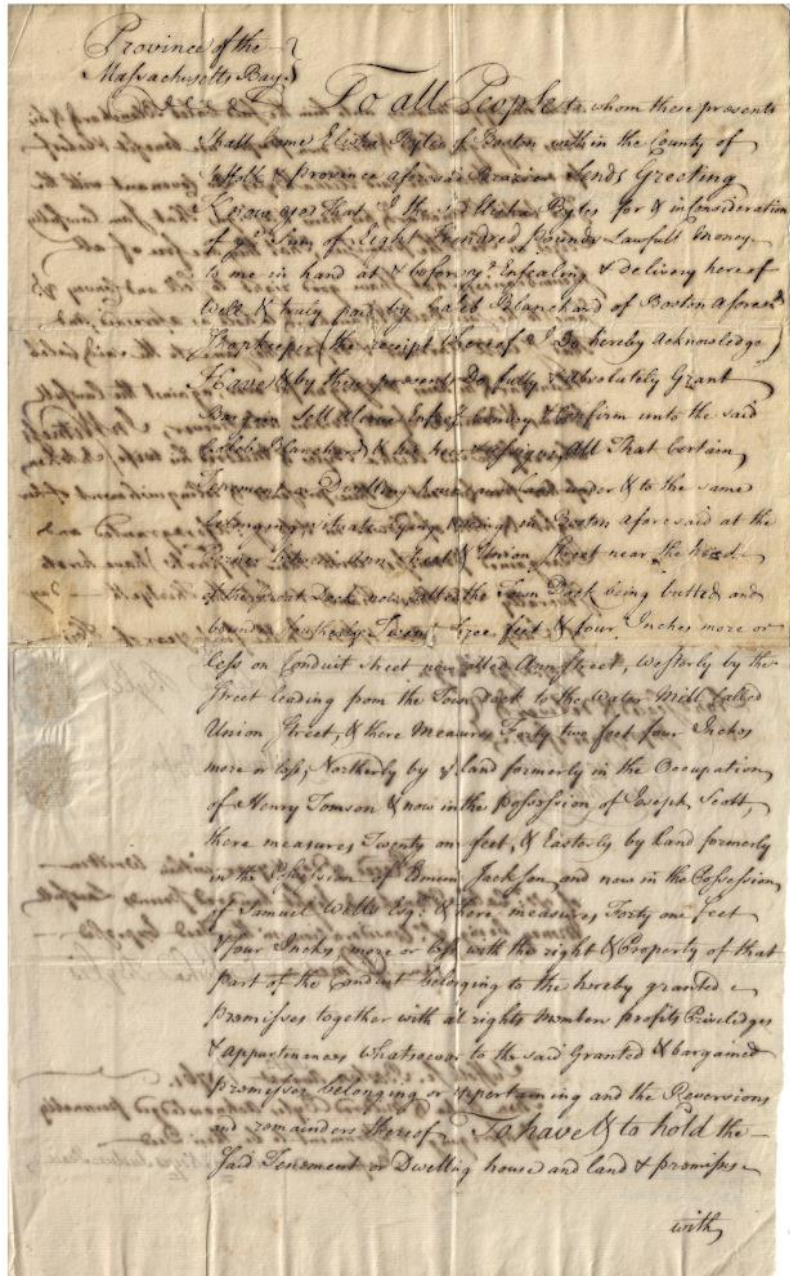
The buyer, Caleb Blanchard, purchased the property to be used for a wholesale and retail business. He has been described as “a savvy marketer who aimed for maximum exposure by advertising in multiple newspapers.” City records show that from his shop on Union Street, adjacent to Faneuil Hall (which had been gutted by fire shortly before he purchased this property), Blanchard sold “a Large and Compleat Assortment of Goods, both English & India” including chinaware, paper, cocoa, sugar, tobacco, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloth, clothing, shoes, hats, and much more. One of Blanchard’s mercantile neighbors was John Hancock who also operated a nearby store on the east side of Faneuil Hall that also sold a variety of products: “English and India goods, also choice Newcastle Coals and Irish Butter.” Hancock’s famous Counting House, today the Chart House restaurant, was just as close, a short walk down the Long Pier.

Belcher Noyes, who witnessed and certified this sale, graduated from Harvard College in 1727 as a physician. He practiced in Boston and served as a justice of the peace for Suffolk County in the 1770s.

(For more information, see “Colonial Houses” at the Chronicles of America website, Shurtleff’s *Historical Description of Boston*, *The Huntington Family in America*, and “Caleb Blanchard” at The Adverts 250 Project website, and Bacon’s *Boston: A Guide Book*, all available online.)

A nice testament to the ongoing transition of the heart of Boston from a residential to a commercial neighborhood. Scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only three contemporary records of sale have appeared at auction: two to John Hancock and one for a bakery located about a mile inland to the northeast. OCLC shows only two more inland deeds are held by an institution, one in North Square and one in Dorchester,

\$750 [#10217](#)



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

2. [BUSINESS – IMPORTERS] [COLONIAL AMERICA] [CRIME – SMUGGLING] [MILITARY – AMERICAN REVOLUTION] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS – COLONIAL]

1771 – Business letter sent to Boston merchant John Hancock, one of the wealthiest men in the American Colonies, by his English friend, business associate, and political ally George Hayley, a brother-in-law of the most pro-American radical in England

This four-page letter measures 15" x 9" unfolded and is dated 11 May 1771. It includes the text of a previously sent letter. It is signed Hayley & Hopkins and addressed "To / John Hancock Esq^r. / at / Boston". It was privately carried as docketing on the reverse, likely by John Hancock, reads "Hayley & Hopkins / by Cap^t White / 1771".

In the letter, Hayley discusses the shipping status of some of Hancock's vessels as well as prices of goods.

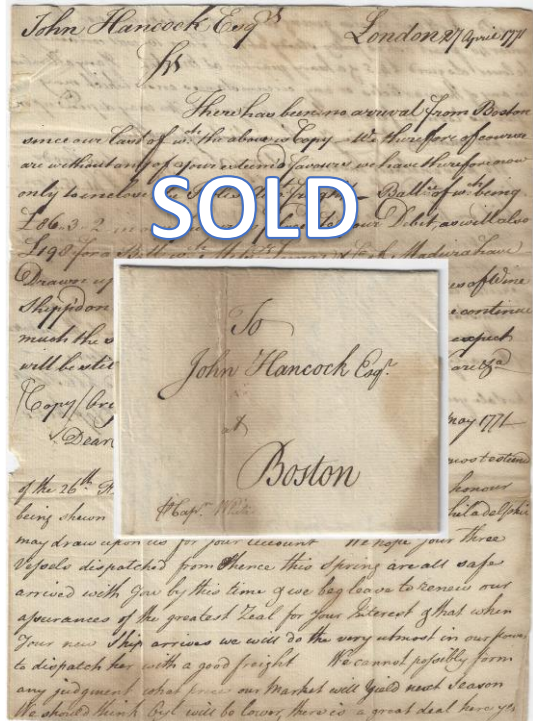
"[Paoli's] Acct Freight . . . being £86,,3,,2 . . . is Placed to your Debit, as will also £198 . . . for Cost of 6 pipes of Wine shipped on board Cayneau. . . We hope your three vessels dispatched . . . this Spring are all safe . . . & we beg leave to renew our assurances of the greatest Zeal for your Interest & that when your new Ship arrives we will do the very utmost in our power to dispatch her with a good freight. . ."

The *Paoli* was one of Hancock's ships. Not even three years earlier, its more famous sister, the *Liberty*, was seized by Boston customs officials after they realized more pipes (one pipe equals four barrels) of wine had been unloaded than were listed on a tax document. Hancock was tried for smuggling but found not guilty. However, the affair resulted in rioting by enraged local citizens. In response, England deployed a significant force of soldiers, which, in turn, led to the Boston Massacre, and the revolutionary die was cast.

Hancock was, indeed, a smuggler, but probably not any more so than other colonial shipping merchants. Another of Hancock's ships was the *Hayley*, named in honor of this letter's author, George Hayley, one of the biggest English champions of American business. It was the *Hayley* that delivered the news to England that the Sons of Liberty had dumped the crown's tea into Boston Harbor during the famous Tea Party. Moreover, Hayley was the brother-in-law of John Wilkes, the most outspoken – some said seditious – supporter of the American cause in Parliament. Wilkes was beloved in the colonies: the Sons of Liberty proclaimed him to be "a great patriot," officials toasted "Wilkes and Liberty" throughout the colonies, and many places were named in his honor, i.e. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

(For more information, see Unger's *John Hancock Merchant King and American Patriot*, "The Seizure of *Liberty*" at Alpha History, "Hayley, George" at the History of Parliament website, and Maier's "John Wilkes and American Disillusionment with Britain" in the July 1963 issue of *The William and Mary Quarterly*.)

A fascinating business letter evidencing the commercial ties between American patriots and their supporters in England. Quite scarce. There is one similar letter for sale in the trade by an ABAA dealer. The Rare Book Hub shows no similar letters have appeared at auction. The Hancock Family Papers, held at Harvard University contain other Hancock-Hayley correspondence.



SOLD #10218

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

3. [BUSINESS – PROMISSORY NOTES] [LAW – STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY – TRIANGLE TRADE]

1798 – Legal business letter discussing the Statute of Limitations in Rhode Island and how it may affect collecting a Slave Trading debt of “four thousand two hundred and thirty four Spanish Milled Dollars”

This four-page stampless folded letter, dated 26 February 1798, measures approximately 15” x 9” unfolded. It was sent by a Boston attorney to William Vernon, a notoriously wealthy slave trader in Newport, Rhode Island. It was favor-carried by Mr. Philip Brown. It contains a copy of an original promissory note signed by Vernon as well as Godfrey and John Malbone, equally infamous slave traders, for 4,234 Spanish Milled Dollars. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, the lawyer discusses whether Rhode Island’s statute of limitation would apply to this debt, and how that may affect its current status. It reads in part:

“There is no statute of limitations in Rhode Island and . . . by the Laws of that state an action cannot be brought against Malbone’s note in any other manner than your name. . . . If there is no statute of limitations in Rhode Island no injury can result from the delay. If there is one . . . the attachment upon Rotch would keep the note alive. . . . The case may at present rest on the attachment but if otherwise, you will then if you shall think it expedient . . . direct . . . a proper officer to serve the writ. . . . I never was so much at loss in conducting any business as I am in this. It is the opinion of the Lawyers that the attachment will save the note against outlawry; and [that] there is no statute of limitations. . . . If the positions are true [I hope] the steps I am now about to take are altogether necessary . . . to preserve the property. . . .”

The attorney’s copy of the original promissory note is enclosed. Although it does not specifically mention slavery, there can be no doubt it is related to a substantial Triangel Trade investment.

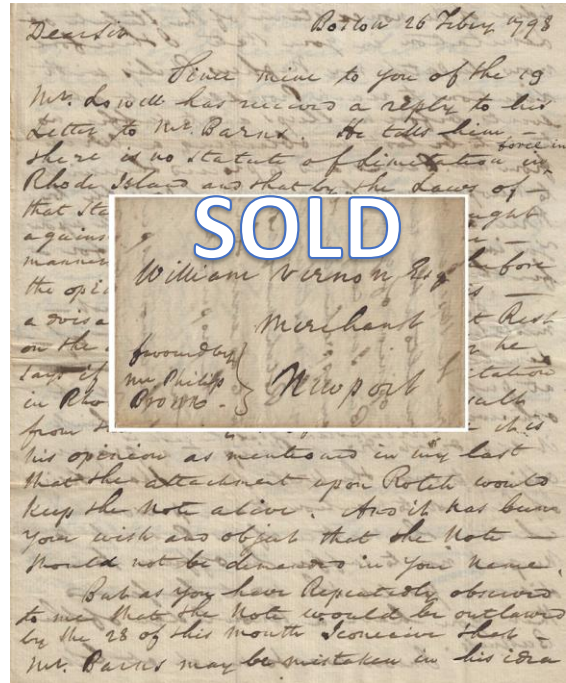
“For value received we promise to pay William Vernon Esq[ui] on order or demand four thousand and two hundred and thirty four Spanish Milled Dollars with interest until paid. . . .”

Newport, Rhode Island was one of the most important North American slave-trading centers in North America, and William Vernon and his two brothers were the wealthiest in the business. They purchased slaves in Africa with American rum and sold them in the West Indies and North America. With their profit, they purchased more molasses and brown sugar to made more rum which they then again sold in Africa to purchase more slaves. The brothers completed this cycle more than 40 times in 60 years, generating an incredible fortune. The Vernons were among the most generous contributors to Princeton University.

(For more information, see Coughtry’s *The Notorious Triangle: Rhode Island and the African Slave Trade.*)

Scarce. Malbone documents regarding losses during the American Revolution are at University of Michigan and a ledger is at the Rhode Island Historical Society. The New York Historical Society holds a collection of Newport slaving papers, and a bound volume of Vernon correspondence at Harvard.

SOLD #10219

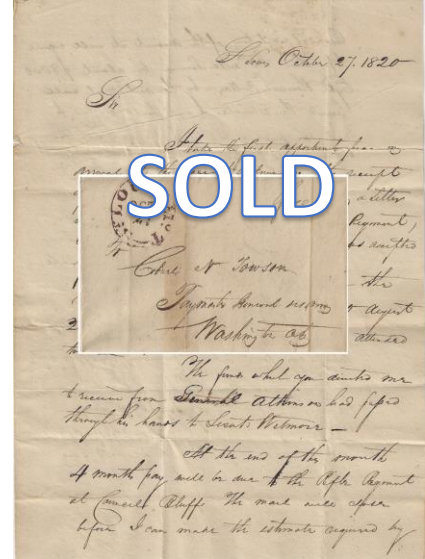


Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

4. [BANKING – THOMAS BIDDLE] [CRIME – DUELING] [MILITARY – 2ND RIFLE REGIMENT] [PHILATELY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

1820 – Letter from U. S. Army Paymaster Major Thomas Biddle in St. Louis, Missouri, regarding the organization and payment of the U. S. Rifle Regiment located at Council Bluff, Nebraska

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 15" x 9¼" unfolded. It is datelined "St. Louis October 27. 1820" and was sent by Biddle to the Paymaster General of Army in Washington, DC. It bears a "free" frank and St. Louis postmark dated "Oct / 27". In nice shape with an old repair on a blank panel that affects no text.



In this letter, Biddle reports:

"I take the first opportunity from my arrival . . . to acknowledge . . . your . . . letter of appointment as the paymaster of the Rifle Regiment. . . The funds which you directed me to receive from General Atkinson had passed through his hands to Lieut Wetmore. At the end of this month 4 months pay will be due the Rifle Regiment at Council Bluff. . . It will however be about \$8000 Eight thousand dollars. . . I should be glad to receive the funds as early as possible as I wish the Riflemen to be paid up. . . General Atkinson has not come down. . . On his return I will place my bond in his hands. . . I feel much obliged to you for the Interest you have taken in procuring my appointment."

Biddle came from a powerful Philadelphia family which included a brother who was the president of the Second Bank of the United States. A brave officer, Thomas was wounded twice during the War of 1812 and served in the Yellowstone Expedition until he was, as this letter states, appointed to be a paymaster at St. Louis. There, after leaving the Army, he became the director of the St. Louis branch of the Bank of the United States. In 1831, after trading insults with a Democrat Congressman, Spencer Darwin Pettis, who had criticized his brother's management of the Second National Bank, he horsewhipped the representative, who later attempted to murder him. After Biddle suggested he would not be opposed to an "affair of honor," Pettis promptly challenged him to a duel. As the aggrieved party, the near-sighted Biddle chose the weapons; pistols at five feet. On an island in the Mississippi, they faced off with near overlapping arms, and both suffered mortal wounds.

After the War of 1812, the Army's rifle regiments had been consolidated into one unit which established forts across the then western frontier. Colonel Henry Atkinson, who had led the Yellowstone Expedition and negotiated a number friendship and trade treaties with tribes along the Upper Missouri River commanded the post at Council Bluff, Nebraska. He later commanded the army during the Black Hawk War and was responsible for the construction of Fort Leavenworth and Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis.

(For more information, see Byrnes' "The Sixth Regiment of Infantry" at the U.S. Army Center for Military History's website, Wainwright's "The Life and Death of Major Thomas Biddle" in July 1980 issue of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and Wiest's "Atkinson, Henry" at the online *NCpedia*.)

Scarce. At the time of listing, no other Thomas Biddle letters are for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows no Thomas Biddle letters have appeared at auction. OCLC identifies several Biddle Family Papers collections; some may contain letters from Thomas.

An important letter from an Army hero whose service led to his death as a prominent frontier banker.

SOLD #10220

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

5. [ART – FOLK ART] [COMMONPLACE & COPY BOOKS] [EDUCATION – CIPHER BOOKS]

1820s-1850s – A combination cipher, copy, and commonplace book kept by members of a Pennsylvania Mennonite family with two full-page watercolor fraktur paintings including a vibrant illustration of Adam & Eve

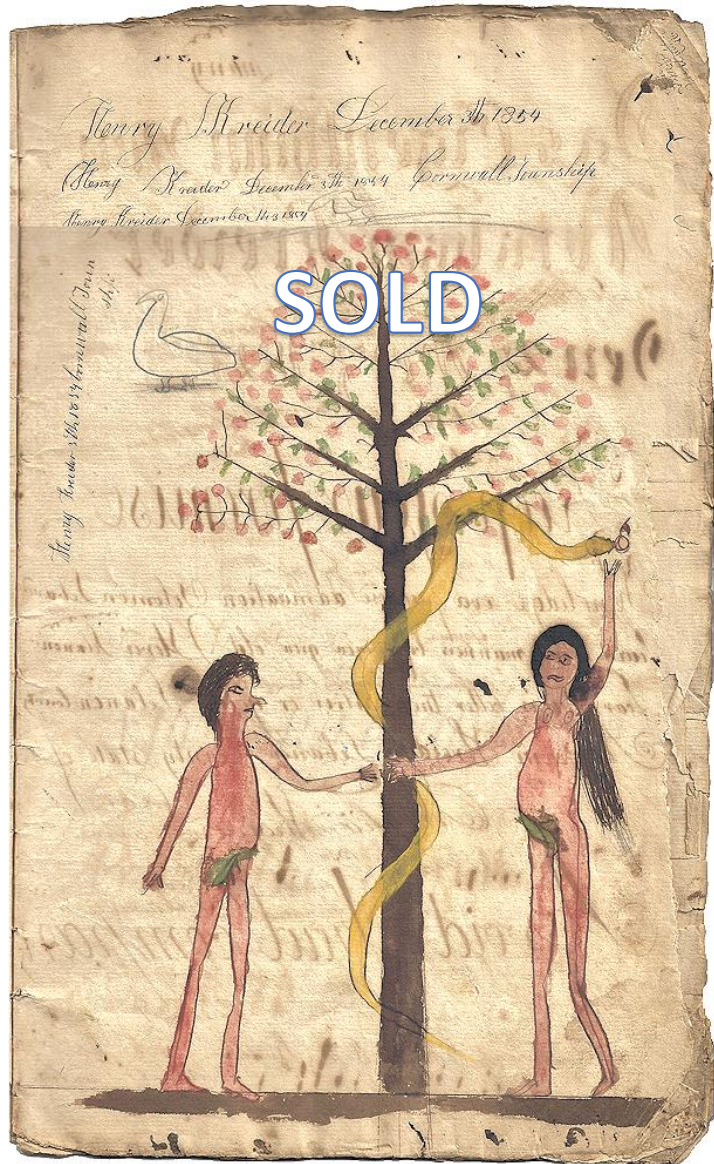
This 36-page combination cipher, copy, and commonplace book was compiled by several members of the Kreider family in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. It is string-bound and appears complete except for a missing cover. The book measures 8" x 13". While ciphering pages are in English almost all of the text entries are in German. It includes two wonderful full-page watercolor fraktur paintings.

The binding is sound. There is some minor insect predation to the edges, and about one-fifth of the last leaf has been excised. An additional leaf from a smaller copy book is laid in.

The Kreider family originally settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the early 1700s but soon relocated to Snitz Creek in North Cromwell Township just southwest of Lebanon where they established a prosperous farm and homestead. Family members who contributed entries into this book include Abraham, Henry, Samuel, Solomon, and Tobias. Solomon made the most.

