

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA and ASDA

Paper Americana and Postal History

Catalog 26-7 – September 2026



1. 1779 - Beautifully illustrated German Fraktur prayer book with five exquisite full-page watercolors

This handmade 18th century Jesuit-related prayer book is a work in the Fraktur folk-art tradition created by Pennsylvania Germans using ink and watercolor on paper. The style is characterized by bright primary colors (reds, greens, blues), stylized floral motifs (such as tulips and rosettes), and elaborate hand-lettered German script framed within decorative borders.

Diaries, Journals, Correspondence, Photographs and Ephemera

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This primary source material enlivens collections and provides students, faculty, and other researchers with details to invigorate otherwise dry theses, dissertations, and publications. Competitive philatelic exhibitors often purchase our ephemeral material to provide additional ‘pop’ to their thematic, topical, postal history, and especially international open exhibits.

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

Regards, Kurt and Gail

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The Manuscript Society

*The
Ephemera
of Society
America*

Catalog Number Index

By Location

Arkansas: 3
Connecticut: 16
Delaware: 17
Georgia: 18
Illinois: 3
Kansas: 25
Louisiana: 12
Maine: 26
Maryland: 8
Massachusetts: 8-9, 14
Michigan: 10
Missouri: 3, 20
New York: 1, 4-7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 23
Ohio: 3, 16
Pennsylvania: 6, 8, 12, 15, 17, 22
Tennessee: 20, 23
Vermont: 14
Virginia: 8
Washington, DC: 2-3, 24

Brazil: 13
Canada: 11, 19, 21
China: 24
Germany: 1
Liberia: 22

By Topic

Architecture – Mills: 10
Architecture – Rio de Janeiro: 13
Autographs – John C. Calhoun: 2
Begging: 23
Bridges – Suspension: 19
Business – Consuls: 8
Business – Shipping: 6
Disease – Rheumatism: 26
Drink: Coffee: 8
Education – Academies: 9, 12, 14-15
Education – Boarding Schools: 10
Education – Colleges: 16-17
Education – Professional: 25
Entertainment – Balls: 5
Entertainment – Parties: 14
Drugs – Opium: 24
Folk-Art: 1, 10
Food: Dried Fruits: 8
Food: Pimentos: 8
Gambling – Lotteries: 20
Holidays – 4th of July: 14
Hotels: 21
Immigration – Chinese: 24
Law – Breach of Contract: 6
Law – Imports: 14
Law – Scams: 20
Marketing – Samples: 8
Medical – Amputations: 18
Medical – Botannicals: 6
Medical – Journals: 7
Military – American Revolution: 2-3
Military – Command & General Staff
 College: 25
Military – Militia: 4, 5
Military – Oconee War: 18
Military – Patriot War: 18
Military – War of 1812: 3, 18
Philanthropy: 23
Philately: 3-10, 12-20, 23, 26-27
Reconstruction: 23
Religion – Catholicism: 1, 17
Religion – Prayer Book: 1
Slavery – Brazil: 13
Slavery – Colonization: 22
Slavery – Emancipation: 22
Tourism – Niagara Falls: 11, 19, 21
Transportation – Railroads: 8
Transportation – Ships: 8
Women & Girls 9, 14-16, 23

1. [FOLK-ART] [RELIGION – CATHOLICISM & PRAYER BOOK]

1779 - Beautifully illustrated German Fraktur prayer book with five exquisite full-page watercolors

This handmade 18th century Jesuit-related prayer book is a work of Fraktur art, a folk-art tradition created by Pennsylvania Germans using ink and watercolor on paper. The style is characterized by bright primary watercolor washes (reds, greens, blues), stylized floral motifs (such as tulips and rosettes), and elaborate hand-lettered German script framed within decorative borders.

It bears two indistinct owner's names in the front matter along with a short-hand date "79 ½" (1779 midyear). Likely created before that near Philadelphia or Lancaster or possibly brought to the region by German immigrants.

Leather-bound and measuring 3.75" x 6", it contains 193 pages (one leaf, pp. 176-177, and both fly-leaves have been neatly excised. It is divided into multiple segments with Fraktur titles in red, green, blue, and yellow. Individual pages are ornamented with smaller decorative headings. Prayers are written in cursive with black ink.

Unlike most Fraktur *taufscheine* (birth/baptismal documents) and *vorschriften* (certificates), this book contains five exceptionally well-done, full-page, jewel-like paintings featuring Jesuit iconography of a quality approaching medieval illuminations.

St. John the Baptist baptizing Jesus with the Holy Spirit symbolized by rays of light or fire emanating from a dove. St. John the Baptist is the focal point of the Second Week (stage) of Ignatian Exercises, The *Arma Christi* (Weapons of Christ - Instruments of the Passion): the True Cross, INRI (Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum) plaque, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Holy Lance or Spear of Longinus, and the vinegar/sour wine-soaked sponge offered to Jesus when he cried out in thirst. These are often used focus on Christ's suffering during the Third Week of Ignatian Exercises and are often featured in Jesuit art and architecture,

Jesus praying on the Mount of Olives (Gethsemane) the night before his crucifixion is also a central focus of the Third Week of Ignatian exercises,

St. John Nepomucene, a priest, who was tortured and thrown to his death from a bridge by King Wenceslaus IV for refusing to break the seal of confession. His veneration was heavily promoted by the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, in the 18th century), and

St. Aloysius de Gonzaga (a Jesuit priest who died while caring for victims of an epidemic).

The use of shorthand fraction dates is well-documented in Grotefend's *Taschenbuch der Zeitrechnung des deutschen Mittelalters und der Neuzeit* (Pocket Book of Chronology of the German Middle Ages and Modern Times.)



At the time of this prayer book, the Society of Jesus had been officially abolished by the Pope for reasons too complicated to relate here. Yet, the former Jesuits continued to operate as a "Select Body of the Clergy" to form hubs in Philadelphia, Hannover, and Lancaster, from whence, despite the ongoing American Revolution, priests, like Father Ferdinand Farmer (Ferdinand Steinmeyer) traveled on horseback across southeastern Pennsylvania (including Lancaster), Delaware, and New Jersey to minister to scattered Catholic families.

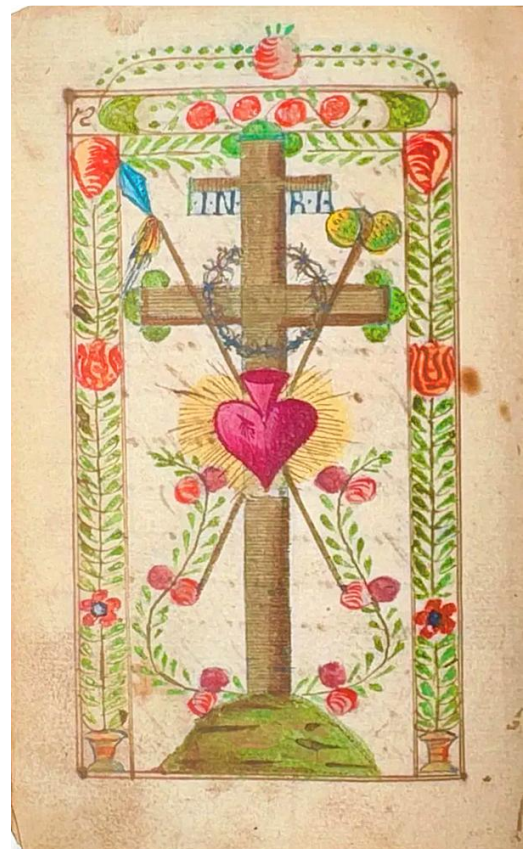
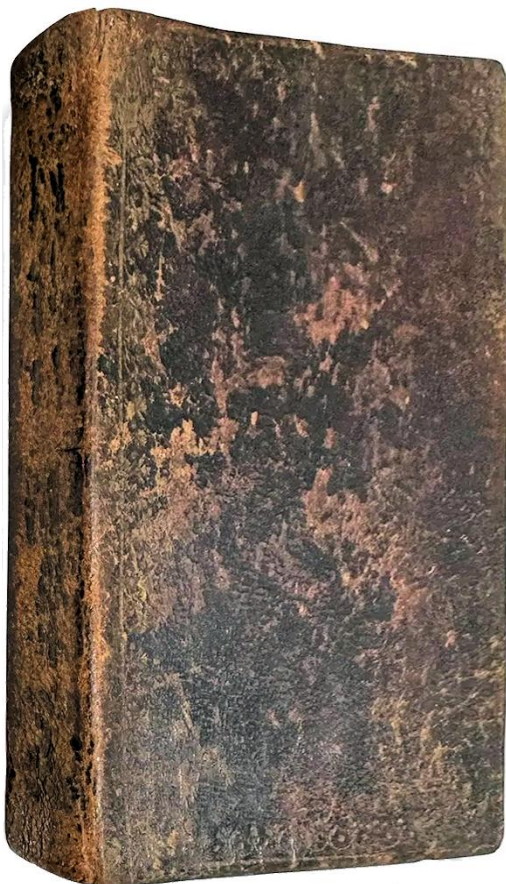
(For more information, see McManus's "Prayer Books of German Catholics in Eighteenth-Century America" online at the University of Notre Dame Rare Books & Special Collections website, "Pennsylvania German Fraktur and Manuscripts" online at the Free Library of Philadelphia, and "Ferdinand Steinmeyer" at the New Advent website.)

At the time of listing, there are two similar prayer books for sale in the trade with illustrations of a lesser quality. The Rare Book Hub and ABSA show two similar prayer books have been sold at auction. Several are in the collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Exceptionally well done, but with excised free-end papers and one leaf of text, so priced accordingly.

#10780

\$2,750



2. [AUTOGRAPHS – JOHN C. CALHOUN] [MILITARY – AMERICAN REVOLUTION]

1819 – Manuscript certificate of service in the American Revolution signed by Secretary of War, John C. Calhoun

This one-page manuscript document consists of two parts, a certificate of American Revolutionary War service for James Terwilliger and Terwilliger's appointment of an attorney to manage his wartime pension.

The certificate reads in part:

"War Department / Revolutionary Claim

"I certify that in conformity with the Law of the United States [that] James Terwilliger late a private in the Army of the revolution is inscribed on the pension list roll of the New York agency at the rate of eight Dollars per month. . .

"Given at the war office of the United States this 30th day of April one thousand eight hundred & nineteen / J. C. Calhoun / Secretary of War"

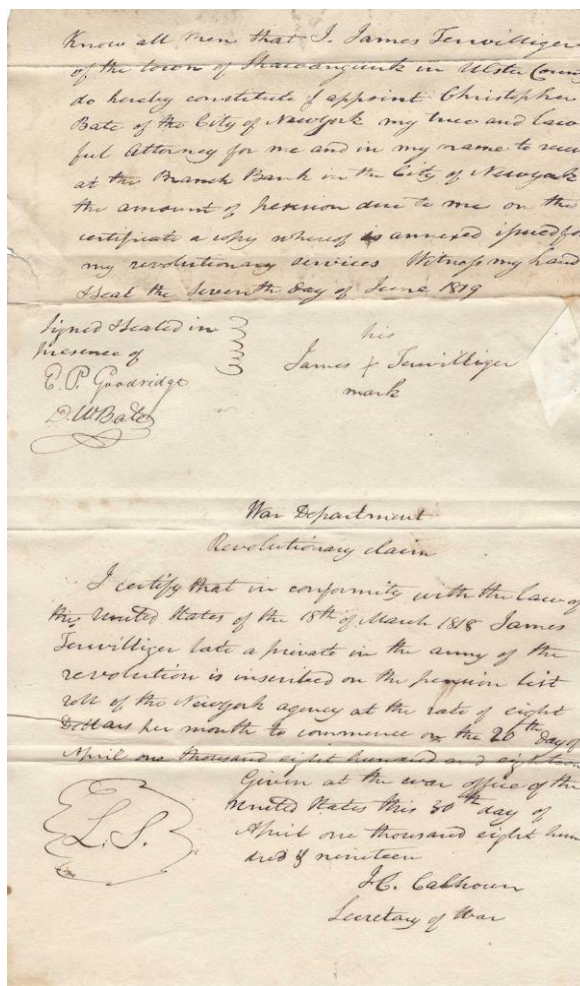
On "the seventh day of June 1819" Terwilliger appointed Christopher Bate, of New York City, as his attorney to manage his pension at "the Branch Bank in the City of New York" and signified such by signing his statement with an "X", his mark.

James Terwilliger, who enlisted from Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York, served as a member of the 1st New York Regiment of the Continental Army. As such, he would have seen action during the Invasion of Canada, the Battle of Valcour Island, the Battle of Saratoga, the Battle of Monmouth, the Sullivan Expedition, and the Battle of Yorktown.

John Caldwell Calhoun was an American statesman who began his political career as a nationalist and proponent of a strong federal government and protective tariffs. However, In the late 1820s, his views shifted, and Calhoun became a leading proponent of limited federal government, nullification, and opposition to high tariffs. After serving for seven years as the Vice President, he resigned in 1832 after disagreeing with President John Adams over the imposition of high protectionist taxes that benefited the North but harmed the South. He was an outspoken champion of states' rights and defender of slavery, who saw Northern acceptance of those policies as a condition of the South remaining in the Union. His beliefs heavily influenced the secession of Southern states from the Union in 1860 and 1861.

(For more information, see Terwilliger's genealogical information on line, including "Category: 1st New York Regiment, Continental Army, American Revolution" at WikiTree.)

At the time of listing, the Rare Book Hub shows several similar documents signed by Calhoun that have appeared at auction.



nineteen
J. C. Calhoun
Secretary of War

#10781

\$400

3. [MILITARY – AMERICAN REVOLUTION & WAR OF 1812] [PHILATELY]

1821 – Payment transmittal letter from the Military & General Agency land bureau

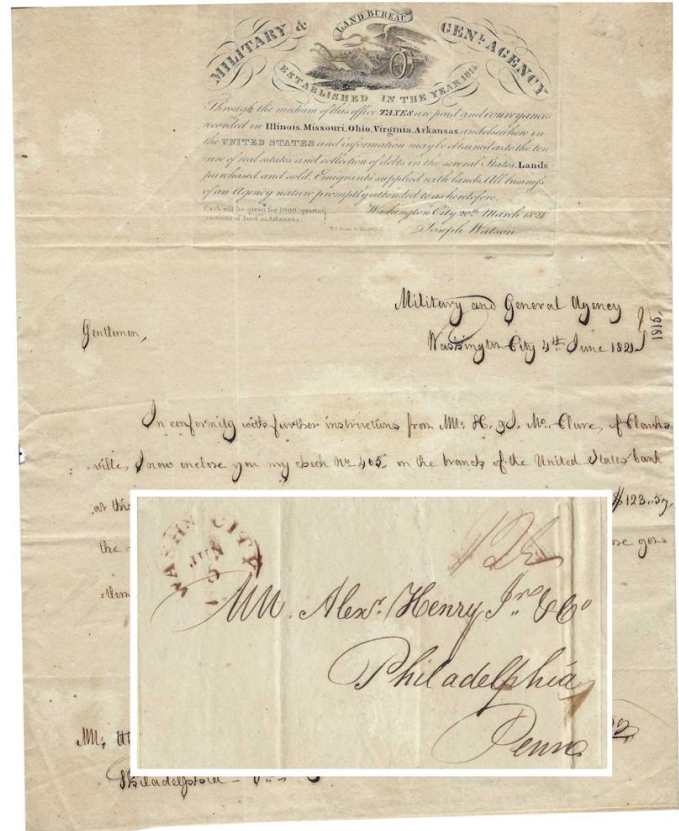
This stampless folded letter contains a one-page payment transmittal letter from the Military & General Agency private land bureau likely resolving a claim related to military service in either the American Revolution or the War of 1812.

The letter is written on a Military & General Agency lettersheet displaying a vignette of an eagle carrying a banner titled “Land Bureau” flying over a cannon and plow. The letter to the Alexander Henry Insurance Company is datelined “Washington City 4th June 1821” and notes that the company had enclosed a check for \$123 (over \$3,600 today). It bears a circular Washington City postmark dated June 5 and a “12½” manuscript rate mark. In nice shape

The Military & General Agency was a private company, founded in 1815 at the end of the War of 1812, that assisted soldiers in obtaining land warrants and pensions, and settling military claims. It also handled general administrative tasks for clients, like paying property taxes and recording deeds in western territories.

