A Note

This catalogue is made up of archives and manuscripts ranging from a document of Robert Rich, a prominent promoter of the Virginia colony, to a massive photographic archive of the Vietnam War. Included are a remarkable log book of the early exploration of Hudson Bay in the early 18th century (Coats); the diary of a frontier negotiator with Indians and Revolutionary soldiers (Lacey); a small archive of Robert E. Lee writing about his slaves; and a manuscript agreement between the Penn family and Lord Baltimore about the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary. In individual letters there is a highly important letter from President Jefferson to his Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn; a Benjamin Franklin letter taking his leave of England in March 1775; and a letter from Benedict Arnold just as he turned traitor. There is a document by Tom Paine; a wonderful piece of calligraphy by Isaac Cardozo; an archive relating to the beginning of the Bell Telephone Company; and archives of Civil War soldiers. In all, a broad variety of material across a broad spectrum of Americana.

Available on request or via our website are our recent catalogues 317 The Crucible of War: Conflict in North America 1757-1792, 318 The Caribbean, and 319 Western Americana, as well as Bulletins 34 Adams & Jefferson, 35 American Travel, 36 American Views & Cartography, 37 Flat: Single Significant Sheets, and many more topical lists.

Some of our catalogues, as well as some recent topical lists, are now posted on the internet at www.reeseco.com. A portion of our stock may be viewed via links at www.reeseco.com. If you would like to receive e-mail notification when catalogues and lists are uploaded, please e-mail us at info@reeseco.com or send us a fax, specifying whether you would like to receive the notifications in lieu of or in addition to paper catalogues.

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ON THE COVER: 45. Hosford, Hoadly George: [Archive of Corp. Hoadly Hosford of the 44th New York Infantry, Recording Significant Details of the Battles at Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, &c]. [1862-1865].
A Collection of Noted Abolitionist Autographs


Autograph album of noted bibliographer Charles Evans, containing the signatures of many prominent abolitionists. Signers include congressman Charles Sumner; abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison; preacher, author, and philosopher James Freeman Clarke; artist Edmund Quincy; historian Samuel Eliot; scientist Louis Agassiz; abolitionist and author Thomas Wentworth Higginson; actress Charlotte Cushman; author Elizabeth Stuart Phelps; abolitionist Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar; publisher James T. Fields; author William Adams; and other New England notables.

Charles Evans (1850-1935) began his career as a librarian and bibliographer at the Boston Athenaeum (these autographs were collected during his last two years there) and is best known for his American Bibliography, a catalogue of American imprints from 1639 to 1800, cited as “Evans” in our cataloguing. He is noted as one of the American Library Association’s 100 most important library leaders of the 20th century. $1250.

J. Q. Adams on Harvard Politics


A fine and lengthy letter written by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams to his father’s cousin and close friend, Ward Nicholas Boylston, on awarding the Boylston prize just founded by him, and discussing candidates for a Harvard professorship. Adams graduated from Harvard and was himself a professor of rhetoric there between diplomatic assignments. He writes:
I have observed with pleasure and gratitude your persevering efforts of beneficence to the University at Cambridge, and have heard of the Institution of your Prizes for Elocution, which cannot but be attended with effects. Its operation by experience may perhaps suggest some rules for the distribution of the Prizes, which, if you should conclude to make the Institution permanent, you may think it advisable to prescribe. Would it not for instance be useful to direct, that if one of the undergraduates should obtain one of the first prizes, he should not upon a succeeding year be admitted as a competitor to speak in the same language? And would it not be proper to enlarge the circle of languages in which the pieces may be spoken – at least by admitting the French? From the experience which I have had of the defects most common among the young orators, I think it should be prescribed as an inflexible rule that no prompting should be allowed; and that whatever merit any of the speakers might display, no prize should be given in any case where a failure of memory should be perceptible.

Adams goes on to discuss his ideas regarding the Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory, specifically that the candidate be well qualified for the office, not just “for any quality required by the place...the corporation of Harvard University, though including some of the best men in the world, is and for many years has been more
of a Caucus Club than a literary and scientific society. . . . When they have a place to
fill their question is not, Who is fit for the place, but Who is to be provided for?
and their whole range of candidates is a Parson or a Partizan or both."
A fine, lengthy letter, written in Adams’ distinctive hand. $14,500.

The Aged John Quincy Adams Stays Home on the Fourth of July

3. Adams, John Quincy: [AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, FROM
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, DECLINING AN INVITATION TO A
integral blank. Old folds. Minor wear and soiling. Very good plus. In a half
morocco and cloth clamshell case, spine gilt.

Former President John Quincy Adams, now at the advanced age of seventy-eight and
in deteriorating health, graciously declines an invitation from the City
Council of Boston to attend the “celebration of the Anniversary of
American Independence.” In an unsteady hand, as evidenced by the
shakiness in his characteristic curling script, he explains:

Your obliging invitation...has
been gratefully received and
would have been gladly ac-
cepted but for a feeble state of
health advising retirement from
scenes of public agitation, even
from those most congenial to the
spirit of the day, and where the
flame of universal Liberty first
kindled still burns with primitive
intensity and with encouraging
anticipation. I am with great
respect, gentlemen, your friend
and fellow citizen.

$10,000.

Signed by Benjamin Franklin

4. [American Philosophical Society]: [McHenry, James]: TO ALL PER-
SONS TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREET-
ING. THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY HELD AT
PHILADELPHIA FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE...
HAVE ELECTED THE HONORABLE DOCTOR JAMES H. McHENRY OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND A MEMBER...

The original manuscript certificate naming Dr. James McHenry a member of the American Philosophical Society, the first learned society in America, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin and others. The document is notable for being signed in manuscript by Benjamin Franklin as President of the American Philosophical Society. Franklin served in that role from 1769 until his death in 1790, but due to his prolonged absences from America in the 1770s and '80s, while he was in Great Britain and France, very few official documents from American organizations he headed or of which he was a member carry his signature. The certificate is additionally signed by three vice presidents of the Society, as well as four secretaries. James McHenry had garnered fame for his efforts during the Revolution, especially as a surgeon in the early years of the conflict, and it is likely for his medical contributions that he was made a member of the American Philosophical Society. Such original manuscript certificates electing members to the American Philosophical Society are quite rare, those signed by Benjamin Franklin as president are very rare and desirable indeed.

James McHenry (1753-1816) was born in Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland and educated in Dublin. He emigrated to America in 1771 and studied medicine...
with Dr. Benjamin Rush in Philadelphia. McHenry volunteered for military service on behalf of the colonies when hostilities with England broke out in 1775, and was assigned to a hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In August 1776 he was named surgeon to the 5th Pennsylvania Battalion and was captured at Fort Washington on Manhattan in November 1776, along with two thousand other American troops. He was paroled two months later, but was effectively under “house arrest” in Philadelphia and Baltimore until he was formally exchanged for British prisoners in March 1778. McHenry was then named senior surgeon of the “Flying Hospital” at Valley Forge, and was quickly made a secretary to George Washington. It was at this time that he forged close friendships with Washington and Alexander Hamilton that lasted for decades. McHenry served as Washington’s assistant for two and a half years, without rank or pay, until he was transferred to Lafayette’s forces as aide-de-camp in August 1780. He was made a major, and was at Yorktown in October 1781 before leaving the army in December of that year. He was a founding member of the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783.

McHenry was politically active in his home state of Maryland for much of the 1780s and ‘90s. He served intermittently as a local justice of the peace, held a seat in the Maryland State Senate from 1781 to 1786 and again from 1791 to 1796, and in the Maryland Assembly from 1789 to 1791. He represented Maryland in the Confederation Congress in 1783-86, and at the Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787, where he kept extensive notes that serve as a valuable record of the debates on the creation of the U.S. Constitution. A staunch Federalist, McHenry was intimately involved in helping George Washington fill political patronage positions, and in 1796 he was selected by Washington as the nation’s third Secretary of War. He worked to reorganize the army in the late 1790s, and Fort McHenry in Baltimore is named for him. Disputes with John Adams led him to resign his post as Secretary of War in 1800, and he retired to his estate, Fayetteville, outside Baltimore. McHenry published a Baltimore directory in 1807.

\textit{ANB} 15, pp.80-82. \textit{DAB} XII, pp.62-63. $30,000.

\textit{A Lawsuit Over Privateering in the Revolution}


Complaint filed by Edward Parker in Chancery Court concerning the resolution of a privateering endeavor mounted by members of an association in Berwick-Upon-Tweed, in northernmost England, during the American Revolutionary War. The complaint is that several members of the association have not paid their share of the subscription in order to pay down the debts incurred in the outfitting and purchase
of the vessels necessary for the operation. The association members and the many subscribers are all named, with their subscriptions recorded. The document notes that all are members of “a certain Society formed for the purposes of Adventure in fitting out privateers against the common Enemy in the course of the late war that by certain Articles of Agreement bear a date on or about the 30th day of Decr. in the yr of our Lord 1780.” The terms of the association are laid out and the purchase and outfitting of the ship described. The judges denoted are the Right Honourable Alexander Lord Loughborough, Sir William Henry Ashurst, and Sir Beaumont Hotham. Interestingly, two of the judges on the case, Ashurst and Hotham, both served as judges during the famous trial of James Hill, known as “John the Painter,” who, acting as agent of Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane, set fire to the Portsmouth naval yard rope house in 1777.

Lengthy and informative, detailing the ways in which people set about to profit by privateering during the Revolution.

An Early American Architectural Contract

6. [Architecture]: SPECIFICATIONS OF L.W. HIGLEY’S BUILDING OF CHITTENING. MAIN BUILDING TO BE 26 FT BY 26 FT...

Manuscript agreement drawn up by L.W. Higley of Chittenning, New York (present-day Chittenango, near Syracuse), and the workmen hired to help him complete the building project. The handwritten document specifies all details for construction of the building and identifies each major craftsman with his individual responsibilities: carpentry, masonry, plastering, painting, etc. The details of construction contain exact measurements for the building and the individual rooms, payments to be made to the individual craftsmen, and time for commencement and completion of the construction. The document is signed and sealed at the end by each man, the principal being L.W. Higley; the secondary craftsmen are Edward H. Hunt, James Norwich, and E.B. Lincoln.


John Armstrong writes to Gen. John Smith, detailing a New York-based plan to disrupt President Madison’s plans for the 1812 election and get DeWitt Clinton elected vice president. Armstrong was a Madison supporter, and his letter relates with some pleasure the details of this unsuccessful plot.
John Armstrong, Jr. (1758-1843) served as aide-de-camp to Gen. Hugh Mercer and Gen. Horatio Gates during the American Revolution. Encouraged by other members of Gates’ staff, he anonymously penned the controversial “Newburgh Addresses,” calling for Congress to address the Army’s grievances, particularly a lack of pay. This was widely interpreted as an affront to Gen. Washington’s authority, and though Washington understood Armstrong’s motives and forgave him, a stigma nonetheless haunted the rest of Armstrong’s career, hampering his later efforts to run for office. He served as Minister to France from 1804 to 1810, again involving himself in controversial pamphleteering. Though he was snubbed by the Madison government upon his return to the U.S., he supported war with Britain and thus supported the government; as a reward for his support he was appointed Secretary of War in 1813. Although Armstrong succeeded in organizing and administrating, his tendency toward micromanagement put him into direct conflict with his commanders in the field. By 1814 relations were strained not only with military commanders, but with the President and Secretary of State as well. When Washington, D.C. was burned by the British, the city’s inhabitants blamed Armstrong for lax defense and called for his replacement; instead, he resigned in disgust, which some took as a tacit admission of guilt.

In this letter Armstrong relates news he received second-hand regarding the activities of Thomas Sammons, a U.S. Congressman from New York. Sammons was sent to Albany to conjure support for DeWitt Clinton's run for the presidency, but the legislature was dismissed before he arrived. The nomination, it seems, was intended to scare Madison into taking Clinton as his vice president (George Clinton, DeWitt Clinton's uncle, served as Madison's vice president during his first term, before dying in office in 1813). Madison was apparently not frightened enough, as he ran with Elbridge Gerry as his vice presidential nominee for his second term. Armstrong writes:

It is probable that you are acquainted with the mission of [Thomas] Sammons from Washington to Albany; if you are not, you may be amused with the following anecdote. The plenipo has a brother who lives at Rhinebeck Flatts, with whom he stopped for the night. Soon after his arrival, the Albany stage arrived & brought the news of the prorogation of the legislature ‘till May next. This intelligence threw the old man so entirely off his guard that he swore it was done not so much to repeal the bank, as to defeat the object of his mission, and then proceeded to details as follows. Viz: that he had been sent to Albany with a proposition from the mal-contents at Washington to the legislature of the state, the object of which was, to obtain for Mr. C. [i.e. DeWitt Clinton] a nomination as president; that they had hopes that Maryland & Pennsylvania would give him their support also that to secure the latter, Mr. Gregg must be named as V.P. & that the federalists would unite in this arrangement.