One of the watercolors depicts a homestead, likely the family's, under a tree of flowers with a bird flying overhead. The other shows Adam and Eve standing under an apple tree. Both are naked except for small fig leaves. A large snake has climbed the tree and is placing an apple into Eve's outstretched hand. Most extant frakturs, a type of Pennsylvania German folk art, are hand-colored birth or baptismal certificates. Manuscript frakturs are less common and usually picture houses, farms, flowers, birds, and to a lesser extent biblical scenes, like this Adam and Eve watercolor.

The first seven pages of the book contain ciphering computations for adding money (pounds, shillings, and pence) and weights for gold and silversmiths (e.g. pounds, ounces, pennyweights, and grains). Several pages record debts owed to the family by outsiders. Others were used to practice penmanship using aphorisms and letter/number tables. A copy of an 1804 letter from Pittsburg is on one page, and a short paragraph about Lebanon on another. A number of pages identify family member birthdates. Finally, one



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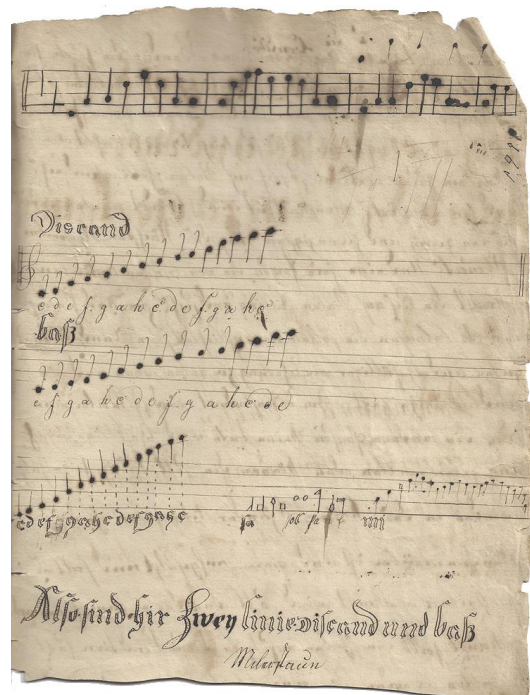
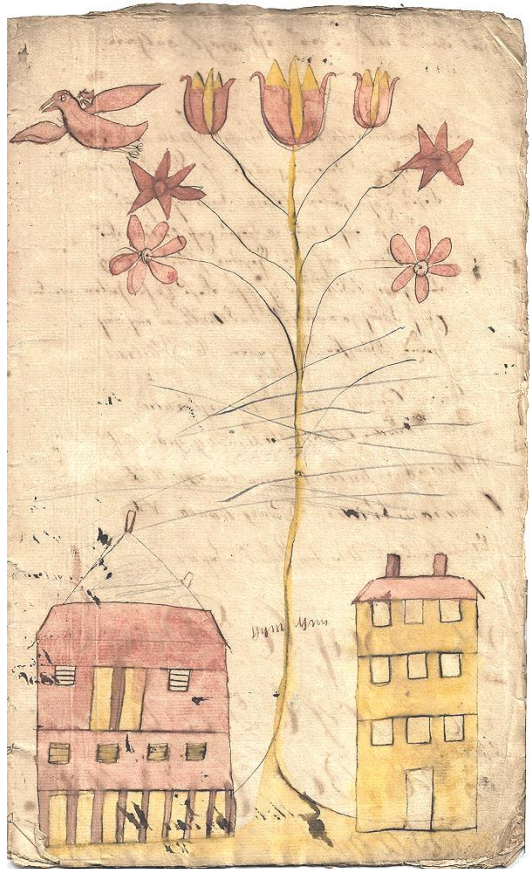
page is devoted to musical notation and contains both treble and base scales as well as two short melodies, one using shape notes.

Ciphering books were usually prepared as part the basic mathematical training of relatively well-off American students. The ciphering section in this book focuses completely on the addition of money and weights and suggests it may have been used as a reference rather than a learning exercise. Copy books were used to retain file copies of important letters and documents. And commonplace books were used to record bits of information for later use or enjoyment.

(For more information, see Francis's "History of the Kreider Family" in a series of 1919 articles in the *Lebanon Daily News*, the kreidersonline website, the *Biographical Annals of Lebanon County*, genealogical records at Find-a-Grave and Ancestry.com, "Pennsylvania German fraktur, broadsides, and related drawings" at the Library of Congress, Minardi's *Drawn with Spirit: Pennsylvania German Fraktur*, Doer's *Cipher Books in the Southern Historical Collection*, and Knowles's "Commonplace Books,")

This is the first copy or commonplace book from the United States written in German that we have handled. Handmade fraktur watercolor paintings are in great demand. The Rare Book Hub shows no handmade Adam and Eve frakturs having appeared at auction, although some must have been included in the sale of Dr. Shelley's famous fraktur collection. OCLC only identifies the Library of Congress as holding similar Adam and Eve frakturs, but more must held by other museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Winterthur Museum.

SOLD #10221



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

6. [DISEASE – CHOLERA] [MILITARY – BLACK HAWK WAR] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION – STEAM BOATS] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

1832- The commander of an expedition of Army regulars headed to fight in the Black Hawk War reports that Cholera is destroying his force as it travels by steamboat through the Great Lakes

This one-page stampless folded letter measures 16" x 10" unfolded. It was sent by Lt. Col. David E. Twiggs, the commander of an expedition aboard Great Lake steamboats in route to the Black Hawk War, to Colonel Roger Jones, the Army's Adjutant General. The letter is datelined, "Camp near Retreat / 8 July, 1832. 6 oclk A.M." The letter bears a double-oval Buffalo, New York postmark dated July 28 as well as a fancy "Steam-Boat" scroll handstamp. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.



The letter reads in part:

"Within the last twelve hours. Nine new cases of cholera, none as yet has recovered. . . Without some great change this command or a great portion of it must be sacrificed. I am in doubt whether the authorities at Detroit will allow us to obtain supplies from there, as the panic is very great & if they refuse, I know not what is to become of us."

In 1830, after the aged Sac chief, Black Hawk, became disgruntled by a treaty signed by younger Sac and Fox leaders, he led a war party into northern Illinois that was easily turned back by local militia. However, after mustering many more to his cause, Black Hawk returned a year later with a much stronger force and began slaughtering white settlers. Col. Henry Atkinson, the commander of the 6th Infantry Regiment received a brevet promotion to Brigadier General and was placed in command of both regular and militia forces assembled to defeat Black Hawk. Simultaneously, the War Department sent General Winfield Scott as commander-in-chief with a force of 15 companies of artillery and infantry as well a detachment of recent West Point graduates to Chicago to take control of the war. At Buffalo, Scott and part of his force boarded the steamboat *Henry Clay*. Under the command of Lt. Col. Twiggs, the rest of the men boarded the *Thompson*, and supplies were loaded on the *William Penn* and *Superior*. On July 4th, two cases of cholera appeared on the *Henry Clay*, and Detroit port authorities refused to allow the boats to unload. Scott and about 220 apparently uninfected soldiers swapped boats with Twiggs and continued on to Chicago. Twiggs landed the remaining force of about 350 just north of Detroit at Fort Gratiot. Soon more men succumbed to the disease, and the soldiers were overcome by panic; more than 130 deserted, and even more died. Twiggs contracted the disease, but fortunately recovered. By the time the epidemic subsided, his command had been reduced to only 135 men. Scott and his force made it to Chicago, but by the time they reached Fort Dearborn, 19 of his men were dead and another 77 were sick. His chagrin equaled Twiggs, and he wrote Atkinson, "What a calamity has come upon the expedition!" None of Scott's command was able to participate in the war, however Atkinson's regulars and militia destroyed Black Hawk's force at the Battle of Bad Axe without its assistance.

Twiggs was eventually promoted to general and fought with distinction during the Mexican-American War. He later resigned from the U.S. Army and accepted a commission with the Confederacy.

Although several letters written by Scott during the debacle have appeared at auction, this important letter from Twiggs, the onsite commander who found himself in the midst of this infamously disintegrating command, appears to be the only one of his letters to have survived.

SOLD #10222

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

7. [BUSINESS – SALES TO BLACKS] [LAW – BLACK CODES] [SLAVERY – WHITE FEAR] [VIRGINIANA]

Circa 1832 – Broadside publicizing the mercantile restrictions on sales to enslaved workers imposed on white citizens including changes to Virginia’s Slave Code following Nat Turner’s Revolt of 1831

Extracts From the Laws of State of Virginia Slaves Free Negroes & Mulattoes. Probably printed by Thomas Green Broughton at the *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*. Circa 1832. This broadside, measuring 5¼” x 9”, identifies the restrictions imposed on whites by the Commonwealth of Virginia regarding trade with persons of color.

The law cited in the first section is almost identical to language found in multiple versions of Virginia’s “Black Code” beginning in 1705.

“No person whatsoever shall buy, sell, or receive of, to, or from a slave any commodity whatsoever, without the leave or consent of the master, owner, or overseer. . . . He or she, so offending, shall Forfeit and pay to the master or owner . . . four times the value of the thing so bought, sold, or received . . . or receive on his or her bare back, thirty-nine lashes, well laid at the public whipping-post. . . . Any person, who shall, on Sabbath-day, buy, sell, or receive of, to, or from a slave, any commodity whatsoever, without the leave or consent of the master or overseer of such slave . . . or from any free negro, or mulatto . . . in addition to the penalties aforesaid, forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars. . . .”

The second section is titled “Acts of 1831” and reads in part

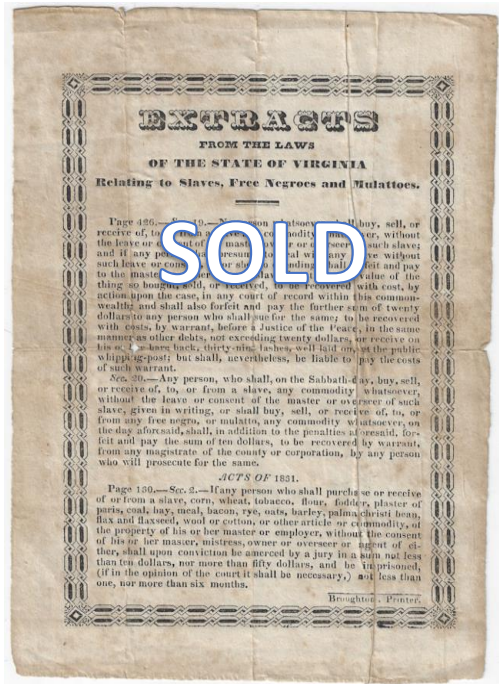
“If any person who shall purchase or receive of or from a slave, corn, wheat, tobacco, flour, fodder, plaster of paris, coal, hay, meal bacon, rye, . . . or other article or commodity, of the property of his or her owner or overseer or agent, shall upon conviction be amerced by a jury a sum not less than ten dollars or more than fifty dollars, and be imprisoned . . . no less than one, nor more than six months.”

Increased enforcement of laws like these followed Nat Turner’s Rebellion in 1831 to minimize slave-white interactions and reduce enslaved worker’s ability to raise money. Governor Sargent of Mississippi observed that “Slaves . . . shamefully violated, particularly on Sundays . . . in a very notorious manner . . . in considerable numbers [to commit] great excesses, and carry . . . illicit traffic with the aid and connivance of the ill disposed.” He was referring specifically to the sale of stolen cotton and livestock.

(For more information, see “An act concerning Servants and Slaves 1705” in the *Encyclopedia of Virginia*, Guild’s *Black Laws of Virginia*, Ritchie, et. al.’s *Draughts of Such Bills as have been prepared by the Revisors of the Laws . . . of this Commonwealth, [in] Response to 1831 Slave Revolt* at the UMKC School of Law Famous Trials website, and Armel’s *American Printing History from 1638 to 1838*.)

Apparently the only extant example. This broadside is not listed in Hummel’s *Southeastern Broad sides Before 1887* or his *More Virginia Broad sides Before 1877*. At the time of listing, there are no other examples for sale in the trade, and there is no record of any having appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows none are held in institutional collections.

SOLD #10223



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

8. [POLITICS – PRESIDENTIAL & SPOILS SYSTEM] [POST OFFICES]

1834 – A man in Lowell, Massachusetts, pleads directly to President Andrew Jackson to have his friend reinstated as the postmaster of Lowell, Massachusetts

This four-page letter is datelined, “Lowell. April 22. 1834. It was sent directly to President Andrew Jackson by Fink(?) Booth. It bears no postal markings and has no accompanying envelope. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In the letter, Booth related how his friend, Mr. Myman, had performed well and done no wrong but was dismissed from his job as postmaster perhaps in jealousy over his success in buying and selling property. He asked Jackson personally to reinstate Myman to his position as he was an “honest and warm hearted friend of the present Executive.”

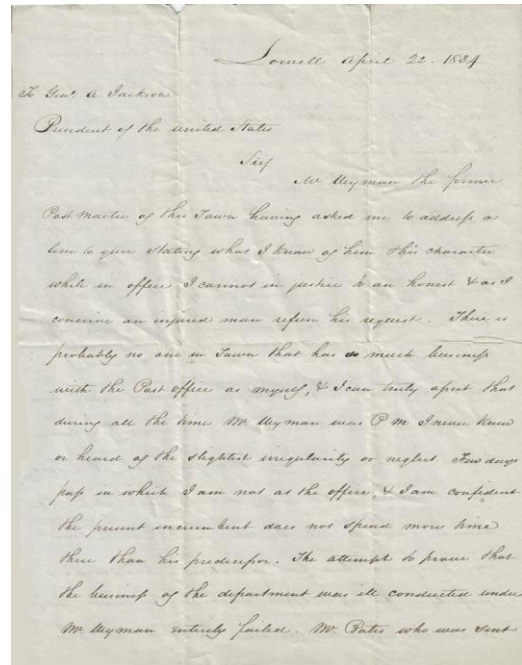
The letter reads in part:

“There is probably no one in Town that has so much business with the Post office as myself, & can truly assert that during all the time Mr Myman was P.M. I never knew or heard of the slightest irregularity or neglect. Few day pass in which I am not at the office, & I am confident the present incumbent does not spend more time there than his predecessor. The attempt to prove that the business of the department was ill conducted under Mr. Myman entirely failed. Mr Pates who was sent to examine & who did make a thorough examination reported favorable on the spot & declared that he could discover nothing irregular & no want of care & attention. . . . Our Post office was much better managed than is usual in Towns in the interior. This arrangement is due to Mr Myman under whose care & direction the office was fitted up. I do not wish in this communication to cast imputations up anyone, but [but he is] considered the victim of a base & cruel intrigue. . . . His restoration to office . . . is an object of great importance to him. I can very safely say that his reinstatement in the Post office w^d be very satisfactory to a large majority of all classes & would generally be considered an act of simple justice to an honest & warm hearted friend of the present Executive.”

President George Washington based most of his federal appointments on merit, but many of his successors did not. Andrew Jackson was especially noted for rewarding his political friends and supporters with government jobs through his use of the “spoils system,” meaning “to the victor go the spoils.” In Jackson’s time there were around 20,000 federal employees; by the 1880s, there were over 130,00. After President Garfield was assassinated in 1883 by a disgruntled job seeker, Congress passed the Pendleton Act establishing the Civil Service Commission to ensure almost all federal positions be filled competitively based on merit. It also made it illegal to fire or demote covered employees based on political reason, and it forbade requiring competitively hired workers to contribute to or provide volunteer work for political organizations.

It’s unknown whether President Jackson intervened to reinstate Myman as the postmaster.

\$150 [#10224](#)



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

9. [SLAVERY – ABOLITION] [PHILATELY] [PROPAGANDA – SEALING WAFERS]

1843 – A letter from Brookline connected to members of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and sealed with a rare abolitionist propaganda wafer sold by William Lloyd Garrison's famous anti-slavery newspaper, *The Liberator*

This four-page flirty stampless folded letter, in what appears to be a feminine hand, was written by A.M.C. while visiting with John Gibbs of Brookline, Massachusetts and sent to J.O. Burleigh at Grafton. It is datelined August 19, 1843 and bears a circular Brookline postmark dated August 27th.

Most importantly, it was sealed with a rare anti-slavery wafer seal sold by William Lloyd Garrison's famous anti-slavery newspaper, *The Liberator*. This wafer is complete, however, it was split when the letter was opened by Burleigh. The wafer reads,

“Let your life preach against slavery. Let all take knowledge of you that you are free, and TRUE TO FREEDOM.”

The Liberator, began selling these abolitionist wafer seals in the fall of 1841. A front-page article from the October 22 edition announces:

“Mottoes for Anti-Slavery Wafers.

We stated, last week, that a large number of anti-slavery sentiments, neatly printed on a single sheet, (gummed on the back,) had been carefully selected, and were now offered for sale . . . to be used as wafers by those who are eager to seize every fresh opportunity to advance the anti-slavery enterprise. The price for a single sheet is only six cents. Abolitionists in all parts of the country ought to obtain a supply without delay. . . .”

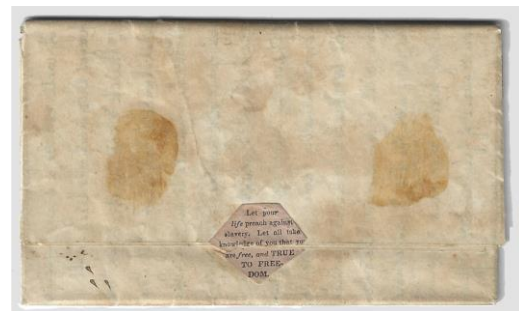
Each sheet contained fifty different wafers. A full unused sheet of rectangular labels is held by the Massachusetts Historical Society. They were also printed in a pentagonal format like the one used to seal this envelope.

Prior to the invention of gummed envelopes in the late 1840s, folded letters were sealed with blobs of wax and later by thin gelatine wafer seals sold by stationers. By the late 1830s, paper wafers began to replace both wax and gelatine. Almost from the start, wafers were imprinted with slogans, the vast majority of which were commercial addresses or generic statements of love or friendship. Less common wafers depicted portraits, places, and religious images. Even less common were wafers that promoted social or political causes. Their use continued until the 1880s, long after gummed envelopes became common, primarily for advertising products or expressing patriotic sentiments.

(For more information, see “Mottoes for Anti-Slavery Wafers” in the 22 October edition of *The Liberator*, “Holding it Together: A Seal – or Not?” at the National Archives website,” and Groten’s “Securing the Letter” in the September 2017 edition of *The Ephemera Journal*.)

At the time of listing, this folded letter and the unused sheet at the Massachusetts Historical Society appear to be the only surviving examples of these Garrison-*Liberator* propaganda wafers as none are for sale in the trade; none have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub and the Stamp Auction Network, and none are listed at OCLC.

SOLD #10225



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

10. [DISASTERS – FIRES] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION – RIVERBOATS] [TRAVEL – MISSISSIPPI & OHIO RIVERS]

1843-1848 – Archive of correspondence between a Mississippi and Ohio Riverboat Captain and his wife

This archive consists of five stampless folded letters exchanged between a Mississippi and Ohio riverboat captain, Christopher Gardiner Pearce, and his wife, Jane Ann; four of the letters were sent by C. Gardner to Ann in Cincinnati; one letter was sent to C. Gardner by Ann. In addition to longing and regular family matters, they discuss weather and water level delays, berthing passengers on the floor, trip receipts

and profit, having an enslaved housekeeper prepare linens and clothing, and a massive and deadly explosion and fire at a Cincinnati pork processing factory. Although some of the covers are soiled, perhaps soot stained, all are quite legible and otherwise in nice shape.

They read in part:

March 1, 1843 – Cincinnati, Ohio. From Ann Pearce to her husband, C. Gardner Pearce aboard the *Goddess of Liberty* at New Orleans, Louisiana. It bears a faint blue Cincinnati postmark dated March 11th.

“Months have rolled by and still we are separated. . . . If you had told me when you left home that you would be about 5 months, how could I have believed you. . . ? I had many fears for your safety whilst you were in the ice. . . . Our city has been visited with a most distressing calamity. . . . There was an alarm of fire and little did those men who were hastening . . . to give their assistance think that in the twinkling of an eye they would be ushered into Eternity. . . . A few moments after the alarm . . . we heard the building was blown up and 100 lives lost; it was the pork house of Pugh and Alvord. . . . The smoke house was discovered to be on fire and in order to keep the front building safe the doors and windows were closed, and when the door which connected the two buildings was burnt the smoke which had formed into a kind of gas from the burning of the meat rushed [in] in a moment the whole building was a complete wreck. . . . I attended the funeral of Mr Edmonds . . . and when I looked at his wife who was almost frantic with grief I felt thankful that I was not thus afflicted and though I would never again murmur at things which are trifles. . . .”