The text beneath the lettersheet’s vignette reads,

“Through the medium of this office Taxes are paid and conveyances recorded in Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas and elsewhere in the United States and information may be obtained as to the tenure of real estates and collection of the debts in several states. Lands purchased and sold. Emigrants supplied with lands. All business of an agency nature promptly attended to as heretofore.”



An example of a very early illustrated lettersheet; see Milgram’s *American Illustrated Letter Stationer* 1819-1899.

#10782

\$200

4. [MILITARY – MILITIA] [PHILATELY]

1831 – An illustrated broadside ordering a Battalion of New York Militia to report for “Target practice”

This one-page broadside, printed on bi-fold paper, measures 7.75” x 9.75” is datelined “New York, September 1831. It orders “Citizen Volunteers” to report for target practice at Strawberry Hill on the 27th by order of Thomas Riley, Commandant. The order, which has no postal marking, must have been folded and hand-carried to the addressee, W. H. Hampton, on Elm Street. In nice shape.

The broadside features a large amalgam of military images including eight flags, a wooden fort, a tent camp, a cannon, a shield, a cuirass, a helmet, and a victory column inscribed “Excelsior.”

Additional instructions include

“The Line will be formed at 7 o’clock, precisely.

“The Uniform adopted for this occasion is - blue, black or brown Coats, with Pantaloon, black Hat, black Stock or Cravat, and white cross and waist belts.

“The members will be prepared with three rounds of powder and ball. Blank cartridge will be furnished on the parade ground.

“Those who have not paid their subscription will attend thereto on or before Monday evening.

“The Commandant announces the following Appointments in the Battalion Staff – John Huthwaite, Paymaster; Robert Thompson, Jr. Quarter Master; . . George S. H. Cortelyou, Adjutant, and John H. David, Sergeant Major – they will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

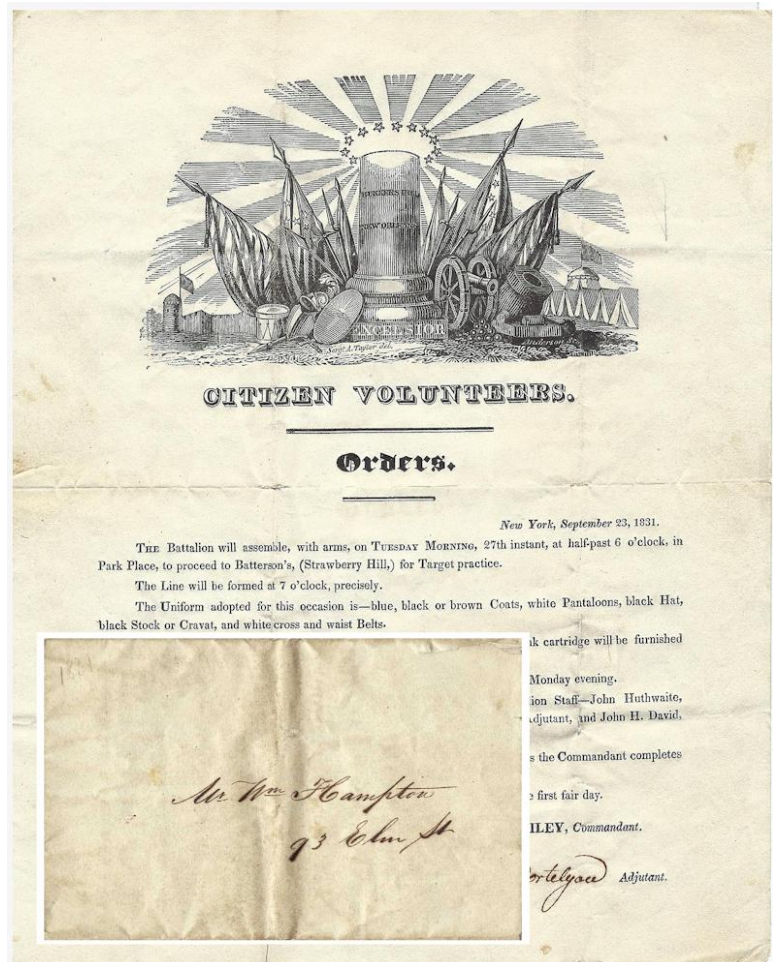
“Those appointed as Line Officers, will be notified by the Adjutant, as soon as the Commandant completes his selection.

“Should weather prove unfavorable the Excursion will be postponed to the first fair day.

“By Order of the Thomas Riley, Commandant. / Cortelyou, Adjutant”

At the time, Strawberry Hill was a largely unpopulated section of Manhattan between Eighth and Eleventh Avenues and Twenty-ninth and Thirty-ninth Streets.

An attractive early illustrated military broadside. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Nothing similar has appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub and ASBA. OCLC shows no similar items are in institutional collections.



#10783

\$500

5. [ENTERTAINMENT – BALLS] [MILITARY – MILITIA] [PHILATELY]

1835 – A letter of regret from a Major General in the New York State Militia, written on an impressive Military Ball invitation, informing a subordinate commander that he and several other officers would not be able to attend a militia assembly in Watertown

This illustrated bi-fold Military Ball invitation was used by Major General Lyman Curtiss of Camden, New York, to send his regrets to Major Julius Tower of Watertown informing him that neither he nor several other officers would be able to attend a local militia assembly. It measures approximately 10" x 8" unfolded. It bears a manuscript Camden postmark dated 31 December 1835 as well as a manuscript "10" rate mark. In nice shape.

The ball invitation features an impressive

illustration of two cannons, the national colors, a unit flag and shield surmounted by a federal eagle. It states that

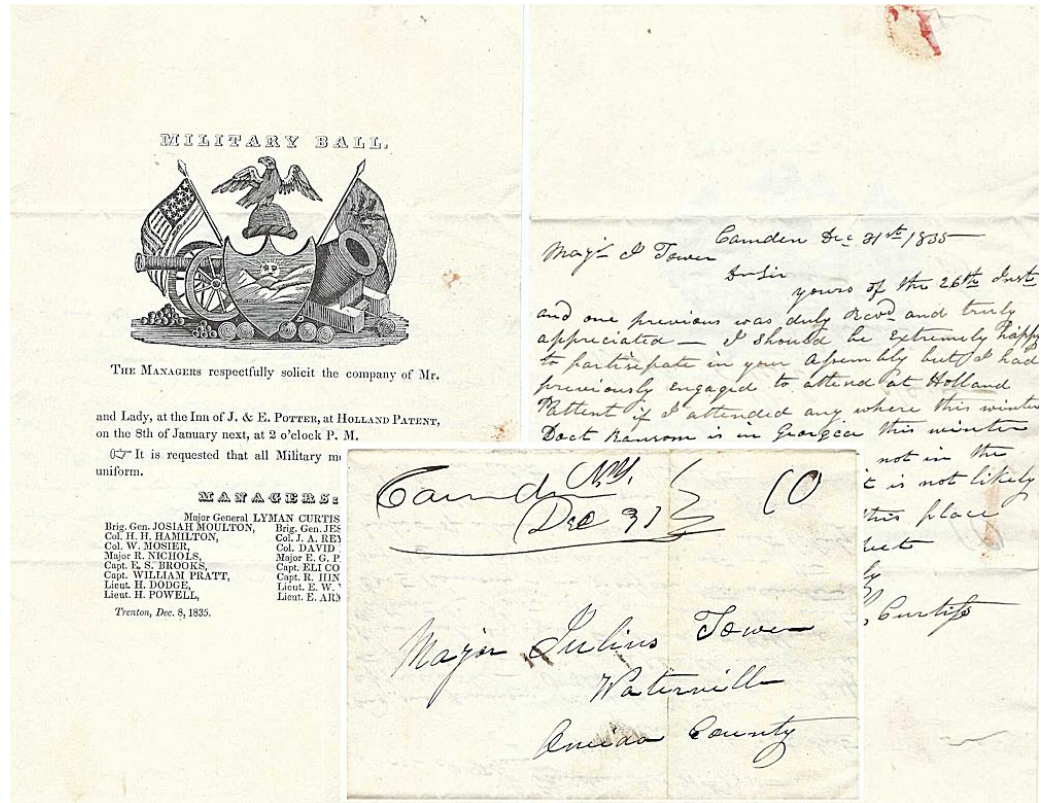
"The Managers respectfully solicit the Company of [blank] and Lady, at the Inn of J. & E. Potter, at Holland Patent, on the 8th of January next, at 2 o'clock P. M. It is requested that all Military men appear in full uniform."

17 Ball Managers, led by General Curtiss, are listed by rank and name

Curtiss's letter of regret that he cannot attend the Watertown event, written on an internal page of an invitation to ball in Holland Patent, reads in part:

"Yours of the 26th Inst and one previous was duly recvd and truly appreciated – I should be extremely happy to participate in your Assembly but I had previously engaged to attend at Holland Patent if I attend anywhere this winter. Doct Ransom is in Georgia this winter. My QtrMaster Mr Miner is not in the habit of attending Balls it is not likely any will attend from this place. . ."

This is the earliest illustrated military ball invitation that we have seen. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub and ASBA show nothing similar has appeared at auction. OCLC shows two military ball invitations from the 1830s in institutional collections; neither are illustrated.



#10784

\$250

6. [BUSINESS – SHIPPING] [MEDICAL – BOTANNICALS] [PHILATELY]

1835-1836 – Three illustrated shipping bills and transmittal letters received by a prominent New York supplier of medical products

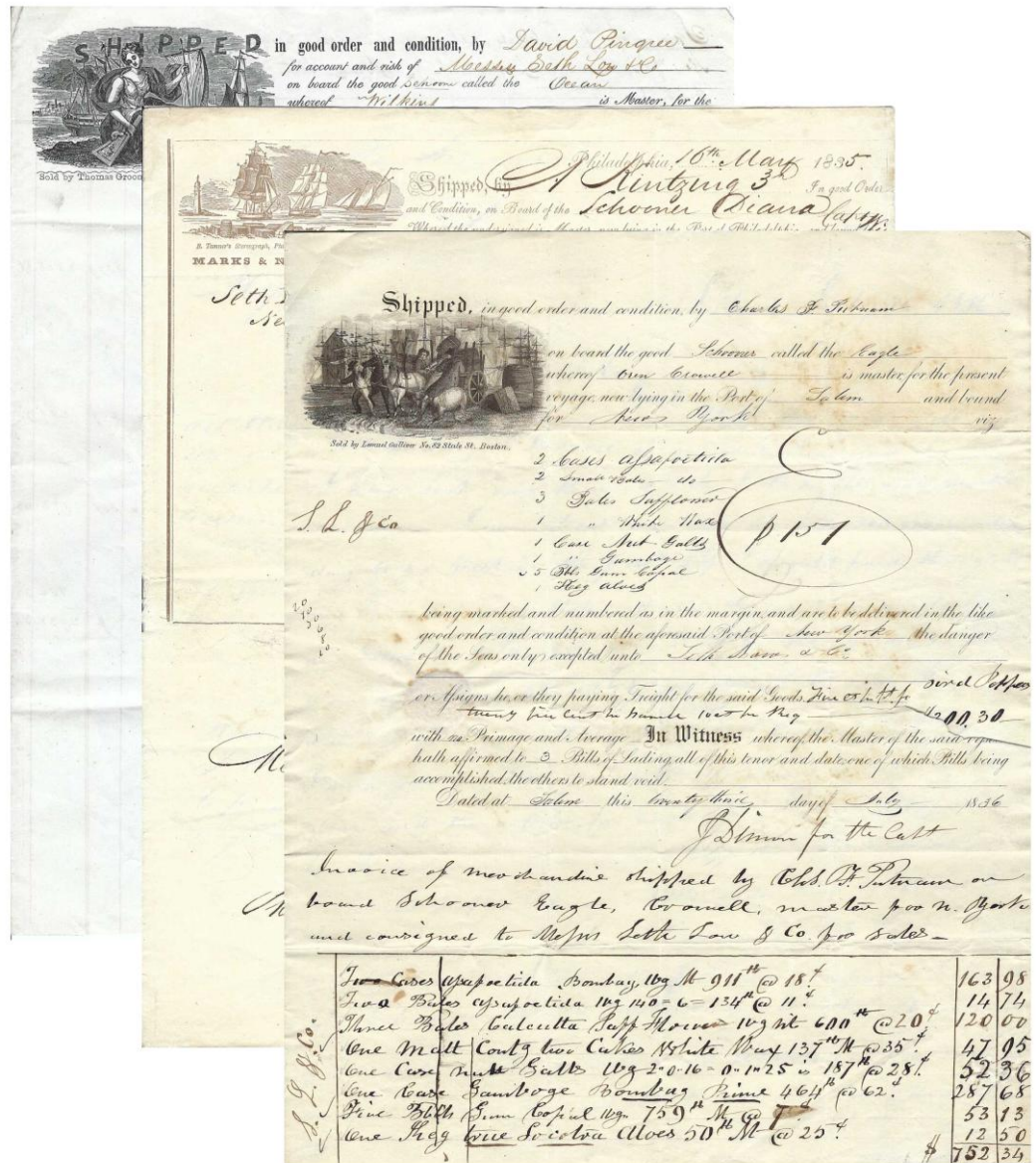
This lot consists of three two-page shipping bills/letter received by Seth Low & Company in New York.

One, from Abraham Kintzing III in Philadelphia, measuring 16" x 19.5". The letter and bill show two different dates, 16 and 19 May 1835. It bears a manuscript "12½" rate mark and an octagonal Philadelphia postmark dated 19 May. It features an illustration of three ships sailing past a lighthouse. It reads in part:

"Annexed you have Blds of all the OL. Roses (*Oleum Rosae* or Essential Rose Oil) shipped as per instructed by Sea on board Schr Diana Capt Wise. . . The consumers will not purchase, but hold

back for a decline. The myrrh not yet delivered. No news to communicate. Business dull. . . Shipped by A Kintzing 3^d In good Order and Condition, on Board of the Schooner Diana Capt Wise Whereof the undersigned is Master, now lying in the Port of Philadelphia, and bound for New York. . . to be delivered in the like order and condition at the Port of New York (dangers of the Seas only excepted) unto Messers Seth Low & Co. . . he paying Freight for the said Goods, Sixty cents the Lot. . ."

The second, from Charles A. Putnam in Salem, measuring 16" x 20" unfolded, is datelined 26 July 1836. It bears a manuscript "18½" rate and a red Salem, Massachusetts postmark dated 27 July. It features an unusual illustration of two men struggling with a barrel-filled cart that has caused the horse of a passing rider to balk as they depart a ship-filled harbor. It reads in part:



"Shipped in good order and condition by Charles F. Putnam on board the good Schooner called the Eagle whereby Oren Crowell is master for the present voyage .

..

- 2 Cases assafoetiola
- 2 Small Bales do
- 3 Bales Safflower
- 1 Bale [two cakes] Whie Wax
- 1 Case Nut Galls
- 1 Case Gamboge
- 5 Bbls Gum Copal
- 1 Keg Aloes. . .

The third, an illustrated shipping form only, from David Pingree of Georgetown, Massachusetts, measuring 15.5" x 9.5" unfolded, is dated 12 October 1841. It bears only an address with not postal markings, suggesting it accompanied the shipment "on board the good schooner called the Ocean whereof [H.] Wilkins [was] the Master. . . ." The cargo consisted of 32 cases of assorted Copal. The illustration, another unusual one, pictures Artemis, the Greek goddess of harbors and safe sea journeys, seated on a rock as ships and boats sail on calm waters in the background.

Oleum Rosae is the traditional Latin and pharmaceutical name for essential rose oil, a pure, steam-distilled volatile aromatic botanical product extracted from rose petals (usually *Rosa damascena*). The oil has been used for centuries, and continues to be used in the production of medical products, perfumes, and other scents.