When the brother ventured to raise some objections to this plan and the Col. had a little cooled, he went on to explain the secret which lay at the bottom of all this: “We do not expect to carry him as President, but as V.P. Madison will be frightened at the competition & will engage his friends to do
it away by taking D.W. as successor to his uncle. We waited on the latter to know whether he would serve, and having got his answer, I set out to put the Albany people in motion according to previous agreement.” These facts the brother has communicated to such as he thought he could safely confide them & from one of these I received them. By the bye, this plan exactly comports with that you suggest as going on at Washington. I have seen no one directly from Albany, but M. Rudd of Poughkeepsie who left that a week ago says, that had Sammons arrived before the prorogation, his mission would have failed & that the present legislature would not have made a counter-nomination. The prorogation will make another scism [sic] in our party here. You have seen the pro & the con on that subject. The mass of the party will I think be with the Governor [i.e. Daniel D. Tompkins].

Armstrong, who was pro-war, closes with a remark on the impending war with Britain: “We have just heard that you are about to send another minister to England; if so, the clouds must be scattering and your war business will require no great effort to manage it.”

$1500.

An Arnold Letter from a Few Weeks Before His Plot was Unveiled, Requesting Horses for Courier Duty, Possibly to the English


General Benedict Arnold writes the day after receiving word that British Gen. Henry Clinton had agreed to his price for turning his coat. In this letter Arnold requests fresh horses to run express courier routes, some of which surely carried treasonous information to the British:

Sir, I have sent the brave Sergeant Pike for six or eight of the best horses you have in pasture for the purpose of relieving the light horse employed here to go express. With hard service and want of forage they are worn down & unfit for use. You will please to deliver him eight of the best horses you have if we can find so many that will answer. Also, a pair of the best waggon horses you have in lieu of two which were sent to me by Col. Hay who will not draw.

The letter was clearly drawn up in some haste, as there are several words stricken through where Arnold has changed his mind about phrasing or information.

In June 1778, Washington placed Arnold in command of Philadelphia, where he lived and entertained extravagantly, and his private business dealings, haughty and dismissive behavior, and close association with the Shippens and other quasi-Loyalists excited the enmity and wrath of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. On Feb. 3, 1779 a courier served him with a copy of eight formal charges
filed against him by the Pennsylvania Council. Outraged, Arnold demanded a court-martial to clear the allegations against him. “From this period began the plot that would end, eighteen months later, with Arnold’s defection to the British side....He used those channels to inform General Henry Clinton, commanding the British army, that he was ready to serve the Crown. He explained to Clinton that he had lost faith in the revolutionary cause when the United States allied itself with France. No evidence before May 1779 supports this claim. Clinton was cautious but interested in the chance that Arnold might betray a key point in American defenses. He left the matter in the hands of young staff officer, John André” – ANB. By July, Arnold had named his minimum price of £10,000, and on Aug. 1 became commander of the critical American fortress at West Point. By the time this letter was written, important information was passing from Arnold to Clinton, and the plot to betray West Point was well advanced.

A wonderful letter, hastily written and clearly showing Arnold’s agitation as he slid deeper into infamy.

$20,000.

The Beginnings of Telephone Service,
Including Alexander Graham Bell’s Personal Line


A remarkable archive of service reports and other documents related to the Bell Telephone Company, from the papers of George C. Maynard (1839-1918), related to his time as the Washington, D.C. agent for Bell Telephone Company. The archive
contains the service reports, estimates, lease agreements, telephone line diagrams, and business reports and other ephemera. A handbill advertising Maynard’s services, dated April 28, 1881, reads: “Geo. C. Maynard, Electrician, Agent American Bell Telephone Co. (for everything except the Telephonic Exchange business,) 1413 G Street. Telephones and telegraph lines constructed, equipped, and leased. Electrical work of all description attended to.” A quote by Theodore N. Vail, General Manager for the company reads: “Geo. C. Maynard is the only person authorized by us to supply telephone lines for Private Lines, Club Lines, and Speaking Tube Lines within the District of Columbia.”
Alexander Graham Bell is considered to be the father of the telephone and was the first to be granted a patent for a device that electronically transmitted vocal or other sounds telegraphically. Thomas Edison and Elisha Gray, among others, were also experimenting with similar technology at the same time. Bell registered his patent on Feb. 14, 1876, the same day as Elisha Gray, who submitted a patent for a similar device, mere hours apart. Bell was granted the patent, no. 174,465. After significant experimentation, on March 10, 1876, Bell and his assistant, Thomas Watson, succeeded in transmitting clear vocalization across the lines. Sitting in his laboratory, with Watson on the other end of a line in the basement, Bell said, “Watson, come here! I want to see you!” and Watson replied, thus successfully transmitting and receiving voice transmissions. The Bell Telephone Company was founded in July 1877, and the first commercial telephone exchange opened in New Haven, Connecticut in January 1878. This archive, then, contains extraordinarily early material relating to the operation and installation of the telephone system, and the second urban network in the country (although the Washington exchange quickly surpassed the small New Haven operation in size and sophistication).

The bulk of the archive contains 137 service reports and estimates for the installation of telephones in and around Washington, D.C., and includes prices for pole wire, house-top wire, length of line, cable conductors, the rent of the phone and bells, office wires, labor, etc. connecting residential, commercial, and government establishments such as railroad depots, stables, newspaper offices, et al. One such estimate, for Commissioner of Agriculture William LeDuc, dated Feb. 1, 1878, is for the running of a telephone line connecting the Department of Agriculture with “...Dept No. 3...” via the White House and State Department. Other documents of note include two telephone line diagrams: the first, in pencil, shows a private line connecting a residential dwelling to the army signal office via a church and the Corcoran Gallery and completely circumventing the White House and the Treasury Department. The second diagram, in pen, shows the connection of Washington Bell agent George C. Maynard’s private line connecting his home and his office via seven connections, including a congregational church and the orphan asylum. A printed proclamation by Bell Telephone General Manager Theodore N. Vail concerns the infringement of rival phones. Dated at Boston, May 23, 1879, this three-page address to the public claims that “...under patents granted to Alexander Graham Bell...” Bell Telephone “....claims the exclusive right to use, or to license others to use, speaking telephones....Suits are pending...in which the claims of the owners of the Bell patents and the owners of the inventions of Gray, Edison, Dolbear, and others will be legally determined.” Vail presents a short history of the invention of the telephone and “Proof of Prof. Bell’s Priority.”

Of significant note is a cache of reports relating to the installation of Alexander Graham Bell’s personal telephone line. This material consists of sixteen service reports, dated Jan. 10, 1881 to Dec. 31, 1882, for the installation of telephone wires, putting up telephones in his house, extending his line from his residence at 1302 Connecticut Avenue to 2023 Massachusetts Avenue, connecting his home line to his laboratory, looping his private line to Bell Telephone Company President (also
his father-in-law) Gardiner G. Hubbard’s house, etc. Each report contains information on the work done and by whom, what materials were used in the process, and the condition of the work when the technician left. Also included is a manuscript diagram, in pen, showing the extension of Alexander Graham Bell’s personal telephone line to Georgetown. A report accompanying the diagram, written by W.H. Newhall, who has examined the personal line of Alexander Graham Bell at four points (his laboratory, Massachusetts Avenue, Georgetown, and Connecticut Avenue), reports that he has “...Examined line and found it in good order. Examined Bells & Tels. at all places, cleaned & renewed 3 Bat[teries]...brought in Bell from Laboratory [sic]...and put up one from Conn Ave house. The bell at Mass Ave rings weak there when you call from there, but rings strong when called from other stations. Brought in Tels from Conn Ave house and closed line on roof.” In addition, this segment of the archive contains three handwritten reports detailing the route the telephone line follows and each of the connection points, with three invoices of materials and their cost used in the project.

A wonderful archive of material relating to the early development of the telephone system in Washington, D.C. $15,000.


Bennett (1836–98) composed the lyrics to what was to become one of America’s most well-known hymns in 1861, with music by Joseph P. Webster. The account of its composition, in less than thirty minutes, is given in this manuscript “History”:

...I said, “Webster, what is the matter now?” “It’s no matter,” he replied, “it will be all right by and by.” The idea of the hymn came to me like a flash of sunlight, and I replied, “The Sweet By and By! Why would not that make a good hymn?” “Maybe it would,” he said indifferently. Turning to my desk I penned the words of the hymn as fast as I could write. I handed the words to Webster. As he read his eyes kindled, and stepping to the desk he began writing the notes. Taking his violin, he played the melody and then jotted down the notes of the chorus. It was not over thirty minutes from the time I took my pen to write the words before two friends with Webster and myself were singing the hymn....

“The Sweet By-and-By” was featured in the Academy Award-winning film, “Sergeant York.” Charles Ives used the tune in his Orchestral Set No. 2, and it has become one of America’s most recognizable hymns. $2500.
The Business of the First Congress


An intriguing letter from Egbert Benson, New York's first attorney general after independence, a leading New York jurist, prime mover in the push for a new federal constitution, and Representative from New York in the First Congress. Benson, along with Alexander Hamilton, had introduced the resolution for a constitutional convention at the Annapolis Convention of 1786, and he introduced the resolution for a New York ratifying convention in 1788. He writes to an unnamed correspondent, reporting on the business of the third session, with mention of President Washington's speech, Alexander Hamilton's reports, and New York Supreme Court justices John S. Hobart and Robert Yates; and the recent military campaign against the Miamis in the Ohio Valley. Though Benson dated this letter “Nov. 14, 1790,” it was almost certainly written on Dec. 14, as Congress did not meet until December that year.

Dear Sir, Upon Reflection it has appeared to Me, and I am persuaded it will appear to you, most advisable that the intended Correspondence between Us should seem to commence with you. Indeed it will not be easy for me or satisfactory to you for me to write to you generally on the Subject, and therefore wish you would from time to time write to me stating the Questions which you may be desirous to have examined and answered. It will be most prudent that your Letters should be communicated to the other Gentlemen in the Delegation and therefore my answers will in a Degree be public Communications. I do not propose however to confine myself to a mere answer to an Interrogatory; my Letters will contain Suggestions of whatever may occur to Me as useful –
We have scarcely entered on the Business of the Session. The President’s Speech with the Answers and his Replies you will see in the Papers; and we have two reports from Mr. Hamilton, the one providing additional means for the Payment of the Interest on the public Debt and the other on the Subject of a Bank. These will be printed and I shall send a Copy to Robert [Yates?] for the perusal of Judge Hobart and Yourself.

Our troops have returned from the Western Expedition and have so far succeeded as to have destroyed a Number of Indian Towns with a great Quantity of Provision. Possibly as far as there was Reason to expect it probably would be, the Object of the Expedition has been effected, but with the Loss of near 200 Men on our Side. It is said that upwards of 100 of the Indians were killed in the two different Engagements.

While the recipient of the letter is not named, Kenneth Bowling of the First Federal Congress Project believes it to be Samuel Jones, a prominent Anti-Federalist from Queens County who nonetheless voted for the Constitution at the New York convention. Bowling cites Benson’s other letters to Jones, of which several survive, and the roundabout language of the first paragraph, which suggests Benson was concerned what use might be made of his correspondence. Bowling notes that no Benson letters survive from the first two sessions of the First Congress, and only seven from the third: four to Nicholas Low, and two definitely to Jones. He thinks this is a third.

$5000.

**Senator Benton on the French Revolution**


Senator Thomas Hart Benton writes to “Messrs. Stubbs, Ennis, Sheaham, &c., a committee, &c.,” discussing the French Revolution of 1848, in which he mentions the Marquis de Lafayette’s desire for democracy for the French people. The Revolution of 1848 saw an end to the French monarchy and the beginnings of the Second Republic. The Republic, however, lacked strong organization and leadership, and in 1851, President Louis Napoleon disbanded the elected assembly and declared himself Napoleon III. The second French empire would last until 1871, when the Third Republic was established, which lasted until World War II. In 1848, however, feelings were high and positive, as shown in this letter by Benton. He writes:

Above fifty years ago Lafayette said to the Constituent Assembly of France: ‘For a people to be free, it is sufficient that they will it.’ These brief, but profound words, have just had their impressive realization on the very spot on which that
disciple of Washington spoke them. The French Revolution of 1848 is one of Will. The People willed it! and it came! and the first act of the Provisional Government, for the future government of France, is one of deference to the national Will. A national election is ordered, and the whole question of their future government is referred to the votes of the French people. If, in that election, the expression of the national Will shall correspond with its present manifestation, then the fate of France is fixed by those who have a right to fix it, and wo[e] to the sacrilegious hand that touches this work.

Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858) was a Missouri Senator and statesman who served in the U.S. Senate for thirty years, during the crucial years leading up to the Civil War (1821-51). Prior to his service in the Senate he fought in the War of 1812 and fought several duels, including one sword and pistol brawl with Andrew Jackson, though he later became a Jackson supporter and a staunch Democrat. He broke with his party, however, over slavery and secession, staunchly arguing for preservation of the Union.

$900.