March 8, 1844 – St. Louis, Missouri. From C. Gardner to Ann in Cincinnati. Favor carried by another riverboat captain, Captain Atheran.

“We arrived here this morning in safety, having made a very expeditious trip. The ‘Valley Forge’ leaves here to day for Cincinnati. I drop you a few lines by her. . . . We will leave here on Sunday or Monday



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

morning. . . I hope . . . on my arrival home [I] may find you considerably improved in health. . . You will please let Aunty [presumably the families enslaved housekeeper] make up the balance of my shirts and pillow cases to be in readiness on return of the 'Goddess' . . ."

May 21, 1844 – Louisville, Kentucky. From C. Gardner to Ann in Cincinnati. Per "S.B. [Steam Boat] Mail with an indistinct manuscript rate mark.

"I can inform you that we arrived last night at 2 o'Clk and leave this morning at 10 – for St. Louis. Our trip is not as good as it was, when we left here before. The berths are nearly all taken, But I never think I have a good trip, unless I can have about 20 or 30 sleeping on the floor. Speaking of sleeping, I did not go to my Room, until after we landed at Louisville. It was quite foggy and I thought proper to remain on deck as there is more risk running in fog than at any other time. . ."

November 11, 1848 – Steamer *Hiram Powers* near Memphis, Tennessee. From C. Gardner to Ann in Cincinnati. Favor-carried to Messers Rogers & Sherblock for delivery "to House."

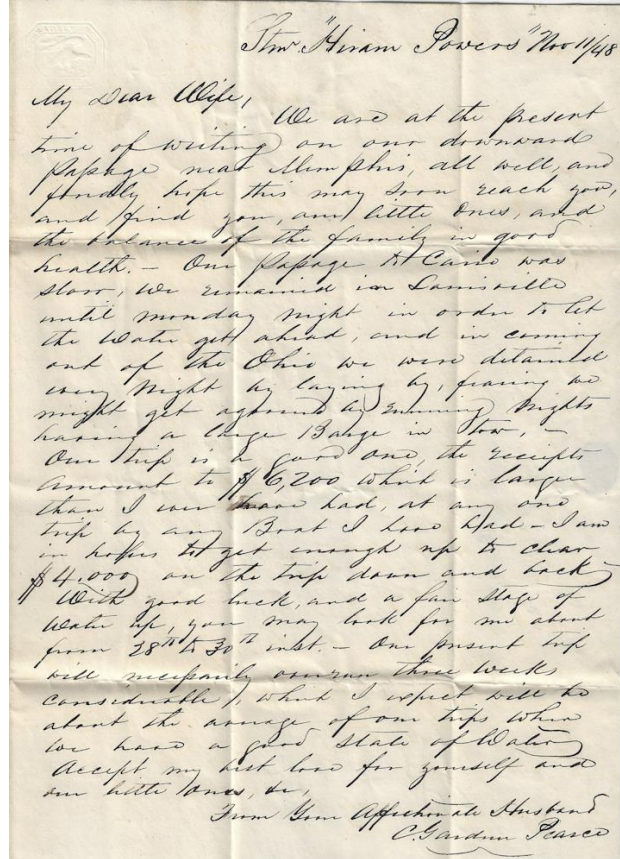
"We are at the present . . . on our downward passage near Memphis, all well. . . Our passage at Cairo was slow, we remained in Louisville until Monday night in order to let the water get ahead, and in coming out of the Ohio we were detained every night by laying by, fearing we might get aground by evening nights having a large Barge in tow. Our trip is a good one, the receipts amount to \$6,200 which is larger than I ever have had at any one trip by an Boat I have had. I am in hopes to get enough up to clear \$4,--- on the trip down and back. With good luck, and a fair stage of water up, you may look for me about from 28th to 30th inst. . ."

December 11, 1848 – Steamer *Hiram Powers* "a few miles above Memphis," Tennessee. From C. Gardner to Ann in Cincinnati. Favor-carried to Messers Rogers & Sherblock for delivery "to House."

"We have had quite stormy weather since our departure from Cincinnati and, notwithstanding we have progressed very well, considering we have a Barge in tow laden with 500 tons of freight. The receipts of our trip pr Steam boat and Barge are worth \$5,100. At present we have . . . bracing weather and tolerable cold for this climate. . . I cannot state what time you may look for me, but probably in about 25 days from the time I left home. . ."

Mississippi and Ohio river boat captain's mail occasionally appears at auction and is held by several institutions, however this set is interesting as it contains information about trip income and profit. As well, the description of the packing house explosion is much more extensive in the letter than related above. It was well reported in the press. A collection of over 150 Pearce family letters is held at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

SOLD #10226



Mr. Hiram Powers Nov 11/48

My Dear Wife, We are at the present time of writing on our downward passage near Memphis, all well, and fondly hope this may soon reach you, and find you, and little ones, and the balance of the family in good health. - Our passage at Cairo was slow, we remained in Louisville until Monday night in order to let the water get ahead, and in coming out of the Ohio we were detained every night by laying by, fearing we might get aground by evening nights having a large Barge in tow. Our trip is a good one, the receipts amount to \$6,200 which is larger than I ever had at any one trip by an Boat I have had - I am in hopes to get enough up to clear \$4,000 on the trip down and back. With good luck, and a fair stage of water up, you may look for me about from 28th to 30th inst. - Our present trip will necessarily occupy three weeks considerably, which I expect will be about the average of our trips when we have a good state of water. Accept my best love for yourself and our little ones, &c.

From Your Affectionate Husband
C. Gardner Pearce

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

11. [MARITIME] [MILITARY – EAST INDIES SQUADRON] [PHILATELY] [TRADE – OPENING OF JAPAN]
[TRADES – CARPENTRY] [TRANSPORTATION - SHIPS]

1852 – U.S. Navy Department letter informing a ‘ships carpenter’ that he cannot avoid duty with the East Indies Squadron, an assignment that led to his accompanying Commodore Perry’s to Japan

This one-page stampless folded letter measures approximately 15½” by 9½”. It was written by H. Parker at the Navy Department to Daniel Jones, a ship’s carpenter, at Kittery, Maine. It is datelined, “Washington / 15th March 1832”. It bears an indistinct “free frank” along with a circular Washington D.C. 5-cent postmark. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, Parker humorously informs his friend that he was unable to get him out of an assignment to the Navy’s East Indies Squadron.

“I called this morning (Monday) on the Chief Clerk of the Navy Dept. He informed me you are noted for the Steamer Princeton & will be detailed to her unless the Secretary other wise orders. She is going to the East Indies . The fabled report here is none but Christians are to be sent to that heathen land.

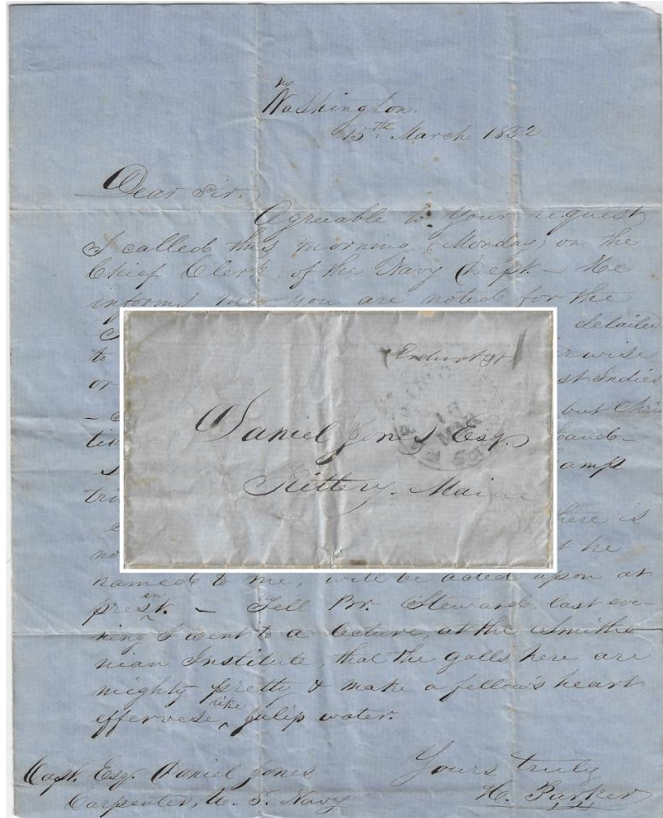
“So make ready & have your lamps trimmed – ready for the burning. . .

“Tell Br. Steward last evening I went to a lecture at the Smithsonian Institute [and that the gals here are mighty pretty & make a fellow’s heart effervese like Julip water.”

In actuality, Jones, a career ship’s carpenter in the Navy did go to the East Indies Squadron, but onboard the *Macedonian* and not the *Princeton*. At the time, ship’s carpenters (not to be confused with later Carpenter’s Mates) were highly skilled specialists in the Navy, akin to warrant officers of today. Jones had received his appointment in 1847 and was assigned to the Sloop-o-War *Decatur*, which was assigned to the African Squadron hunting slave ships. Until this letter surfaced, it was unclear where he was next assigned, but as it was addressed to Kittery, Maine, it is most likely he served at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. During his follow-on assignment aboard the *Macedonian*, Daniel’s sailed with Commodore Perry on his return voyage to Japan and was present at the famous signing of Convention of Kanagawa, in which the Tokugawa Shogunate opened the ports of Shimoda and Hakodate to American trade. He later served aboard the Sloop-of-War *Brooklyn* on an expedition to determine the best route for a canal across Panama and as part of the Union blockade during the Civil War. He transferred to the Sloop-of-War *St. Louis* in 1862 which hunted Confederate commerce raiders from ports in Spain and Portugal. Following the war, Daniels returned to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where he served until retiring in 1869.

(For more information, see the “Daniel Jones Letters, 1860-1863: Finding Aid” at the U. S. Naval Academy and “Ship’s Carpenters” at the Philp K. Allen website.

\$200 [#10227](#)



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

12. [CALIFORNIANA] [MINING – GOLD] [PHILATELY]

1855 – An offer from the Anglo-Californian Gold Mining Company to convert “Unissued Shares” of the company’s stock into “Preference Shares”

This two-page printed circular, dated May 19th 1855, from the Anglo-California Gold Mining Company in London, offers to convert “Unissued Shares” of company stock into “Preference Shares. It is enclosed in its original envelope and addressed to a shareholder in the Borough of Burnley in Lancashire, England. It is franked with a 1-penny red-brown British stamp cancelled by a #20 obliterator used at London’s Greenwich post office. The circular is in nice condition with some storage edgewear. The envelope has some minor postal soiling and wear, however a piece is missing from the envelope’s back flap.

The first page of the circular reads in part:

“You will observe from the enclosed Report [not present] of the adjourned General Meeting, that circumstances have arisen in California rendering it Imperative that the Director should immediately have at command a further sum of £6,6000. You will also observe that the Board have power to convert the Unissued Shares into Preference Shares, at par, to be offered in the first instance to the present holders of shares. The advantage offered to persons taking those Shares is that they are guaranteed a dividend of 25 per cent per annum before any dividend is paid on the other Shares. . . .”

The second page is a blank form for converting shares that was to be returned to the mining company.

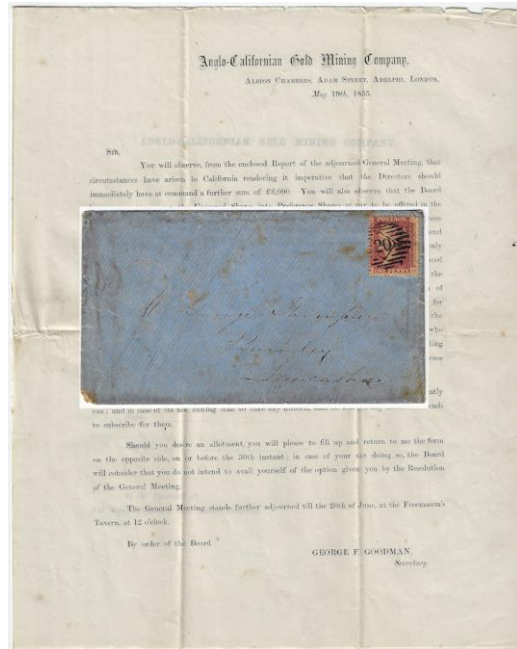
During the first four years of the California gold rush, about 120 companies formed in Great Britain to offer mining shares in the booming goldfields to the public. Many saw these companies as an opportunity to invest in the boom without facing the expense or danger of traveling to California. Unfortunately most ended in failure, and the public collectively lost almost £2 (about \$22 million in today’s dollars).

The Anglo-California Gold Mining Company, formed by Luke Williams in March of 1849, was one of the first and largest of the British ventures; it sold thousands of shares at 10s each to the public. Williams sent the former Royal Navy Captain, Henry Vere Huntley to Calaveras River in early 1850 to start up the operation. Huntley was unsuccessful, so he arranged a deal with the John C. Fremont’s Quartz Rock Mariposa Gold Company, and the company decided not to mine its own gold, but rather crush and refine gold ore that had been mined by others. To that end, it sent two steam-powered crushing mills to California. Unfortunately, the crushing mills proved useless, and the expedition ended in failure.

(For more information, see “Post Office Numbers from 1844” at the Great Britain Philatelic Society website, Huntley’s *California: its Gold and its Inhabitants: a British gentleman’s impressions of the barbarous Far West*, and reviews of Woodland’s *Money Pits: British Mining Companies in the Californian and Australian Gold Rushes of the 1850s*, all available online.)

Stock certificates from the company are in high demand and occasionally appear for sale on ebay and other online venues. Other ephemera is less commonly found.

\$100 [#10228](#)



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

13. [SLAVERY – ABOLITION] [SOCIAL MOVEMENTS – UTOPIANISM] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS – LIBERTY PARTY] [WOMEN & GIRLS – SUFFRAGE]

1856 – A letter from one of the most radical abolitionists, Abby Kelley, to her equally radical husband, Stephen Symonds Foster, delineating her meetings with a host of the country's most important abolitionists during a fund-raising trip on behalf of the American Anti-Slavery Society

Abby Kelley was a major figure in the national anti-slavery and women's suffrage movements despite a split with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton over the 15th Amendment. As a principal leader of the ultra-radical abolitionists, perhaps second only to William Lloyd Garrison, she traveled throughout the country for over twenty years, often with her equally radical husband, Stephen Symonds Foster, demanding not only immediate emancipation for all slaves, but full civil equality for blacks.

After the Panic of 1837, Kelley became the corresponding secretary of the Lynn Anti-Slavery Society and served as a national delegate to the first Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women. To the disgust of more moderate abolitionists, she began giving speeches to "mixed-gender" audiences, something that simply wasn't done by women of her time, and in 1843, Kelley addressed the attendees at the Liberty Party [an anti-slavery party whose support was concentrated along the northern U.S. border along the Great Lakes states from Maine through Illinois] convention in Buffalo, New York, becoming the first woman in America to speak at a national political convention.

In part due to her successful fund-raising at Lynn, Kelley was elected to the national business committee of the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS) and became its principal fundraiser.

Kelley also played a major role in the women's suffrage movement, demanding equal rights in a speech at Seneca Falls, five years before the famous convention was held there, and in 1850 she was one of the organizers of the first National Women's Rights Convention. However, Kelley split with Cady and Stanton when she enthusiastically supported the 15th Amendment which gave blacks, but not women, the right to vote. Once the amendment became law, she refocused her energies into the women's rights movement and in 1868 became one of the founding members of the New England Woman Suffrage Association.

In this letter to her husband Stephen Symonds Foster (which appears to be two-day's worth of her diary entries), which reads like a 'who's who' of the Mid-Atlantic radical abolitionist movement, Kelley describes one of her AASS fundraising trips to New Jersey and New York.

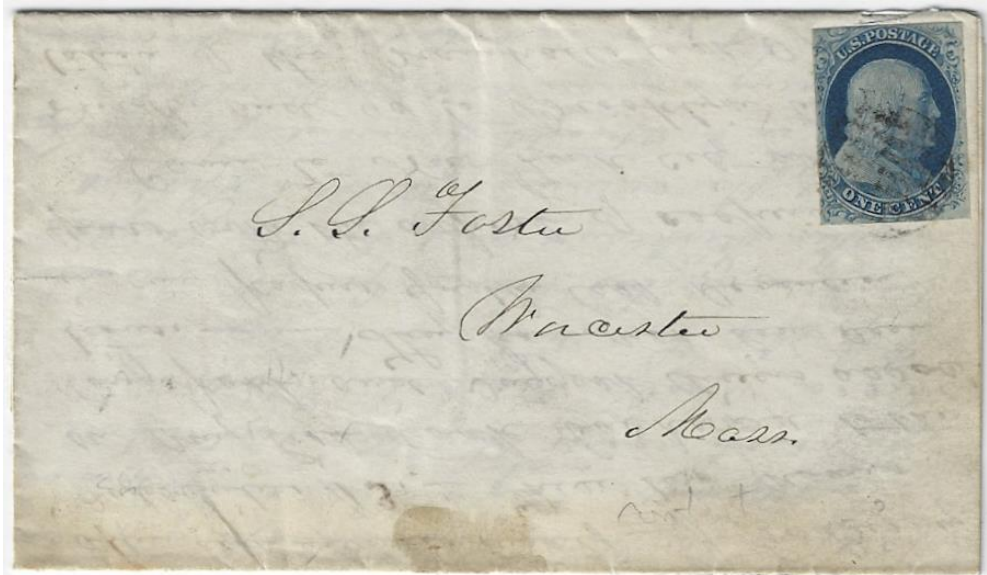
"Spent the . . . day in T. D. Weld's school. There are some thirty or forty pupils, and a happier or better regulated school cannot, I presume, be found in the country or the world. . . I found the . . . daughter of David [and Martha] Wright of Auburn there. There is great attention paid to the reading and acting of Shakespear's plays. Weld looks on it as a powerful instrument for developing all the higher powers of the mind. . .



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

"Dined with J. G. Binney. . . . says he heard [us] in our first lecture in Detroit as he was passing through that city. . . .

"I have had a long and earnest conversation with Marcas and Rebecca Spring in relation to their duty to the slave and urging a Thousand Dollar



devotion to the A. A. S. Society. They respond to most of my propositions but still are satisfied with remaining in the Republican Party till there shall be an opportunity to vote on a higher platform with a good hope of success. Finally after very severe criticisms in our harsh agents they decided that Rebecca shall subscribe \$150 and I prefer her name, as I want M to reserve his name for the Thousand.

"Mrs. [Caroline] Kirkland and her two daughters spend the evening at Mrs. Spring's. She is a straight forward practical appearing woman and with all her literary tastes and Colors is now engaged in building a house at Eagleswood. She is quite fleshy but looks finely, and is beautifully dressed in white muslin. She is agreeable in conversation. . . .

"Rise early and call on the Welds for an Anti-Slavery donation. They put down \$10 without any hesitation. Sarah Grimké has other objects to look after and excuses herself. J. G. Binney subscribes \$3. These two names on my list look backward to the long past. . . . They have not been seen in our papers for the last seventeen years with the aspect of cooperation. . . .

"Go to Brooklyn by invitation of the Bramhalls last spring to take up my quarters with them while I remain in the City. Find them gone to visit their friends in Mass. But the housekeeper is lonesome and I conclude to remain. . . . Then go to the anti-slavery office in N.Y. where I [finish] this and having prepared for commencing my work tomorrow I close this and go back to Brooklyn. . . ."

Everyone mentioned in this letter played an important role in the radical abolitionist movement, and some in the women's suffrage movement as well.