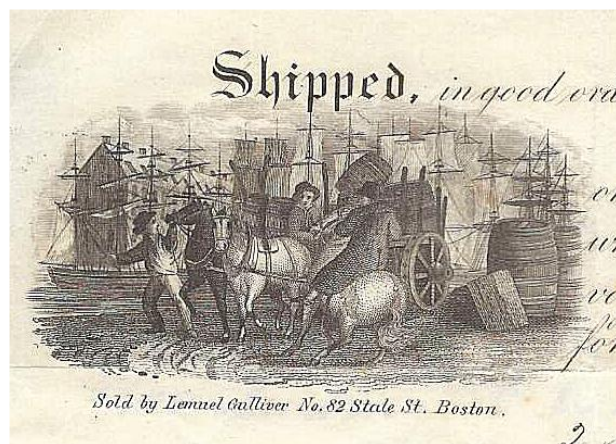
Asafoetiola, the dried resin of central Asian *Ferula* plants, was used as an an anti-flatulent and digestive aid. It is the original secret ingredient of Worcestershire sauce.

Safflower, *Carthamus tinctorius*, was (and still is) used to promote blood circulation and relieve pain.

Nut Galls are protective growths made by trees as protection from wasp larvae; in addition to being sources of ink and dye, they were used to make *Quercus infectoria*, a medical astringent. Gamboge, a toxic deep golden-yellow pigment made from the resin of Southeast Asian *Garcinia* trees, was used as a harsh purging agent.

Copal is a natural tree resin from Mexico and Central America, which was used to treat wounds, coughs, and joint pain.

Aloes were, and are still, used to treat burns, canker sores, rashes, and constipation.



#10785

\$750

7. [LAW – BREACH OF CONTRACT] [MEDICAL – JOURNALS] [PHILATELY]

1837 – A letter from the New York manager of a British medical journal requesting his brother's assistance in collecting three-years-worth of subscription fees from a deadbeat doctor

This stampless, folded letter measures 15.5" x 9.5" unfolded. It sent by George Wood in New York City to his brother, Richard in Buffalo, on a partially-printed bifold billing form for *Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical Review*, dated 11 June 1837.

The form shows that Dr. Benjamin B. Coit has not paid his journal subscription for three years and owes George \$15. The letter bears a circular New York City postmark dated 19 June and an indistinct manuscript rate mark that should be "18¾" or 1½ reales (Spanish coinage that was commonly used at the time.) In nice shape.

The letter reads in part:

"Above is a bill against Dr. Coit. .
.. I have written him several
times, but have recd no answer.
He lives in Buffalo – catch him if
you can. ..."

Within the bifold, George provides information to his mother regarding a real estate transaction and also sends a short note to his "Aunt" and sisters.

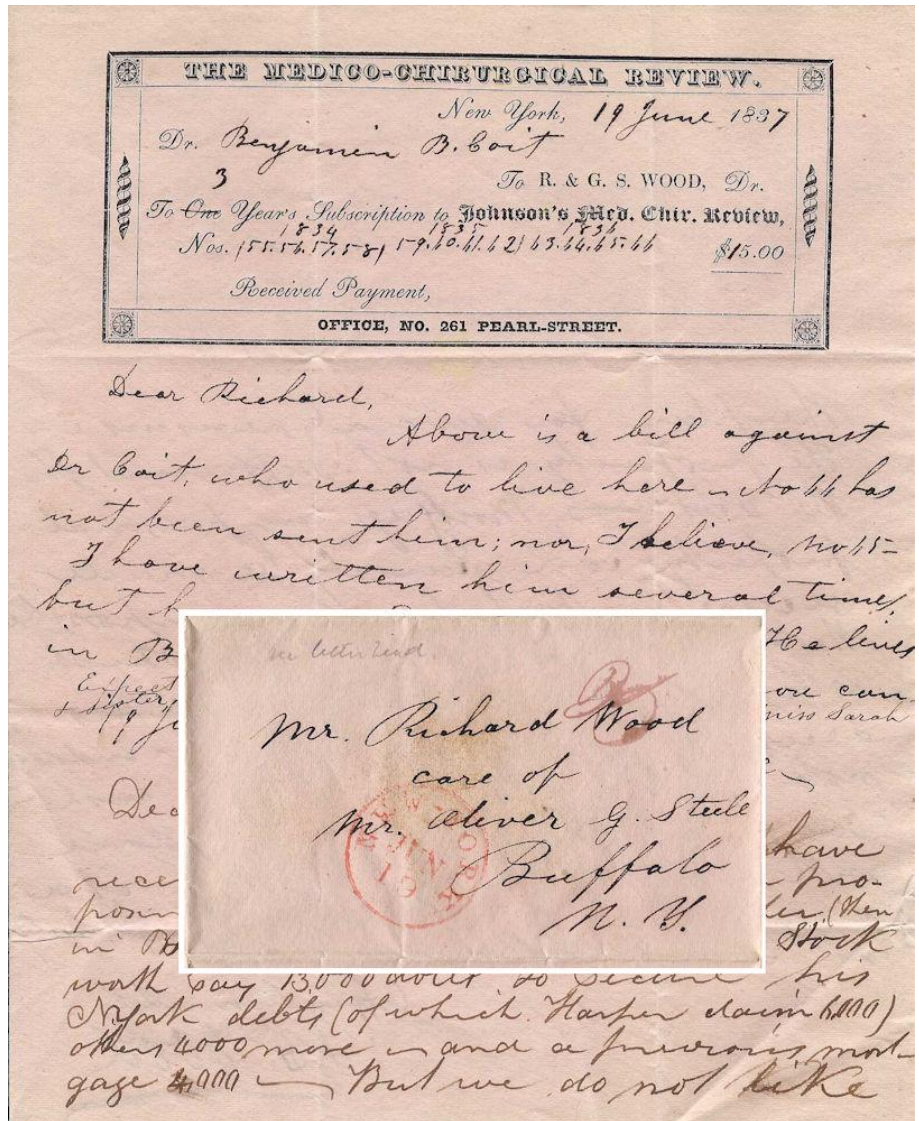
The Medico-Chirurgical Review

was a prominent 19th-century medical and surgical journal published in London. Founded and long-edited by Dr. James Johnson starting around 1820, it provided comprehensive analytical reviews of contemporary medical literature, hospital reports, and advancements in physiology, pathology, and therapeutics. Additionally, it included critical essays on new medical books, clinical case studies, surgical techniques, and updates from professional societies. It is an important reference for medical historians in understanding Victorian and pre-antiseptic era medical debates, diagnoses, and treatments.

At the time of listing, no similar items are for sale in the trade, and RBMS/ASBA show nothing similar has ever been listed at auction. OCLC shows no similar journal bills are held in institutional collections.

#10786

\$150



8. [BUSINESS - CONSULS] [DRINK – COFFEE] [FOOD – DRIED FRUITS & PIMENTOS] [MARKETING – SAMPLES] [PHILATELY] [TRANSPORTATION – RAILROADS & SHIPS]

1842 – An illustrated J. B. Peck’s New Package Express Line shipping document used in the delivery of samples of pimentos and coffee from a Baltimore importer to a Boston wholesale grocery merchant

This 3-page stampless folded shipping document and letter measures 15.75" x 10" unfolded. It features vignettes of an early steamboat, a three-masted sailing ship, and an early pioneer 4-2-0 locomotive with box car along the upper border and touts its delivery service to

“Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, & c / for the conveyance of Bank Notes, Specie, and Packages of every description,” noting that its two main offices were located in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The combined letter/shipping document, sent from the Baltimore firm of J. F. Strohm to Silas Pierce and Company of Boston, is dated 24 October 1842. It bears a blue circular Baltimore postmark dated 25 October along with a manuscript “18 ½” rate mark. The letter describes the contents of the shipment and possible additional purchases. It reads in part,

“We hand you above a receipt of a small Package containing a Sample of Pimento as a lot of 5 to 600 Bags for which 8 3/8¢ is asked in “Cash”. . . . It is the only lot in market and that is the reason, that we hasten to send you a sample of it. All other parcels have been sent to New York. . . . We think it is a cheap lot and the quality is very good. . . . We sent you likewise two Samples of Java Coffee . . . it is selling slowly at 14¢. . . . Both lots do not exceed 150 Bags. . . . We have met your observations on the fruit trade with much pleasure. . . . Thine will be offered at Auction a small lot of . . . Currants in a day or two and likewise . . . raisins. . . . Saleratus [baking soda] . . . can be bought here for 6 ¢. . . . We will write to you in a few days more fully.”

Pierce also served as the Venezuelan consul in the United States.

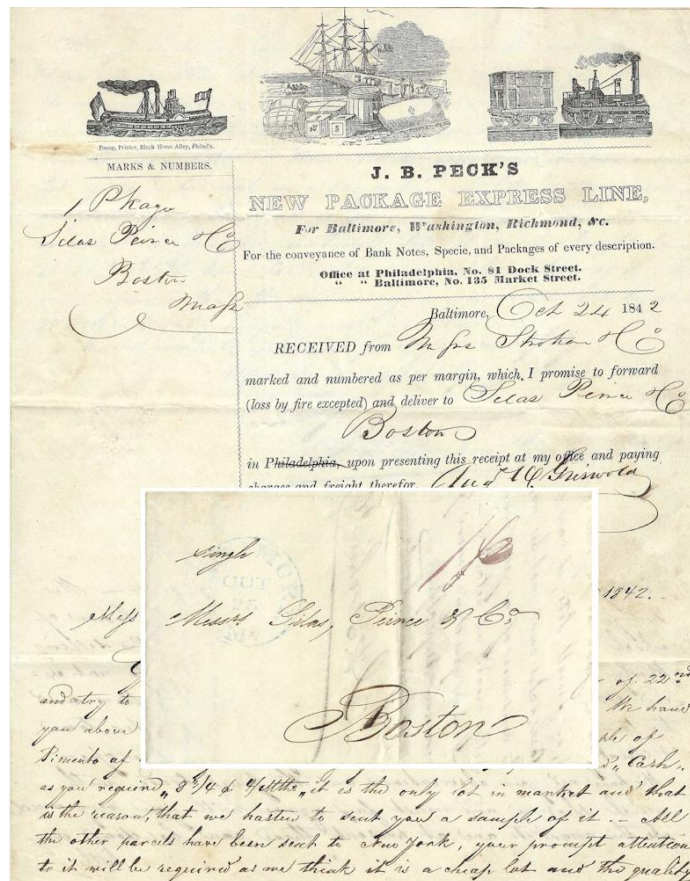
Shortly before the shipment was sent, in April 1842, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad (PW&B) officially contracted its package express operations to J.B. Peck, establishing a vital early coordinated rail and steamboat parcel delivery network along the East Coast. In 1846, the PW&B was incorporated into the Pennsylvania Railroad.

An unusual and scarce billhead used to document equally unusual shipment of pimentos and coffee along with an offer for Pierce to purchase raisins, currants, and baking soda.

At the time of listing nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub and ASBA show nothing similar has appeared at auction. The Silas Pierce and Company records are held at the New York Public Library.

#10787

\$150



9. [EDUCATION – ACADEMIES] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

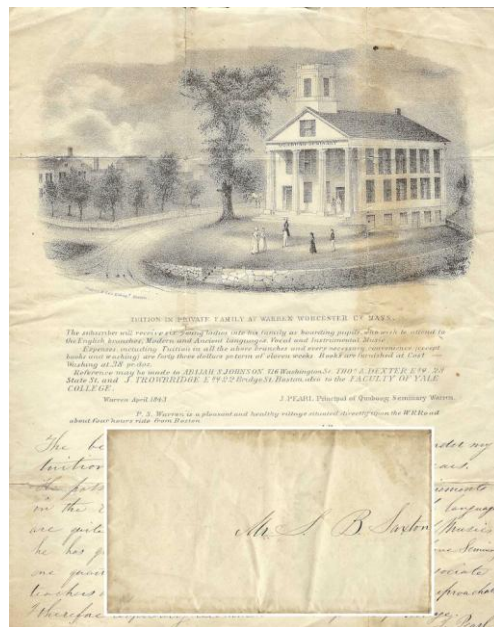
1843 – Letter of recommendation, written on impressive letterhead, for a teacher departing Quaboag Seminary in 1843, the year after Lucy Stone transferred from there to Oberlin College

This one-page stampless folded letter of recommendation written on a partially-printed bifold sheet measures 15¾" x 10" unfolded. The printed Quaboag Seminary letterhead at the top of the page measures 7" x 6". The letter is addressed, and was given directly to, S. B. Saxton by the school principal, J. Pearl. In nice shape with old tape mends to the reverse which has a glue-stain, probably from being mounted in a scrapbook.

The seminary was a private female boarding academy, located in Warren, Massachusetts, which was founded in 1842 and incorporated in 1850. Its most famous graduate was Lucy Stone who attended before enrolling at Oberlin College in 1843.

In 1856, the town of Warren purchased the seminary building to serve as its public grade and high school.

The illustration features the school building with one of the proprietors and several students enjoying a respite in its front yard. The accompanying text reads in part,



"Tuition in Private Family at Warren Worcester Cy Mass. The subscriber will receive six young ladies into his family as boarding pupils, who wish to attend to the English branches, Modern and Ancient languages, Vocal and Instrumental Music. Expenses including Tuition in all of the above branches and every necessary convenience (except books and washing) are forty-three dollars pr term of eleven weeks. Books are furnished at cost – Washing at .38 pr doz. . . / J. Pearl, Principal of Quaboag Seminary Warren. . ."

The letter of recommendation reads in part,

"The bearer S. Burt Saxton has been under my tuition most of the time for the last two years. He possesses good natural abilities and his acquirements in the English branches; the Latin and French languages are quite respectable. He excels in the art of Music he has given lessons on the Pianoforte . . . to the entire satisfaction of his associate teachers and patrons. His moral character is unrepachable. . ."

The name "Quaboag" was taken from the region's original settlement, the Quahog Plantation, which was founded in 1660 and named for local Quaboag tribe. The settlement was completely destroyed by Native Americans in 1675, however local militia defended the settlement until a relief force arrived, allowing most settlers to escape to safety in eastern Massachusetts. The region was not resettled until the late 1680s.

Lucy Stone was an American abolitionist, suffragist, and outspoken advocate for and promoter of women's rights. In 1847, after graduating from Oberlin, Stone became the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree. Unlike other leading feminists of her time, like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Stone did not oppose the 14th and 15th Amendments which granted full rights of citizenship to black men.

At the time of listing, no similar documents are for sale in the trade. Neither the Rare Book Hub nor ASBA show any as having appeared at auction. The American Antiquarian Society has a similar print in its collection along with some other Quaboag Seminary ephemera.

An exceptional image of the school.

#10788

\$250

10. [ARCHITECTURE – MILLS] [EDUCATION – BOARDING SCHOOLS] [FOLK-ART] [PHILATELY]

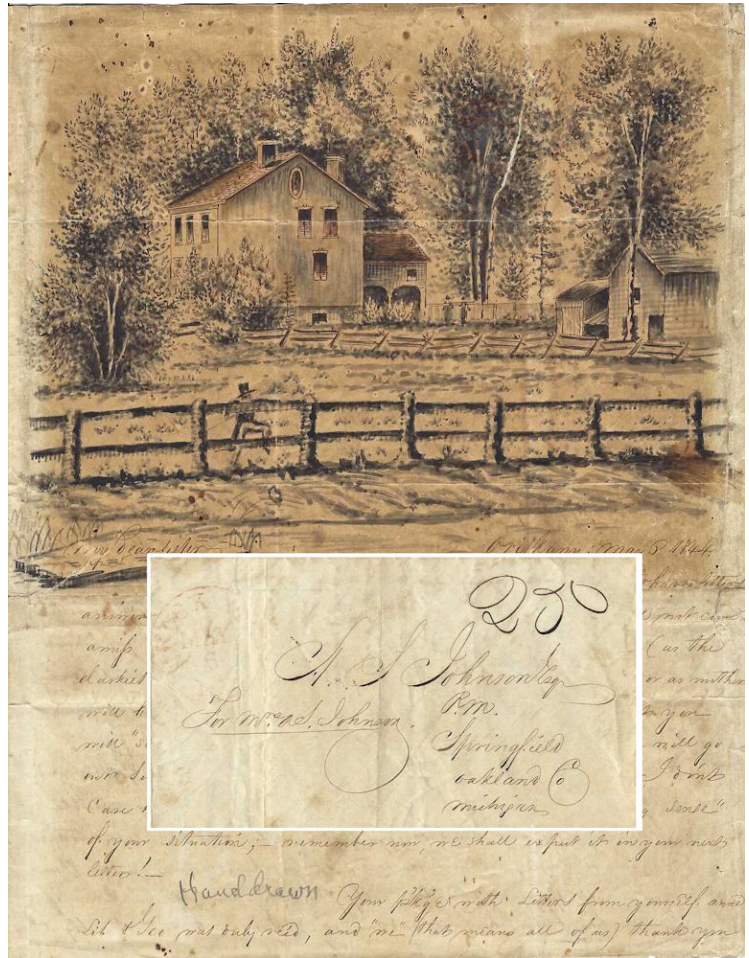
1844 – Family letter with a large exceptionally well-done two-tone hand painted illustration of a writer's grist mill

This three-page stampless folded letter, measuring about 15" x 9.75" unfolded, was sent by "Henry" and "Mag" in Oriskany, New York, to their sister, Mrs. A. S. (?) Johnson in Springfield, Michigan. It is dated 6 May 1844. The cover has no postmark but bears a manuscript "25" rate. In nice shape.