Written from Valley Forge in the Winter of 1778
by the Man Who Would Become Attorney General


William Bradford, Jr., Deputy Muster Master General for the Continental Army, writes to Joseph Clark of the New Jersey Militia from the brutal winter encampment of Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78.
Bradford expresses concern at not having seen Clark personally and states he is leaving Clark in charge while he is away. William Bradford Jr., son of the famous Revolutionary War printer of the same name, was a Philadelphia lawyer. He later served as Attorney General of Pennsylvania, on the state Supreme Court, and as the second Attorney General of the United States in 1794-95 (until he died at age forty). His service in the American Revolution included action at the Battle of Trenton and a term as Deputy Muster Master General, 1777-79. The recipient of this letter, Joseph Clark, was a soldier from New Jersey who attended Princeton and became a minister after the war. Bradford writes:

Sir, I was extremely disappointed by your going to Elizabethtown without seeing me. I have waited several days expecting your return; as I wanted you to superintend the department during my absence, & give you some instructions on that head. I have at length determined to set off for Philada. in confidence that your prudence will bring you to camp in a day or two, & that you will give such directions relative to the Department as the exigency of affairs may require. I have left notice at the Adjt. Genls. office that all officers do apply to you during my absence. You will direct Col. Thomas to muster Van Heere’s corps of horse which is stationed at Schanks Mills on Millstone as soon as possible.

The corps of horse to which he refers is that of Capt. Barth Van Heer’s dragoons – the group that served as Gen. Washington’s Lifeguards. This letter was written from Valley Forge, where the Continental Army spent the legendary winter of 1777-78. Within weeks, Baron Friedrich von Steuben would arrive to drill the troops, turning ragtag colonials into disciplined soldiers. It was at Valley Forge that Gen. Washington’s army became a cohesive fighting force that would gain our nation its independence from Britain.

*Appleton’s Cyclopædia* I, p.351. $6000.

**Human Sacrifice in Oregon, 1844**


A remarkable letter, offering a wealth of information on the activities of the Methodist Mission in Oregon Territory in the 1840s, and including vivid details of the attempted sacrifice of a young slave by local Indians. At the time of this letter the
Methodist Mission in Oregon was a decade old, and leadership was passing from the mission's founder, Rev. Jason Lee. Henry Brewer's letter describes this tumultuous time in the mission's history, gives information on his own experiences with local Indians and relates, in riveting detail, the near sacrifice of a young slave.

Henry Bridgeman Brewer (1813-86) was a Methodist missionary born in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. In October 1839 he sailed with the Methodist Episcopal Mission around Cape Horn, arriving at Fort Vancouver the following June. He served as a farmer, teacher, and translator at the Wascopum Mission at the Dalles of the Columbia River until 1847, when the mission was transferred to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and he returned to Massachusetts.

The most striking passage in Brewer's letter describes the attempted sacrifice of a young slave by a grieving Indian father:

While we were on our visit to Wallamette a circumstance took place which shows that heathenistic practices are not all done away. It may be a good story for a Sabbath school. Sinimsh an Indian who lives not far from our house had a little boy whom he loved dearly; the father's heart was set upon him. This little boy was taken sick and died. The father had a little slave that used to wait upon his little son in his life time. The father thought for the love he had for his son he ought to sacrifice the slave at his death, accordingly the deceased child and the living slave were taken to the sepulchre of the dead. (The Indians of the Dalles bury their dead in houses made of boards on an island in the Dalles to keep them from the wolves). The slave is probably eight years old. He made no resistance. They bound him hand & foot & laid him upon the bodies of other deceased persons who had been recently placed there, with his face downward & the body of the deceased child placed upon him. Just as they were about to leave him he called to them to loose the cord that
bound him but they heeded not his cries. In this awful situation he spent one long dismal night though before morning he shook the corpse off from him. He said he heard the dead singing (the Indians believe this to be really true). One of the chiefs was in at Br. Perkins & was mentioning the circumstances & said he tried to dissuade them from doing as they did. Br. P. tried to have them bring him away that night but in vain. The next day Br. Perkins ransomed him from the grave by paying three blankets & a shirt which are to be placed in the room of the slave so that the dead may not be robbed. Br. P. has named him Ransom for he was ransomed from the grave. The little slave is a bright active little fellow. The sores where he was tied have not quite healed. Br. P. has him along & will probably put him out to some good pious man at Wallamette as an apprentice.

Brewer’s letter also gives a great deal of information about the activities of the missionaries in Oregon, including the succession of the leadership of the mission from the founder, Jason Lee, to George Gary, and the activities of missionaries Alvin F. Waller and H.K.W. Perkins. Brewer writes:

You no doubt have been apprised that Rev. Geo. Gary has been appointed to supersede Br. Lee in the superintendency of the Oregon Mission. The board no doubt made a good selection. Br. Gary is a good Father to us all. He is now 51 years old & a man of much experience. The board authorized him to dismiss all of the secular men of the mission except myself & sell all the farms, mills &c &c of the mission except the Wascopam [sic] farm, as they know not enough about that station to determine. Br. Gary has acted accordingly. The three farms on the Willamette are sold. The Indian school is given up, the store at Willamette Falls is sold &c.

Toward the end of the letter, in a passage dated Oct. 3, Brewer announces his arrival at Wallamette Falls, relates news of the health of his wife, and describes the recent murder of a feared Indian: “Kladicula the Indian who abused us last spring was shot by a Cayuse Indian a few days before I left home. The Indians all seem to rejoice for they feared him. Thus you see vengeance belongs to God. I have felt for some time as though he would be cut off for his sins.”

An exceptional letter from an Oregon missionary. $8500.

Outstanding Political Letter to the Son of “Mad Anthony” Wayne


An excellent letter in which the future president discusses candidly the prospects of the candidates in the 1828 presidential election. Writing to his fellow Congressman from Pennsylvania, Isaac Wayne, Buchanan writes:
...I think...that the fate of Mr. [John Quincy] Adams in the next contest is already determined. He cannot be re-elected unless Gen. Jackson should in the mean time die or be rendered unable to discharge the duties of President. We have no reason to apprehend either of these events; as his health is now much better than it has been for several years. Doubt no longer rests upon the course which will be pursued by Virginia, North Carolina & Georgia. New York will without doubt be hostile to the re-election of Mr. Adams; and if it has not yet, like the three States I have mentioned, taken any decided course, it is on account of their local politics. Jackson has nothing to fear from Adams in that State; though it is possible Clinton may give him trouble.

Conjecture is busy upon the subject, who will be the successor of Mr. King? Some think it will be Mr. Webster whilst others say Mr. Brown will be sent to England & Mr Gallatin take his station at Paris. I have no data on which to form an opinion. – The whole course of the administration has proved that every appointment is made either with a view of rewarding past services or of obtaining new friends. Mr. Clay is, between you & myself, the President....

This is the earliest Buchanan letter to appear, the earliest in ABPC being 1828.

$7500.

An Outstanding Political Letter from a Future President


A remarkable political letter from future president James Buchanan, marked “Private” for Mayor David Lynch of Pittsburgh, whose support Buchanan secured for his potential presidential nomination at the 1852 Democratic Convention. Buchanan concisely conveys to Lynch his assessment of three close rivals for the White House.

Buchanan had presidential aspirations as early as 1834 when he was elected to the Senate. He was considered for the 1844 Democratic nomination, which would eventually go to James K. Polk. For his support Buchanan was appointed by Polk as Secretary of State in 1845. Buchanan made a good run at the 1852 nomination, though the nomination and ultimately the presidency went to Franklin Pierce. In this letter, dated just over a month before the Democratic National Convention at Maryland Institute Hall in Baltimore, Buchanan writes candidly about other potential presidential nominees.
Of Gen. Lewis Cass, Buchanan writes:

Your review of some matters relating to General Cass contains nothing but facts; & yet should it ever be traced to you from our known friendship & intimacy it will be employed by his friends to injure me....Neither Cass nor his leading friends in Pennsylvania deserve any forbearance at our hands; but he has friends in other States, who, I know, are strongly inclined in my favor, & we ought not to pursue any course which would drive them from their purpose.

Buchanan’s appraisal of Stephen A. Douglas is measured, but positive:

He possesses fine talents, a strong character & decided energy; & although I cannot approve all his conduct or that of some of his friends, he is not liable to so many objections as his western competitor [Lewis Cass]. With a few years good training, he would make an excellent President.

Buchanan reserves the most heat for his Whig adversary, Gen. Winfield Scott:

Scott, in order to secure all the free soil votes of the non-slaveholding States, will refrain from signing a pledge to sustain the Fugitive Slave Law; but yet he will give assurances to his Southern friends that he will faithfully execute this law & there will be proclaimed every where in the South....

General Winfield Scott was nominated by the Whigs on the 53rd ballot at their June 17-20, 1852 convention, also held at Maryland Institute Hall, and then soundly defeated in November by Pierce, 296 to 42 electoral votes. Scott won just four states: Kentucky, Tennessee, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Interestingly, Buchanan does not discuss Pierce in this letter, as the latter emerged as a compromise candidate well into the balloting process at the 1852 Democratic convention.

A candid peek inside the political mind of a future president. $9000.

A Rich and Detailed Mexican-American War Letter from a Significant Army Officer


A very long letter regarding the Mexican-American War, written by a member of Gen. Wool’s staff to a friend back home in Maine. Carleton, a career army officer, author of a book on the Battle of Buena Vista, and ardent supporter of Zachary Taylor, describes his unit’s march to Mazapil following some false information about a guerilla attack: “the first time American troops had been in Zacatecas.” Following that he speculates on Santa Anna’s troop strength and fortifications:
We have no news from Gen. Scott. By the last advices he has not pushed on his main army beyond Puebla. We learn that Santa Anna has fortified and prepared the capital for a vigorous defense, having some 12,000 regulars and some 20,000 irregular troops, with a large number of cannon. No doubt his strength is greatly magnified. If, even, he has that number, they cannot all be properly armed, much less disciplined and skilled in the use of their weapons. Such a force on a plain should be destroyed by 8000 American regular troops.... Gen. Taylor could with 8000 regulars whip 40,000 such troops as Mexico can now bring in the field. His name is worth a third more than Gen. Scott’s.

He writes that he recently dined with Gen. Taylor and describes Taylor’s plans for a full offensive. He adds that “the utmost good feeling does not subsist between Gen. Scott and Gen. Taylor,” who has “never been satisfied with Gen. Scott’s course in stripping him of his veteran troops and leaving him with only the volunteers who had never been under fire.” Additionally, Carleton describes his own efforts to write a history, published the following year, of the Battle of Buena Vista, in which Taylor had commanded in late February 1847. He also praises Taylor’s performance at the battle and its demoralizing effect on Scott: “We feel very certain that nothing but death can interpose to prevent Gen. Taylor from being President....As a man of strong practical sense, good judgment, stern integrity, and with an earnest singleness of purpose, the good of the whole country, he hardly has an equal.”

James Henry Carleton (1814-73) was a native of Maine, commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1839. He served in the Mexican-American War and later became a general, commanding Union troops in New Mexico during the Civil War. The letter’s recipient, George Evans (1797-1867), was a former U.S. Senator from Maine, his term having just ended at the beginning of 1847. He practiced law and continued to be politically active after his failed reelection bid.


This letter unites two American consuls to the Barbary states in a proposed business venture involving various goods. Both James Leander Cathcart and William Eaton had been appointed as consuls by President John Adams. In this letter Cathcart proposes a joint business venture to Eaton (likely one of many between the two men) involving cloth, sugar, spices, wine, brandy, and other goods. The letter discusses the role of Jewish merchants in the trade of the region and the rigid control exercised by local potentates, and demonstrates the actions of American consuls in Barbary to engage in business in order to supplement their incomes.
James Cathcart and William Eaton were two of the central figures in American diplomacy toward the Barbary States. Cathcart (1767-1843) led a fascinating life. He was born in Ireland, came to the United States as a child, served on an American privateer at age twelve, and was imprisoned by the British. After the Revolution he was captured by Barbary pirates while working on a merchant ship, and was held as a slave in Algiers for eleven years. Cathcart eventually learned Arabic, became a clerk to the Dey of Algiers, and was freed from slavery by the United States treaty with Algiers of 1796. In 1798, John Adams appointed him U.S. Consul to Tripoli.

William Eaton (1764-1811) had the most notorious career of any American involved with the Barbary states. He gained some military fame in the 1790s as an aid to Gen. Anthony Wayne in the Old Northwest, and was appointed American consul to Tunis in 1798. While in office Eaton espoused the cause of Hamet Karamanli, the exiled Pasha of Tripoli, who had been removed by his brother, Yusuf. This led to Eaton’s famous adventure, culminating in the Battle of Derne (1804), in which Eaton led a force of Arabs and European mercenaries. However, at the same time American diplomat Tobias Lear was negotiating a treaty with Yusuf Karamanli, thereby undermining Eaton’s efforts. Later in his life Eaton was involved in the treason trial of Aaron Burr.