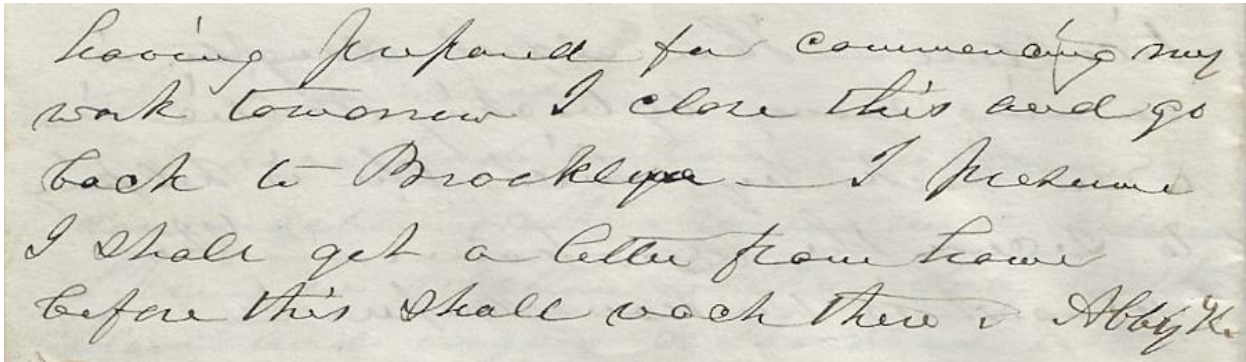
Theodore D. Weld was a founder of the American abolitionist movement in the 1830s and later directed a famous multi-racial boarding school at the utopian Raritan Bay Union community at Eagleswood in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

Martha Wright, the sister of Lucretia Mott, was one of the five women who organized the Seneca Falls Convention. She and her husband, David harbored fugitive slaves at her Auburn estate.

The Fosters' Detroit lectures were probably given during 1853 when they reorganized the Michigan Anti-Slavery Society at Adrian, and Caroline Kirkland was a resident of the Raritan Bay Union whose sarcastically disparaging book about frontier life in and the settlers of early Michigan caused a public outrage that drove her and her abolitionist husband from the state.

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

J. G. Binney was a member of the Raritan Bay Union and twice the presidential nominee of the Liberty Party. For many years he served as an agent for the American Colonialization Society.



Eagleswood was a huge estate at the Raritan Bay Union and major hub on the Underground Railroad . It is also where Abby Kelley Foster began writing this letter.

Marcus Spring was a wealthy New York philanthropist who supported abolition. Later, his wife, Rebecca, famously (or infamously depending upon point of view) traveled to Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and consoled John Brown while he awaited execution.

Sarah Grimké was a radical abolitionist reformer who is widely considered to be the "mother" of the American suffrage movement. Her sister, Angelina, was the wife of T. D. Weld.

Corneilus and Ann Rebecca Bramhall were members of Boston's Vigilance Committee which provided escaped slaves with shelter, clothing, money, passage, and other aid.

(For more information, see Sterling's *Ahead of Her Time: Abby Kelley and The Politics of Antislavery*, "The 1850 Boston Vigilance Committee" at the National Park Service website, "Caroline Kirkland" at the History of American Women website, Lasser's *Conscience and Contradiction: The Moral Ambiguities of . . . Marcus and Rebecca Buffum Spring* in the Spring 2018 edition of the *Journal of the Early Republic*, "Martha Coffin Pelham Wright" at the National Women's History Museum website, and articles about Eagleswood and the Raritan Bay Union at the "Perth Amboy Now" and "1863 Society" Facebook websites,.)

A scarce and historically valuable letter documenting Abby Kelley Foster's important role in raising funds for the American Anti-Slavery Society. Far less common than original source materials by Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Sarah Grimké, and other female leaders in the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements.

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. No Abby Kelly Foster first-hand letters or writings have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub and Liveauctioneers. OCLC reports that collections of Abby Kelley papers are held by Haverford College, Youngstown State University, and the Library of Congress.

SOLD #10229

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

14. [GOLD RUSH] [GUANO] [MARITIME] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY] [POLITICS – SECESSION] [SLAVERY – COOLIE LABOR]

1860 – Family letter from a man in Boston describing the impact of South Carolina’s recent secession to his brother on board one of the famous Gold Rush clipper ships, the Criterion, who was traveling to the Chincha Guano Islands off the coast of Peru.

This three-page folded letter measures 16” x 9½”. It was sent by “Charley” to his brother Alfred Mantine, who was on board the “Ship Criterion” in route to the Chincha Guano Islands off the coast of Peru. It is datelined “Boston Dec 31st / 60” and franked with two scarce U.S. stamps totaling 22 cents postage (a green 10-cent and a gray-black 12-cent Washington stamps, Scott Types A12-15). It bears an indistinct postmark and an indistinct red New York transit handstamp. A red accountancy credit “12” hand stamp has been applied indicating it was carried by a British vessel. Directions at the bottom left indicate it was sent in care of the British William H. Gibbs Company, the most important Guano firm in Peru. The letter is complete and in nice shape although it shows external wear and soiling. Small splits along several folds have been mended with transparent archival tape. A transcript will be provided.



The letter reads in part:

“I hoped to receive another letter from you before you left for the Chinchas but . . . I have given up that hope. Business is at a complete standstill in all parts of the United States on account of the political troubles. South Carolina has seceded from the Union takes possession of two of the US forts and hoisted the Palmetto Flag on the Custom House at Charleston. Other Southern States are expected to follow and I fear the next will that blood has been shed and a civil war commenced. Our manufacturing interests were never in such a depressed condition very many persons are unemployed and unless something yet unforeseen should immediately spring up for benefit there will be much suffering this winter. I am yet with Mr. Bayly [but] I fear however that I may be unemployed before spring as we are now doing almost nothing. . . .

“I am sorry to hear Sister Sarah is so sick I shall write to her and tell her of medicine which I think she can get at Callas [Peru’s main port] and which I believe will benefit her much. . . . It would do you no harm to take a bottle or two of the Peruvian Syrup . . . food for the blood and nervous system.”

South Carolina had seceded from the Union and declared its independence just 11 days before Charly wrote this letter, and the resulting uncertainty had an immediate impact on the national economy. The two Union forts mentioned in the letter that were taken by South Carolina were Fort Moultrie and Castle Pickney. Both had protected Charleston from a maritime attack and were indefensible from a land assault. Their soldiers abandoned the posts and augmented the force at Fort Sumter.

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

In the 1840s, after Europeans realized the tremendous fertilizing power of guano, i.e., seabird excrement, that Peruvians routinely harvested from mountainous deposits on their country's rocky coastal islands, its value skyrocketed, and an entire "white gold" industry sprang up almost overnight. Millionaires were quickly made, primarily Peruvians and Englishmen who lured and indentured Chinese and Polynesians as virtual slaves to dig and harvest the guano which made possible the tremendous increase in agricultural production that occurred in the mid-to-late 1800s.



William Gibbs and his brother inherited their father's often bankrupt trading business in the 1820s and returned it to respectability. A company agent in Lima established a guano export contract with Peru in 1842, and within five years, Peru granted Gibbs a monopoly with regard to the European and North American guano trade. Although imports started slowly, with 182 tons in 1842 by 1856 they reached 211,000 tons and continued to grow steadily. Since Britain had abolished African slavery, Gibbs turned to China for cheap labor and imported thousands of Chinese coolies to work under slave-like conditions mining the product. By 1860 all 4,000 of the coolies Gibbs initially imported had died. Gibbs had become the wealthiest non-royal Englishman and Company profits routinely approached £100,000 per year (about £15 million today).

The Criterion was one of over 50 clipper ships owned by Glidden & Williams, a Boston based company that primarily transported passengers between the East Coast and California throughout the 1850s. As the clipper ship transportation business began to draw to a close in the late 1850s, Glidden & Williams partnered with two Cape Cod companies in the shipping industry to found the Pacific Guano Company in 1859.

Peruvian Syrup was an "iron tonic" that claimed to be effective in treating many types of diseases and conditions including dyspepsia, indigestion, weak stomach, epilepsy, boils, dropsy, and "habits too commonly prevalent among the young." Its advertisements claimed that it was developed from a traditional recipe used along the west coast of South America. It was actually made in New York by J.P. Dinsmore and distributed by Seth W. Fowle & Son of Boston. Its two active ingredients were cocaine and protoxide of iron.

(For more information, see Tandon's "A Short History of Fertilizer" at the Fertilizer Development and Consultation Organisation website, "William Gibbs of Tyntesfield - Guano King" at Exeter Memories website, "Pacific Guano Company: 1859-1889" at the Woods Hole Historical Museum website, "An Advertising Card for Peruvian Syrup" at the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology website, and *History of the Peruvian syrup*. . . online at the Wellcome Collection.)

Scarce. At the time of listing, nothing similar is currently for sale in the trade. Although we have handled two other letters regarding Peruvian guano. The Rare Book Hub identifies one diary related to guano collection at the Chinchas has been sold at auction. OCLC identifies only one institution holding Chinchas Islands Guano correspondence.

An insightful observation regarding South Carolina's secession enhanced by its connection to Peruvian guano mining and recommendation of Peruvian Syrup.

SOLD #10230

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

15. [HUMOR] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY] [PROPAGANDA – PATRIOTIC COVERS]

[1861] – Patriotic Union propaganda envelope featuring a humorous essay in the style of Artemus Ward recounting the earliest stages of the Civil War and establishment of Camp Dennison in Ohio

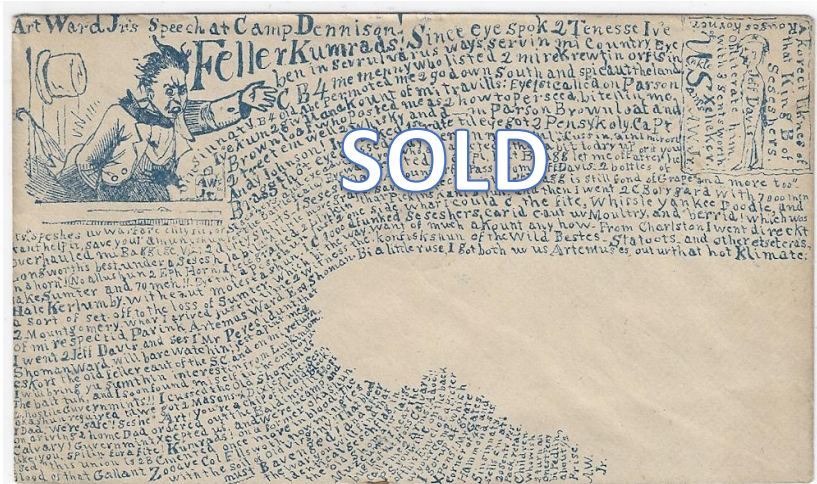
An unused patriotic envelope featuring a satirical illustration of a formation at “Camp Dennison Near Cincinnati” showing a Union soldier with a target on his chest about to be shot by a firing squad. The other side of the envelope features a long essay in the style of humorist, Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne), purporting to be written by his son. Produced and sold by a Cincinnati stationer, “Mr. Gates.” A “placeholder” for a stamp is in the upper right front corner. In nice shape.

Camp Dennison was established as a military recruiting and training center, capable of housing 12,000 soldiers, by future Commanding General of the U.S. Army, George B. McClellan, then the Commander of the Ohio State Militia as ordered by then governor, William Dennison.

Artemus Ward was the pen name of Charles Farrar Browne, a newspaper journalist and the most popular humorist in the country. The fictional Ward was the owner-operator of a traveling circus whose troupe always found itself located at a Civil War hotspot. The message written, most likely by Gates, in dialect on the front of this envelope is purportedly from Ward’s equally fictitious son. It reads in part. I’ve also broken it into more easily readable segments.

“Art Ward Jr’s Speech at Camp Dennison! Feller Kumrads! Since eye spok 2 Tenesse I’ve ben in sevrul varus ways servin mi country. Eye C B 4 me men who listed 2 mi rekrewtin ovfis in Sinsinnaty B 4 Old Abe permoted me 2 go down South and spie out the land. I’ve a un 2 giv U an kount of mi travills:

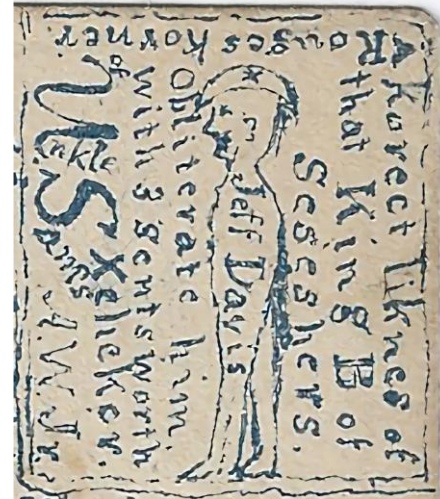
“Eye 1st called on Parson Brownloaf who posted me as to how to perseed bi tellin me 2 treet ein well 2 whisky . . . It worked 1st rate til eye got to Pensykoly . . . Eeye advise all you who are addicted to the



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

habit [of cussin] to dry up or & you cant help it, save your amunishun for the Battlefield. Eye was arrested [but they] let me off after [they] overhauled mi Baggige Viz: 2 dirty shirts, 1 Sesesh flag, A kounterfit Pass from Jeff Davis, 2 bottles of Longworth's best under a Sesesh labil "A little more grape" save mi neck this time!! . . .

"I telegrated 2 Linkin that Pickins kant B tuk, and then I went 2 C Borygard with 7000 infn take Sumter and 70 men!! Eye tuk a pesishun just 2 one side whar I could c the fite, whissle Yankee Doodle, and Hale Kerlumby without molestashun. I C 1000 drunked seseshers carid . . . Moultry. . . Which was a sort of set off to the loss of Sumter, which bi the way want of much akount anyhow.



"From Charlston I went direckt 2 Mountgomery [Ohio] whar I arived just in time 2 witness the konfiskshun of the Wild Bestes, Statoots, and other etseteras of mi respected Parink Artemus Ward, Esq. Shoman. Bi a little ruse I got both uv us Artemuses our ur that hot Klimate.

"I went 2 Jeff Davis and ses I "Mr Peresidunt, that Shoman Ward will bare watchin jest apint me a escort the old feller eaut of the S.C. and on mi return, I will bring yu sumthin interestin from Linkindom. The bait tuk, and I soon found myself in the employ uf 2 hostile Guvenmints!! I cussed the Old Shoman as okashun required til we got 2 Masons & Dixies line: ses I Dad "We're safe"! Ses he "Art! You're a chip of the old block!

"On ariving 2 home Dad ordered out the Baldinsville Hoss Calvary! Government xcepted us, and we're in camp, and like you., spilin far a fite! Kumrads! On a former okashun, I sed "this Union is 2 B Cimented once more in blood." The Blood of that Gallant Zooave Col Ellsworth, now mingles with the soil of Old Virginy! That blood must B avenged! And after war, you will find that identical seseh flag in the "old Shomans" large Muzeum! I hear the bugle of the Hoss Cavalry calls me 2 arms! Aboo!

"P.S. you will C on the back of this Envelop a Picter uf your camp which I got up at grate Xpens! Mr Gates, Corner of 4th and Mammond Sts. Sinsinnaty sells em at 20 sents per pack, retaile. Children who wish 2 turn an onest Peny in Pedlin, about 1/2 Prise. A. W. Jr."

An illustration int he upper right corner indicates where a postage stamp was to have been affixed. It shows a man surrounded by text that reads in part

"A Korect likness of that King B of Seseshers, Jeff Davis. Obliterate him with 3 sents worth xelicker. . . ."

(For more information, see Bischell 1368-1372, Weiss SC-NB 19-21& C-P-A 35, Grinspan's "'Sorrowfully Amusing' The Popular Comedy of the Civil War" in the September 2011 issue of the *Journal of the Civil War Era*.)

Similar unused envelopes occasionally appear at philatelic and ebay auctions. There may be more, but I only know of one postally used example.

SOLD #10231

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

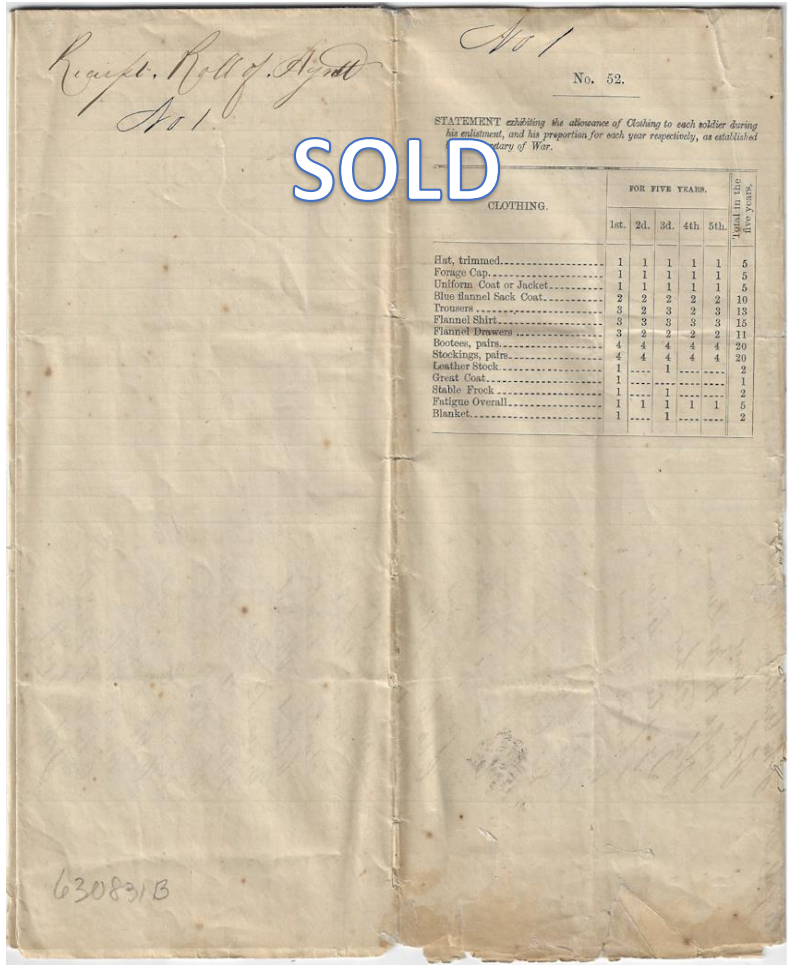
16. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA – 2ND U.S. COLORED INFANTRY] [FLORIDIANA] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR]

1863 – The “Role of August / No. 1” for Company G, 2nd U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment as it formed in Arlington, Virginia, documenting the first 52 of its soldiers receipt of their “Great Coats”

This 18” x 22” “Receipt. Roll of August / No. 1” documents the receipt of “Great Coats” by the first members of Company G, 2nd U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment. Two of the soldiers also received a pair of “Booties, Infantry. The document is in nice shape with some wear at the edges and along storage folds; several splits have been mended with transparent archival tape on the reverse.

The document is dated “August 31st” and would have been in 1863 as the regiment formed in Arlington, Virginia between 20 June and 11 November. The partially printed header reads,

“We, the undersigned Non-commissioned Officers, Artificers, Musicians, and Privates, of Company (G), Second Reg. U.S. Colored Troops, do hereby acknowledge to have received of 2nd Lieut. Carlton Seymore the several articles of Clothing se opposite our respective names.”



Soldier names are listed in a left-hand column. As the soldiers were illiterate, their names name were entered for them in the Signature column, over which individuals marked their “X.” All of the Xs were witnessed by “J. C. Reinhardt.”

By the time the regiment deployed to Key West to perform labor duties in February 1864, it numbered around 900 officers and enlisted men.