The highlight of the letter is a wonderful folk-art painting of the family's grist mill back home in New York, done in black ink with a light orange-brown wash. The picture shows the mill and several outbuildings tucked into a copse of tall trees behind a wooden rail fence upon which a man in a top hat is climbing.

The text of Henry's part of the letter reads in part,

"I have good reason to think that this mill [is] any the less acceptable for being 'Emblemished' (as the darkies say) with a very hearty 'old Hickory' or as mother would have it 'Walnut Place'. Rough as it is I know that you will 'set by it' and in return have only to ask that you will go out some fine day and make a sketch of your premises. (I don't care how rough it is) so that I & we can have some 'realising sense' of your situation; remember now, we shall expect it in your next letter!"



The remainder of the letter discusses family news including dissatisfaction with their daughter's education.

"Speaking of art. . . We expect Lil home in a week, and as far as literary accomplishments are concerned, I think she might just as well have remained at home all winter; send a you lady to a New York Boarding School! Pah!

and travels,

"Bill (?) has been home about a week – he remained a month in Nassau W. I. [West Indies] after his shipments and shipped from there home without going to Charleston again – as for 'Irish Mag' you need not expect to see her! She and Sammy sure have taken a farm in 'Skeeterboro,' and havd 'squatted' already. . ."

Mag adds additional information about family and friends,

"Henry has been very much engaged in making fathers new garden for him . . . Mother will tell you all about it. . . We sent you a paper with Mr Lovels death in [it]; the family is very much afflicted, Ann died about three weeks ago; she had been ill all winter, she died of complications. I has been very sickly in Utica. . ."

One of the best folk-art letters we have encountered.

#10789

\$250

11. [TOURISM – NIAGARA FALLS]

1846 – An early souvenir certifying the bearer had walked behind “the Great Horse- Shoe Fall”

This partially printed certificate on grey paper measures approximately 4" x 5.5". It was issued to Mrs. H. W. Warner by Thomas Barnett and reads,

“Niagara Falls / Canada West [Ontario] / This is to Certify / that Mrs H. W. Warner / has passed behind the /Great Falling Sheet of Water / to termination rock, / Being 230 ft. behind the Great Horse-Shoe Fall. / Given under my hand, at the office of the General Register of the names of visitors at the Table Rock, this 2 day of Nov 1846. / Thomas Barnett / Jewett, Thomas & Co. Printers, Buffalo.”

The reverse features a print of the Falls and a poem about the experience written by Willis Gaylord Clark in 1836.

The first explorer to walk behind the falls, J. C. Bonnefons, did so in 1753. In an effort to profit from the experience, a local man, William Forsyth, built a spiral staircase down the side of the gorge in 1818, which provided a safer and easier way to reach the base of the cataract and the number of visitors dramatically increased. By 1827, his “Trip Behind the Great Falling Sheet of Water had become a popular tourist attraction.

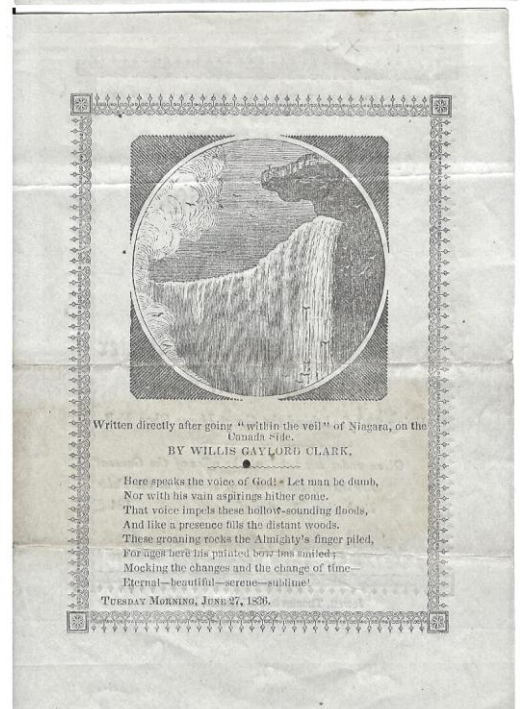
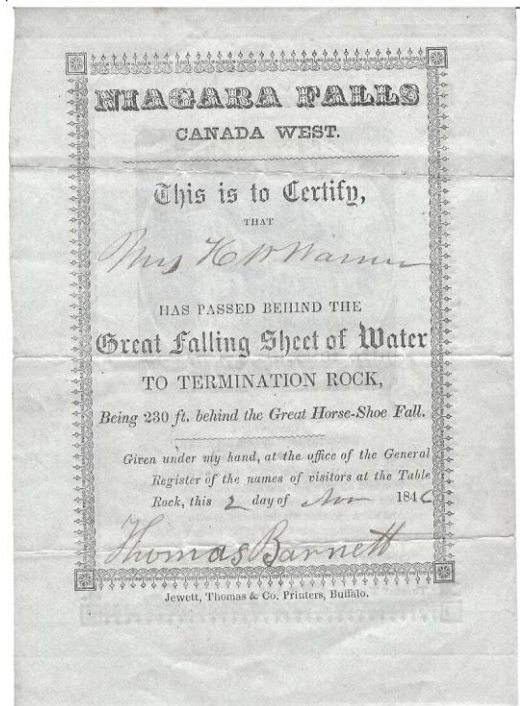
In 1827, Thomas Barnet constructed a competing tower and offered guided tours that included an option to rent waterproof protective clothing. Several years later, in 1831, Barnet opened his famous Niagara Falls Museum, Canada’s oldest museum on road that ran alongside Horseshoe Falls, and his quintessential ‘cabinet of curiosities’ proved to be almost as popular a destination as the Falls themselves.

(For more information, see “The long and winding history of ‘Journey Behind the Falls’” at the Niagara Public Library’s Blog, and Zavitz’s “Going ‘Behind the Falling Sheet of Water’” and “A Bit of Barnett’s Comes to the Niagara Falls History Museum,” both at the Niagara Falls Exchange website.)

At the time of listing, no similar souvenirs are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub and ASBA show two similar items from the 1850s have appeared at auction. OCLC shows only four similar souvenirs, issued before 1850 are held by institutions. These souvenirs occasionally appear on ebay.

#10790

\$175



12. [EDUCATION – ACADEMIES] [PHILATELY]

1846 – An elaborate illustrated broadside prospectus for the New Orleans Polytechnic School used by its proprietor to send an obsequious yet boastful stampless, folded letter to a Pennsylvania editor

This broadside prospectus for the New Orleans Polytechnic School was used by its proprietor, D. Macaulay, to send an obsequious yet boast full letter to an editor, John Stockton Little, in Germantown, Pennsylvania, who had just released a revision of Alexander Graydon's previously anonymous memoir of the Revolutionary War, *Memoirs of His Own Time: With Reminiscences of the Men and Events of the Revolution*.

The prospectus measures 16" x 12.5" unfolded and features a large illustration of a robed scholar instructing very young students in literature, geography, and astronomy in a courtyard between two Greek-column buildings bearing the carved inscriptions, "Philosophy" and "Intellect is Power." It reads in part,

"Incorporated by an Act of the Legislature

"The course of Education pursued at this Institution embraces . . . literature and science . . . English literature, the ancient and modern Languages, and Mathematics. . . Every attention is paid to . . . the moral culture of the pupil [and in the promotion of] health. . . A Gymnasium is attached to the Establishment. . .

"The Legislature, to encourage learning, has enacted 'that the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and that of Master of Arts shall be conferred on the student who will undergo a full and satisfactory examination.' . .

The prospectus also specifies the cost to attend per month: For Beginners - \$6.00, for an English and French education - \$8.00. For Classics and Mathematics \$10.00, Board and Education - \$20.00, and Fifty cents for Stationery. Instruction in Drawing, Dancing and Music required an additional fee.

In the accompanying letter, after fawning over Macaulay reissue of "Graydon's America," he boasts

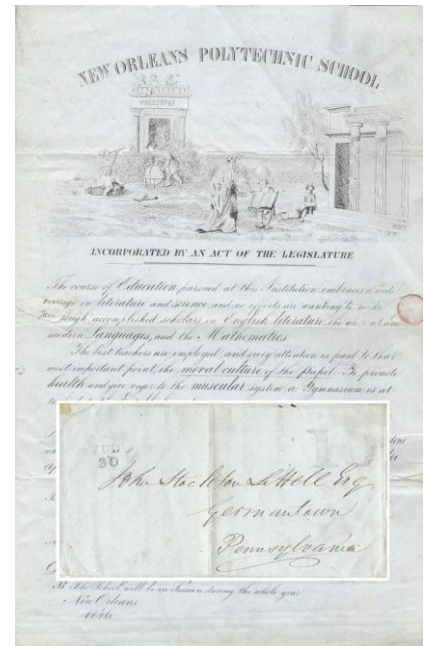
"[In] Edinburgh, I was a pupil of John Wilson, Christopher North . . . the celebrated Dr. Chalmers [and] known to Lord Jeffreys & related to Babington Macaulay. I am Principal of 'the Polytechnic School' of this city, and , though my professional avocations are satisfying and manifold, I devote every spare moment to research on the subject of American Literature, and nothing on earth would afford me higher pleasure than to be able to lay before the European public correct notions of the extent to which this infant country has arrived in literary and scientific acquirement. . .

"I have sent you a copy of a small work I published when spending a month in Washington & the Legislature of this State has ordered me to enlarge it for the use of our public Schools. . ."

The prospectus is datelined "New Orleans 30th July 1846," bears an indistinct New Orleans postmark dated 30 July along with a bold "10" rate stamp. In nice shape with a beginning split along a mailing fold and a small hole from sealing wax affects one word of text.

There are no online records indicating that Macaulay's school lasted longer one year. Nor is there any indication that the booklet he had previously published, *The Patriot's Catechism* (a short question-and-answer text), was ever enlarged or republished.

Still, an impressive broadside that failed to drum up enough students to keep Macaulay's school in business.



#10791

\$200

13. [ARCHITECTURE – RIO DE JANEIRO] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY - BRAZIL] [TRAVEL – BRAZIL]

1847 – Letter from an American in Rio de Janeiro describing the activity occurring in the street outside his window written on a cityscape lettersheet

This two-page stampless folded letter, written on a Rio de Janeiro cityscape lettersheet measuring 16.5" x 10.5" unfolded, is datelined "Rio. Jan 11. 1847." It was sent by an American in the city to his mother in Waterford, New York. It bears a manuscript annotation, "Abo" (the ship that carried the letter) and a circular New York "Ship / 7 cts" postmark dated March 12. An excellent illustration of the city from its busy harbor, titled *Largo do Paço* (Palace Square), spans the width of the sheet; the writer has identified several of the buildings including the Carmelite Church, European Chapel, Palace, and Market. In nice shape.

In this letter, the author describes the bustle going on right outside his window. It reads in part,

"I am in Rio yet, though I shall go into the Country the day after tomorrow [which] will suit me better than this nest of brooding Slaves. . . .

"Looking from my window, I will just inventory the objects that pass – A negro with a keg of water on his head – Two Portuguese gentry – An Omnibus – A couple of Dutch Lieutenants – A gang of negroes carrying bags of Coffee . . .

A Dragoon on horseback – Three of the Gen'darmes – Two female slaves with trays of fruit on their heads – A dozen slaves with baskets & trays – An old miss with a hat like an Umbrella – Two slaves (women) with water kegs on their heads – and a couple of Brazilian Ladies followed by their slaves. . . .

"And so it goes – On gala days every one has a uniform on. . . . They would exchange almost any place for the national buttons upon their jackets. . . ."

The *Largo do Paço*, now *Praça Quinze de Novembro*, was the location of the *Paço Imperial*. With the arrival of the royal family in 1808, the building became the official residence of the royalty. After the Republic, the Paço was stripped of its political functions and became the headquarters of the Post and Telegraph Office. Currently, it is a cultural center, listed by the National Historical and Artistic Heritage Service (now Institute).

The Brazilian Royal Family was established by Pedro of Braganza, until then Prince Royal of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves, member of the House of Braganza, heir apparent to the Portuguese throne and the King's representative in the Kingdom of Brazil as Prince Regent. The family ruled Brazil from 1822 until 1889 when it was deposed in a military coup.

Brazil imported more enslaved Africans than any other country in the world. Between 1540 and 1860, approximately 5.5 million were sold by West Central African rulers for export to Brazil where they endured some of the most inhumane treatment meted out to slaves anywhere in the world. The Brazilian economy was dependent upon enslaved labor which formed the backbone of the country's mining, sugar, and coffee industry. In 1888, Brazil became the last country in the Americas to abolish slavery.

This lettersheet is from the collection of James Milgram, who described it as "rare."



#10792

\$200

14. [EDUCATION - ACADEMIES] [ENTERTAINMENT - PARTIES] [HOLIDAYS – 4TH OF JULY] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1847 – A letter on especially attractive school letterhead describing a boarding school's 4th of July celebration

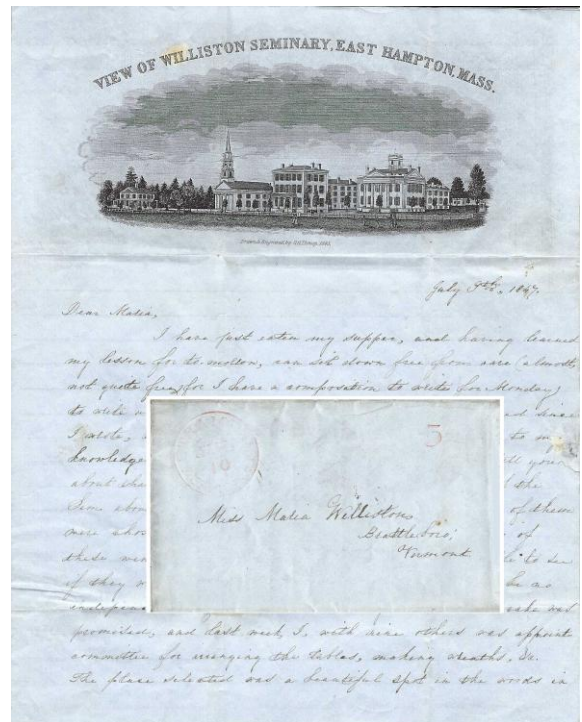
This 4-page stampless folded letter, written on bifold school letterhead measures 15.5" x 10" unfolded. It is datelined July 9th, 1849, and bears a faint circular East Hampton postmark dated 10 July along with a "5" rate handstamp. The exceptional illustration, titled "View of Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass.," shows the school's church, headmaster's home, four academic/dormitory buildings, and several privies. It was sent by "Margaret" to her sister Malia Welleston in in Brattleboro, Vermont. In nice shape with some glassine paper mends.