In the present letter Cathcart proposes a large commercial venture with Eaton. He writes:

If you have a mind for a spec purchase gold twist (fil d’oro) either French Italian or Tunisian it is worth about six piastres an ounce at Tunis. All sorts of white linnens either German or Irish, a thin sort of cloth called in Italian Londrina, some white sugar such as Famin sold me & some black pepper & some coarse ticking such as is used in Barbary for covering mattresses. The cloths to be scarlet, red or different shades blue do. and some yellow? If you employ two thousand dollars in the above speculation I will be bound to run an equal risque with you & will send you an order upon Azulai for one thousand dollars on receiving advice from you. If you find it convenient to expend a larger sum I will take an equal share with you. You will please to send me the prices current at your place, here we have nothing that will answer Tunis, & be very cautious lest the Jews should over reach you. I hear there has arrived a Ragusian vessel from Leghorn at Tunis some days ago. It is probable you will be able to get great part of the goods upon two three or four months credit. Whatever you purchase give them to Halifa Caigon who will return here in the Brig he is sent to Tunis to purchase goods for Farfara.

On the second page Cathcart informs Eaton that he is sending him wine and brandy to sell:

I am about sending two pipes of Brandy & two of very good wine – you will please to dispose of them to the best advantage in case you receive them but I have not determined whether I will or not, yet if I do Caigon will have charge of them. If they turn out well & you can get permission from the Dey to land a quantity I will send you a cargo of wine & brandy on both our accounts.
We must either trade or build houses as Ingraham has done. My pay will not maintain me tho I am by no means extravagant.

The fourth page of the sheet, otherwise used to address the letter to Eaton, contains a further note from Cathcart:

By order of the Bashaw all the Jews were ordered to disembark. I open this letter to tell you that if I ship the wine & brandy you will receive the cap’tns. receipt enclosed in this if the Jews gets leave to go on board Mr. Caigon will give you this if not the cap’tn will. Send any goods by the cap’tn and send me some potatoes by the return of the brig. Forward me an invoice & bill of lading by land.

An interesting letter proposing a complicated commercial venture, and linking together two of the most prominent Americans in the Barbary states.

$4500.

A Wonderful George Catlin Letter


An interesting and evocative letter from George Catlin regarding his life’s work and the future of his Indian paintings. Financial troubles plagued Catlin throughout his life, and in this letter, written to his close friend, artist George Harvey, he relates a plan by which he might sell his collections to the French government. Catlin writes, in part:

...by the enclosed letter from Paris [not included here, as Harvey apparently returned it to Catlin (see below)] – from the Emperor’s house, you will see I have a “nibble,” a symptom. This is a plan started without my knowledge (as this letter was the first I heard of it) in Paris by Monsieur Mérimée, a member of Deputies, & Marshall Vaillant, Minister of the Emperor’s household, as you see, and, as you will say, “all the better.” The gentleman who wrote the letter came expressly from Paris & spent a day with me to get my terms, inventory &c of my collections & has returned to Paris, to make his “Rapport.” I have furnished him the following items – to make them short – for 50,000 dollars I will agree to sell my entire collection of North Amn Indian paintings & Indian manufacturies, as exhibited in Paris (furnishing them the catalogue) together with my collections made west of the Rocky Mountains in 1856 & 1857. I will agree to proceed immediately to N. York and take my collections all to Paris, spend an entire year in finishing up the paintings and arranging
them, the gov’t – engaging to have ready at that time a hall sufficiently large to show to advantage the whole collections – with a central sky-light, lighting equally and clearly both walls, allowing me to arrange & classify the collections in my own way – the said hall – to perpetuate the collection in such hall [the previous three words struck through] under the title of “Catlin’s N. Amn Indian Collection” and the 50,000 dollars to be paid when the collection is finished and arranged.

What may grow out of this I can’t tell – it may, possibly, result in the sale of my collection, though so un-like my luck, that I don’t believe it – yet “stranger things have happened.” If it should so happen, none can better appreciate than yourself, the satisfaction I should feel in seeing the works of my toilsome life thus treasured up and protected for the world to gaze at after I am off, – and the satisfaction it would afford me of being elevated for a little time, just at the end of my life, above the atmosphere of thieves and blackguards. These gentlemen are setting a high value on my works, but I have not a particle of faith in the Emperor.

The plan is so far in secrecy, not a soul here knowing anything of it, and I wish you, at present, to keep it close. Be good enough in your next, to enclose the Paris letter.

Catlin closes with a comment on the still ongoing American Civil War:

I have been so anxiously awaiting the news from N. York, and which we ought to have rec’d yesterday or today, that I am almost too nervous to write – I am imagining bloodshed & fires in the northern cities, at the time of the Election & I shall be thankful to Heaven if it has been avoided.

George Harvey (1800-78), a British-born artist who moved to the United States in 1820, was best known for his portraits, landscapes, and “atmospheric views.” In 1841 he published Harvey’s Scenes in the Primitive Forests of North America in a very small edition. He was one of George Catlin’s most loyal friends, and it was Harvey who arranged for the exhibition of Catlin’s paintings in New York when Catlin returned to the United States after thirty years abroad. Harvey wrote a very sympathetic appreciation of Catlin for the New York Evening Post in December 1872 the day after Catlin died, in which he proposed a plan to permanently exhibit Catlin’s Indian paintings in New York.

As it turned out, Catlin’s paintings were not sold to the French government, nor were they permanently exhibited in New York. Much of his work was saved by the intercession of Philadelphia locomotive tycoon Joseph Harrison, eventually finding its way to the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art. Any substantive letter from George Catlin, especially one so clearly relating his ongoing frustrations with marketing and placing his work, is rare in the market. $8500.
Original Sketch of the Peninsular Campaign


Pencil sketch depicting a skirmish in the woods during the Battle of Glendale, part of McClellan’s failed offensive on Richmond. In the article which accompanied the published version of this image, Waud wrote: “A majority of the battles so far have been of this description, usually termed bushwhacking – very deadly, but hardly affording a chance for a display of tactics. For the rest, the picture describes itself, and gives a good idea of what our soldiers have to stand up to in the Virginia swamps and woods.” Accompanying the sketch is the leaf from Harper’s Weekly in which the finished image appeared.

John R. Chapin (1827–1907) was a Rhode Island native who worked as an artist for Harper’s Magazine. During the Civil War he copied several rough sketches sent to him from the battlefield by Alfred Waud (1828–91). Waud was also employed as a full-time newspaper artist and correspondent during the Civil War, working for the New York Illustrated News and then moving to Harper’s Weekly in late 1861. $2000.
21. Cheney, George Arthur, Sarah, and George L.: [HUGE COLLECTION OF CHENEY FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE, SPANNING THE 1870s TO THE EARLY 1900s, INCLUDING BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THEIR IVORY IMPORTING AND IVORY GOODS MANUFACTURING FIRM, THE LEGAL PRACTICE OF GEORGE L. CHENEY, SOCIETY FUNCTIONS, AND MUCH MORE]. [New York, Chicago, Essex, Ct., and elsewhere. 1850s to 1910s]. Thousands of letters, usually numbering from two to four pages each, most with the original stamped envelopes. Also included are diaries, journals, invoices for goods, etc. Expected wear, mostly to envelopes. On the whole, in very good condition.

A massive collection of original correspondence, numbering in the thousands of individual letters, recording the business and personal lives of George A. Cheney; his wife, Sarah Greene Cheney; their son, George L. Cheney; his wife, Harriet Weeks Cheney; and many others. George Cheney was the owner of a prominent Connecticut ivory business, importing ivory goods from India and selling manufactured ivory pieces in the United States. His wife, Sarah, came from a prominent Rhode Island family, and her father was one of George A. Cheney’s first employers. Their son, George L. Cheney, was a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School, became a prominent lawyer, and was also involved in the ivory business. This archive is a remarkable record of several decades in the lives of a prominent Connecticut and New York family, and offer endless opportunities for research into the business and social affairs of the era.

George Arthur Cheney (1828-1901) was only twenty-one years old when he made his first voyage to Africa, in 1850. He learned Swahili and Portuguese, making him a valued asset as a trader in eastern Africa. In early 1853 he married Sarah Greene, the daughter of his employer, Rufus Greene, a Providence, Rhode Island shipping merchant who was eager to participate in the trade with Zanzibar. Early in his career George Cheney made a name for himself by brokering a single deal for sixty thousand pounds of ivory. He spent most of the decade of the 1850s in Zanzibar, working for Rufus Greene and exporting a great variety of goods, including ivory, from Africa to the United States. In 1862, just after the period covered by this archive, Cheney severed his relationship with Rufus Greene and became a partner of Samuel Merritt Comstock, who played a leading role in the ivory business and was one of the shapers of the town of Ivoryton, Connecticut. At its peak, Comstock, Cheney and Co. would employ some 700 people, and Ivoryton was a full-fledged company town, dominated by a large ivory finishing factory and with dormitories for workers and a factory store. George Cheney and Sarah Greene had four children, three of which survived to adulthood. Two of their children were born in Zanzibar. Mrs. Cheney returned to the United States in 1856, and George A. Cheney moved back to the U.S. shortly thereafter.

Their son, George L. Cheney, graduated Phillips Exeter Academy in June 1874, attended Harvard University (class of 1878) and then Harvard Law School, from
which he graduated in 1881. By the early 1880s he was involved with the family ivory business in Connecticut. He not only worked in the business, he also practiced law, and included in this collection are two autograph notes, signed (on one sheet) by James Bradley Thayer, Harvard Law School professor, recommending George L. Cheney for jobs.

This collection is made up of various sorts of manuscript material, the bulk being autograph letters, almost always with their original addressed and stamped envelopes. Many of the envelopes bear the printed return address of Comstock, Cheney & Co. There are also manuscript diaries and commonplace books, receipts for goods purchased over several decades, land and property indentures, etc.

The majority of the letters are from George L. Cheney to his parents, and from them to him, covering the period from the 1870s to the 1890s. Numbering in the hundreds, these letters discuss family events and goings-on, and matters relating to the family ivory business. There are also a large number of letters to George L. Cheney from his sibling, from business associates, and from school friends. There are also hundreds of letters between George L. Cheney and his wife, Harriet Weeks Cheney. Cheney seems to have often been working in Chicago and wrote to Harriet in New York. There are also a large number of letters to Harriet from members of her family, and to George L. Cheney from his daughters, Sarah and Julia. The earliest letters in the collection were written to Harriet’s mother, Mrs. R.D. Weeks, in New York and the Berkshires in the 1850s.

Also included are several manuscript diaries of George L. Cheney, including those kept while he was a student at Harvard, expense books for the same period, and dairies for 1885-1887. There are literary commonplace books as well from the 1870s and early 1900s, and dozens of family bills and invoices, many of them on Connecticut billheads, for the same period. $4250.

Important Civil War Art Work

22. [Civil War]: [Simplot, Alexander?]: BATTLE OF CORINTH. OCT. 1862 [manuscript caption title]. [Corinth, Ms. 1862]. Pencil drawing, 13½ x 21 inches. Small tears at right and left edges, lower right corner torn away. Small red ink stain on lower edge. Central vertical fold. Light soiling and wear. About very good.

An original pencil sketch depicting a crucial moment in the Second Battle of Corinth, which took place on October 3-4, 1862, probably by war correspondent Alexander Simplot. This drawing was engraved for *Harper’s Weekly*, where its caption puts it in context as depicting the battle’s key moment. A single three-cannon Union battery led by Lieut. Henry Robinet had been inflicting heavy casualties on the attacking Confederates. Here the Confederates have stormed the battery and are attempting to take it in hand-to-hand combat. The Federals recaptured the battery later that day, leading to a Union victory and a Confederate retreat. The engraving from *Harper’s* is included, which attributes the sketch to Alexander Simplot, though the
drawing itself is unsigned. Simplot, a native of Iowa, was a schoolteacher and artist turned war correspondent. Early in 1862, Simplot began traveling with the army of U.S. Grant which, in October, was stationed in Tennessee near the Mississippi border.

Manuscript Civil War Map of Vicksburg
Near the End of the Siege, 1863


Manuscript map of the battlefield at Vicksburg and the camp of the 114th Illinois Infantry as of June 18, 1863, drawn by Lieut. James T. Workman, a member of the regiment. The map indicates the movements of armies and skirmishes, including where Sherman’s corps crossed the Big Black River on May 18, 1863, and both Sherman and McPherson’s routes to Mill Springs. In the lower right corner Workman notes that the flags indicate where battles were fought. Sites include Jackson, Raymond, and “Bayou.” In the lower left corner he writes:

The 114th Ills. left Duck Pt May 2nd, 1863 and marches as the figures denote; performing a march of 200 miles in 17 days and in the mean time was engaged in the Battle of Jackson and destroyed 10 miles of R. Road. The Regt. was engaged in front of the rebels works around V[icksbur]g from May 19th to
31st, losing in killed and wounded 16 men. The figures will show the present
Camp of the 114th, June 18th.

Two weeks later, on July 4, 1863, the Confederate forces at Vicksburg surrendered.

The 114th Illinois Infantry was formed in September 1862, and by November
they were on active duty with Sherman’s army, fighting throughout the South. A
line guided by arrows traces the route of the 114th from Duck Point on the Mis-
sissippi River, along a bayou, and across the river to Rock Springs and Jackson
before heading back west to the siege of Vicksburg. Workman survived the war
and mustered out of the army in September 1864.