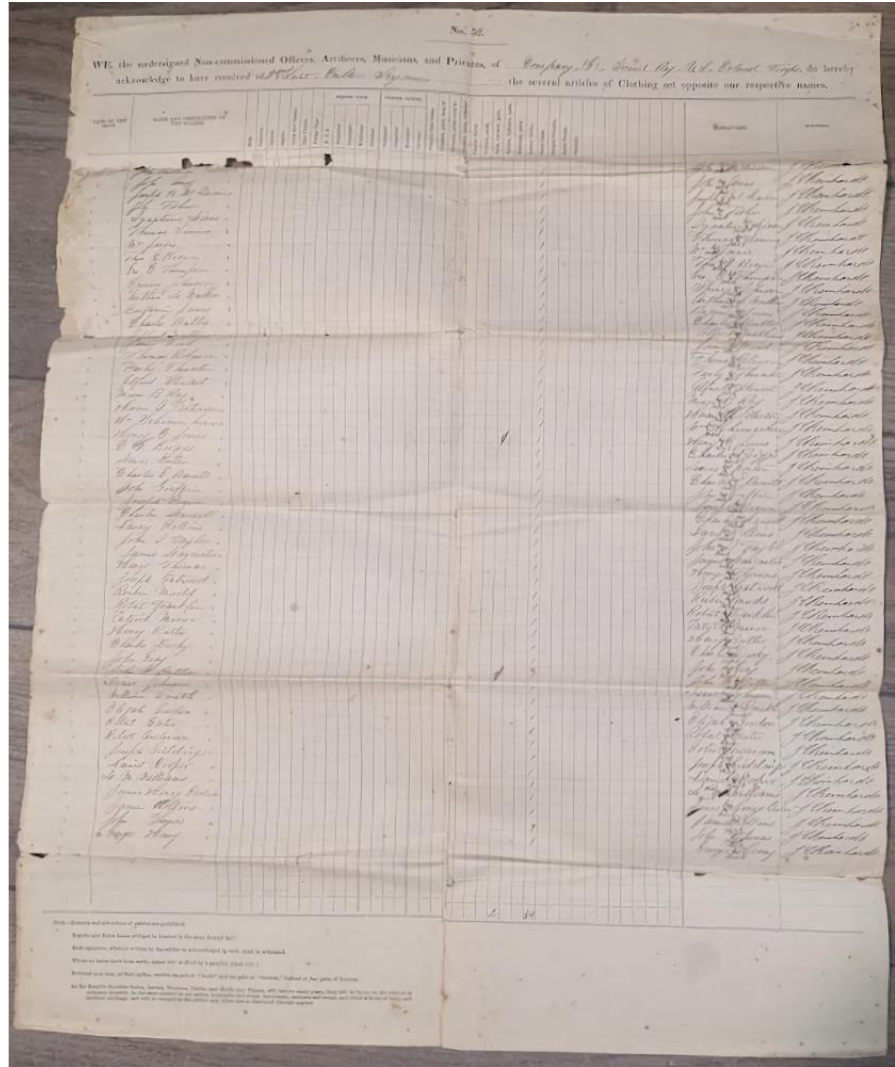
It engaged in several minor skirmishes the most significant of which was at Tampa. Although the U.S. Navy’s shelling of Tampa in 1862 had turned it into a “dead town” as most residents had fled to the countryside, a small contingent of defenders remained, and the area remained an important source of beef for the Confederate Army. In May 1864, while the 1st Florida Special Cavalry Battalion, commonly referred to as the “Cow Cavalry,” was away from Tampa driving a herd of cattle northward for consumption by the army, a Union force, consisting primarily of the 2nd U.S. Colored Infantry, landed at

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

the city on the 6th. It rounded up a handful of “old men and boys . . . all of whom were too old and decrepit, or too young for military service” and promptly began plundering and looting the city as later described by some of its remaining residents.

“They carried off all the Negroes and horses they could get, robbed all the stores and many of the private houses of everything they wanted. [Two men] were left with nothing but what they had on; [one lost] over \$80,000. . . Among the places raided was the Masonic Lodge, where they seized the jewels, regalia, and equipment. . .”

Upon learning of the imminent return of the Cow Cavalry, the regiment quickly abandoned Tampa on 7 May.



Later, in February of 1865, the regiment occupied Fort Myers, where it skirmished with Florida’s famous “Cow Cavalry,” which half-heartedly attacked the post for a little more than a day. During the battle, one African-American soldier was killed before the Cow Cavalry went on about its business of driving cattle northward to provide the Confederate Army with food. Following the ‘battle,’ the regiment remained on duty in Florida until it disbanded in January 1866. It suffered a total of 173 casualties during the war, losing only 27 officers and men in fighting. The other 146 died of disease.

(For more information, see “2nd Regiment, United States Colored Infantry” at the National Park Service website, VanLandingham’s “The Union Occupations of Tampa, May 6-7 , 1864” in the *Sunland Tribune*: Vol 19 Article 3, and Solomon’s “Southern Extremities: the Significance of Fort Myers in the Civil War,” available online.

Colored Troop Regiment muster and equipment distribution rolls occasionally appear for sale and at auction, and a number are held by institutions. However, I’ve found no records from any prepared as early as 1863 and no others from either the First or Second Regiments, the earliest regular Colored Troops to organize.

SOLD #10232

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

17. [AGRICULTURE – RANCHING, FARMING, & FISHING] [FLORIDIANA] [FOOD & DRINK – BEEF, PORK & FISH] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR]

1863-1864 – An archive of documents and letters regarding Florida’s importance during the Civil War as the food “Supplier of the Confederacy” and the activation of the famous 1st Florida Special “Cow Cavalry” Battalion by a Tampa cattle broker

This group of eight documents and letters is associated with Major Pleasant W. White, the Confederacy’s Chief Commissary for Florida, and Captain James McKay, of the Fifth Confederate Commissary District. A good case could be made that they were the two most important officers in the Confederacy as it was their effort providing the food, especially beef, that kept the Confederate Army in the field. The archive contains:

3 August 1863 – Special Order from the Secretary of War’s Office in Richmond directing Captain Bryant to “report to Major P. W. White Chief Commissary State of Florida for assignment to duty.”

27 October 1863 – Letter from the Assistant Quartermaster General’s Office in Richmond to White , a native of Quincy, authorizing him, as well his officers and agents, to receive a “tax in kind’ in east and south Florida.” The letter is docketed and endorsed by “P. W. White.”

30 October 1863 – Special Orders No. 258 from the Adjutant and Inspector General’s Office in Richmond detaching McKay, a pre-war Tampa cattle broker who exported cattle to Cuba, from the 4th Florida Volunteer Infantry Regiment for “special service” under White.

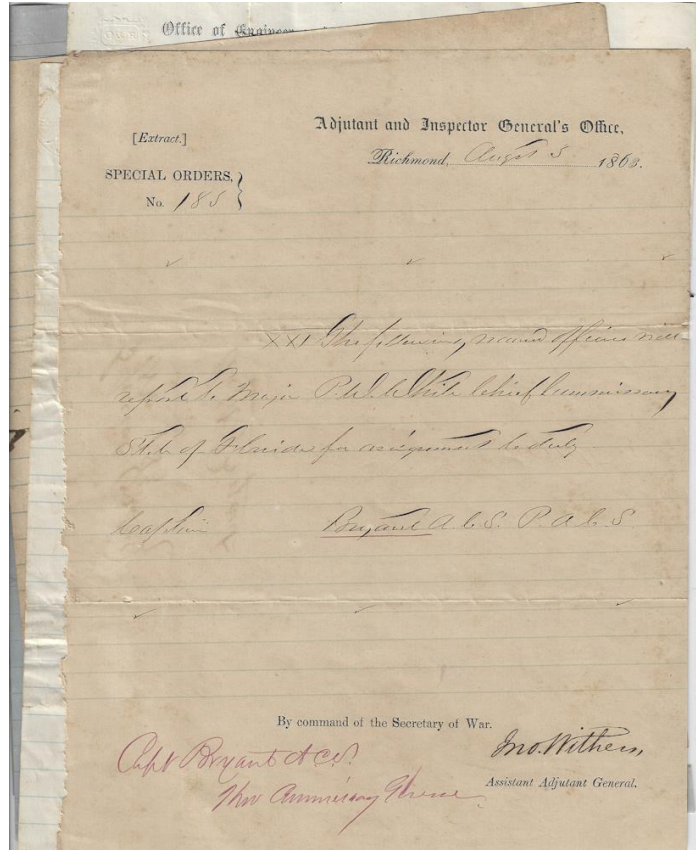
3 December 1863 – Letter to White from the Office of Engineer and Superintendent Florida Railroad regarding the seizure of hogs.

21 January 1864 – Letter to White from the Confederate Subsistence Department in Richmond regarding the appointment of a fisheries agent. The letter is endorsed by White.

15 April 1864 – Letter to White from the Confederate Bureau of Conscription in Richmond announcing the personnel “detailed for Bureau Service in accordance with special instructions from the War Department should not be disturbed by the Officers of Conscription.”

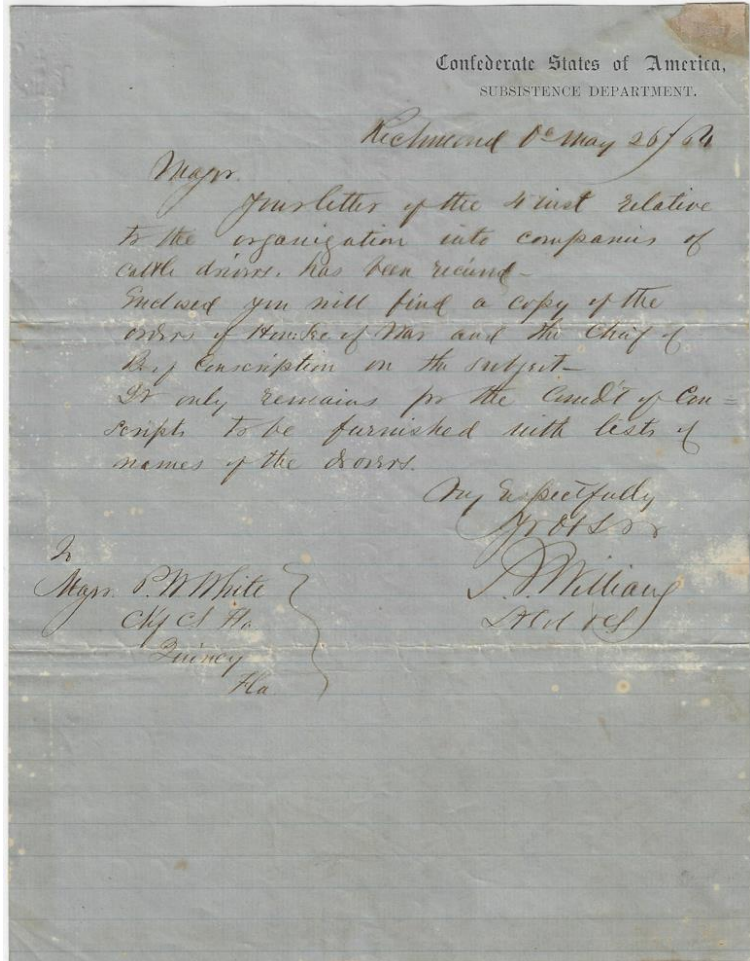
26 May 1864 – Letter to White from the Confederate Subsistence Department in Richmond regarding the use of conscripts and “the organization of companies of cattle drivers” (the famous 1st Florida Special “Cow Cavalry” Battalion).

26 June 1864 – Special Orders No. 1021 from Head-Quarters, Military District of Florida, suspending “S.O. No. 92.”



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

Initially, the Confederacy was able to provide considerable quantities of Texas beef to feed its forces in the field, however in the fall of 1863, the Union's Mississippi River campaign had severely crimped that supply, and after the fall of Vicksburg, the flow completely stopped. Thereafter, the Confederate Army, especially the Army of the Tennessee, and city garrisons became almost entirely dependent upon Florida beef, pork, and fish to continue operations. To that end, Major Pleasant W. White was appointed to serve as the Chief Commissary of Florida and directed to keep the state's foodstuffs moving northward. He acquired Captain James McKay, formerly a Tampa-based beef exporter, to manage his most important district which included Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Brevard, Dade, and Monroe counties. Although White and McKay never reached Richmond's goal of supplying 3,000 head per week, they were usually able to provide at least 1,000.



Recognizing the importance of the Florida food supply, its operation was under constant threat by the Union naval raids and cavalry forays. In an attempt to cut the supply line once and for all, Union forces attacked at the Battle of Olustee and were soundly defeated. Subsequently, the 1st Florida Special Cavalry Battalion, commonly referred to as the "Cow Cavalry," was formed to protect the herds as well as drive the cattle northward for consumption by the army. During the two years of the operation's existence, more than 75,000 head of cattle were official delivered, and it's likely considerable more went north on an unofficial basis. Eventually, General Sherman's March to the Sea, cut the supply lines, and no more cattle reached the Confederate field units.

(For more information, see Taylor's "Rebel Beef: Florida Cattle and the Confederate Army, 1862-1864," Greenwalt's "Florida's 'Cow Cavalry,'" Taylor's "Cow Cavalry: Munnerlyn's Battalion in Florida, 1864-1865," and "Florida's Role in the Civil War: Supplier of the Confederacy," all available online.)

A scarce collection of documents and letters regarding a little known, but incredibly important, facet of the Civil War. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows only one related item that has ever been sold at auction, a Union report about the Battle of Olustee that sold for \$2,250 in 2013. The Florida Historical Society holds the personal papers of Pleasant Woodson White; OCLC shows no other similar material in institutional collections.

\$2,000 [#10233](#)

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

18. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PUNISHMENT – CRUEL & UNUSUAL]

1865 – A Union musician complains directly to General Ulysses S. Grant after he was hung by the thumbs for 24 hours without food

This two-page letter was sent by Allen H. Green, a musician in the 121st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment assigned to the Union's 6th Corps, directly to General Ulysses S. Grant on 24 February 1865. As noted by docketing on the reverse, it was referred by Assistant Adjutant General at the "command of Lieut. Gen. Grant" to Major General John Grubb Parke, the Commanding General of the Army of the Potomac. Parke, in turn, forwarded the letter to "Hd Qrs 1 Div, 6 Corps" to answer. The command's answer is not included.

In the letter Green complains:

"I enlisted . . . as a Musition and mustered as a musition and have done my duty as a musition, until . . . , until Colonel Olcott orderd me to take a musket, and go on picket. I refused, and he tide me up by the thumbs for 24 hours without food or water, and then he put tow Cartridges boxes on me and three Muskets, which I have caried for 12 hours and still continue to cary them. Making 36 hours without food water or sleep.

Pleas, General will you tell me whether I am obliged to take a musket or not, or whether I am to suffer in this way of punishment."

It is probable that Green's complaint and questions fell on deaf ears for Civil War regimental 'justice' could be notoriously tortuous. In addition to being hung by their thumbs, soldiers could be forced to wear barrel shirts for long periods of time. Barrel shirts were exactly what they sound like. Arm and head holes were cut into large heavy casks which were lowered over soldiers' heads and shoulders. Sometimes uniform shirts were first removed to increase skin abrasion by the rough wood.. Often signs announcing their crimes were tacked to the barrels as they were forced to stagger around the camp perimeter at bayonet point to add further humiliation to their pain and fatigue.

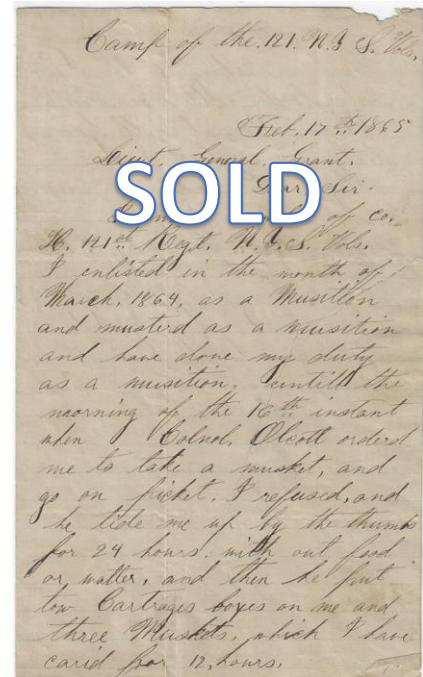
Artillerymen might be lashed to the spare wheel on the back of a caisson and driven for hours over rough terrain, or they may have had a 32 pound cannonball chained to their leg for a few days. Cavalrymen might be forced to 'ride' the rough beam of a wooden horse situated for all to see or carry their saddles around camp.

For more serious offences, soldiers were often 'bucked and gagged' where they were forced to sit on the ground and bring their knees up to touch their chests. Then, after their arms were wrapped around their legs and tied to their ankles, rough rods would be inserted under their knees and over their arms. The pain was excruciating. Finally, they were gagged, usually with a stick or bar forced between their jaws like a horse's bit and tied tightly behind their neck. This was done both to cause more pain and to partly muffle their screams. Upon release, any movement of the legs was almost as painful as the bucking.

Obviously, these punishments made vivid impressions upon other members of the unit.

(For more information, see "Discipline" at the American Civil War Society, UK website, "Discipline in the Civil War" at CivilWar.com, and Dolph's *Sound Off! Soldier Songs*.)

SOLD #10234



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

19. [BUSINESS – EXPRESS COMPANIES] [PHILATELY] [SCRIPHOPLY]

1868 – Stock Certificate issued by the Merchants Union Express Company immediately before it merged with a crippled American Express Company after two years of cutthroat competition

This certificate for ten shares of stock in the Merchants Union Express Company, measuring approximately 11½" x 8¾", was issued to Ketchum Clark of New York on October 16, 1868. It is signed by "J.N. Knapp" as Secretary and "A. P. Ross" as President. It features a classic central vignette showing an express wagon full of freight being pulled by four racing horses with freight train, ship, and factory in the background. It is franked with a pen-canceled 25-cent Washington revenue stamp (Scott #R44). In nice shape with some wear at the corners.



The American Express Company was formed in 1850 with the consolidation of three companies that transported goods, valuables, and specie between New York City, Buffalo, and cities in the Midwest: the Livingston Fargo and Company, Wells & Company, and Butterfield & Watson. Wells served as president and Fargo as secretary.

By the end of the Civil War, although American Express had prospered and grown to 900 offices in ten states, Knapp and Ross saw that it was also bloated and overextended. They formed the Merchants Union Express Company in 1867, immediately invaded American Express territory and began to pickoff its employees and staff. They also launched a cutthroat fight-to-the-death price war and rapidly captured a devastating amount of American Express's customers. Although forced to spend almost all of their capital, the strategy was successful, and Merchant's Union forced the financially exhausted American Express into a merger. On November 25, 1868, the two firms combined to form the American Merchants Union Express Company. Although Wells was named president, Ross and Knapp held the new company's Secretary and Treasurer positions. Five years later, the company rechristened itself, changing its name back to the better known American Express Company.

This certificate was issued just a little over one month before the companies merged.

(For more information, see "Merchants Union Express Co." at scripophily.com and "American Express Company" at the online *Encyclopedia Britannica*.)

Pre-merger Merchants Union certificates occasionally are listed at ebay and other online scripophily venues.

\$400 #10235

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

20. [MILITARY – FT. BRIDGER] [PALEONTOLOGY – BONE WARS] [PHILATELY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

1888 – A Wyoming pioneer, whose earlier discovery of large fossils spawned the infamous paleontological ‘Bone Wars’, describes his new homestead near Fort Bridger

This four-page letter signed “J” [James Van Allen Carter] is datelined “The Willows / Aug 26 188[8]”. It is enclosed in a green 2-cent Washington stamped envelope (Scott Type U71/U72) postmarked “Fort Bridger / Aug / 27 / 88 / Wyo.” and addressed to Carter’s mother in Lexington, Missouri. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

The letter, about pioneer life at Fort Bridger, reads in part:

“Observe the heading and see the airs we are putting on . . . The Willows! . . . Of course it’s inconvenient to have to go to Bridger to get a beefsteak or a box of matches. . . . This work is tedious and presents some worry nearly every day. My crop is apt to fall short, [but] My pasture feed is very fair yet. . . . As I sit out front of the cabin and look southward, viewing the beautiful Unita mountains, I know how much Ma would enjoy the same. They have almost lost their snow – only a shot here and there on the highest peaks. I hope there’ll always be a few shots . . . for the snowy peaks are much of the charm.”

After the Civil War, James Van Allen Carter of Lexington, Missouri, was inspired to see the west and signed on with a freighting train in 1866 that hauled supplies to Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and settled there. In 1868, James began sending fossils he had found in Washakie Basin to the famed paleontologist, Joseph Leidy. Intrigued, Leidy visited James, Fort Bridger, and the Basin in 1872. Soon two scientific competitors, Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh, appeared, and the battle was on. In 1877, railroad workers notified Marsh that they had unearthed giant fossil bones and the hunt for dinosaurs began. Leidy found a complete skeleton of what appeared to cross between an elephant and a hippopotamus, which he named the *Uintatherium robustum* in honor of the Unita Mountains. Cope and Marsh vigorously attacked Leidy’s findings, beginning an acrimonious academic debate between all three men. Leidy soon became so frustrated that he withdrew from further Western research. Wyoming, however, continued to be a hotbed of dinosaur discoveries.

Although James didn’t realize it when he wrote this letter, his days at Fort Bridger were numbered as the growing network of western railroads made the overland trails obsolete. After the Army closed the post in 1890, James relocated to Evanston, Wyoming, where he established a drug store.

(For more information, see “History of Fort Bridger” at the Genealogy Trails website, “The Bone Wars” from the Wyoming Tales and Trails website, and online genealogical websites including ancestry.com.)