It reads in part,

"I must tell you about [our celebration.] It was first talked of by the boys . . . about a fortnight before. . . and nine of them were chosen for a committee of arrangements. Two . . . went around town and called upon the people to see if they would make cake, as there would be no independence if there was nothing to eat. The cake was promised and last week, I with nine others was appointed committee for arranging the tables, making wreaths, &c. The place selected was a beautiful spot in the woods. . . We went down there . . . and found the young gentlemen . . . busily at work with their saws and axes [making] four tables in the form of a square [as well as a] stage. . . On Saturday . . . we met in the town hall to make wreaths [and] two or three young gentlemen came to help us. . . We had a very pleasant time. [On] Monday morning before six o'clock one of the gentlemen came in a buggy for Hattie and myself. . . After a delightful ride . . . we immediately began operations. Hattie had borrowed about two dozen table-cloths, which we assigned and then went with Jason and the little fat boy I told you about to a most beautiful pond . . . to wash some vases. The boys waded in and washed them, and we [dried]. [After the wreaths arrived,] to our great dismay, we found that the wreaths of balsa were entirely spoiled. . . There for [we] sent with all haste for materials and 'went to work' [making others] and soon had them fastened to the tables. . . We trimmed the stage [and included] two large pyramids of roses and evergreens. . . On a piece of white pasteboard about ten feet long [we made a sign that read] 'Williston Grove' wrought in beautiful letters [which we] suspended between trees . . . fifteen feet apart for the entrance. . . A richly colored carpet was . . . laid on the stage [and] a piano was brought and placed there. . . I should like to tell you all about [the party] but you will find a short and very accurate description in the 'Hampshire Herald.' The young gentlemen of the committee wore rosettes of blue and white on their breasts, and . . . the young ladies wore white sashes. It went off well. I believe all were very much pleased. [After most went home,] the committee staid . . . sitting down on the stage, talking singing &c. There was not a bit of cake left, but the gentlemen brought some ice-creams and we had a nice time eating them. . ."

This coeducational academy was founded in 1841 by a local industrialist, Samuel Williston, who made his fortune using enslaved labor to manufacture buttons. The school survives today as Williston Northampton School, an expensive college-preparatory day and boarding school.

A marvelous description of the work involved in preparing for an Independence Day celebration by a group of students written on an impressive school lettersheet.



#10793

\$300

15. [EDUCATION – ACADEMIES] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1848 – Illustrated advertising circular for the Roseland Female Institute that was sent through the mail at a reduced rate

This three-page illustrated document is titled “Circular of the Roseland Female Institute.” The school was located in Hartsville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where the Reverend Jacob Belville served as its principal. It is enclosed in its original unsealed envelope, which was mailed to the Reverend J. A. Murray at Dillsburgh. It bears an unlisted (see the ASCC) circular “Paid / 1” rate stamp and no postmarks. Circular mail was the junk mail of its time.



The circular reads in part,

“The Institution . . . is situated in a healthful and beautiful country, nineteen miles north of Philadelphia. . . . The grounds are extensive and beautiful, the buildings large and elegant, and all adapted for the convenience, comfort, and health of the pupils. . . .

“The principal superintends the school in person, and is aided by . . . competent Assistants. The pupils are [in all respects treated] as members of his family. . . . The highest degree of intellectual and moral culture is his constant aim [which] he seeks to attain by . . . discipline, thorough instruction, and prayerful and Scriptural religious training [and] daily religious instruction. The pupils are required to . . . worship in the [adjoining] Presbyterian Church. . . .

“Tennent School, and Institution of high character for boys . . . is within a mile [and] affords parents the very best advantages for the thorough education of their sons. . . .

“Boarding Tuition in all English Branches, and Ancient Languages, \$70. French, \$10. Music, with use of Piano, \$20. Washing, 30 cents per dozen. . . . Pupils will furnish their own towels and table napkins, . . . overshoes and umbrella. . . . Books and Stationery are provided at city prices. . . .”

The school was originally founded at Hartsville in 1850 by the Reverend Jacob Belville. Sometime later, the Reverend James P. Wilson Jr. took ownership and ran the school as its sole proprietor until its closure in 1863. After shutting its doors, the property went through several transformations, famously serving as the historic Hartsville Inn before the structure was eventually demolished in 1960 to accommodate the widening of nearby Street Road.

A nice example of a prospectus for a mid-19th-century girls’ boarding academy.

#10794 SOLD

16. [EDUCATION – COLLEGES] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1851 – Letter from the Principal of the Willoughby Female Seminary requesting a former student to take a part-time teaching position at the school

This three-page letter on illustrated school stationery is dated September 1, 1851. It was sent by Alvan Nash, the Principal of the Willoughby Female Seminary in Ohio to Miss Ellen E. Pierce at Hamlet, New York. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope which bears a circular Willoughby, Ohio postmark dated September 1 along with a “Paid” handstamp and a manuscript “3” rate mark.

The large letterhead illustration depicts a front-on view of the six-columned school building with about 40 women and one man gathered on its porch or adjacent front yard.

In the letter, Nash asks, actually begs, Ellen to return to the seminary as a part-time teacher. It reads in part,

“Much esteemed Youth – I regret that Miss Jenny did not ‘fix you fast.’ It was our expectation she would do so if your father’s health was such as would allow of r leaving home. Miss J. has written to me twice and had not at the last found just such a Teacher as she desired. . . I believe it must be her expectation to be depending on you. At least we know it to be her desire that you return. . . Her only fear is that our expenses will be too much increased. But this matter is ours and not hers – therefore we will decide it, and without one moments hesitancy – you must come. . .

“We will allow you’re your board and tuition in all you desire for the service of assisting . . . as Mis Jenny may desire . . . not to exceed half a day in teaching. If the terms as before will not be satisfactory, or if in case of emergency more labour shall be required of you, we will be honorable with you. . . \

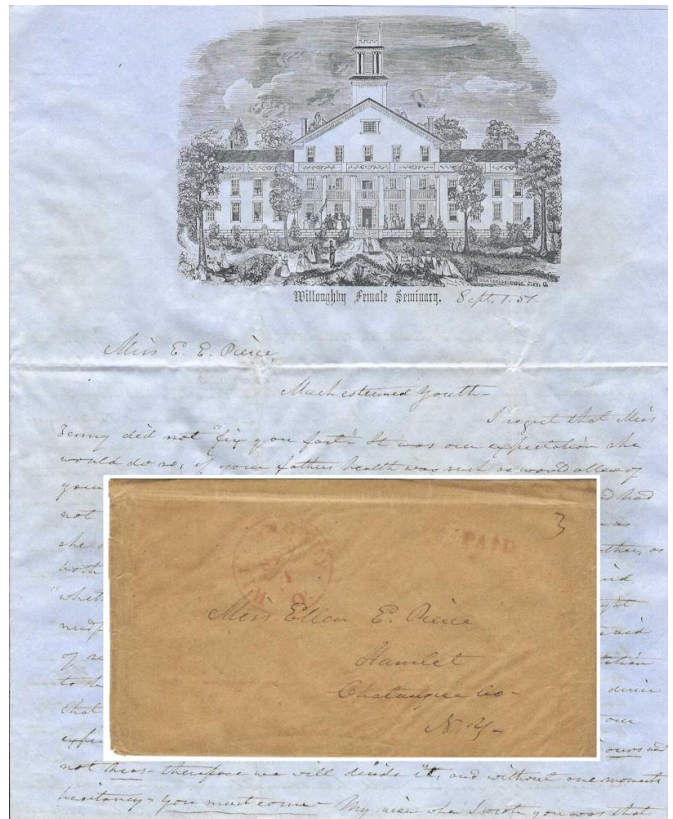
“We shall be very happy to receive you here again and hope it may be to your advantage. . .

“Please forward my kind regards and sympathies to your afflicted father, whom I love for your sake.”

The seminary, founded in 1847, was the first college-level women’s school to open in the Western Reserve (a 3-million-acre strip of land in northeastern Ohio claimed by Connecticut under its original colonial sea-to-sea royal charter). It was patterned after Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts and offered a three-year course that included mathematics, music, art, ancient and modern languages, and philosophy.

One hundred young women enrolled during its first year, and the school continued to thrive until a fire destroyed the three-story building shown on this letterhead in 1856. When the Willoughby citizens were unable to raise the funds needed to rebuild, those of Painesville stepped in and the college relocated there renamed, the Lake Erie Female Seminary. It still exists today as Lake Erie College.

A nice example of a teacher recruitment letter from an important early women’s college.



#10795

\$150

17. [EDUCATION – COLLEGES] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION – CATHOLICISM]

1853 – Letter to the founder and headmaster of St. Mary's College in Wilmington, Delaware

This stampless folded letter is written on bifold stationery that measures 15.5" x 10" unfolded. It is datelined "Philadelphia 4th Nove. 1853" and was sent by Sunrow Paey (sp?) to the Reverend Patrick Reilly, the founder and headmaster of St. Mary's College in Wilmington, Delaware. It bears a bold Philadelphia 5 postmark in blue and features a large letterhead illustration of the school. In nice shape.

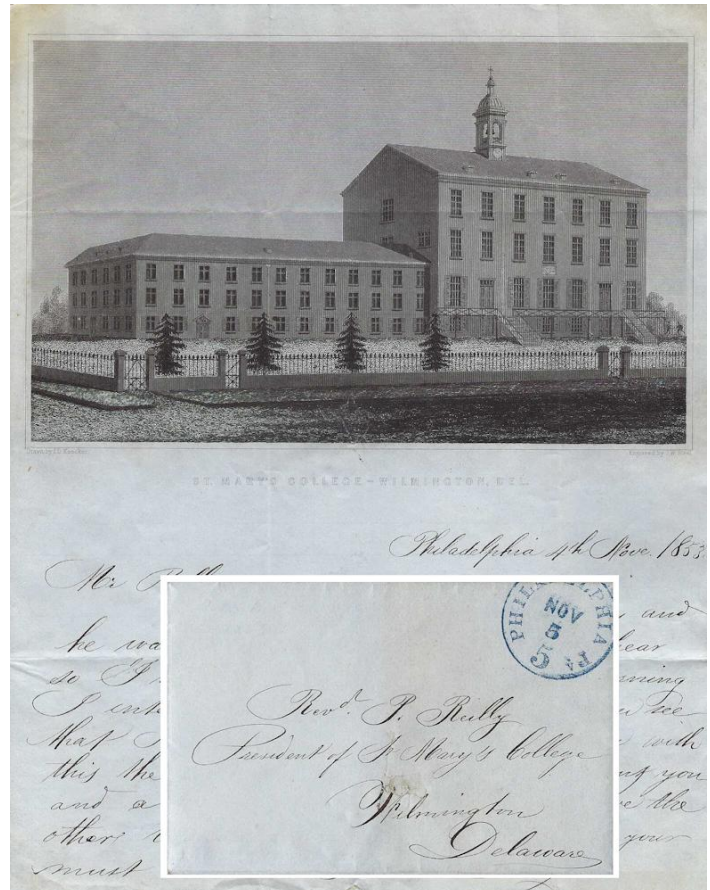
Paey was, perhaps, a patron or the father of attending students. His letter reads in part:

"My brother has arrived today and . . . wants to spend 2 or 3 more days hear . . . so you see I can not [visit on Monday. I send you with this the two papers that my father sent [for] you and a letter . . . you will please give the other [paper] to the boys. . ."

In 1834, the relatively recently ordained parish priest in Wilmington, Patrick Reilly, established a boarding school for boys in his residence, in part to cover the expenses he incurred to care for his aging mother. It included only elementary subjects and operated on a very small scale until 1839, when many parishioners familiar with the Sisters of Charity's St. Peter's Female Academy petitioned him to expand his school, which he did, accepting 19 "scholars" in that first year and 28 the next. Demand increased, especially following the arrival of Potato Famine immigrants, and Reilly enlarged his school several times, and by 1845, he was accepting boys from Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. He also expanded his curriculum to accommodate demand and began offering preparatory and college courses. With support and funding from the non-Catholic DuPont family he was able to acquire a college charter in 1847, and St. Mary's became one of the premier Catholic colleges of the east. It thrived, enrolling students from Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Costa Rica, and Cuba. The loss of Southern students with the outbreak of the Civil War was a major blow to the school, and after the Bishop of Philadelphia ordered Reilly to devote his effort to build and pastor a new St. Mary's Church in Wilmington, the college foundered, closing its doors in 1866.

[For more information, see Peterman's "History of St. Mary's College, Wilmington, Delaware, 1847-1867" in the September 1966 edition of *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*.]

A nice illustrated lettersheet featuring one of the earliest and most important Catholic colleges in the United States.



#10796

\$150

18. [MEDICAL – AMPUTATIONS] [MILITARY – OCONEE WAR, PATRIOT WAR, & WAR OF 1812] [PHILATELY]

1854 – Letter requesting assistance in acquiring a pension for the widow of a Georgia militiaman who claimed her husband died as the result of wounds while in federal military service

This one-page stampless folded letter is datelined “Clarksville, Habersham County, Georgia /July 10th, 1854.” It was sent by Jesse Sanford to Dr. John. R. Foster, postmaster, Millville, Cherokee County, Georgia. It bears a faint circular Clarksville postmark, dated July 12, and “Paid” handstamp in blue along with a manuscript “3” rate mark. In nice shape.

In this letter, Sanford asks for Foster’s assistance in verifying the military related death of Moses Mulkey. It reads in part:

“Moses Mulkey, who it is said, died of an injury or hurt, he received, whilst in the military service of the United states, on his ankle. I was informed, that you, with some other Doctor, was sent for, to cut off his leg, but when you saw it, you thought it to late; or from the opposition of some of the family; you did not cut it off: and it soon mortified and killed him. Please inform me what you know of this matter. I do not know where, or when he died, probably in Cherokee, Co Geo. He was Step father, to Solomon Dykes, who went to Florida, in Capt. Sutton’s company, [who] says he is acquainted with you. . .”

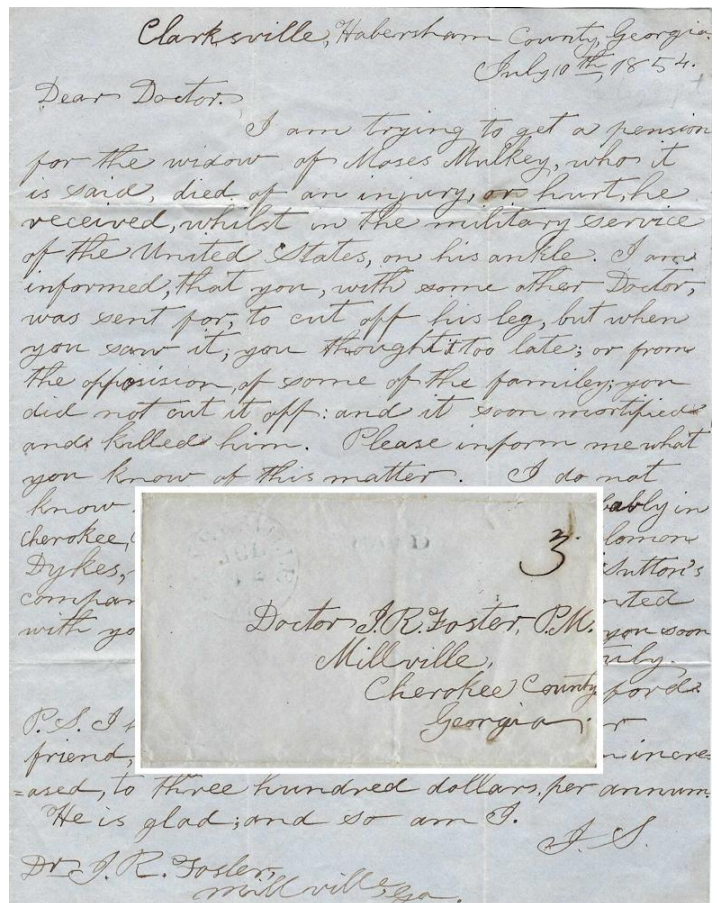
The “American Militia in the Frontier Wars, 1790-1796” database at ancestry.com identifies Moses Mulkey as a member of the Georgia militia who served in Lieutenant John Stonecypher’s Detachment at Fort Maurice Georgia in 1796, during the Oconee War, however his mortal wound occurred after that date as it notes he, along with the rest of the unit, departed on 26 December of that year.

A second document, “U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914,” records that Mulkey enlisted in the elite U. S. Rifle Regiment when it was first activated in 1808, and served until he was discharged from active duty in 1813 due to a “fractured ankle.”

Although much of the U. S. Rifle Regiment served in the northern theater of the War of 1812, a large contingent that had originally been stationed in Savannah, Georgia, served at Fort Point Peter and St. Marys, Georgia until 1815. There they guarded the strategic international border with Spanish and British Florida and provided some support to American rebel units in their attempt to annex part of northeastern Florida during the so-called ‘Patriot’ War. Mulkey’s injury would have occurred during this time. However, he did not die of sepsis at this time as his record would have indicated that instead of a discharge.

There is no record of Mulkey’s widow having received a pension.