A handsome and detailed manuscript map drawn by a Union soldier. $7500.

A Fine Civil War Archive

24. [Civil War]: Dunlap, William: [ARCHIVE OF FIFTEEN AUTO-
GRAPH LETTERS, SIGNED, FROM SGT. WILLIAM DUNLAP
OF COMPANY F OF THE 139th PENNSYLVANIA VOLUN-
letters, approximately [50]pp. Lined paper, often a single bifolium, with one
letter stamped at the head with a small color illustration of an American flag
and the lyrics to “Our Country’s Flag.” Housed in plastic sleeves, each with a
transcription with footnotes, and including copies of Dunlap’s military pen-
sion records from the National Archives, copies of his unit’s battle history,
and a company roster. Usual mailing folds, first couple of letters a bit faded. Overall very good.

A rich account of a soldier’s life during the most intense years of the Civil War. Sergeant William Dunlap joined Company F of the 139th Pennsylvania Volunteers in September 1862 and served until the end of the war, discharged at Washington, D.C. on June 26, 1865. He served in the Army of the Potomac at the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and Cold Harbor, plus Sheridan’s Shenandoah Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg. It was while serving with Sheridan at the Battle of Cedar Creek that Dunlap, according to his pension application, “received a gunshot wound through his right shoulder seriously disabling him.”

The cordial letters are addressed to Dunlap’s wife, Matilda and to his sister, each of whom Dunlap seems to hold in great and equal esteem. In general Dunlap writes in a folksy manner, describing camp life, military battles and movements, the general welfare of his regiment (several times remarking, “The boys are all well”) and relating snippets of his views on religion (“God does all things well...” and “I wish I was there to take you out to the church and eat the Lords supper with you...”) and drinking (“I do not want to learn the habit of drinking”). He writes lovingly to his family, twice asking his wife to give his daughter, Nina, a kiss from him and praising the young child for her early learning.

The majority of the letters were written in the summer and fall of 1863 in various camps in Virginia and Pennsylvania following the Battle of Gettysburg. Dunlap reports in a letter dated July 6, 1863 on the field by Gettysburg:

I sit down to write you a few lines and let you know that God has still spared my life while some of the boys were running and getting behind trees and rocks. I stood at my post trusting in him that never says seek my face in vein [sic]. God has given us the victory. I understand that we have taken 12,000 prisiners [sic] and 15,000 wounded.

In the letter of Sept. 21, 1863, Dunlap relates a very interesting mode of punishment handed out to two soldiers:

There was a man in our regiment had to march through the whole brigade with a board on his back with Coward in large letters printed on it. He had run from the battle. And another belonging to the 102nd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers was drummed out of service. He had a board on his back with the words Coward and Diserter [sic].

In a letter dated Nov. 10, 1863, Dunlap mentions Rappahannock Station, Kelly’s Ford, and Gen. Meade:

We marched all day on Saturday and got to Rappahannock Station late in the evening where we attacked the rebels and after a pretty smart battle we captured about 2000 prisoners and seven pieces of artillery and at Kelly’s Ford our army whipped the rebels and took 5 hundred prisoners and four pieces of
artillery...we heard last night that Gen. Meade had captured 20 days rasions [sic] from the rebels. He is driving them in on every point. I think we have got a good general now.

In his last letter, dated April 20, 1865 near Burks Station, Dunlap writes about President Lincoln’s assassination:

The news of the President’s death was received with great mourning. All the soldiers have lost a good friend and the nation never got such a stroke but I hope the Scoundrel will be brought to justice. We all feel hopeful that the fighting is done and we will soon get home....The flags were at half mast here yesterday and the cannon was fired in mourning for Lincoln’s death and I never saw so many sorry soldiers....

The fifteen letters were written from the following locations on the following dates:

2) On the field between Gettysburg and Emelisville. July 6, 1863.
6) Letter to Sister. [N.p. Sometime in the Fall of 1863].
15) Camp near Burks Station. April 20, 1865.

A fascinating group of letters from an experienced and long-serving Civil War soldier. Sets of letters from soldiers are exceedingly scarce in the marketplace. This group is enhanced by the considerable research added in footnotes to the transcriptions.

$3000.

Rare Signature of William Clark


Autograph requisition slip signed by William Clark, countersigned by John Mills as adjutant general and three others. The brief note reads: “Sir, Please to deliver
for the Chickasaw Inds. one quart of whiskey. Wm. Clark, Lieut. 4th S.L. Greeneville, 2d June 1794.” Clark (1770-1838) fought with Anthony Wayne in the Old Northwest for several years, and was commissioned on March 7, 1792 lieutenant of infantry in the Fourth Sub-legion. In September 1793 he was placed in charge of a rifle corps containing several Chickasaw Indians. At the time this document was written Clark was in charge of a detachment at Vincennes, which he led up the Wabash, experiencing frozen conditions for about twenty days, after which he was stationed at Cincinnati. When Wayne marched into the Indian country, he ordered Clark to bring in provisions. This Indian campaign ended to victory against the allied tribes. It is interesting to note that Meriwether Lewis also served in the army during this operation, and in fact in the same division with Clark. Clark’s detachment was subsequently attacked, but he was successful in meeting Wayne at Greenville near the end of May 1794. Clark is best remembered for his role in leading the historic overland expedition to the Pacific in 1804-06 with Meriwether Lewis. After his return from the Pacific expedition, Clark became superintendent of Indian Affairs for the western country, a post he held for many years.

A fascinating manuscript specimen from Clark’s hand. Autograph material by Clark is rare in the marketplace. $6000.

A Superb Collection of Henry Clay Letters

26. Clay, Henry: [GROUP OF SIX AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, SIGNED, FROM HENRY CLAY TO MRS. MARY S. BAYARD, WIFE OF CLAY’S FELLOW WHIG SENATOR, RICHARD BAYARD, DISCUSSING HIS RUNS FOR THE PRESIDENCY, NATIONAL AND PARTY POLITICS, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER SUBJECTS]. “Ashland,” in [Lexington, Ky.] Nov. 18, 1844 – Oct. 19, 1848. Six autograph letters, signed, on folded folio or octavo sheets. A total of [13]pp. Some 3,000 words in total. Old folds. Letter of Feb. 4, 1845 with a neat split along lower horizontal fold, with bottom third of both sheets detached but present. Very clean and legible, and in very good condition overall. A fascinating group of six autograph letters, signed, from Henry Clay to Mary S. Bayard, the wife of former Senator Richard Bayard of Delaware, discussing Clay’s runs for the presidency in 1844 and 1848, the state of the Whig party, Clay’s personal feelings about politics and Washington, and a variety of other subjects. Clay was one of the most consequential and influential figures in antebellum American
politics, and these letters from the Great Compromiser give excellent insight into the thoughts of a natural politician while he was out of power but still hoping to influence national issues. The letters also show that Clay's famed rhetorical skills had an analogue in his eloquent pen.

At the time he wrote these letters, Clay (1777-1852) did not hold elective office, having resigned from the Senate in 1842 to prepare for the presidential election of 1844, in which he was the Whig nominee. Clay lost the very close 1844 election to Democrat James K. Polk (his third loss in a run for the presidency), and it is in the wake of that defeat that the first letter in this group was written. All six of the letters are written from Clay at his Kentucky home, Ashland, to Mary S. Bayard (1804-86), wife of the former Whig Senator from Delaware, Richard Bayard, and a granddaughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The final letter is dated Oct. 19, 1848, just four months before the Kentucky legislature returned Clay to the U.S. Senate.

The first letter is dated Nov. 18, 1844, and even though voting in the election was not yet complete, Clay writes to Mrs. Bayard (in reply to her letter of Nov. 4) that “the foreboding of the defeat of the Whig Party, which you appear to have
entertained even at its date, are realized.” He goes on to describe his feelings, having lost a third bid for the presidency:

Your kind and soothing letter reached me most opportunely, for it came to me in the same mail that bore intelligence which satisfied me that our case was lost. The spread of religion, of philosophy and of friendship which it embodied served to weaken the blow what fell upon me. I will not disguise, my dear friend, that I felt the severity of that blow, more perhaps because two weeks ago it was altogether unexpected by me here....But, much as this sad event affects me personally, I feel much more for my country and my friends. I am but a poor mortal, whose life has nearly reached the ordinary limit of human existence. But the country comprehends many millions, and the nation, it is to be hoped, will remain for ages to come. And my friends, by this event, are cut out of that share in the conduct of public affairs to which, from their values, their talents and their cruel proscription, they were justly entitled.

In the next letter, dated Feb. 4, 1845, it is Clay’s turn to console Mrs. Bayard, as he conveys his regrets upon hearing of her husband’s loss to fellow Whig, John Clayton, in the election to be United States Senator from Delaware. Clay assures Mrs. Bayard that he did not support Clayton, though he was asked, and then turns philosophical in consideration of the plans that providence has for their country:

I own, with you, that I can discern scarcely a faint glimpse of light breaking through the dark gloom of the future. My only trust is in Providence, who may, in his inscrutable dispensations, have provided some means of safety and deliverance for our country; which he chooses to conceal from our vision.

Clay then writes: “You ask me if I am happy? Ah! my dear friend, who on earth is happy?”

The next letter is dated more than three years later, March 31, 1848, as Clay is preparing to run yet again for the Whig nomination for the presidency. He relates his recent journey home, and the warm reception he received in Pittsburgh, which he reached by steamship:

As I approached it in a steamboat on the Monongahela, filled with passengers and resounding with music, one of the most brilliant scenes opened on me that I ever beheld. In front a beautiful wire bridge was gracefully suspended over the river, crowded with people. The bank of the river, from the water’s edge, to the summit, for many hundred yards, was chock full with people. The whole population of the city appeared to have precipitated itself on the bank, rising in amphitheatrical array. All this was accompanied with the display of numerous flags, the roar of cannon, the ringing of bells and the sound of music, and the enthusiastic cheers of the countless multitude.

He goes on to describe the warm reception he received at other towns en route to Kentucky, and writes that he is heartened by the support of the people in his home state: “From what I have learned, since I reached home, Kentucky retains unabashed
her attachment to me. They had had recently a great meeting at Louisville, & passed strong resolutions in my favor.”

In the fourth letter, dated June 19, 1848, Clay’s optimism at the possibility of a fourth presidential nomination has been dashed by the results of the Whig Convention held earlier in the month in Philadelphia. Clay came in second to Mexican-American War hero Zachary Taylor, and cannot conceal his disappoint-ment at the lack of support he received from the Ohio delegates, and even from his own state of Kentucky:

I was prepared for the event, which you deplore, of the failure of the Whig Convention to nominate me for the Presidency, and it therefore did not take me by surprise, but I was surprised and shocked by the course of some of the delegations to it. Most of all I was disappointed in that of the Ohio delegation. I had every assurance, in every form, from the most prominent men in that state (including the governor, Senator Corwin, &c.) that I would receive its support. If I had not fully believed in that fact, I would never have consented to the submission of my name to the Convention. With regard to Kentucky, I was aware of the exceptionable means which had been employed to appoint the Taylor delegates, and although mortified I was not much surprised. But it is useless to dwell on details. The work is done, and there is no alternative left to me, but that of quiet submission to it, so far as I was personally concerned. I ought to rejoice in the event, and I should rejoice in it but for the sake of my true and ardent friends, our cause and our country....I am relieved from a vast deal of anxiety and painful suspense, during the canvas, if I had been nominated, and from an immense responsibility, if I had been elected. In all the vicissitudes of life, it has pleased God to throw in many compensations.

Clay concludes the letter by discussing the possibility that he may again be sent to the U.S. Senate, and his ambivalent feelings thereon:

I have been proposed by the Governor and other friends to return to the Senate of the U. States, but after the final & formal leave which I took of that body in 1842, I have not allowed myself to think of returning to it. There is but one consideration which recommends the step to me, and that is that I should again see friends that I may never more meet; but my purpose is to decline it.

Writing a month later, on July 17, 1848, Clay tells Mrs. Bayard that despite her strong encouragement that he return to the Senate, he remains inclined not to do so:

If I had hesitation in forming my resolution, it sprung from my ardent desire to see and be more with my Eastern friends (and especially with your dear family) than I can expect to be in private life; but then I thought that I might not to mix my private feelings and inclination with the sense and consideration of public duty; and, accustomed as I am to personal sacrifices, I determined not to allow my private wishes to prevail.
The final letter is dated Oct. 19, 1848, and after passing along some sad family news (the death of a grandson, a son-in-law, and a niece), Clay turns to a consideration of the forthcoming election:

The Presidential election now depends, in my opinion, upon Pennsylvania. If that state votes for Taylor he will be elected, and not otherwise. There is not the smallest prospect of his getting Ohio. I told the public so in April last but I was not believed. Indeed all the statements contained in my note to the public are in a process of verification.

As it turns out, Clay was prescient: Taylor defeated Democrat Lewis Cass and Free Soil nominee Martin Van Buren, taking Pennsylvania’s twenty-six electoral votes but not Ohio’s twenty-three.