Scarce. No similar items are for sale in the trade, and Rare Book Hub shows none having appeared at auction. William and James Carter family paper collections are held at by the Wyoming State Archives and Berkeley’s Bancroft Library.

SOLD #10236



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

21. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS – TOBACCO] [PHILATELY]

1896 – Advertising envelope and dunning letter from the largest tobacco plug manufacturing company in the world

This lot consists of a colorful advertising cover and dunning letter sent to a customer, Horace King of Crawfordsville, Indiana, by the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company of St. Louis, Missouri. The letter is datelined “St. Louis, Dec. 21, 1896.” The “all-over” multi-color Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company advertising envelope is franked with a 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #267) tied by a St. Louis duplex postmark, also dated Dec. 21, 1896. The cover features a colorful block of five gigantic plugs of Star chewing tobacco, the “Leading Brand of the World.” The company’s return address is printed below. In nice shape with some minor postal and opening wear.

The enclosed typed letter features a b/w illustration of the company’s St. Louis headquarters and part of the factory. It addresses several overdue payments and unacceptable checks.

Also included is an example of the tin advertising pins that were affixed to each plug of Liggett & Myers tobacco.



In 1849 J. E. Liggett and Brother was established in St. Louis by John Edmund Liggett. In 1873, George S. Myers became his partner and in 1878, the business was renamed Liggett and Myers Company. By 1885, it had grown to become the world’s largest manufacturer of plug chewing tobacco at a time when chewing was by far the most popular way to use tobacco.

Plugs were made by pressing tobacco leaves mixed with a sweet bonding agent, like molasses, between large metal plates and the cutting resulting sheets in blocks about 2.75” x 4.5” x 1” that sold for a nickel or dime depending on their quality. Star plug tobacco was Liggett & Myers bestselling brand, and by the mid-1890s, the company had outgrown its original location at 13th and St. Charles Street in downtown St. Louis. In 1896, it began constructing a massive thirteen-building factory on the outskirts of the city in what is now South St. Louis, just north of the vast tract of land owned by Henry Shaw, an English immigrant who had made millions selling hardware goods to regional settlers and pioneers heading west. Liggett & Myers was one of the very few companies that bested the Duke Brothers as they formed their American Tobacco Trust. The Dukes were unable to undercut Liggett & Myers during a long price war and eventually agreed to purchase the firm at an incredibly inflated price in 1898 at the time this envelope was mailed.

A reorganized Liggett & Myers continued operations on the same site after the Supreme Court broke-up the tobacco trust in 1911 until the plant was closed in the 1970s.

\$100 [#10237](#)

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

22. [CRIME – TORTURE & MURDER] [MILITARY – BOXER REBELLION] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION – CONGREGATIONALISM & MISSIONARIES]

1898 – Letter from a female American missionary in China whose torture and beheading early in the Boxer Rebellion helped set the stage for the military intervention by the Eight Nation Alliance

This four-page letter, dated 6 and 20 December 1898, was sent by Annie Gould, a young woman serving at the American Board Congregationalist Mission at Paotingfu, China, to her family in Portland, Maine. As the Chinese post office was not functional until 1896, many foreign countries had established their own in-China postal systems linking cities where they had established consulates. The nearest system to Paotingfu was the International Japanese Post Office (I.J.P.O) at Tientsin. As such, Annie franked her envelope with a 10-sen Japanese Koban stamp (Scott #79) which received a circular Tientsin I.J.P.O postmark dated 26 December 1898. The letter was then forwarded to Shanghai where it received a second I.J.P.O. handstamp before being forwarded through Japan and on to the United States. (It is very unusual for two different I.J.P.O postmarks to appear on the same envelope.) The letter and envelope are both in nice shape.

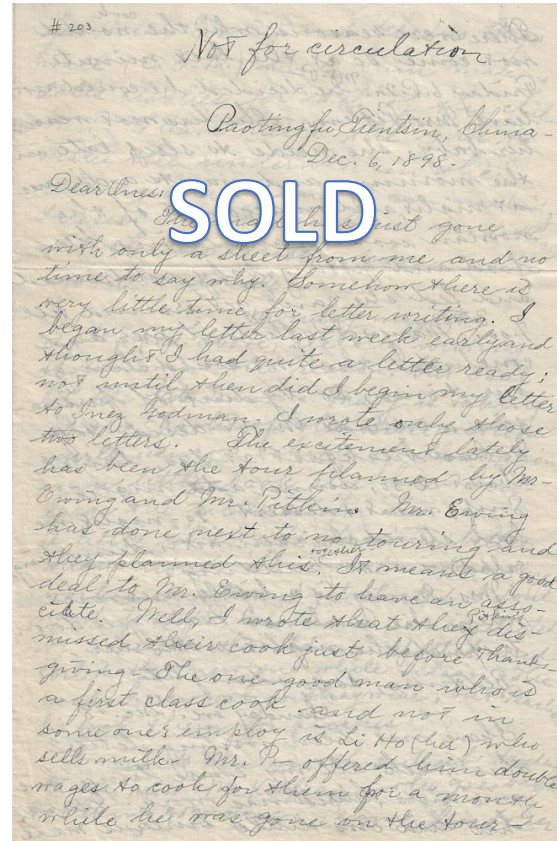
Annie's letter discusses mission funding, the mail, hiring a cook, dinnertimes, menus, Chinese staff and teachers, family birthdays, her young students, etc. At only one point does she obliquely touch upon concerns about the ever-growing unrest, noting

"Mrs. Ewing is a little nervous when she is alone. Mary [Morrill] goes down to spend the night with her."

Unfortunately, the danger would soon increase exponentially as the Boxer Rebellion against the Qing Dynasty began to threaten missionaries directly, but as she wrote home in a later letter (not included),

"Mr. Wu, a superintendent of examinations or some such rank, . . . advised Mr. Bagwell in a roundabout way to leave before the Boxers get any hotter against us. . . . There are about 1000 Boxers in Paotingfu now to say nothing of the numbers in villages around. The [Imperial] soldiers would not fire on the Boxers to defend us. . . . We may be killed . . . or we may escape by the skin of our teeth. God knows. . . . If I live I will send you another letter soon.... If not on earth, we'll meet in heaven again."

Annie Gould did not live much longer. At about 7 p.m. on July 1, 1900, the "Long Knives" that had surrounded the American Board mission at Paotingfu broke into the compound and captured her, Mary Morrill, two male missionaries, and a number of Chinese Christians, beating them severely. Annie, Mary, and the two men were tied together with ropes around their necks. As they were dragged to a Boxer temple, their Chinese Christian followers were hacked into small pieces. When Annie fainted, her feet were tied together and a long pole run between them; her long hair was used to bind her head securely at the other end. At the temple, the four were joined by an additional seven missionaries and their young children from the China Inland Mission and the Pennsylvania Board. It is known that the beatings continued throughout the night and next day, and it has been suggested that they were subjected to other



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

“unmentionable cruelties” as well. At sundown, the missionaries and their children were dragged to a killing field where after savage beheadings their body parts were dumped into an open pit.

News of the Paotinfu massacre and other near simultaneous atrocities spread like wildfire, outraging the West. After the Empress Dowager announced her support of the Boxers, thousands besieged the European, American, and Japanese diplomatic legations at Peking (Beijing). By August, a force of nearly 20,000 soldiers from an Eight-Nation-Alliance including a U.S. relief contingent consisting of 2,500 men from the Army's 9th and 14th Infantry Regiments, the 5th Artillery Regiment, the 6th Cavalry Regiment, and one Marine battalion had landed in China to lift the siege. Several of the American units which had been stationed in

the Philippines arrived much sooner and captured Taku and Tienstin by mid-July. By 14 August, the Boxers had been defeated, the siege lifted, and the Chinese Imperial Court humiliated. The American forces departed China by winter. When a treaty was signed in 1901, many of the allies received huge land concessions (e.g. Japan received control of Manchuria) and a huge indemnity, \$330 million, was placed upon the Imperial Court. The United States received a relatively small share, only a \$24 million, which Congress subsequently determined to be excessive, and \$11 million of that was returned to the Chinese Republic in 1908.

(For more information, see “Americans Butchered: Massacre at Paotingfu” in the 27 July 1900 issue of *The New York World*, the Second Annual Reunion of Chase/Chace Family Association, Thursday, September 5, 1901 at Providence, R.I. Kettler's “The Tragedy of Paotingfu” in Hattaway's *China's Book of Martyrs*, Kyle's *In memory of Miss Mary S. Morrill and Miss Annie Allender Gould martyrs of Paoting-fu, North China, July 1, 1900*, Esherick's *The Origins of the Boxer Uprising*, “United States Relations with China: Boxer Uprising to Cold War” at the U.S. Department of State website, and “China Relief Expedition Campaigns” at the U.S. Army Center of Military History website.)

Exceptionally scarce. Although Annie Gould sent over 250 letters to her father during the years she served in China, the entire collection was sold, probably to one or two wealthy Chinese philatelists, at a 2021 Kelleher and Rogers Fine Asian Auctions “Limited Sale” held in Hong Kong, This letter somehow ‘escaped’ consolidation and was not included in that sale.

SOLD #10238



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

23. [MILITARY – BOXER REBELLION] [MARITIME] [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

1900-1901 – An exceptionally detailed archive of U.S. Naval operations in support of allied ground operations during the Boxer Rebellion from the personal files of Admiral Louis Kempf, the commander of the U.S. flotilla in Chinese waters

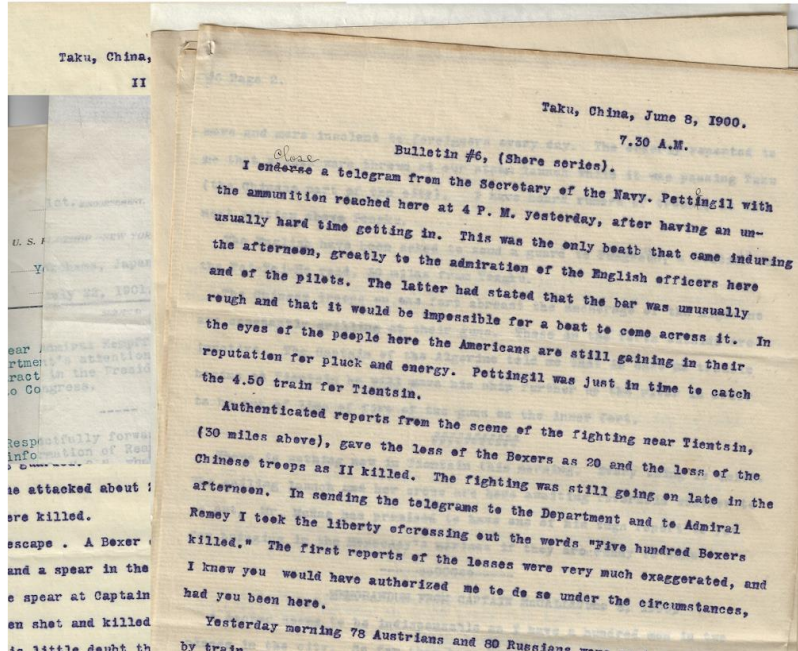
This archive from Admiral Louis Kempff's personal files consists of five densely packed, typed "Bulletins" and letters detailing the U.S. Navy's participation in the conflict including its ground fighting at Ta-Ku which he personally directed. Over twelve pages of typed text. The documents contain some details not included in the official history of the action, *The Boxer Rebellion: Bluejackets and Marines in China: 1900-1901*, published by the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command.

In the spring of 1900, Admiral Kempff commanded the U.S. naval squadron that was ordered to China waters to support allied land forces

in their attempt to relieve the international legations at Peking (today Beijing). During that time, he directed American ground actions in and around Ta-Ku at the mouth of the Pai (today Pei-ho) River. In response to a request from British Admiral Sir Edward Seymour that relayed a request from the foreign legations at Peking, Kempff ordered Bowman H. McCalla, the Captain of his flagship, USS *Newark*, to spearhead a combined landing force of bluejackets and marines ashore in an attempt to open an inland corridor. Allied troops from Japan, Great Britain, German, and other European nations joined his forces. On the road to Peking, they survived rebel ambushes and fought them in several skirmishes. Ultimately, they were attacked by a huge assembly of Boxers and forced to turn back against overwhelming odds.

Later, when allied ships began to bombard Chinese Imperial forts, Kempff refused to participate as he understood the intent of his orders from Washington was not to engage Imperial Chinese forces. Although condemned publicly by President William McKinley for his inaction, he submitted a lengthy rebuttal (the last document in the archive) declaring that the "Chinese government [had] not committed, so far as I'm aware, any act of open hostilities towards the foreign armed forces."

Kempff was exonerated and later personally commended for his decision by Naval Secretary John D. Long who reported that "satisfaction with his conduct . . . was felt by the Administration [regarding] his discreet conduct in not joining in the fire of the forts." Upon relinquishing his command, Kempff was again officially commended for his leadership in the Far East and specifically for his actions at Ta-Ku.



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

In this important archive Kempff extensively details his and his squadron's actions at Ta-Ku. A few excerpts include:

Bulletin #6 (Shore Series). Taku, China, June 8, 1900. To Admiral Kempff from Victor Blue, Flag Lieutenant.

"In the eyes of the people [already] here the Americans are still gaining their reputation for pluck and energy. . . Reports from the scene of fighting near Tientsin, (30 miles above) gave the loss of the Boxers

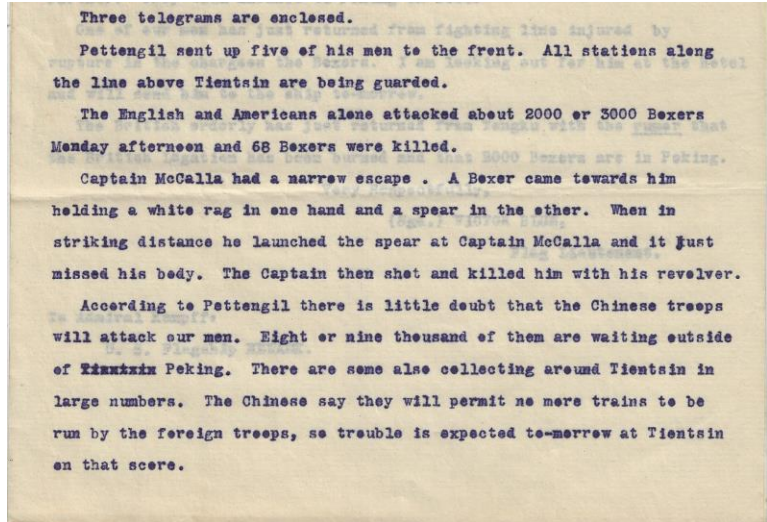
as 20 and the loss of the Chinese troops as 11 killed. . . Yesterday morning 78 Austrians and 80 Russians were sent up to Tientsin by train. . . It is true that the natives of Tengku and Taku have been called out by the Boxers. The 'signs' have been marked on the doors. . . Chinese Natives in both places are getting more and more insolent to foreigners every day. . . Stones were thrown at our steam launch while passing through Taku. . . The English have been asked to send a guard to Taungshaun on the Pei-Tai-He road. . . Chinese troops at the fort abreast . . . are constantly drilling at their guns. . .

"Memorandum from Captain McCalla [states] I have a hundred men in two places in the city. [All are] well excepting to cases of diarrhea. . . The railroad is intact to Yangatsun, 18 miles from here. There is an iron bridge the ties of which were burned by the Boxers. . . A secret edict has been issued by the Empress dowager that the Chinese troops must treat the Boxers leniently. Today a decree was issued suspending all traffic between Peking and Tientsin. It would not be difficult to take possession of the [rail] road and operate it. . . 2000 [Chinese] troops were brought to PeiTang. . . [Received a] Telephone message from Tientsin that 32 wounded Chinese troops have arrived from the scene of the fighting. . ."

Bulletin #9 (Shore Series). Taku, China, June 9, 1900. To Admiral Kempff from Victor Blue, Flag Lieutenant.

"The Boxers are advancing on Tientsin [and] the railroad station is threatened. . . Captain Jellicoe [a British officer] will take measures to defend. . . [He] asks for another company and machine gun. . . Captain McCalla [recommends] one British, one Russian or French, and one American or German steams not more than forty feet long [should patrol the river.] European staff will leave Taungshaun tomorrow if they do not receive assurance of protection. Very urgent. . . The English have secured the tug Fa Wan. . . Will do well as a river gun boat. . . I have little doubt that within a few days there will be no communication with Tientsin except by river, and only then by armed tugs that can force their way through. . . [I think we will] secure the Heron, mount two 1-pounders on her and give her a fighting crew of twelve or fifteen men. . . The British will make use of the hotel here as a hospital. . . There is no doubt in my mind that within a very short time severe fighting will take place in Tientsin. The Chinese in Taku and Tengku are also disaffected, especially the coolies. . . Everything points to a general uprising in this section of China. . . The English may send a company of bluejackets . . . this afternoon. . ."

Bulletin #14 (Shore Series). Taku China, Jun 14, 1900. To Admiral Kempff from Victor Blue, Flag Lieutenant.



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

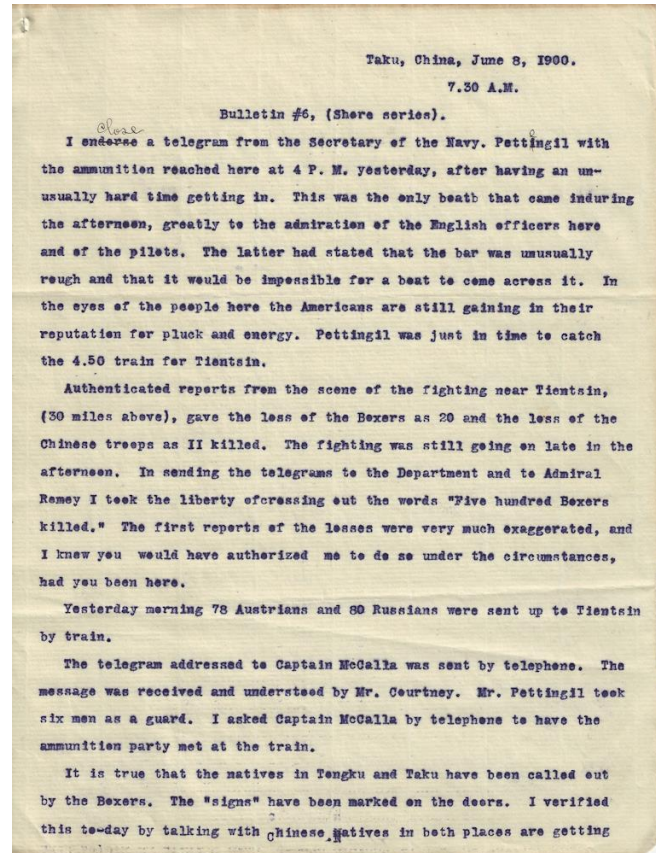
“Captain Stewart [possibly a British naval officer] thinks some concerted action should be taken by foreign gun boats . . . in case hostilities begin . . . such as the relief expedition being fired on by Imperial troops. . . All stations along the line above Tientsin are being guarded. The English and Americans alone attacked about 2000 or 3000 Boxers Monday afternoon and 68 Boxers were killed. Captain McCalla had a narrow escape. A Boxer came towards him holding a white rag in one hand and a spear in the other. When he was in striking distance he launched the spear at Captain McCalla and it just missed his body. The Captain then shot and killed him with his revolver. . . There is little doubt that the Chinese troops will attack our men. Eight or nine thousand of them are waiting out side of Peking. There are some also collecting around Tientsin in large numbers. . . The general opinion in Tientsin is that China will attempt to drive out the foreign troops in a day or two. . . There are 10,000 Chinese troops near Tientsin. . . The Boxers [have] stood up very well under fire, but they were indifferently armed, spears, swords, and a few rifles. . . The relief expedition has given up all hope of repairing the road. . . The British orderly [reports] the rumor that the British Legation has been burned and that 2000 Boxers are in Peking. . .”

Letter. Office of the Senior Squadron Commander, U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station. Flagship *Newark*, Cavite, P.I., Aug. 23, 1900. Admiral Neff to The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Force, Asiatic Station.

“It is my intention, after having familiarized with the situation here, to leave the Newark at this port with Captain B H. McCalla . . . and taking some one of the suitable smaller vessels, visit some of the more remote vessels on the station. . .”

Letter. No. 1—D. Office of the Senior Squadron Commander, U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station. Flagship *Newark*, Cavite, P.I., January 7, 1901. In this letter to the Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Neff summarizes the actions at Tientsin and Taku, and refutes any suggestion that he acted inappropriately when Allied ships fired upon Chinese forts.