A fascinating letter that highlights two little-known and scarcely remembered early American conflicts in Georgia.



19. [BRIDGES – SUSPENSION] [TOURISM – NIAGARA FALLS]

Circa 1855 – Illustrated lettersheet of the “great Suspension Bridge” at Niagara Falls with a detailed description

This four-page letter is written on an illustrated lettersheet with no dateline of salutation however it is from “James” to his sister, “Cannah.” It features an illustration titled the “Rail Road Suspension Bridge, Niagara Falls.” No accompanying mailing envelope.

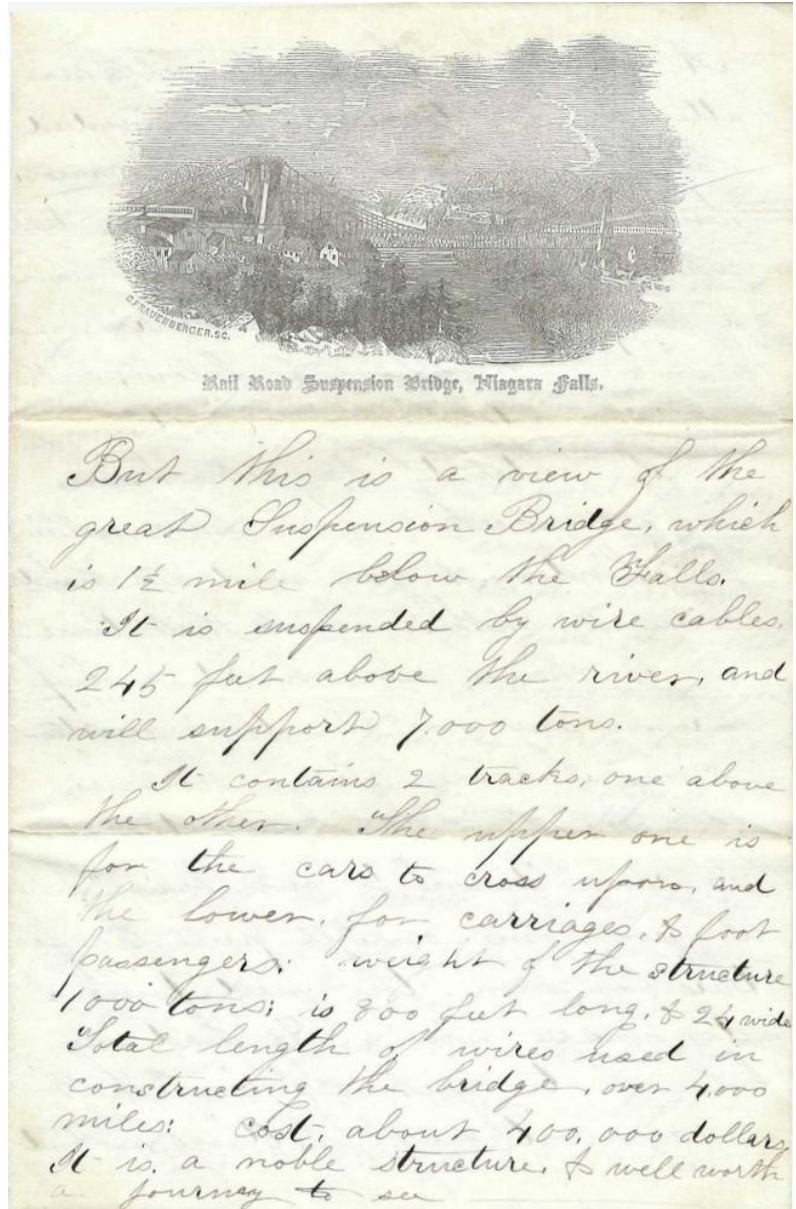
While most of the humorous letter discusses family, one section describing the suspension bridge reads in part:

“This is a view of the great Suspension Bridge, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile below the Falls. It is suspended by wire cables 245 foot above the river, and will support 7,000 tons.

“It contains 2 tracks, one above the other. The upper one is for the cars to cross upon, and the lower for carriages & foot passengers; weight of the structure is 1000 tons; is 900 feet long, & 24 wide. Total length of the wires used in constructing the bridge, over 4,000 miles: cost, about 400,000 dollars. It is a noble structure & well worth a journey to see.

“As to the Falls, I will not attempt to describe them: indeed language as poor as mine cannot, but when I see you will tell what I can about them. I have a map of the Falls, & the river for 5 or 6 miles above & below, with all the adjoining curiosities. ...”

Less common than the Niagara souvenir shown as above.



#10798

\$150

20. [GAMBLING – LOTTERIES] [LAW – SCAMS] [PHILATELY]

1855 – Promotional packet for Capurro & Company's Mammoth Gift Enterprise Lottery

This promotional packet for Capurro & Company's Mammoth Gift Enterprise consists of one faux-handwritten letter, two long broadsides, and a mailing envelope. Although the packet was mailed from Nashville, Tennessee, the broadsheets identified the Cappuro & Company as operating in St. Louis although there is no record of that company or the surname, Cappuro, any online database or city directory of the time.

The mailing envelope is addressed to the Postmaster of Berkeley Springs, Virginia (today West Virginia). It bears a circular Nashville, Tennessee postmark and circular "Paid/4" rate handstamp.

The four-page faux-handwritten letter informed the recipient that nine tickets were also enclosed for sale to the postmaster's friends. The tickets, which are no longer present, apparently included instructions regarding how the cash received from their sale was to be forwarded to Cappuro & Company.

The two identical broadsides measure 5" x 16.5". They tout the "Capital Prize" as a huge city three-story residence located at the corner of Locust and 7th Streets that occupies most of a city block. Other prizes include diamond jewelry, gold watches, two farms, and a land warrant. In all the scam promises to award 500 prizes totaling over \$60,000 worth of gifts (about \$2.4 million in today's dollars). They also contain information on how and where the subscribers could redeem their gifts. The dispersal locations are suspect and include an office located within a hotel, a jeweler whose inventory was being liquidated to pay off creditors, and a saloon.

In the 1850s United States, "gift enterprises" became incredibly popular as the law began to crack down on shady lotteries. Promoters invented the term to argue that their operations were not gambling because buyers were technically purchasing physical items like a print or book and receiving a lottery ticket as a "free gift". Pioneered by L. D. Sine, a traveling promoter who frequently ran his nationwide mail-order scams from St. Louis or Alton, Illinois. His efforts attempt to skirt laws surrounding gambling and lottery operations by promising that for just one dollar, buyers would receive a beautiful engraving or book plus a numbered lottery ticket offering a chance to win exceptionally valuable prizes in a final drawing. At best, the prizes were cheap plated trinkets, however, most frequently, ticket numbers were not linked to any gifts at all. Sine's enterprise caught the law's attention around 1855, and by the 1860s grand juries began to declare these "enterprises" to be public nuisances. The federal government eventually passed the Anti-Lottery Act and early Mail Fraud statutes to ban them from using the U. S. Postal system to swindle the public.

An interesting and well preserved "gift enterprise" packet from Capurro and Company, probably a front for L. D. Sine.



#10799

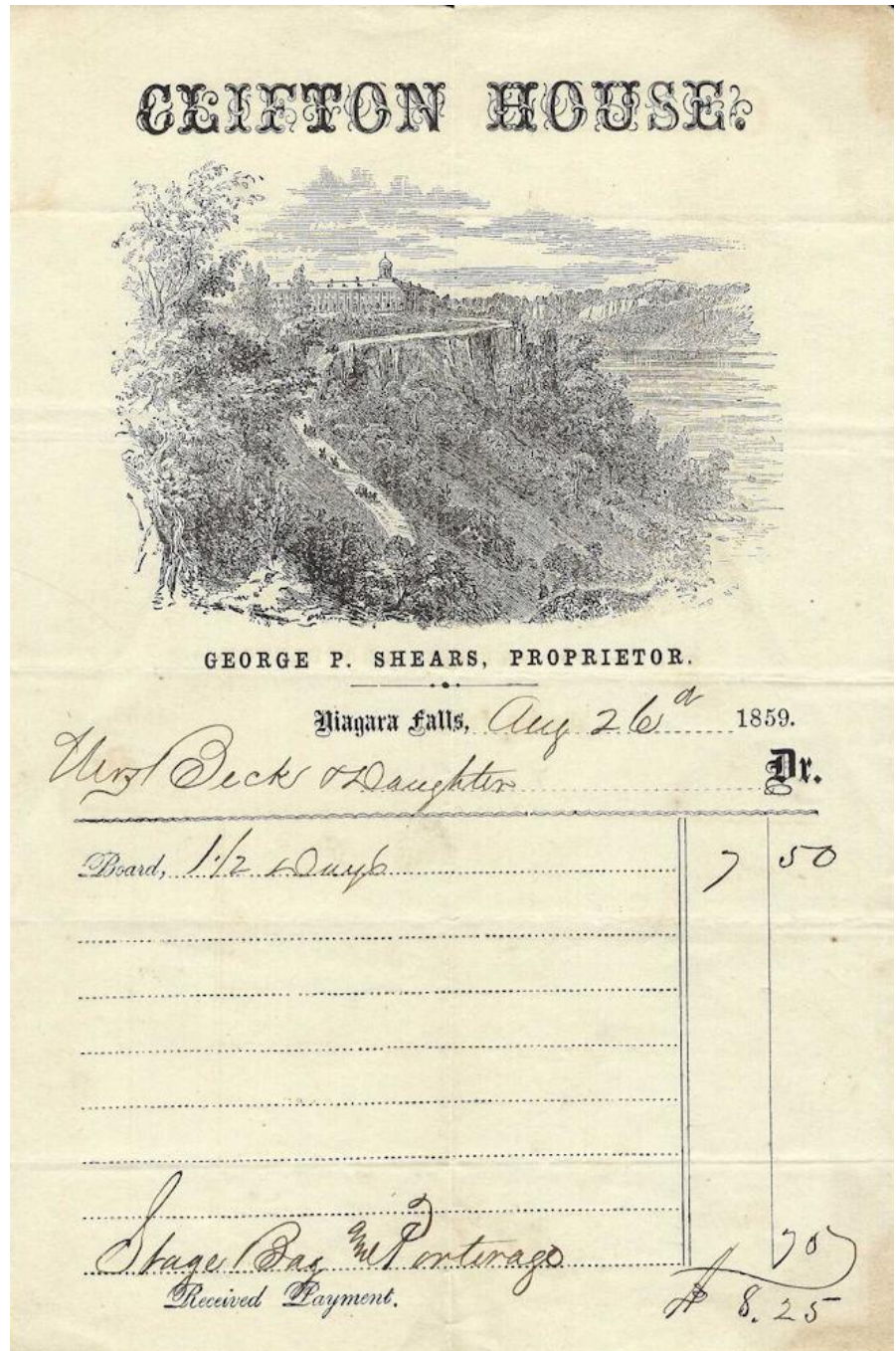
\$200

1859 – Illustrated receipt from the most important Niagara Falls hotels of the mid-19th-century

The Clifton House was Niagara Falls' most renowned 19th-century hotel. After a ferry service across the Niagara River started in 1827, local entrepreneur Hermanus (Monty) Chrysler built this 60-room, summer-only hotel at the top of the bank, opening it for occupancy in 1833. Contemporary guide book reported that it was "large, elegant, commodious, [and] well-furnished . . . commanding a splendid view of the falls."

As it gained popularity, Chrysler added a second wing which raised the room total to 150. Many celebrities stayed at the Clifton House, including Jenny Lind, the “Swedish Nightengale” who was said to have serenaded guests from her balcony, and the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII. Most famously, the hotel was the site of an unsuccessful peace conference between Union and Confederate negotiators during the Civil War in 1864. It was destroyed by fire in 1898.

#10800 \$150



22. [SLAVERY – COLONIZATION & EMANCIPATION]

1861 – Broadside titled, “Annual Effort for Africa” published by the Pennsylvania Colonization Society

This one-page broadside measures 7.75” x 9.75”. It was published by the Pennsylvania Colonization Society in Philadelphia during June of 1861 at the outset of the American Civil War. In nice shape with some storage folds.

The broadside reads in part:

“In consequence of the existing momentous national troubles, the Society is extremely cramped for means to carry out its beneficent design for the elevation, in Liberia, of American people of color, and for the civilization and evangelization of Africa.

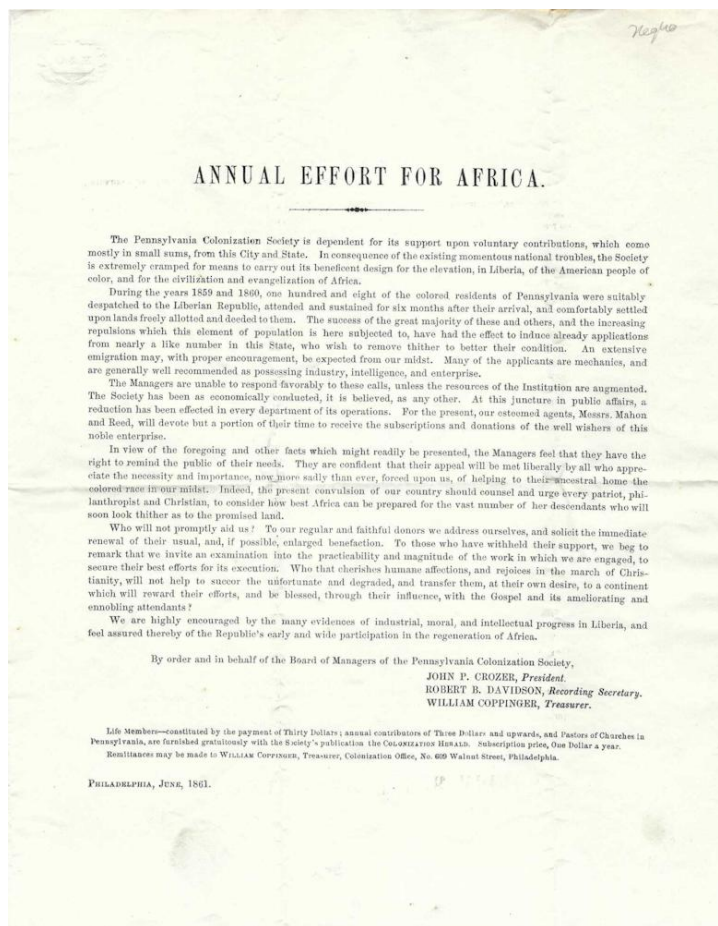
“During the years 1859 and 1860, one hundred and eight of the colored residents of Pennsylvania were suitably dispatched to the Liberian Republic, attend and sustained for six months after their arrival, and comfortably settled upon lands freely allotted and deed to them. . . . The increasing repulsions which this element of population is here subjected to, have had the effect to induce already application from nearly a like number in the State, who wish to remove thither to better their condition. . . . Many of the applicants are mechanics, and are generally well recommended as possessing industry, intelligence, and enterprise.

“The Managers are unable to respond favorably to these calls, unless the resources of the Institution are augmented [so] for the present [they] will devote but a portion of their time to receive the subscriptions and donations of . . . well wishers. . . .

“Indeed, the present convulsion of our country should counsel and urge every patriot, philanthropist and Christian, to consider how best Africa can be prepared for the vast number of her descendants who will soon look thither as to the promised land.

“Who will not promptly aid us?”

Robert Finley, a Presbyterian minister, founded The American Colonization Society (ACS) in 1816. The society gained widespread early support from northerners and southerners alike, receiving \$100,000 from Congress in 1819. In the late 1820s, the New York Colonization Society (NYCS) and the Pennsylvania Colonization Society (PCS) emerged as auxiliaries to the national organization. In 1832, the New York and Pennsylvania colonization societies transported willing, free blacks to Bassa Cove, located in modern day Liberia.



23. [BEGGING] [PHILANTHROPY] [PHILATLEY] [RECONSTRUCTION] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1874 – Letter from a young wife in Tennessee whose family was left destitute following the Civil War requests a \$1,000 loan from Alexander T. Stewart, one of the richest men in the world who was well-known for providing financial assistance to people in need

This 4-page letter was sent by Mrs. Janie Cherry Askew to Alexander T. Stewart in New York City. It is datelined “Jackson Tenn. Oct 4th 1874”. Its yellow envelope is franked with three 1-cent Franklin stamps (Scott #156) that have been cancelled with “x”s. The envelope bears a manuscript postmark that reads, “Carroll Tenn / Oct 7th/74”.