An outstanding group of Henry Clay letters, in which one of the most influential political leaders of his era reflects on his personal political fortunes, those of the Whig party, and his philosophy of public service.


**Subscription Booksellers Cheat the President**


An interesting letter from future president Grover Cleveland, complaining about the quality of the “American edition” of the Encyclopedia Britannica to which he has subscribed. This letter was written less than four years before Cleveland’s first election to the presidency of the United States (he served two terms, 1885-89 and 1893-97). Cleveland likely subscribed to the ninth edition of the Britannica, which was published between 1875 and 1889 and which is regarded as a model of scholarship. It was very popular and was widely pirated by American publishers. He writes to J.W. Morris:

Dear Sir, I became a subscriber to the Encyclopedia Britannica upon the representation that it was printed from the original plates of the English Edition. Within the last two or three months I was called on by the agent for what is called the American Reprint. He had in his possession what he said was [sic] some volumes of the original work and by comparing them with the books I had received under my subscription it was entirely apparent that there were important differences. I became a subscriber for the American Reprint. I am content with it. If I have been deceived I cannot help it, for I have not
the time nor inclination to re-examine the matter. One thing is very certain: If I had had any idea of the consequences which have followed my original subscription, it never would have been made. This letter is not for publication. If it were I think I should add some advice suggested by my experience. Yours truly, Grover Cleveland.

$950.

A Highly Important Manuscript Collection of Early High Arctic Voyages


This manuscript is a remarkable compilation of Captain William Coats’ many explorations and travels in Hudson Bay over a quarter of a century, describing annual voyages every summer between 1727 and 1751. Coats’ legacy is commemorated by a sizable island named for him at the entrance to the Bay (thought to have been the last outpost of the Dorset Eskimo people). Except for 1749, when he accompanied Thomas Mitchell on a Company exploring expedition, he commanded one
of the three supply ships that the Hudson's Bay Company sent out each season to Churchill, Albany, and York Factory. This manuscript is one of the most extensive narratives of high Arctic travel and exploration from the first half of the 18th century to survive, and is crucial to the contemporary questions regarding whether or not Hudson Bay had a western outlet into a northwest passage.

On his first voyage, while conveying Thomas Maclish to York Factory as the new governor of Hudson Bay, Coats lost his ship off Cape Farewell. Everyone was saved into the Hannah, one of the consorts, commanded by Charles Middleton. For the next thirteen seasons Coats, Middleton, and George Spurrell were the supply ship commanders; but in 1741, Middleton was engaged by the Admiralty, at the urgings of Arthur Dobbs, to search for a northwest passage in H.M.S. Furnace. To Dobbs' frustration, Middleton only discovered Wager Bay; a written war ensued in the form of a pamphlet exchange, for which Middleton is best remembered today. The argument between the two men is referred to by Coats at the commencement of the manuscript, in which he appears to side firmly with Middleton:

What Mr. Dobbs has thought fitt to call a description of Husdons bay, is so erroneous so superficial and so trifling in almost every circumstance. So contrary to the experience and concurrent testimony...that when it first Appeared it was matter of astonishment, to all those who be supposed to be competent Judges.

Coats refers to the claims and counterclaims of Middleton and Dobbs regarding the fall of tides in Hudson Bay, in the body of the manuscript.

In 1749, Coats was excused from the supply voyage and was asked instead to accompany Thomas Mitchell, who was to continue his previous exploring expedition, now under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1744 the expedition had been sent to examine the Eastmain, or eastern coast of Hudson Bay. The 1749 expedition found the coast just as intimidating as its predecessor had, but nonetheless charted the Richmond Gulf and the coast between Cape Digges and Little Whale River. The Eastmain is described in the manuscript from observations made in 1749.

The manuscript, addressed to Coats' son, was drawn up after the 1750 voyage, which is the last voyage referred to. The majority of the text (and all of the Appendix where the references give the year of the journal from which they were extracted) contains sailing directions, latitude and longitude, and description of the important landfalls and many capes, bays, and islands from Cape Resolution into Hudson Bay, together with information on ice (especially its avoidance) and tides. In addition there is information on the differences between the various tribes of Indians and Inuit groups encountered by Coats, and knowledge of the hinterland of Hudson Bay including conjectural conclusions (e.g. that a large lake or sea named "Winipeggon" was said to lay to the west of Churchill, and that this could explain the extraordinary tides on the west coast of Hudson Bay, and the belief that this [Lake Winnipeg] connected with the Bay).

Apart from the geography of the Bay, Coats provides descriptions of the natives, including detailed accounts of their clothing and demeanor. He even notes
that the features of the Eskimos are similar to that of the Chinese: “I have often thought this people are of the lineage of the Chinease, in the many features I think I see in them, their bloated, flatt faces, little eyes, black hair, little hands & feet.” Coats describes artifacts of the culture: canoes, toys, hunting implements, music, and costumes. He addresses their diet, means of hunting, and lack of Christian religion. On the latter topic he writes:

That they are idoliters I am perswaided for I have had a bone Deity which they seldom are without in their canoes. The rising sun summons all on their knees, [at which point] you hear such a contrast of vocal musick...with such energy and noble contempt as lift these people in idea above the common level of all mankind, and I dare say they think themselves the favorite people of God, and look on us with more compassion and contempt than we do them.

He makes similar observations about the natives at other points in the text.

This remarkable manuscript came into the hands of celebrated Arctic explorer Sir Edward Parry, who passed it to Francis Beaufort, who in turn passed it to the fledgling Hakluyt Society in the person of John Barrow Jr. (1808-98), a founding member of the Society, Keeper of the Records at the Admiralty, and member of the Arctic Council dedicated to solving the mystery of Sir John Franklin. Barrow edited the manuscript as the eleventh volume of the Hakluyt Society’s First Series under the manuscript’s subtitle, The Geography of Hudson’s Bay (1852). To this was added an appendix containing extracts from the log of Capt. Middleton on his voyage for the discovery of the Northwest Passage in 1741-42. Not all of the manuscript was published. The text that Barrow chose to edit out is lightly marked in pencil, consisting primarily of nautical observations along the British coast.

A major manuscript account of Arctic exploration in the first half of the 18th century, by a man who probably made more Arctic voyages in the period than any other sailor. $125,000.


A contemporary copy of an autograph letter, signed, one page in length, with no place, dated April 25, 1733, to Archibald Kennedy, Receiver-General of New York. This is an important letter, discussing boundaries of the Wawayanda and Minisink patents in Orange and Sullivan counties in New York. Colden, writing in his capacity as Surveyor-General of New York, gives his detailed opinions about the boundaries in question. In 1761, Colden became Lieutenant-Governor of New York. A scientist and philosopher, he was one of the most brilliant leaders of colonial New

**Cooper Moves to Lake Como**


Author James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) moved his family to Europe in 1826 in an effort to bolster his income and bestow a better education on his children. Writing to a Mr. Cox, Cooper says, in part:

I am commanded by the ladies to report our arrival at this place, where we have taken a house for a month. We hope to see you, to compare notes, shake hands and measure the children....We shall be sorry to quit this part of Switzerland without seeing you, but as we are now, seven weeks on route, we are so glad to be abed in the mornings, and to be rid of a carriage, that we are not much inclined to stir again immediately. We have taken the house...that you look'd at the other day, and shall probably remain until October. We think of going to the shores of Lake Como...after which we steer towards Paris for the winter....

$1850.

**The Famous Frontier Scout Describes an Unknown American Manuscript Map of Impressive Dimensions, Possibly by Lewis Evans**

Croghan, a deputy Indian agent serving under British agent William Johnson, writes to an unnamed recipient concerning a map of the northern British colonies. This letter presumably accompanied the map in question, and both this letter and the map were likely sent to a cartographer or artisan of some kind; due to the date and the available resources, it is almost certain that the map to which Croghan refers is that of Lewis Evans. The letter reads, in part:

I Send you this Map wh. is to be Enlarged Takeing In all the province of New York to Connecticut River and as far back as the Limits of Cannada all the Jersey Pensylvaine Maryland & Virginia the Lackes & back Cuntry is properly & well Lay'd. Down in this & the Larger Scail its Lay'd. Down on the better, one Copey is for Sir William Johnson to Settle the Boundry with the Indians by the other is to be Sent the proprietors when the boundry is [pricht?] of, on itt.

In the lower left corner is written in another hand: “The Map when Enlarged was 7 ft 2 in Length & 4 ft 3 inches in Breadth. Takeing in Connecticut River & the Massisippa all Virgina & Canda to the Lat. of Montreal."

As indicated in the letter, the map was to assist in the boundary dispute between the British and the Native Americans, giving a probable date for the letter to circa 1763, around the end of Pontiac’s Rebellion and the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which legally curtailed white settlement past the Appalachian Mountains.

George Croghan (1718-82) was an Irish-born fur trader who became acquainted with the Great Lake Region Indians and their languages through his trading pursuits. Breaking the traditional _modus operandi_ of British traders, Croghan traveled to the Indians, rather than waiting for them to arrive at a British post. This allowed him to spend time among the native peoples, whom he grew to respect, learning their customs and languages. In 1756 he began service as the deputy Indian agent under William Johnson, the British Indian agent in the area, a position he held until retiring in 1772.
A fascinating document, which gives rise to the question of whether or not such a large scale map was created, and if so, does it still exist somewhere. $5500.

Rare Letter of a Famous Revolutionary General


Continental general Baron de Kalb writes to quartermaster general Col. Charles Pettit, notifying Pettit of his movements and noting that he is conserving fodder as per the Quartermaster's request. De Kalb was a member of the French army who came across with the Marquis de Lafayette when the French entered into the Revolution in 1777. He served with the Continental Army until his death at the Battle of Camden on Aug. 16, 1780.

The Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778 was the last major confrontation in the North. The Continental Army was quartered at Fredericksburg, New York and charged with harassing British troops and foraging parties sent from New York City.

Charles Pettit (1736-1806) had recently been appointed deputy quartermaster general in charge of supplies and the accounting thereof. Baron de Kalb, encamped near Fishkill, New York, received marching orders from both Alexander Hamilton and Gen. Washington, and drops both names in the letter, apparently to impress the Quartermaster with the importance of his mission:

Sir, The letter I received last evening from Col. Hamilton induced me to take the road. I marched my division, which movement is also agreeable to the orders I received today by a letter from His Excellency. I had already past Col. Vandebrugh when I got it. Upon the whole I think I am encamped so as His Excellency directed me, 11 miles & a half from Fishkill Town on the road leading to Sharon and Boston, on a convenient tolerable high ground, the said
road in the rear and fish creek in front. There are some good pastures, I shall
confine our horses to them to save the dry forage as you desire.

The British had sent out two large foraging parties (five thousand men under
Cornwallis on the west bank of the Hudson and three thousand under Knyphausen
on the east), and De Kalb’s was one of several small bodies of troops detached to
harass them.

De Kalb is a very rare autograph: only four autograph letters have appeared at
auction in the last thirty-five years, realizing from $6000 to $32,400 depending on
when the sales took place and the interest of the contents. $10,000.

A Signer of the Declaration Signs Another Document on July 8, 1776:
About as Close as You Can Get

33. [Declaration of Independence]: [Pennsylvania]: Morton, John: [DOC-
UMENT SIGNED BY JOHN MORTON, BEING A PRINTED
FORM, COMPLETED IN MANUSCRIPT, APPOINTING DAVID
JOHNSTON TO A MILITARY COMMAND IN THE PENNSYL-
VANIA MILITIA DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION].
[N.p., but Philadelphia]. July 8, 1776. Broadside, 8 x 10 inches. Old fold
lines. Separation along vertical fold repaired and reinforced. Minor paper loss
in center of document also repaired and reinforced, minutely affecting three
letters of text. Left edge trimmed closely, affecting first word of each line.
Light soiling. Signature clear and distinct. Very good. In a blue half morocco
and cloth clamshell case.
Partially printed broadside, completed in manuscript, appointing David Johnston, Gentleman, “third lieutenant of a company of foot in the fifth Battalion of Associates in the County of Cumberland...for the protection of this province, against all hostile enterprizes, and for the defence of American Liberty.” The document is signed by John Morton (1725-77), a signer of the Declaration of Independence a few days earlier, in his capacity as the Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly. “Morton played a significant role in Pennsylvania’s movement toward independence. As Quaker assemblymen grew less willing to support ever-stronger resistance measures in 1775, Morton was part of the crucial Chester County assembly delegation, which provided the slim margin of support for organizing a state militia. Morton tried unsuccessfully to preserve political unity in Pennsylvania as the decision for independence was forced on the assembly in 1776. Although he acknowledged that the colonial assembly was too slow to support independence, Morton opposed the new government organized under the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. He believed that the state constitutional convention exceeded its popular support by establishing a radically different form of government for the province and by temporarily serving as a state government. He served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses and signed the Declaration of Independence, making possible Pennsylvania’s three-to-two vote in favor of withdrawal from the British Empire. He chaired the congressional committee that wrote the Articles of Confederation, although he did not live to see them ratified” – ANB.