“I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to an extract from the President’s message to Congress as follows . . . ‘A small force of marines was landed at Taku and sent to Peking for the protection of the American Legation. Other powers took similar action until some 400 men were assembled in the capital as legation guards. Still the peril persisted. . . While the preparations were in progress for a larger expedition to strengthen the legation guards and keep the railway open, and attempt of the foreign ships to make a landing at Taku was met by fire from the Chinese forts. The forts were thereupon shelled by the foreign vessels, the American admiral taking no part in the attack. . . Two days later the Taku forts were captured after a sanguinary conflict. Severance of



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

communications with Peking followed and a combined force of additional guards which was advancing to Peking by the Pei Ho was checked at Langfang. The isolation of the legations was now complete.'

"This portion of the message is so manifestly in error that I beg leave to submit . . . a brief summary of events as they transpired at the time.

"On May 19 . . . the *Newark* [received] a cable message . . . requesting a warship at Taku. . . Taking a portion of the marine guard from the U.S.S. *Oregon*, [on May 29 it] landed a force of about 100 men . . . under the very guns of the forts, proceed by river to Tientsin. . . On May 31, a force of about 450 foreigners, including about 56 American marines and sailors proceeded to Peking . . . and by Government permission entered Peking unmolested. . . .

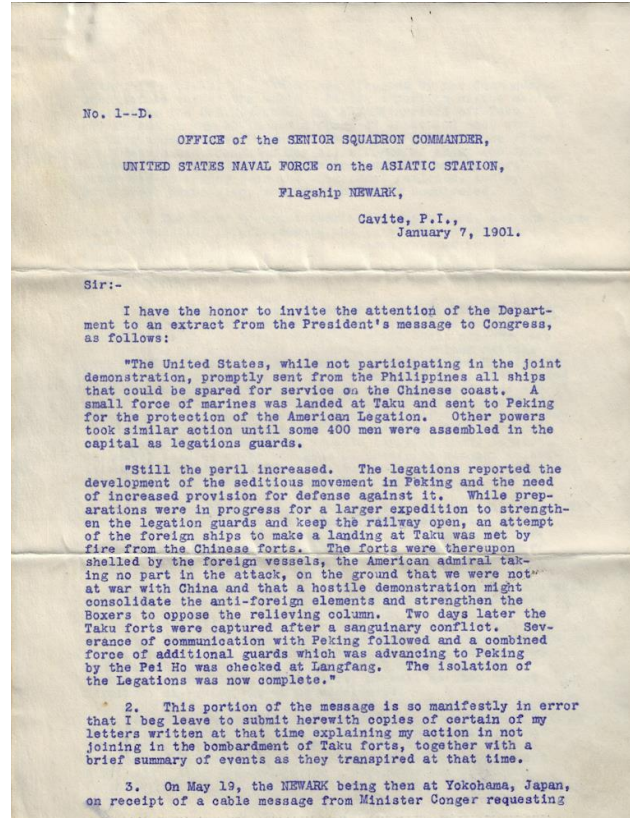
"The legations requesting reinforcements . . . a force composed of eight nationalities and numbering 2076 men started on June 10 to the relief of Peking. Before this time the Imperial troops had had engagement with the Boxers [and] their actions were not hostile to foreigners. Meanwhile the various nations were landing troops as they arrived. . . . Supplies and troops were being daily transported by [Chinese] Government trains . . . under the guns of the forts without molestation. . . . The Chinese Imperial troops, instead of having committed any act of hostility, as stated in the President's message, by firing on a landing party had consistently allowed foreigners to land troops, arms and munitions of war with out opposition. . . .

"When it was therefore proposed on June 15 by the other foreign naval officers to seize the railroad station which was Chinese government property, I refused to join it. . . . [When] they signed a protocol . . . demanding the temporary surrender of the forts. . . . No gun had been fired by the Chinese Imperial troops against any foreign troops up to that time, nor . . . had they committed . . . any act of hostility. . . . Fire was opened . . . and after about six hours conflict the forts were taken and occupied. . . . The action was immediately followed . . . by the bombardment of Tientsin by Imperial troops the following night [and] by the Imperial troops attacking and driving back the . . . relief expedition . . . by their beginning their attack on the legations in Peking. . . . The isolation of the legations was now complete, and the life of every foreigner in China was jeopardized from [allied] attacks of Boxers and Imperial Chinese forces. . . .

"[By] the statements in the President's message . . . I am placed in a false positon before the public. . . . I respectfully request that this letter be brought to the attention of the President of the United States, [as his] statements . . . are not correct."

Possibly unique, although it is probably that originals of these documents my be held in the National Archives.

\$7,500 [#10239](#)



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

24. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS – LEAD PAINT] [PHILATELY] [PUBLIC HEALTH – HAZARDS]

1902 – Two advertising items for the Detroit White Lead Works, a leader in paint manufacturing

One of the items in this lot is a one-cent advertising postal card (Scott #UX14) for the Detroit White Lead Works that bears a Detroit machine postmark dated March 10, 1902. The other is a personal letter written on colorful F. R. Kedzie stationery advertising Detroit White Lead Paint datelined "Pittsford, Mich. April 25 1902". Both items are in nice shape.

The postcard is a salesmen arrival notice card that was sent to "Chambers Bros" in St. Ignace, Michigan. It announces that a Detroit Lead Works agent would call on March 13 or 14, 1902. It bears the company's red seal logo and a list of its products that were sold in the "Detroit-Chicago-Buffalo-Memphis" regions: Liquid Paints, Colored Leads, Carriage Black and Colors, Varnishes and Paint Specialties.

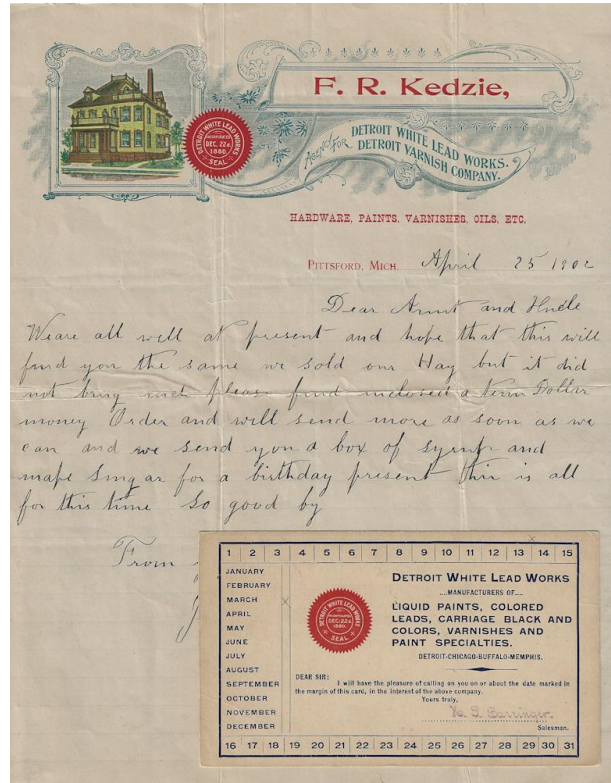
The letterhead features the company red seal logo along with a color illustration of a house painted with Detroit White Lead products. The letter offers birthday greetings to an aunt.

The Detroit White Lead Works, one of the leaders in paint production, produced its product by mixing white lead (carbonate of lead), with oils and colors. It was founded sometime between 1863 and 1865 by Ford DeCamp Hinchman, a Detroit druggist, who served as the company president until 1880. At that time, it was sold to Ford R. Rogers who incorporated the business, which was located on Jones Street until that factory was destroyed by fire in 1896 and a new factory was built in the city's "Milwaukee Junction." Until that time, the company had only produced white paint, but afterward began to offer color paint in response to Detroit's burgeoning automobile industry. It eventually also produced insecticides and soap. In 1910 it was acquired by Sherwin Williams but continued to operate under its own name. It reorganized as Permalac in 1933, and finally closed 1938.

The hazards of lead have been known since 200 B.C., yet they were mostly ignored because the metal's easy availability, malleability, anti-corrosive properties, and even taste. (For years it was added to wine as a sweetener.) It was added to paint because it expedited drying, improved durability, and permitted cleaning with soap and water. In the early 20th century, Detroit, driven largely by auto industry demand, became the center of lead paint production in America. It also became the center of lead-based health concerns. Detroiters came into direct contact with lead in their factories; they lived in lead-painted homes, and the air they breathed was laden with lead dust. By the time, lead-based products were legally controlled in 1978, over 6% of Detroit's children suffered some type of medical issue from lead exposure.

(For more information, see "F. D. Hinchman is Dead at 81" in the 27 March 1929 edition of the *Detroit Free Press*, "Detroit White Lead Works" at Wikimapia, "Detroit's Milwaukee Junction Survey" by the National Park Service, and "Lead paint takes over Michigan" at the History Engine website."

\$150 [#10240](#)



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

25. [AGRICULTURE – RANCHING] [BUSINESS – HOTELS] [PHILATELY] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]
[TRANSPORTATION – PACK TRAINS]

1905 – Letter from the son of a wealthy former Detroit hotel owner informing his family that he had led a pack train through the mountains of New Mexico in hopes of purchasing a sheep ranch.

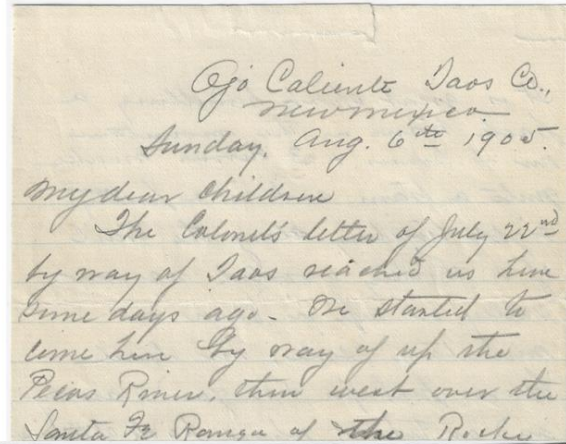
This complete, but unsigned, four-page letter from Walter M. Taber is datelined "Ojo Caliente Taos Co., / New Mexico / Sunday, Aug. 6th 1905." It is enclosed in an envelope franked with a red 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #319) that has been cancelled with a Type 2, #3 Ojo Caliente postmark. It is addressed to "Col. Aug B. Taber / Highlands / New Jersey / Water Witch Club". In nice shape with a short, closed tear at the top margin of the letter's first page. A transcript will be provided.

In the letter, Walter describes his pack train journey in search of a sheep ranch to purchase.

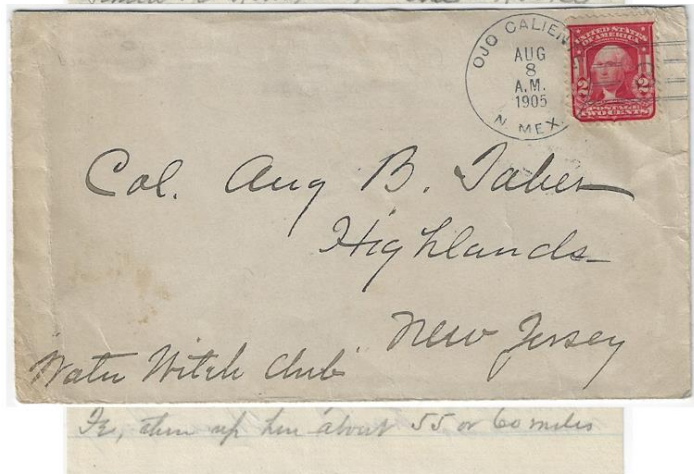
"It is great sport handling a pack train in the mountains our 4 horses & 3 burrows make quite a train and is a pretty sight twisting along the trail of a thickly wooded narrow valley or up or down a mountain side, our lead burro perhaps 500 yards away and on top of whose pack glittering in the sunlight our bread pans can be seen. First goes our 3 burrows loaded with grub, bedding and working utensils, then comes Jakes the head burro driver, then Tommy Raby, then Martha, then myself, bringing up the rear, in my preferred position where I can see the entire pack train & watch its twistings over the winding trail. These Springs are very good. I have taken 7 baths and shall do so every day until we leave, which we shall probably do next Thursday when we shall go over to Santa Clara Indian Pueblo to see an Indian dance & then we go probably to the Sulphur Springs, where I shall take some more baths. Will let you know later where to address me. . . Tommy Raby seems to like this country & to be stuck on the store business & is going to write his Father that if he will get the money together for the sheep & store company he will stay out here. The sheep men have all gotten rich this year & all the store keepers are sick or getting so. . ."

His effort was reported in the Albuquerque Evening Citizen on 15 July 1905.

"Walter M. Taber, a ranchman from near Glorieta was in Santa Fe yesterday en route overland to Taos where he expects to purchase a ranch for the raising of sheep. Mr. Taber with his wife and son, came to New Mexico some time ago from Philadelphia, Pa. for the benefit of health. Thomas Raby of Philadelphia, is with them, and they are all making the trip."



Ojo Caliente Taos Co.,
New Mexico
Sunday, Aug. 6th 1905.
My dear children
The Calmells letter of July 22nd
by way of Taos reached us here
some days ago. We started to
come here by way of up the
Pecos River, then west over the
Santa Fe Pass of the Rockies



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

Walter already owned the famous Pigeon's Ranch on the Santa Fe Trail which he had purchased from George Herbert in 1887. At the time he bought the ranch, it was being used as an inn with "a bad name as being the rendezvous of gamblers and other tough characters." Tabor was appointed postmaster of Glorieta in 1906 and distributed mail from the ranch. His Glorieta Mercantile and Livestock Co. also raised sheep in the area as well as in Sandoval County. He served as postmaster in 1918 and died shortly thereafter. His widow lived at Pigeon Ranch until 1926 when she sold it to Thomas Greer, a Pecos Valley Cowboy.

Walter's father Augustus Bernard Taber was a liquor, wine, and tea wholesaler as well as the owner of the

Biddle House, one of Detroit's most prestigious hotels, from 1861 until the 1890s when he retired. A postally used illustrated envelope advertising the Biddle House, is included. The envelope shows a large image of the Biddle House on the reverse the printed annotation "A. B. Taber Prop." It is franked with a rose 3-cent Washington stamp tied to the cover by a Detroit postmark. The Water Witch Club was a turn-of-the-century country club that still operates today as an upscale wedding venue.

(For more information, see Alexander's "Pigeon's Ranch House. . . at the Legends of America website, "Pigeon's Ranch Historic Research Study" by the National Park Service, and various online genealogical websites including ancestry.com.)

Scarce. At the time of listing there are no similar descriptions of New Mexico pack trains for sale in the trade and the Rare Book Hub shows none have appeared at auction. OCLC identifies on personal papers collection held at the University of Texas that may contain a pack train description.

A fascinating description of a 1900s pack train journey through the mountains of New Mexico with a connection to a historic waypoint on the Santa Fe Trail.

\$450 [#10241](#)



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

26. [CALIFORNIANA] [FISHING] [MINING – GOLD] [TRAVEL – SAWYERS BAR] [WOMEN & GIRLS – TRAVEL]

1909-1911 – Visual archive of 23 real photograph postcards (22 vernacular and one purchased) documenting a small group of French women’s stay at Sawyers Bar, California, apparently on a fishing trip which includes eight images of hydraulic gold mining on the Salmon River.

These 23 RPPCs document the stay of at least two French women (one of whom is named Marguerite/Margo) in Siskiyou County, California between late April 1909 and early October 1911. Most of the cards were postmarked at Sawyers Bar, one at Yreka, and four in San Francisco. All contain messages in French, written by “H.S.” to the same person, Mr L. Perreaux, in the northern Parisian commune of Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine. It is unclear to me (my French is nearly nonexistent), but the messages seem to indicate the writer was visiting rather than living in California.

The earliest card shows a birds-eye view of Yreka and was postmarked there on 29 April 1909. The message notes the travelers were about 100 kilometers from Mount Shasta.

Three cards show locations in and around Sawyer’s Bar. The first was postmarked on 14 May 1909. It shows a street scene with horses, wagons, people, a saloon, a general store, and several residences. Another shows what appears to be a woman cutting flowers from a garden in front of a two-story building, perhaps a hotel. A third shows two women on horseback in front of a store with several people standing on the building’s veranda. Two cards show what appears to be an out-of-town boarding complex with two two-story buildings and a one-story lodge. One of those is a birds-eye-view; on the other card, an “X” has been marked above the single-story building, presumably showing where they stayed.

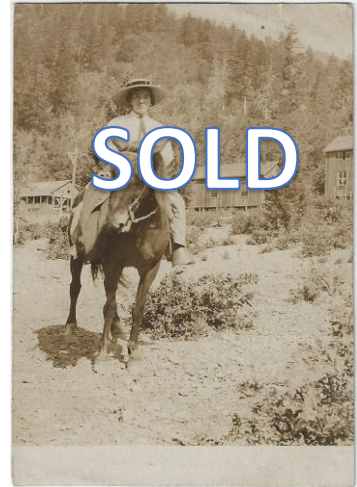
Three cards are fishing related. One shows four women and a guide in front of a tent and camp stove; the guide appears to be instructing one of the women on how to use a fly-fishing rod and reel. A second card appears to show a woman and man fishing from a primitive swinging foot bridge without any side rails or ropes. The third, a purchased card dated 1908, shows a guide holding a string of gutted trout.

Six cards show the women travelling through the region by horse. Three show single women riding on horseback. Two show single dismounted women standing with their horses; one has a buckboard in the background. One shows five women and two men in a buckboard or wagon posed before a waterfall.

Eight cards show the hydraulic mining operations. One shows the swift-flowing Salmon River. The others show troughs, sluice boxes, heavy-duty hoses, nozzles directing long high-pressure streams of water at gravel deposits, and rubble along the riverbank.

(For more information, see “Sawyers Bar, California” at the Western Mining History website, “The Era of Hydraulic Mining” and other articles at the Salmon River Restoration Council website, “Sawyers Bar” at the Historical Markers Database, and Ridgley’s “Hydraulic Gold Mining” at the Mineral Expert website.)

Scarce. At the time of listing, there are no other photographic images or collections related to Sawyers Bar for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, however the Stamp Auction Network shows that one Sawyers Bar postcard was included in a large Siskiyou County ephemera lot sold by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions in 2021. OCLC identifies none in institutional collections, however there may be some in a file of articles and artifacts held by the College of the Siskiyous Library.



SOLD #10242

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

27. [DISASTERS – TORNADOS] [WEATHER – TORNADOS]

1913 – Small visual archive documenting the damage caused by the Easter Sunday tornado that destroyed much of Berlin, Nebraska

This grouping contains five real photograph postcards (RPPCs) by Miller Talmadge documenting the tornado that destroyed much of Berlin (now renamed Otoe) on Easter Sunday, 23 March 1913. The tornado was the longest continuous of a swarm of six storms that raged through Iowa and Nebraska that day. This category 4 tornado on the Fujita scale began northwest of Syracuse, Nebraska and ended in Mills County, Iowa. It killed 18 people, 12 in Berlin alone, and did over \$250,000 in damage to the town (over \$3.5 million in today's dollars). All in nice shape; none sent through the mail.

Over 140 people were killed during this swarm of six tornados.

(For more information, see “Top ten killer tornadoes in Nebraska history” at the National Weather Service website and “Tornado outbreak sequence of March 1913” at Wikipedia.)

\$150 [#10243](#)



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

28. [DISASTERS – EXPLOSIONS] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR I] [PEACE MOVEMENT – INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU] [PHILATELY]

1917 – Letter from the Russian-American Legal Bureau to the International Peace Bureau requesting assistance in finding the next-of-kin of a Russian immigrant who was killed in the horrific explosion at the Eddystone Ammunition Plant.

This two-page letter on the colorful stationery of the Russian-America Legal Bureau is written in Russian and datelined “Philadelphia, Pa. December 15, 1917. It was signed by L. A. Bloom, the Bureau’s manager and sent to the International Peace Bureau’s Department of Assistance to War Victims at Bern, Switzerland. It is enclosed in its original preprinted envelope addressed bilingually in both French and Russian. It bears an assortment of registry, transit, and auxiliary handstamps including one that prominently states, “Return to writer”. The envelope was opened during its travels and resealed with four Official Post Office seals (Scott OX18). In nice shape. A translation will be provided.