In it, she explained to Stewart the hand-to-mouth existence her family had endured during Reconstruction, and, how after reading a newspaper article about his generosity, determined to ask him for a loan of \$1,000 (the equivalent of about \$30,000 today). Her letter reads in part:

“Pardon the liberty I take in addressing you but believe me, I am prompted by pure and honest motives – but to proceed, I would like so much to borrow \$1,000, one thousand dollars, and reading in papers of your wealth, I determined to write you. . . . We were, as many others in the South after the war was left without anything, same a small farm that my husband cultivated as well as he could, but could only make a support us and our two little children . . . in N.C. We concluded to try [our luck in Texas,] and in order to leave we had to mortgage our little farm to secure means. . . . But [we] were detained here by misfortune. . . . My husband by the labor of his own hands has made a comfortable support for us, but that was all. . . . He has a little to invest on small scale with a friend in business in which he hopes to succeed well, but not the means while the balance due on our mortgage is due this winter, and it is for this, that I want, the thousand dollars. . . . Mr. Stewart will you loan me the amount & will you make happy a mother and here little ones. A mother who will pray for God’s blessings to descend upon you, and little . . . children who will from their mothers knee, . . . ask God’s richest blessing for you and for all of their lives . . . honor the name of Mr. A. T. Stewart. . . . I can only promise you earnestly and sincerely that I will return it as soon as I can get it. The proceeds of the little farm yearly shall go to you until paid, unless my husband should in a shorter time, have the amount. . . . I told [my husband] I intended to write to you, he laughed at me but told me to go do as I wished. I fear I have been too tedious, please pardon me if so. . . .”

An Irish immigrant, Stewart used his inheritance to open a small dry good store on Broadway in 1823 and, through determination and acumen, it into the largest such firm in New York by 1850, after which he expanded his business empire throughout the U.S. and into Europe. By the time of his death in 1872, Stewart’s estate was worth \$50 million, almost \$90 billion in today’s dollars.

At the time of listing, no similar letters are for sale in the trade, although they infrequently turn up for sale in public auctions or on ebay. The University of Michigan holds a collection of three hundred of these “begging letters” that Stewart received from across the country.



#10802

\$150

24. [DRUGS – OPIUM] [IMMIGRATION – CHINESE] [LAW – IMPORTS]

1882 – Treasury Department Circular promulgating the prohibition of importing opium by Chinese subjects living within the United States

This one-page document is titled, “Circular / Opium-Importations by Chinese Subjects / 1882. / Department No. 42. / Secretary’s Office. / Treasury Department / Washington, D. C. April 10, 1883.” Signed in print by “Chas. J. Folger, Secretary.”

It begins with an excerpt for the “Treaty with China, proclaimed October 5, 1881” which reads in part:

“The Governments of China and the United States mutually agree and undertake that Chinese subjects shall not be permitted to import opium into any of the ports of the United States: and citizens of the United States shall not be permitted to import opium into any of the open ports of China. . . . This absolute prohibition . . . shall be enforced by legislation on the part of China and the United States; and the benefits of the favored-nation clause in existing treaties shall not be claimed . . . against the provisions of this article.”

The circular further explains,

“Opium imported into any of the ports of the United States, by Chinese subjects, will be seized and held for forfeiture. [Additionally,] all parties concerned . . . shall be fined in any sum not exceeding five thousand dollars, not less than fifty dollars, or be imprisoned for any time not exceeding two years or both. . . .

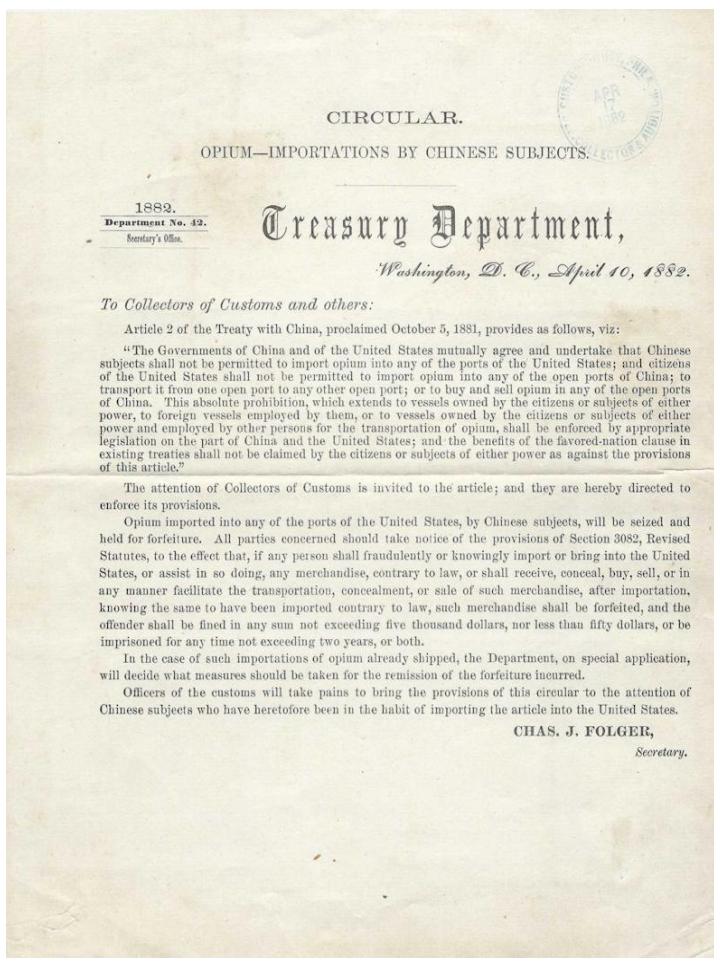
“Officers of the customs will take pains to bring the provisions of this circular to the attention of Chinese subjects who have heretofore been in the habit of importing the article into the United States.”

At the time, the federal government collected significant revenue from legal opium imports, which were used in medicines and tonics, through high tariffs that brought in nearly half a million dollars annually. However, no taxes or fees were collected from Chinese nationals living in the United States who illegally imported the drug for use in the, then prevalent, opium dens that operated illicitly in the “Chinatowns” of many cities, especially San Francisco, New York, Denver, and El Paso, frequently using Chinese laundries as fronts.

This circular is tied to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which in addition to restricting the immigration of and prohibiting citizenship for Chinese nationals, also made forbade the importation of smoking-opium by Chinese nationals.

#10803

\$150



25. [EDUCATION – PROFESSIONAL] [MILITARY – COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE]

1882 – 1885 – Archive related to the founding of the Army's School of Application at Fort Leavenworth, which later transitioned in to the Command and General Staff College

This archive contains four items, all in nice shape.

"Roster of Permanent and Attached Commissioned Officers, Stationed at the Post of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, January 30, 1882." This four-page roster identifies every commissioned officer assigned to the fort including the Commanding Officer, Colonel Elwell S. Otis and the 35 students who composed the first class of "School of Application, which would eventually become the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1947.

An 1883 letter from Colonel James Barnet Fry from New York City to Colonel Otis at Fort Leavenworth. It reads in part:

"The subject for the next prize essay of the "Military Service Institution" is one of interest to the Army & Country & especially to the Institution under your care. It seems to me that . . . such an article would promote . . . your school. . . I don't recall exact language but the meaning is the true military policy of the United States and the best way of promoting it. . . I watch with interest the program of your labor in the important field you now occupy. With best wishes for your success. Your friend James B. Fry"

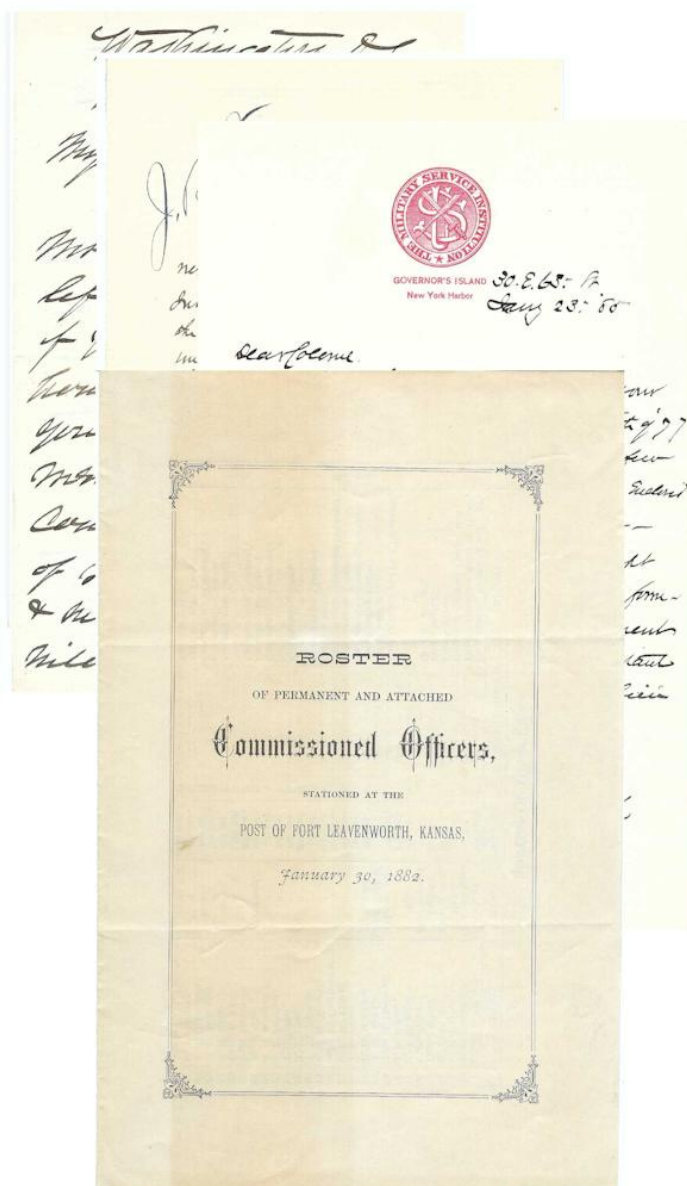
An 1884 letter from General Daniel H. Rucker from Washington, D.C. to Colonel Otis at Fort Leavenworth. It reads in part:

"It will give Mrs Rucker & myself great pleasure if you will make our house your home while you are here as a member of the Swain Court. . ."

An 1885 letter from Fry at Governor's Island in New York Harbor to Colonel Otis at Fort Leavenworth. It reads in part:

"I am glad to hear that you are kept hard at work. You are laying the foundation for a valuable and permanent edifice. Your work is the most important that can be performed by an officer of the army in time of peace. . ."

With the end of the Civil War and lessening need to protect Western frontier settlements, the Commander of the Department of Missouri, Major General John Pope, recommended to the Commander of the Army, General William T. Sherman, that a number of small army outposts be combined into a large garrison at Fort Leavenworth. Sherman concurred in 1881 and decided to establish a "School of Application for Infantry and Cavalry" at



Leavenworth as well. He tasked Colonel Elwell S. Otis to organize and command both the new school and the expanded Fort Leavenworth. The school consisted of four infantry companies, four cavalry troops, and an artillery battery. Students, first and second lieutenants, were to be attached to these units for practical experience as well as participate in academic instruction. The officer students were assigned to Leavenworth in 1881 although their actual studies would not begin until March of 1882 when the school would formally open with a three-pronged curriculum. All would participate in

Practical, hands-on instruction in military organization, tactics and discipline,

“Theoretical instruction,” i.e., reading, writing, arithmetic, and high mathematics (which they should have mastered before commissioning, and

Academic study of “the science and practice of war.”

Otis retired from active duty as a Major General in 1902 after forty years of service that included the Civil War, the Great Sioux War, the Spanish American War, and the Philippine-American War.

The David B. Swaim Court Martial of 1885, which was ordered by the President of the United States, Grover Cleveland, found the Judge Advocate General of the Army guilty of committing illegal financial transactions and conduct unbefitting an officer, and he was sentence to a suspension at half-pay for 12 years. Swaim appealed, claiming the President had no Court-Martial Authority. The Supreme Court final resolved the case in 1895, affirming that as Commander in Chief the President is authorized to order and convene courts-martial.

[For more information, see Skelton's *A Military History of the US Army Command and General Staff College.*]

A collection of items related to the founding of one of the most important schools in the U. S. military professional education system that were saved by General Otis and, later, his family members.

#10804

\$550

No.	NAME.	RANK.	REGIMENT.	Co.	ASSIGNED TO—	REMARKS.
1	Elwell S. Otis,	Colonel	20th inf.	..	.....	Commanding Regiment and Post.
2	J. S. Mason,	Lieut.-Colonel	"	..	.....	Deputy Governor Soldiers' Home.
3	C. R. Layton,	Major	"	..	.....	Commanding Fort Dodge, Kan.
4	B. E. Fryer,	Major & Surg.	U. S. A.	..	.....	Post Surgeon.
5	David White,	Chaplain	"	..	.....	Post Chaplain.
6	Victor Bart,	Asst. Surgeon	"	..	.....	On duty at Post.
7	J. J. Upham,	Major	5th cav.	..	.....	"
8	J. S. Poland,	"	18th inf.	..	.....	"
9	John B. Rodman,	1st Lt. & Adjt.	20th inf.	..	.....	Post Adjutant and Post Treasurer.
10	T. W. Lord,	1st Lt., R. Q. M.	"	..	.....	On sick leave.
11	E. B. Williston,	Captain	2d art.	F	.....	Commanding Battery.
12	T. Selway,	"	11th inf.	G	.....	On General Recruiting Service.
13	S. B. M. Young,	"	8th cav.	M	.....	Commanding Troop.
14	John E. Tourtellotte,	"	7th cav.	G	.....	On Staff of the General of the Army.
15	J. S. McNaught,	"	20th inf.	F	.....	On sick leave.
16	T. M. Tolman,	"	1st inf.	H	.....	Commanding Company.
17	J. N. Coe,	"	20th inf.	H	.....	"
18	T. J. Whit,	"	4th cav.	L	.....	Commanding Troop.
19	J. B. Johnson,	"	3d cav.	B	.....	"
20	J. H. Spencer,	"	4th inf.	A	.....	Commanding Company.
21	W. P. Vose,	1st Lieut.	3d art.	F	.....	On duty with Battery.
22	Paul Harwood,	"	20th inf.	F	.....	Commanding Company.
23	Leon A. Macle,	"	11th inf.	G	.....	"
24	J. H. Gifford,	"	2d art.	F	.....	On duty with Battery.
25	G. D. Wallace,	"	7th cav.	G	.....	Commanding Troop.
26	F. H. Edmunds,	"	1st inf.	H	.....	On duty with Company.
27	C. H. Murray,	"	4th cav.	L	.....	On duty with Troop.
28	James E. H. Foster,	"	3d cav.	B	.....	On sick leave.