Since Morton died less than nine months after the Declaration, the first Signer to die, his signature post-Independence is rare, and any Signer in 1776 is desirable. This document, however, is about as close as one can come to a Signer’s signature on July 4, 1776. Since 1975, only seven letters or documents have come on the market signed by Signers in July 1776. The famous Caesar Rodney letter of July 4, the only one by any Signer actually written on the day, sold for $400,000 at the Doheny sale in 1989. The next closest, a Robert Morris letter of July 6, sold for $7500 at the Maass sale in 1999. The present document is the next closest to these, on July 8. Letters of Arthur Middleton and William Ellery, both of July 10, sold for $80,000 in 2008 and $110,000 in 1990. After this comes the famed Doheny-Copley document of July 12, signed by Button Gwinnett and five other Signers, which realized $190,000 at Doheny and sold for $690,000 at Sotheby’s April 14, 2010 sale of material from the Copley Library.

Distinguished company indeed. This document, from the Copley Library collection, has never appeared for public sale.

ANB 15, p.951. $9500.

Confederate general Jubal Early writes to Col. Charles Marshall, who served as an aide to Gen. Lee, regarding alleged letters by Lee published in the *New York Times*. Early, who served under Lee throughout the war, fled to Texas and then Canada at the close of the Civil War, where he published his memoirs in 1867. He writes to tell Marshall that he believes the recently published Lee letters are fakes and are contrary to all his recollections of events:

I send you the letters printed and you will observe that they are alleged to have been captured at General Breckenridge's headquarters in Lynchburg, shortly after the surrender at Appomattox. The fact is that General Breckenridge had his headquarters in Lynchburg only once, and that was in June 1864, when I went there to intercept Hunter, which was several months before the date of either letter.

He then provides a detailed recollection of a long chain of events which throws the authenticity of the letters into question. Summing up, he writes:

I cannot therefore avoid the conclusion that the letters in the *Times* are of recent manufacture. I had shown to Breckenridge when I came to this place in June 1864 my written instructions, in order to show my authority to direct the movements of his command, and if he had received the letter from General Lee, which is now published, it is a little irregular. He did not mention the subject to me in our long and intimate association in Canada.

In June 1864, with Grant bulldozing his way southward toward Richmond in the bloody campaign of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor, Lee attempted to draw Federal forces off by sending Early across the Potomac to demonstrate against Washington, left sparsely defended by the main Army fighting southward. The events of this sideshow would become the subject of much post-war debate, and evidently engendered the faked Lee letters to which Early alludes. $2500.

*Attacking Washington's Indian Policy*


A scathing letter from the surveyor general of the United States, Andrew Ellicott, to the governor of Pennsylvania, Thomas Mifflin, regarding Ellicott’s condemnation of Washington’s policies towards the Iroquois. Ellicott, who had recently completed his survey and mapping of the District of Columbia (the new seat of the federal government) and who had now begun his survey commissioned by Gov. Mifflin to map a road through the wilderness from Reading to Presqu’Isle (Erie,
Pennsylvania), delivers a vehement indictment of President Washington’s military deployments and comportment:

The interference of the general Government with the internal police of State appears to me highly improper, because the State establishments on French Creek, and at Presqu’Isle were intended to protect the frontiers against depredations of the hostile Indians, a right recognized and acknowledged by the Constitution of the U.S., a right the relinquishment of which will not only materially affect the sovereignty of some states....

After Gen. St. Clair’s overwhelming defeat in 1791, and with hostilities increasing between various Indian tribes and American soldiers, Ellicott found the task of surveying a difficult one as the unfriendly encounters became more of an obstacle. Though angered by Washington’s overreaching military strategy, Ellicott also accuses the President of an over-conciliatory behavior towards the Iroquois (tribes not then at war with the Americans) in an attempt to maintain peace. He sarcastically dismisses Washington’s fear of “offending our good friends and allies the Six Nations by continuing, and protecting our settlements...” and further criticizes Gen. Wayne’s inability to protect the settlers who had recently been attacked by the Huron. Two months later American forces would prove victorious at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, crushing Indian opposition to American settlement in eastern Ohio.

This was sold at the Frank T. Siebert sale in May of 1999 where it realized $5,175. SIEBERT SALE 310A.

$7500.

Elements of Diplomacy, By the Spanish Consul in Yucatan


An extensive unpublished manuscript manual of diplomacy written for the use of Spanish consuls and commercial agents stationed in foreign countries by Gerónimo Ferrer y Valls (1797-1851), then the Spanish consul and commercial agent in Campeche, Yucatan, and addressed to Antonio González y González (1792-1876), then in his second term as Spain’s Prime Minister.

Ferrer y Valls explains that he wrote this treatise for the benefit of his consular colleagues and trade agents, having himself profited from Agustín de Letamendi’s Atribuciones Consulares (1835). Arranged in thirty-six chapters, the text includes examples drawn from the author’s own experience in Campeche. Following a discussion of commerce in general and the history of Spanish consulates, Ferrer y
Valls examines the skills required by a consul and vice consul, arguing that such a figure should also undertake the role of the commercial agent. Consular documents are examined: the bill of health for the port for which the consul was responsible, the authentication of documents, the notification of petitions, and the books to be kept. These include a letter book of ministerial correspondence and another of correspondence with authorities within the country; a register of passports issued by the consul; a log of the entry and exit of ships; a book of certificates stating the origin of goods; a register of Spanish citizens resident in the country; and a book of sea protests, proxies, deeds, wills, and other public acts. Discussion of the jurisdiction of Spanish consuls is followed by a description of consular services and fees, with a table of tariffs. A particularly interesting example of a consular report given here is a table for the first quarter of 1842 recording imports and exports shipped into and out of the port of Campeche by Spanish merchant vessels. The treatise ends with a short chapter on inventories, listing, as an example, the papers, books, and effects in the consulate at Campeche.

At the time of writing this treatise Ferrer y Valls was already an established author, having published, among other works, the similarly titled *Tratado Elemental Teórico-Práctico de Relaciones Comerciales...* in 1833, and edited a periodical entitled *Tecnológico Nacional de Agricultura, Artes Industriales, Ciencias, Comercio y Literatura* in 1834. That Ferrer y Valls also intended to publish this manuscript is clear: not only is it a fair copy, with only a few corrections and cross-outs, but it contains a copy of a letter from the author, and Prime Minister Antonio González y Gonzálezes reply, regarding its printing. The author estimates the cost of printing and paper for 500 copies at no more than 150 pesos and states that if the government cannot meet the expense, he would, with González’s approval, arrange the printing himself. In an interesting aside, Ferrer y Valls requests transfer to the new consulate in Montevideo, as the climate in Campeche is not congenial to his health. González’s reply must have come as a disappointment on both accounts: it would not be appropriate for his ministry to publish the *Tratado*, as it might give the work an authority which only government-issued instructions could have on such matters; as for the transfer, no definite decision had yet been made on the establishment of a consulate in Montevideo. That Ferrer y Valls continued to write, however, is clear from the publication of his *Cartas Históricas, Filosóficas, Estadísticas, Agrícolas, Industriales y Mercantiles* in 1846.

The text of the *Tratado* is followed by a copy of a letter from Ferrer y Valls, dated Dec. 26, 1842, to the Secretary of the Office of the Ministry of State in Madrid, enclosing an appendix, and the Secretary’s reply of March 10, 1843. The appendix includes a “Copy of the case relative to the dispatch of passports to Spanish subjects by the commercial agent of Spain in Yucatan promoted by the government of the said state on 2 November 1841 and ended in favour of the representative of her majesty on 14 October 1842;” “A verbal claim made by the commercial agent of Spain in Yucatan on 18 October 1842 to the commander of the first division of operations for excluding the Spanish subject Juan Gual from the armed services;” and “A preventive communication directed by the commercial agent of Spain in
Yucatan to the general in chief of the Mexican expeditionary troops and naval forces of the same state” of November 1842. A marvelous inside view of Spanish diplomatic relations, written in Mexico in the mid-19th century. $4750.

A Seaman's Prison Ship Diary


Kept by Fill, the Chief Boatswain, this journal records the activities of two boats, the Southery and the Topeka, which were used as prison ships in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. A meticulous record of events on the two ships. The Southery was primarily a prison ship and frequently produced goods to be sold; the Topeka was an auxiliary ship which also served as a prison ship. The majority of entries describe the products being produced, inspections of prisoners, and maintenance to the ship, but interesting entries include descriptions of a boat collision in the harbor and the author’s involvement in a Masonic lodge. Fill also makes mention of personal matters such as deaths and his own activities, when notable. $600.

“The troops here are on the point of disbanding…”


A letter from the enterprising John Fitch, future steamboat pioneer, during his checkered service in the Continental Army. Having entered into an unhappy marriage, Fitch abandoned his wife and young son in Windham, Connecticut, and journeyed south to New York and New Jersey. He eked his way by performing small tasks requiring a craftsman’s skills, finding himself near Trenton at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Until 1780 he served as a militia lieutenant and gunsmith, in the meantime making a handsome profit by selling tobacco and other goods to the Valley Forge army. Towards the end of this service, in 1779, Fitch penned the present letter to an acquaintance named Royal Flint. It was a difficult time for the army, as Fitch relates:

Your favour by W. Whiting I received last evening. I am in hopes that Congress will move to Hartford which will make it very convenient for me to settle my acct. with the Treasury Board. I have not the least idea but what our Army will soon disband – at present it is as much as we can all do to keep them together. The Article of Bread is exceedingly scarce. The troops here are on the point of disbanding – but if this is the case, what may we expect when the
leading & best men in the Purchasing Department quit the service. I think our present situation is too alarming to be easily expressed. I have no news from Windham – friends Ripley & Grow went from Danbury the day after Thanksgiving for the Capitol. Yours of the 1st. Instant by Majr. Starr I have just received. I rejoice to hear of my friends taking some comfort by which they can promise themselves future happiness. I dare say when you wrote that letter you were not much concerned about any kind of misfortunes ever happening to you, which I hope will be the case....

Despite Fitch's pessimism, the army did not disband, though personality conflicts between himself and his superiors occasioned his prompt dismissal from it. From New Jersey he set off down the Ohio, was captured and released by the British, and ultimately established himself in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he began his experimentation with steam propulsion. Although he made some advances, most notably his ship Enterprise, which purportedly achieved a speed of eight miles an hour on the Delaware River, his efforts were a financial failure. Despondent, he committed suicide in 1798 in Bardstown, Kentucky.

Despite his failures, Fitch greatly advanced the development of steam power in the United States. Unfortunately, the sort of hopelessness that drove him from his unhappy marriage and is displayed here would plague most of his endeavors and contribute to his hapless end.


*Franklin Leaves England for America on the Eve of the Revolution*


An interesting letter written by Benjamin Franklin to Sir Alexander Dick in Edinburgh, taking his leave from England on the verge of the American Revolution, and recommending the son of his friend, Benjamin Duffield. Franklin writes:

John Dalrymple the other day inform’d me that you and your dear family were lately well, which to hear gave me great pleasure. Being on the point of embarking for America, I would not leave Britain without taking leave of a friend I have so much reason to esteem and love. I pray God to bless you and yours with every kind of felicity. If at any time I can on the other side of the water render acceptable service to you or any friend of yours, it will be a pleasure to me to receive your commands. May I take the liberty of recommending to your countenance and protection an ingenious young man, son of a friend of mine at Philadelphia, now studying physic at Edinburgh. Your kind advice
Dear Sir,

London, March 13, 1772.

For John Tebbouple, the other Day, informed me that you and your dear Family were lately all well, which do honour our great Parent.

Being on the Point of embarking for America, I could not have omitted, without taking leave of a friend, whose so much I have to return. I pray God to bless you and yours with every kind of happiness.

If at any time I can on either side the Water render a service to you or any Friend of yours, it will be a Pleasure to me to render your Commands.

May I be at the Liberty of recommending to your endeours, and Pardon, an original young Man, in search of some of the Knowledge you have at Berkeley, who has a great Obedience to him, and I am persuaded will always retain a grateful sense of your kindness.

Send you my Heart's flatteries of him.

Benjamin Franklin.

Franklin has added a postscript: “Our Friend Sir J. Pringle was well last evening.”

In 1773, Benjamin Franklin was serving as an agent for the Pennsylvania Colony in London when he came into possession of letters that further strained the increasingly tenuous relationship between England and her American colonies. Written by Thomas Hutchinson, the English-appointed governor of Massachusetts, these letters called for reductions in liberties allowed to English citizens residing in America. Franklin promptly forwarded these letters to America, where they were published, resulting in a public outcry. Called before the English Foreign Ministry in January 1774, Franklin was severely berated for this act and dismissed as deputy postmaster general for North America.

In spite of this affront, Franklin continued to strive for reconciliation between the English colonists and their mother country. Hoping to avert the passage of the Boston Port Bill, he went so far as to personally guarantee payment for the tea dumped during the Boston Tea Party. Even after the bill passed and Boston’s port was closed, Franklin maintained his conciliatory stance. Subsequently, he began
collaborating with William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, hoping that this treaty might fare better than previous endeavors. When Pitt presented the bill in February 1775, it was vehemently attacked by the ministers and their supporters. Lord Sandwich, one of the most vocal opponents of the bill, turned his attention towards Franklin, who was present, and stated “he fancied he had in his eye the person who drew it up, one of the bitterest and most mischievous enemies this country has ever known.”