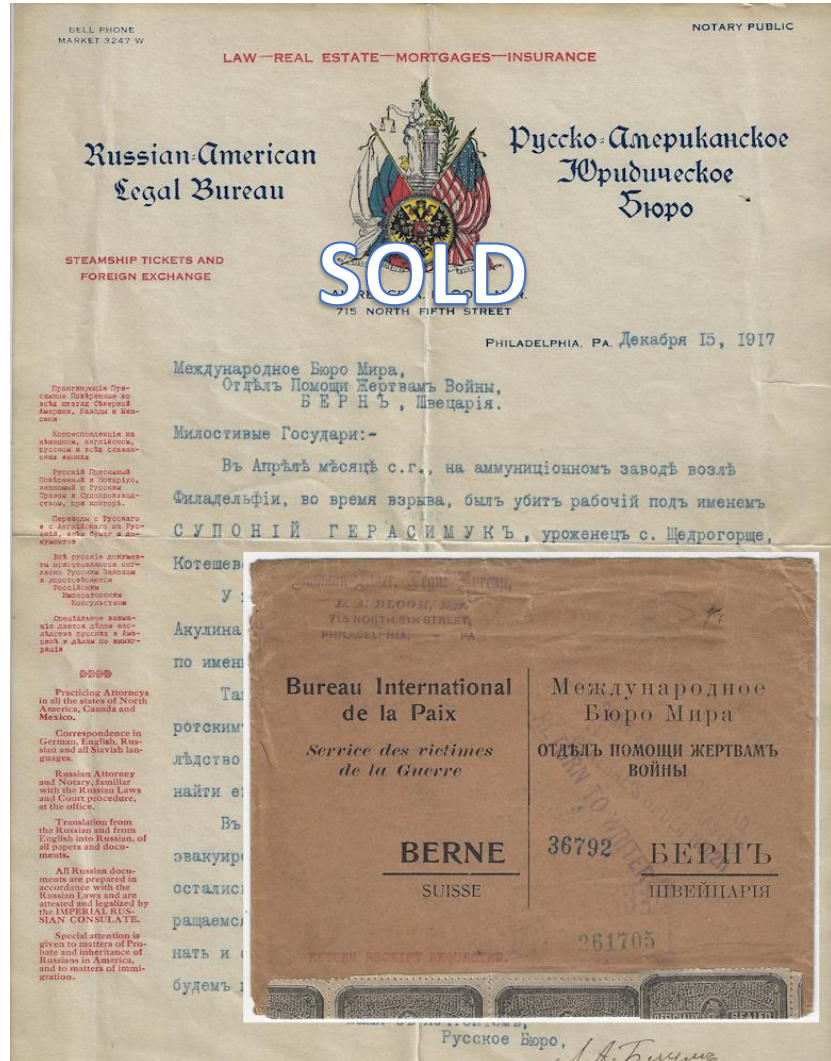
The translation of the letter reads in part:

“In April of this year, at an ammunition plant near Philadelphia, during an explosion, a worker named Suponiy Gerasimuck, a native of the village Shchedrogorsche, Koteshevsky Volost, Kovel Uyezd, Volyn Gubernia, was killed.

“The late Gerasimuk’s wife, Akulina Isidorovna, nee Andreyuk, and his son about 6 years old named Akim remain in the village of Shchedrogorsche. Akulina is approximately 28 years old.

“Since the deceased did not leave any will, a guardian was appointed by the Syrota court, and in order for this inheritance to be given to his legal heirs, we need to find his wife and son.

“In view of the fact that the area in the Kovel district was evacuated by the Russians, it is very possible tha the mentioned persons remained in their places or were taken prisoner, and therefore we turn to your venerable bureau asking if you can find out and tells us their present residence, for which we will be very grateful to you.”



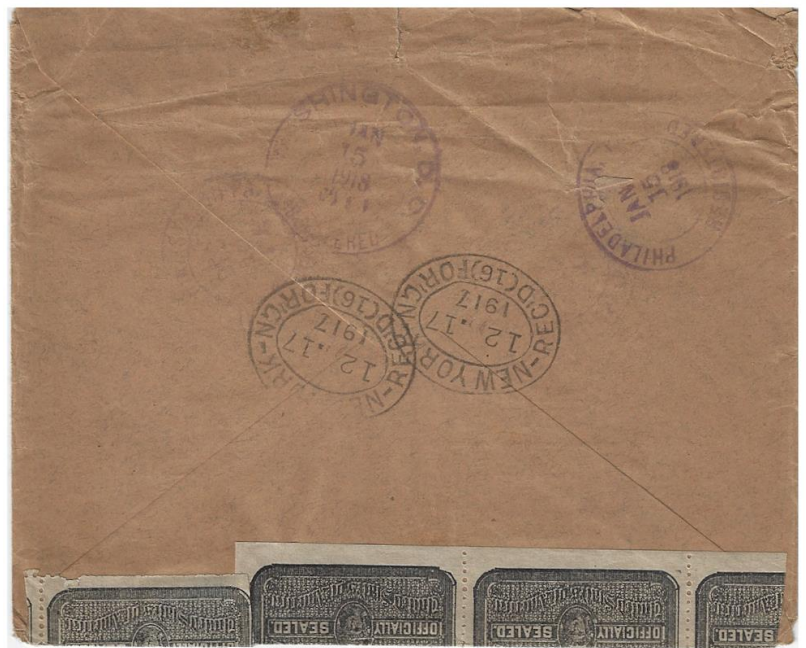
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

The Eddystone Ammunition Plant was located at Chester, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. At the time, it was reportedly manufacturing artillery shells for use by the Russian army. On April 10, 1917, four days after the United States entered World War I, an explosion in its black powder room touched off an even more catastrophic detonation of shrapnel shells, killing 139 workers, most of whom were women and girls. Investigators initially suspected that German saboteurs had planted one or more bombs, but later concluded that Bolsheviks were more likely possible as the Russian Revolution was in full-swing and evidence suggested they suspected the ammunition would likely end up in the hands of White Russian forces. However, it is possible that the detonation might possibly have been caused by a defective powder-shaking machine. Despite the disaster, the plant resumed operations two weeks later with a full complement of workers.

Some consider those who died at the plant to be the first American casualties of the war. On April 13th, over 12,000 mourners attended a mass funeral service at the Chester Rural Ceremony that was funded by the ammunition company.

(For more information, see Santi's *100 Years of Peacemaking*, "Permanent International Peace Bureau" at the Nobel Prize website, and articles published in the *New York Times* on 11 and 12 April, 1917.)

\$250 #10244



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29. [ENTERTAINMENT – FILM] [HEROS – AUDIE MURPHY] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR II] [MUSIC – DOG FACE SOLDIER] [PHILATELY]

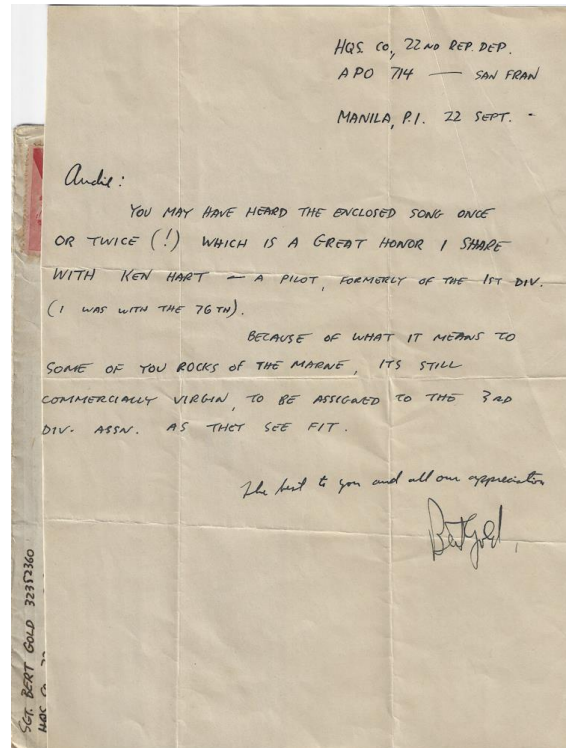
1942-1955 – An archive of material related to the most famous and popular song created by American soldiers for American soldiers, the *Dog Face Soldier*

This archive consists of four items. All are in nice shape.

1) A post V-J Day letter from one of the song's authors, Sgt. Bert Gold, to Lt. Audie Murphy, the most decorated American soldier in history. It is datelined "Hqs Co, 22nd Rep. Dep./ APO 714 – San Fran / Manila, P.I. 22 Sept" and sent to Lt. Audie Murphy at Farmersville, Texas. The envelope is franked with a six-cent airmail stamp (Scott #C25) that was canceled with a machine U.S. Army Postal Service postmark dated "Sep 22 / 1945". When Gold penned this letter, he, along with all Americans, knew of Murphy's battlefield heroics although they had never met. At the time Murphy had been recently discharged. The letter reads in part:

"You may have heard the enclosed song once or twice (!) which is a great honor I share with Ken Hart, formerly of the 1st Div. (I was with the 76th). [The "enclosed song" is not included in this lot.]

"Because of what it means to some of you Rocks of the Marne, its still commercially virgin, to be assigned to the 3rd Div. Assn. as they see fit." ["Rock of the Marine" is the official sobriquet awarded to the 3rd Division for its heroic defense of the Marne River that turned the tide of World War I.]



2) This first printing of *The Dog-face Soldier* sheet music was published at least ten years before the song became a hit. Although all printings of the sheet music bear a 1942 copyright date, on this printing, there is no mention of Audie Murphy or his blockbuster autobiographical movie, *To Hell and Back*. There is, however, a small 3rd Division insignia indicating that it was published after Major General Lucien Truscott adopted the tune as his unit's official song and march. As well, the main cover illustration shows the legendary, but unnamed, guitar-playing soldier and three comrades singing in the rubble of a destroyed building, which is exactly how the tune gained popularity. The title eventually sold over 300,000 copies. In the music's liner notes, the Shawnee Press notes, "We are proud to honor, by publishing for the first time, this simple natural singing tune." Includes both instrumental and four-part vocal music. The copyright info for the instrumental music has been excised; it remains on the vocal music.

3) A lobby card from the 1955 hit film *To Hell and Back* that features 3rd Division soldiers singing *Dog Face Soldier* along with a North African cabaret entertainer.

4) A "sample copy" of Russ Morgan's 45 rpm recording of *Dog Face Soldier* that rode the film's coattails onto *Billboard* charts during October and November of 1955.

Gold and Hart wrote *The Dog-face Soldier* in 1942 for the enjoyment of their soldier buddies shortly after they joined the Army as two privates from Long Island, New York. When they parted ways, one to become an officer in the Army Air Corps and the other to serve in the Pacific, they didn't realize a guitar-playing

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

comrade that had been assigned to the 3rd Division carried the tune to his new unit. After the 3rd Division landed in North Africa, the song became popular among the unit's soldiers, who sang it incessantly whether resting, working, or even while fighting. In time, the division's regimental bands (there was no division band until much later in the war) began playing the tune as a march.

As the division fought its way across Sicily, its commander, General Truscott, took note of the tune's popularity and declared *Dogface Soldier* to be the 3rd Division's official song and march. Following the invasion of Europe, its popularity spread beyond the division, and by the time 3rd Division soldiers had smashed through Rhine River defenses, captured Augsburg and Nuremberg, and occupied Salzburg, American soldiers throughout Europe were singing the *Dogface Soldier*.

Although Hart and Gold's original lyrics were organizationally generic, at the time the song was raging within the 3rd Division, the soldiers sang:

"I wouldn't give a bean to be a fancy pants marine; I'd rather be a Dogface Soldier like I am.

"I wouldn't trade my old O.D.'s for all the navy's dungarees for I'm the walking pride of Uncle Sam.

"On all the posters that I read it says the army builds men, so, they're tearing me down to build me over again.

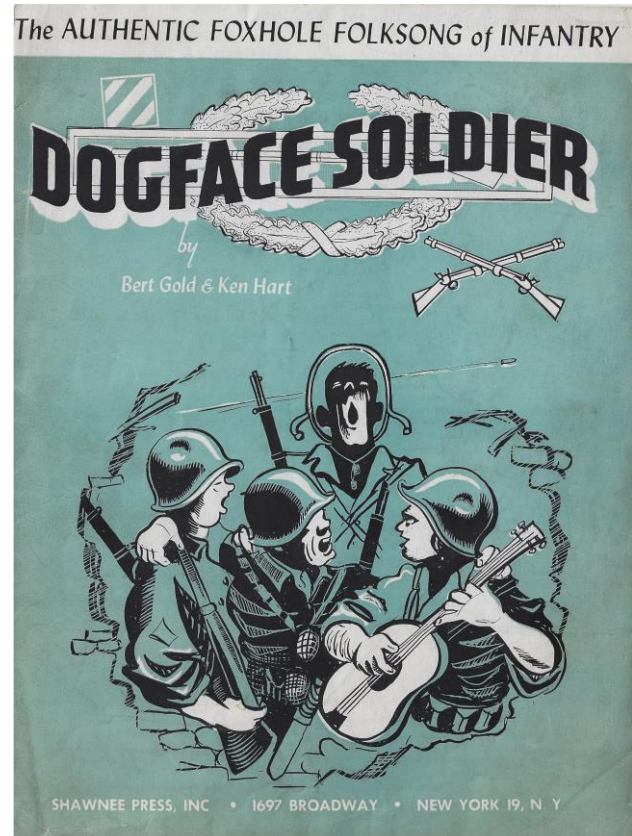
"I'm just a Dogface Soldier with a rifle on my shoulder, and I eat a kraut for breakfast every day.

"So feed me ammunition; keep me in the 3rd Division. Your Dogface Soldier Boy's okay."

The original 3rd Division lyrics have been continuously altered. During the Cold War, references to eating Krauts for breakfast were changed to eating ammunition; when used by other army organizations references to the 3rd Division were dropped, and although women had served in the division since the 1970s and sung about the army building men, that was changed around fifteen years ago. The song is still sung within today's 3rd Infantry Division daily at formations and at ceremonies and social gatherings.

Here are links to a few variations if you are interested hearing what *Dog Face Soldier* sounds like: at the [Moroccan Cabaret](#), [by a chorus](#), [in concert](#), [as a march](#), [Russ Morgan's Billboard Hit](#), and a [rock version](#).

When Gold penned his letter to Audie Murphy, he could never have imagined how popular and successful the "commercially virgin" song would become. When Murphy, the diminutive and handsome 20-year-old war hero who had lied about his age to enlist at 17, returned to Texas in the summer of 1945, he was featured in uniform on the cover of *Life* as America's most decorated soldier. (He had been awarded the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Valor Device, Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, French Legion of Honour, French Croix de Guerre with silver star, three French Croix de Guerre with palm, and a Belgian Croix de Guerre with palm.)



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

After reading the magazine, James Cagney invited the photogenic Murphy to Hollywood to try his hand at acting. Despite a slow start, Audie practiced his craft and became a star, eventually appearing in 44 credited feature films and B-movies including John Huston's masterpiece, *The Red Badge of Courage*, that was mutilated by MGM editing. While in Hollywood, Audie wrote of his World War II experiences which became the bestselling *To Hell and Back*. Universal Studios bought the book's film rights and cast a reluctant Murphy to appear as himself in what became a blockbuster hit.

Despite his success, Murphy suffered from PTSD (at the time known as Shell Shock or Battle Fatigue) and suffered from insomnia and occasional violent outbursts. It is said he placed a loaded pistol, a gift from Gary Cooper, under his pillow every night to help him sleep. He also became dependent upon a sleeping sedative, Placidyl. Finally recognizing the drug's harm in the 1960s, Audie locked himself in a hotel room and 'cold turkey' broke his addiction. Subsequently, he successfully campaigned for the Veteran's Administration to recognize and treat combat veterans who needed mental health support. After Audie died in a plane crash in 1971, the Veterans Administration built a new hospital in his honor at San Antonio.

(For more information, see Truscott's *Command Missions*, the 19 November 1955 edition of *Billboard*, the Leckies' and Kincaid's comments about "United States Army Band and Chorus – Dog Face Soldier" at LP2CD.com, and "The Dog Face Soldier" at mybase.com.)

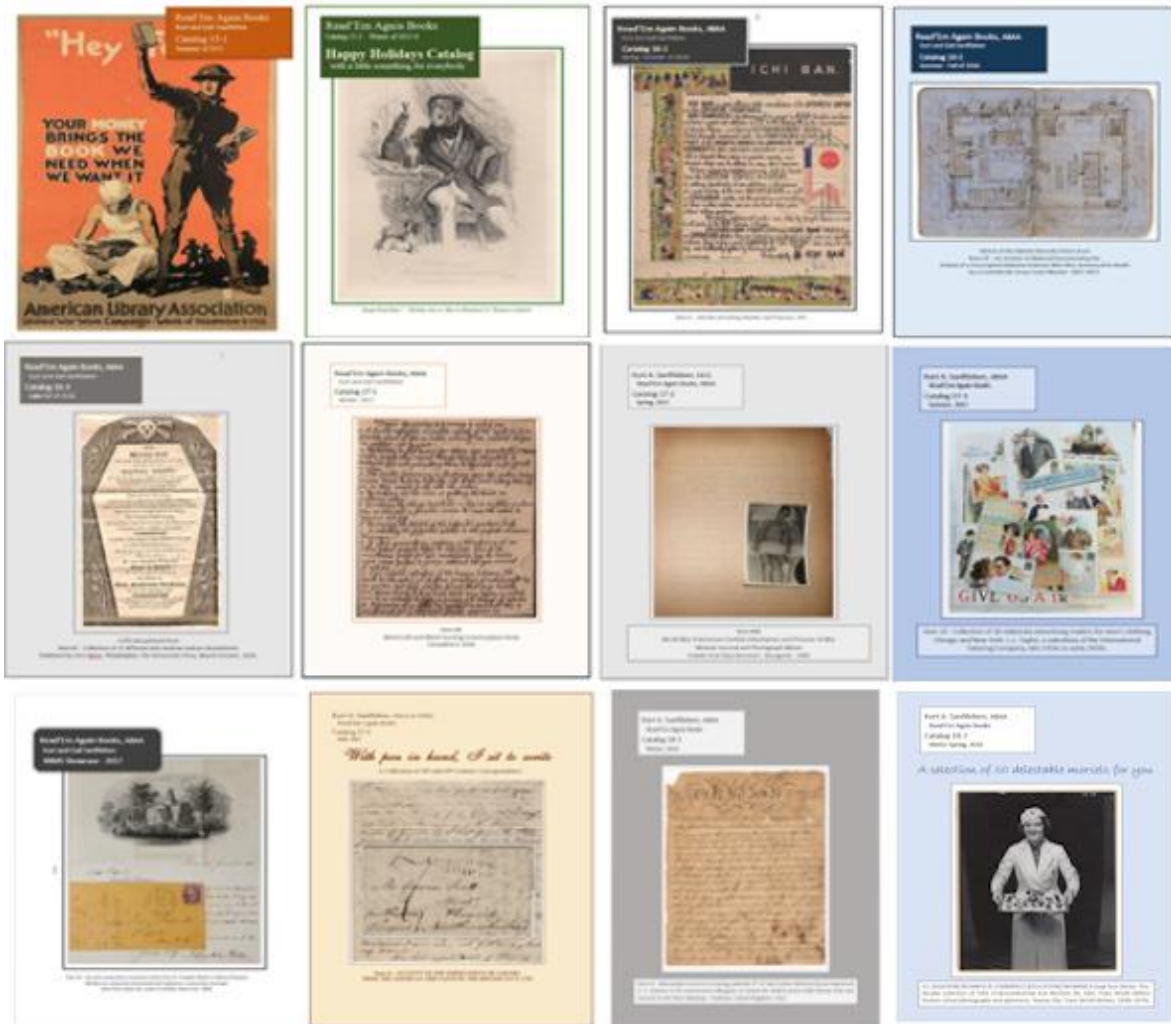
The Gold-Murphy letter is unique. This piece of sheet music may be the only extant example of the first printing as well. None are for sale in the trade; none are listed at Rare Book Hub or Worthpoint as ever appearing at any auction. No examples are held by institutions, and in over 40 years of collecting and selling Audie Murphy and 3rd Infantry Division material, this is the first example I have ever seen. 45 rpm records of Russ Morgan's recording are often available on eBay, although "sample copies" for disk-jockey-play on the radio are uncommon. The lobby posters from the movie are scarce and sought after by collectors.

\$750 [#10245](#)



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