No.	NAME.	RANK.	REGIMENT.	Co.	ASSIGNED TO—	REMARKS.
29	Lewis Merriam,	1st Lieut.	4th inf.	A	.....	On duty with company.
30	Alfred Reynolds,	"	20th inf.	H	.....	On sp. duty as A. A. Q. M. & A. C. S.
31	C. M. O'Connor,	"	8th cav.	M	.....	On duty with Troop.
32	W. T. Howard,	2d Lieut.	2d art.	F	.....	On duty with Battery.
33	W. J. Nicholson,	"	7th cav.	G	.....	On duty with Troop.
34	G. N. Chase,	"	4th inf.	A	.....	On duty with Company.
35	J. S. Pettit,	"	1st inf.	H	.....	On duty at West Point.
36	H. A. Greene,	"	20th inf.	F	.....	On duty with Company.
37	J. A. Johnston,	"	8th cav.	M	.....	On duty with Troop.
38	J. B. Erwin,	"	4th cav.	L	.....	"
39	R. G. Hill,	"	20th inf.	H	.....	On duty with Company.
40	B. F. Handforth,	"	11th inf.	G	.....	"
41	J. T. Dickman,	"	3d cav.	B	.....	On duty with Troop.
42	W. Rabeau,	A. A. Surg.	U. S. A.	..	.....	On duty at Post.
43	M. B. Hughes,	1st Lieut.	9th cav.	..	.....	On duty at School of Application.
44	O. W. Budd,	"	4th cav.	..	Battery F, 2d art.	"
45	T. E. True,	"	4th inf.	..	Troop L, 4th cav.	"
46	C. M. Rockefeller,	"	9th inf.	..	Troop B, 3d cav.	"
47	F. H. French,	"	3d cav.	..	Co. H, 1st inf.	"
48	B. H. Cheever, Jr.,	"	6th cav.	..	Co. F, 20th inf.	"
49	Eugene Cushman,	2d Lieut.	16th inf.	..	Battery F, 2d art.	"
50	Charles H. Heyl,	"	33d inf.	..	Troop B, 3d cav.	"
51	Arthur Williams,	"	3d inf.	..	Troop G, 7th cav.	"
52	H. W. Wheeler,	"	5th cav.	..	Co. H, 20th inf.	"
53	Henry Johnson, Jr.,	"	8th inf.	..	Troop M, 8th cav.	"
54	D. D. Mitchell,	"	15th inf.	..	Troop L, 4th cav.	"
55	H. J. Slocum,	"	7th cav.	..	Co. G, 11th inf.	"
56	J. H. King,	"	8th cav.	..	Co. A, 4th inf.	"

26. [MEDICAL – PATENT MEDICINE] [PHILATELY]

1897 – Dunning letter from the Buxton Rheumatic Cure Company to prominent wholesale/retail general store in Maine

This one-page letter was sent by The Buxton Rheumatic Cure Company of Abbot Village, Maine, to Messers Colby & Preble in Bingham, Maine. It is datelined "June 18th 1897" and enclosed in its original company mailing envelope. The envelope, which boldly proclaims "Rheumatism Positively Cured," has been trimmed at right edge and only a portion of a stamp remains. It bears a circular Abbot Village postmark. In nice shape.

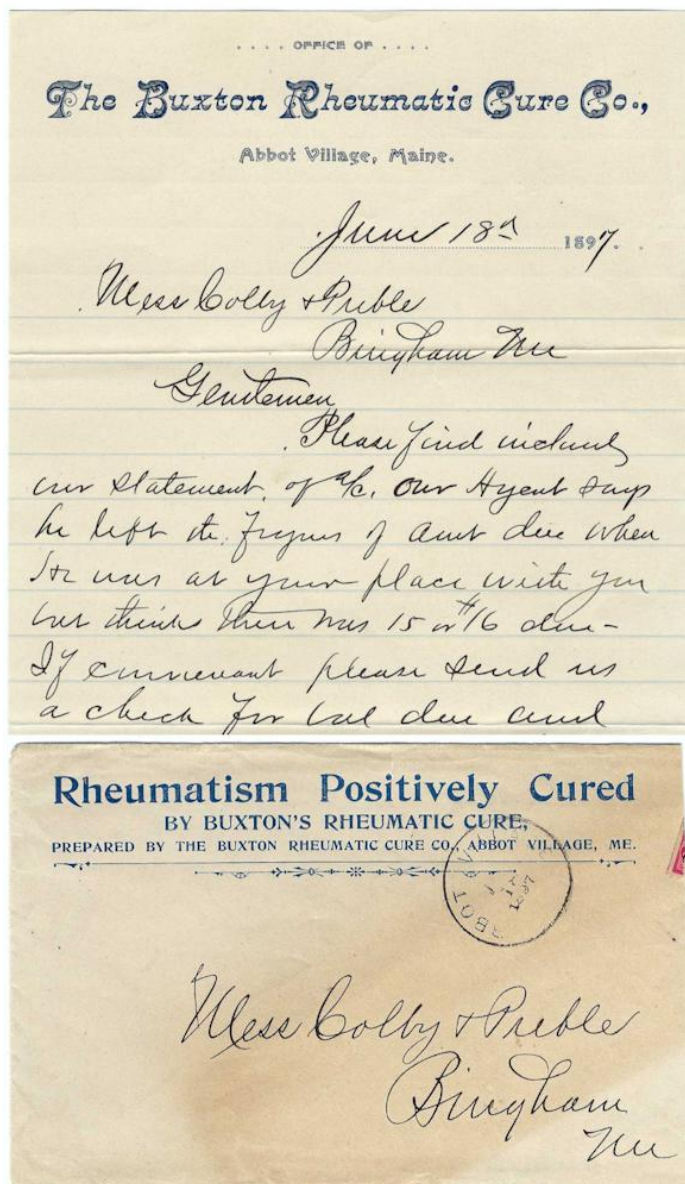
The letter politely reminds Colby & Preble that their payment for a supply of medicine they had received was past due and hopes they will receive an "order in the early fall for the Winter business."

Colby & Preble was a large wholesale-retail general store whose business peaked each winter during Maine's winter logging season.

In 1897, rheumatism was still a broad catch-all medical term for any chronic pain, stiffness, or inflammation affecting the joints, muscles, or connective tissues, including as-yet-to-be-named Rheumatic Fever, Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Myalgia, or Soft-Tissue Strain. Although invented in 1897, Aspirin had not yet reached a widespread market, so patients instead ingested a variety of different highly bitter, stomach-burning liquid remedies derived from willow bark or toxic synthetic salicylic acid. Buxton's Cure was one such medicine. It was delivered locally by medicine wagons and shipped throughout the country as well.

#10805

\$150



27. [MILITARY – PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR] [MARITIME – ASIATIC SQUADRON] [TRAVEL – HAWAII] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1900 – Two letters from the wife a Lieutenant Commander who had just assumed command of gunboat captured in the Spanish-American War as she traveled to Manila to be with him during the follow-on war with Philippine insurgents

These two letters, written by Nellie Jordan to her husband on stationery from the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company, total 8 pages. They are dated 17 and 13 October 1900. Both are enclosed in a Toyo Kisen Kaisha (Oriental Steamship Company) envelope addressed to Lieutenant Commander John N. Jordan aboard the U.S.S. *Isla de Cuba* in Manila. The letter bears a 10-cent Hong Kong postage stamp canceled with a circular Shanghai Treaty Port handstamp. A Hong Kong transit hand stamp and an indistinct military postal service Philippine “Received” postmark is on the reverse. This indicates that Nellie’s letters were written on board ship after it departed from Honolulu. The letter was processed at the British Postal Agency in Shanghai before be received at Manila.



In the letters, Nellie informs her husband that she and their son are enroute.

“We are off again tomorrow after today’s stop in Honolulu. . . I could have gone about with people but the boy & I went off alone took a carriage went up to the Punch bowl drove about the city and saw all points of interest. . . Took a St car and went to Wy Kee Kee . . . had dinner & returned to the ship after looking in the shops The Flowers and tropical vegetation was beautiful and the foothold America is astonishing. . . Some passengers go off here and others came on they are all the same to me The boy has a fine Kodak and took some pictures The garlands were numerous and made the scene picturesque The ship is pitching a little tonight but I guess I am getting used to it I have not had neuralgic [sharp pains] and begin to think that a (?) climate is a great thing. . .

“When the dear boy had his leg broken it makes me think of all his endurance I don’t believe any one has endured pain better he . . . I can never forget how he tried to bear(?) up when he first saw me it was then the broke down The ship is talking up over a cake walk tonight the Captains table seem to be in it and they have put my name down and a young Englishman about the jolliest and most important passenger on the ship wants me for a partner He may be a lord for all I know. . . The boy is in it of course he is going to carry his cane. . .”

The *Isla de Cuba*, a protected (armored deck) cruiser, fought in the Battle of Manila Bay, were it was damaged, burned, and sunk. However, the U.S. Navy salvaged the ship. After extensive repairs it was reclassified it as a gunboat, and Jordan was placed in command. During the Philippine-American war, it patrolled extensively throughout the islands. It was once called upon to land a force to defend the town of Ormo, Leyte, and was instrumental capturing Lukban, the insurgent leader of Samar.

(For more information, see *Isla de Cuba* at the Naval History and Heritage Command website and “Spanish Cruiser Isla de Cuba” at the Spanish-American War Centennial website.)

Two intriguing letters from a wife who chose to travel to the Philippines to be with her husband while he commanded a gunboat that was used to suppress Philippine revolutionaries and insurgents.

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, held by institutions, of has been listed at auction in the past.

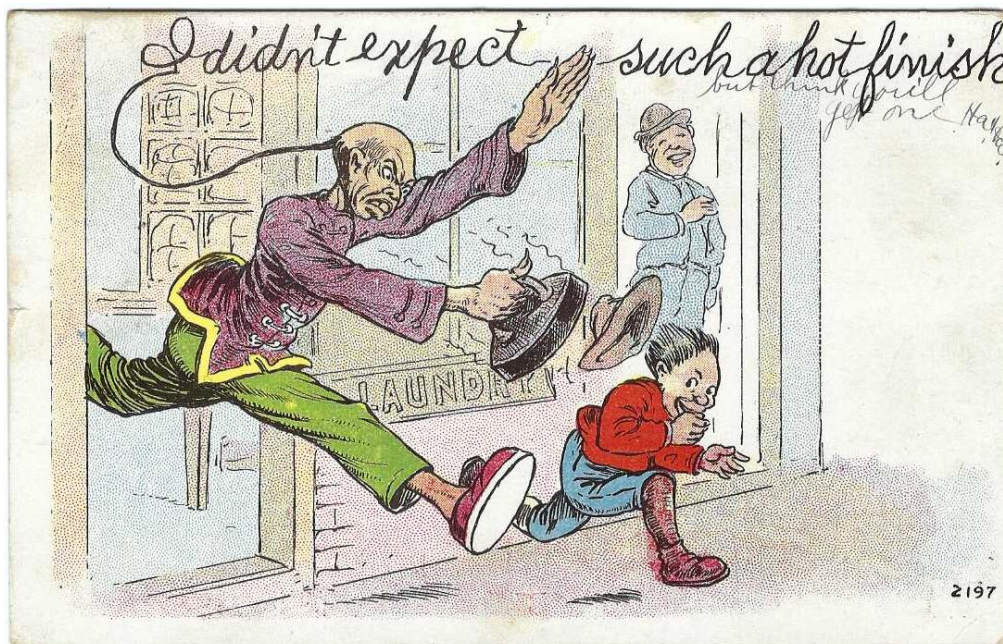
#10806 \$350

28. [BUSINESS – LAUNDRIES] [HUMOR – CARTOON] [IMMIGRATION – CHINESE] [PHILATELY] RACISM]

1907 – Cartoon postcard depicting a vile caricature of a Chinese laundryman chasing a young boy with steaming iron

Postcard sent to a student at Lincoln Business College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Franked with a 1-cent Franklin stamp (Scott #300) cancelled with an indistinct circular town postmark and a Lincoln machine postmark. In nice shape.

The vibrant illustration depicts a grotesque caricature of an enraged Chinese laundryman in traditional clothing with queue flying behind as he chases after a young, giggling white boy



attempting to burn him with a steaming iron while an onlooker smiles in the background. The printed caption reads, "I didn't expect such a hot finish" to which the send has added, "but think you'll get one Ha! Ha!"

Anti-Chinese racism reached its peak in the United States in 1907 driven by labor unrest in the Pacific Northwest United States and Canada as Southwest Asian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean immigrants, who were willing to work for far less than Americans, made their way to the shores of California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. While violence was limited primarily to Vancouver, Canada, and Bellingham, Washington, the fear of Asian immigrants, especially the Chinese, held a powerful hold on the national imagination. As one journalist wrote resentfully,

"The Pacific Coast is the frontier of the white man's world, the culmination of the westward immigration which is the white man's whole history. It will remain the frontier so long as we guard it as such. . . . Unless it is maintained there, there is no other line at which it can be maintained without more effort than the American government and American civilization are able to sustain. . . ."

And as Frank McCoppin, the mayor of San Francisco railed,

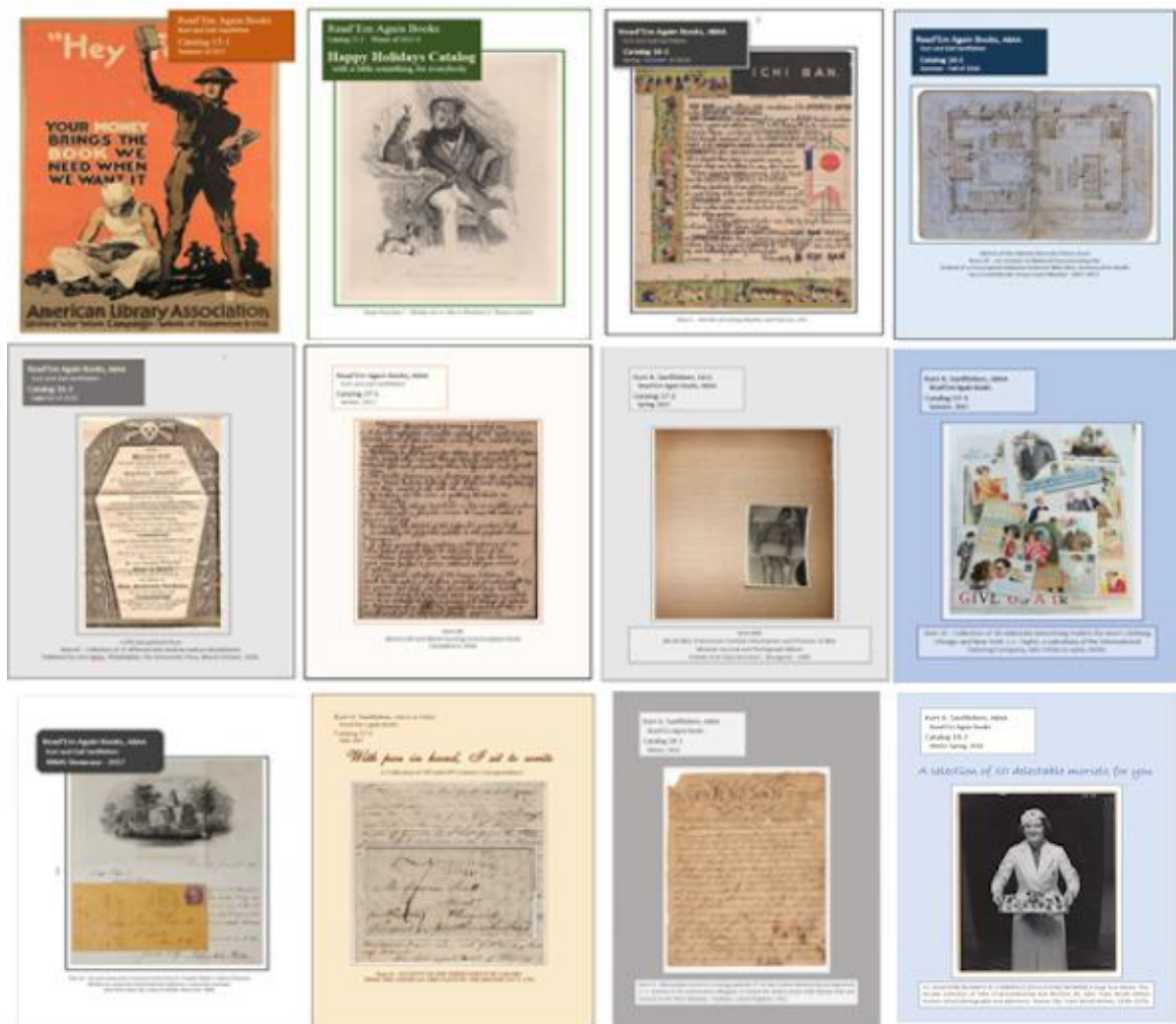
"[The Chinese are] 'thoroughly antagonistic in every particular, in race, color, language, religion, civilization, and habits of life all together from our people.' Should Chinese immigration continue unchecked, he dramatically claimed, they would simply run over our land"

(For more information, see Yang's "Tracing the Roots of Anti-Chinese Sentiments in US History" in *Global Perspectives on Non-Governmental Organizations* edited by Bobek and Horvat and Chang's "Pacific Connections The Making of the U.S.-Canadian Borderlands" in *American Crossroads* edited by Lewis, et. Al.)

An exceptionally vile caricature.

#10807 \$150

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



We hope you can visit us in-person at one of our remaining live shows this year.

11 Oct – The Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair at the University of Michigan

20-22 Nov – The Chicago Philatelic Exhibition (CHICAGOPEX) in Itasca, Illinois