This personal attack was the last straw, and Franklin emerged from that session an ardent devotee of colonial independence. He set sail for Philadelphia on March 21, a week after this letter was written and just three weeks before the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, signaling the start of the Revolutionary War. Landing at Philadelphia on May 5, the talk of war and the creation of a new nation was everywhere. The next day Franklin was elected a delegate to the second Continental Congress, and he quickly emerged as one of the most radical members of that body.

Sir Alexander Dick (1703–85), to whom Franklin writes here, was one of Franklin’s warmest friends in Great Britain. A physician, Dick practiced medicine in Edinburgh and was the president of the College of Physicians there from 1756 to 1763. He was also a member of the Philosophical Society of Edinburgh and one of the founders of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Benjamin Duffield (1753–99) was the son of one of Franklin’s friends, a Philadelphia clock- and watchmaker named Edward Duffield. Benjamin Duffield traveled to Edinburgh in 1774 to complete his medical studies, and Franklin had a hand in introducing him to several important persons there. Apparently he ran into some trouble because he sent Franklin a letter from Bordeaux in 1779, apologizing for past transgressions and indicating he had finally managed to scrape together the money to come home to Philadelphia. In the end he did return to Philadelphia, acquiring a large medical practice and becoming an early lecturer in the field of obstetrics.

Franklin’s postscript refers to Royal Society member Sir John Pringle, another Scottish doctor who was a good friend of both men. A wonderful and unpublished letter from this key period in Franklin’s diplomatic career. $37,500.

**A Treasure Trove of Acadian Songs**


Composition book with the manuscript title, “Livre de Chanson Compose par Demerise Cowette,” an entirely handwritten record of old French songs heard while working as a cook in Canadian logging camps early in the 20th century. Demerise Vaillencourt Caouette (1877-1953) worked as a cook in a logging camp around the turn
of the century, where she met Godfrey Kaouet (the last name is spelled in several variations), a widower twice her age. They were married on Sept. 23, 1901 and had seven children, five of whom survived into adulthood. The notebook is remarkable for its scope and completeness, comprised almost entirely of early songs brought over with French settlers to the Acadian region. Since most of the French Acadian settlers were forcibly transported to Louisiana by the English in 1759, this would date the origin of most of the songs to the first half of the 18th century. Recorded are the lyrics for the 109 songs contained herein, with a title index. The form of the manuscript suggests it is a clean copy made from earlier notes.

An absolute trove of 18th-century chansons, prime for research by musicologists. Accompanied by correspondence from a descendant of the compiler. $3000.

Detailed Marching Orders from Gen. Horatio Gates


Orders written and signed by American general Horatio Gates, the victor of Saratoga, commanding Brig. Gen. John Paterson to march his brigade from Danbury to Hartford, where he is to await further orders. Gates provides detailed instructions as to the route Paterson should follow; he also prescribes the route that should be taken if Paterson's further orders send him to Boston. He writes:

As you will not be hurried in your march, the strictest discipline is recommended, sending your commissaries, & quarter masters, forward, to make provisions of fire wood, particularly, to prevent the burning the fences of the inhabitants. Your own experience renders it unnecessary for me to add more.

Horatio Gates (ca. 1727-1806) was a British-born army officer who served with Gen. Braddock during the French and Indian War. He was part of the ill-fated Braddock Expedition (along with George Washington) to capture Fort Duquesne and retake the Ohio Valley in 1755. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Gates offered his services to Washington and was in command of the Northern Department at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777, an important victory for the Continental Army. His signature is scarce. $5750.

42. Grant, Ulysses S.: [AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, FROM ULYSSES S. GRANT TO JUDGE EDWARDS PIERREPONT, REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTER-OCEANIC CANAL]. Galena, Il. Nov. 20, 1879. 3pp. on a folded quarto sheet. Old fold lines, else quite fine. With original envelope addressed by Grant.
Interesting letter written by former president Ulysses S. Grant to Judge Edwards Pierrepont, discussing Grant’s support of a proposed canal through Nicaragua to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Pierrepont served briefly as U.S. Attorney General under Grant, and was subsequently appointed Minister to Britain for a year.

Schemes for a canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans had been under discussion for most of the 19th century. The two main routes proposed ran through Nicaragua or across the Isthmus of Panama. During his presidency Grant had come out in favor of the route through Nicaragua, and after the end of his term there was some discussion that he would head the proposed company that would build the canal. In this letter, however, Grant expresses reluctance to involve himself with the company beyond gaining a concession from the Nicaraguan government. He writes:

You have no doubt seen from the papers that I expect to be in Phila. by the 16th ulto. I will then be able to learn the prospects for inaugurating the work of the inter-oceanic canal with the prospect of completing it at an early day, as early as money and men can complete it. I feel a very deep interest in the work and am ready to give it all the aid I can, but should feel disinclined to have any connection with it further than to obtain a concession from Nicaragua and an act of incorporation from Congress until all the money necessary for the work is subscribed, and insured, by responsible parties...I think among the incorporators should be a number – perhaps as much as a fourth of the whole – from the Pacific states. The people of that section are deeply interested in the work, and no doubt would be large subscribers to it.

In the end, construction of the proposed canal across Nicaragua would not be undertaken. The Panama Canal, its rival project, was finally built in 1904-14. This letter does not appear in the published papers of U.S. Grant. $2750.

The French and Indian War on the Pennsylvania Frontier


Lengthy and detailed letter written by John Harris, Jr., son of the founder of Harrisburg, to Pennsylvania governor Hunter Morris, expressing a need for men, supplies, and reinforcements on the uneasy frontier. Harris (1716-91) was the son of the founder of a trading post on the Susquehanna River at the site of what would later be Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He continued in his father’s footsteps, maintaining the post on the Susquehanna, even through the troubled years of the French and Indian War.
Harris wrote several letters to the Governor, expressing his concerns about the issues that faced the post on the frontier: poor supplies, not enough men, and a constant danger of Indian attack. The present letter eloquently conveys these issues. He writes:

May it please yr Honour, I make no doubt but you daily hear of the miserable state of Cumber[lan]d County lately & by this time greatest part abandoned and upon the approach of a body of the enemy which is daily expected. It will inevitably be ruined without good assistance and that in time, there is not an inhabitant living in their own habitation on ye west side [of the] Susquehanah from Yellow Breeches to the North Mountain but my bro[the]r Wm. Harris who remains as yet. And by late accounts from Carrel, the man taken up Susquehanah lately and made his escape from the enemy, informs that the Indians were verry [sic] inquisitive abt. this place & hunters & its his opinion.

I have here at present but eleven soldiers three of wch. is verry sick and the whole of them ordinary men (or rather boys). They are also almost naked and in general barefooted, having never as yet rec'd any kind of cloathing or cash from the province, discarded out of ye regiment, never mustered by the paymaster and are in despair of ever receiving any pay for their past services, doing duty with reluctance. The serg[can]t and the men requested me to let yr. Honour know their miserable condition, hoping for redress from yr. Honour & some necessarys ordered [for] them such as shirts, shoes, & stockings till they may receive some pay. One of the party left here lately deserted and several of the remainder here says they must follow the same example without a supply of some necessarys. There was application made by the serg[an]t here to the col[one]l, but without any success.

As Susquehanah is at present become of the utmost consequence to this province to keep possession of, I hope yr. Honour will be pleased to take my situation into consideration and order me some more assistance of men wch. if I had and sd. men allowed to assist me in making some little alteration in my fort I hope (with God’s assistance) to keep off a number of the enemy in case of an attack, which we daily expect as there was Indians seen near my barn lately, supposed to be spies. In case of no assistance, I must be under the disagreeable necessity of removing my family at some distance upon the nearer approaches of danger, wch. will be a discouraging thing to the inhabitants here.

$5000.

The Authorization to Build the Hatteras Lighthouse,
Signed by Secretary of State Edmund Randolph

44. [Hatteras Lighthouse]: [Randolph, Edmund]: THIRD CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES...AN ACT TO ERECT A LIGHT-HOUSE ON THE HEAD-LAND OF CAPE HATTERAS; AND A LIGHTED BEACON ON SHELL CASTLE ISLAND IN THE
An important act passed by the Third Congress, authorizing the construction of the lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, one of the most prominent navigation landmarks on the East Coast. Though this act was passed in 1794, construction did not actually begin until 1799, and the lighthouse was not put into use until 1803. “The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse protects one of the most hazardous sections of the Atlantic Coast. Offshore of Cape Hatteras, the Gulf Stream collides with the Virginia Drift, a branch of the Labrador Current from Canada. This current forces southbound ships into a dangerous twelve-mile long sandbar called Diamond Shoals. Hundreds and possibly thousands of shipwrecks in this area have given it the reputation as the ‘Graveyard of the Atlantic’” – National Park Service. “Approved – May the thirteenth 1794” and signed in print by Speaker of the House Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Vice President John Adams, and President George Washington. Variant states of other acts of the Third Congress are known, and this issue is that which also has the printed lines “Deposited among the Rolls in the Office of the Secretary of State” and “Secretary of State,” and signed in manuscript by the second Secretary of State, Edmund Randolph. NAIP locates copies at the Library of Congress, Rhode Island Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society; OCLC locates just three more.

Edmund Randolph became the second Secretary of State on Jan. 2, 1794, succeeding Thomas Jefferson, who resigned at the end of 1793. He continued the practice begun in the First Congress of the Secretary of State signing a small number of “official” copies of Congressional acts for distribution to the States and important government officials. After the Third Congress official acts were no longer signed in manuscript by the Secretary of State.

EVANS 27853. NAIP w028062. OCLC 20447408. $2750.

At Gettysburg and Chancellorsville

45. Hosford, Hoadly George: [ARCHIVE OF CORP. HOADLY HOSFORD OF THE 44th NEW YORK INFANTRY, RECORDING SIGNIFICANT DETAILS OF THE BATTLES AT GETTYSBURG, CHANCELLORSVILLE, AND MORE]. [Various places. 1862-1865]. Approximately 400pp. 12mo. and 20pp. folio, approximately 17,000 words. Accompanied by four photographs and several other relevant documents. Two 12mo. leather diaries. The first in wallet style with some light wear. Very minor foxing and soiling internally. The second diary lacking rear cover; spine and front cover worn with some chipping. Text lightly dampstained. Both highly legible. Folio sheets with old fold lines, minor soiling. Some light wear to other documents. Overall, in very good condition. See cover of this catalogue for illustration.
A significant Civil War archive recording the experiences of Corp. Hoadly Hosford of Company I of the 44th New York Infantry. Hosford (1841-1903), a twenty-two-year-old farmer from Ashland, New York, enlisted in Albany, New York on Sept. 17, 1861. The regiment, part of the Army of the Potomac, was also known as Ellsworth's Regiment, after Elmer Ellsworth, the first officer to die in the Civil War. Hosford was a sharpshooter in the regiment, which wore zouave uniforms. He transferred into the 146th New York Infantry regiment, Company “G” on Oct. 10, 1864, as a second lieutenant and was discharged on July 16, 1865.

Hosford’s daily entries from March 1862 through December 1864 are particularly noteworthy because of the number of engagements in which he fought. He also records almost exclusively military details, including troop movements, activities, and battles. Only occasionally did he not make an entry on a date. His daily diary entries from 1862 are his transcriptions on bifolium sheets from his original 1862 diary, possibly transcribed during the war. These transcriptions consist of twenty pages, the first headed: “Sheet No. 1. / H.G. Hosford / Diary / Commensing / March 9th 1862, when the 44th left Hall’s Hill, Va.” The entries begin March 9 and end on Dec. 17, 1862, recorded as the Union army moved northwest into the Virginia Peninsula to begin the Peninsula Campaign, which lasted from March through July, 1862. Hosford records troops movements, his participation in battles and skirmishes, and being under frequent Confederate artillery fire. In his entry dated April 21, he records the Union army’s use of aeronauts and their tethered observation balloon, which Gen. McClellan used to observe Confederate locations: “Little Mac is watching every movement of the Rebels closely. I suppose they would like to get our balloon.” On May 12 he notes: “most of our fun consists in hearing the darkies tell about the Rebels; they get it off in such a queer way.”

Throughout 1862 his regiment was often near the front. During the Second Battle of Bull Run, Hosford records on Aug. 29 that he was wounded:

We left the Junction this morning, joined our Regt and marched some four miles when we come across the Rebels, formed line of battle, lay under fire of their guns about one hour, when they were silenced by our batteries. Afterwards they took leave. [August 30] We are having some fun with the Rebs this morning on the Bull Run battle ground. Our brigade is in front. The batteries are shelling over us. 4 o’clock. We charged, got badly cut up. I am wounded.

Hosford was sent to a hospital in Philadelphia to recover (his wounds were to his side). Within a month he had returned to his regiment. In early November he laments, as did many other Union soldiers, that Gen. McClellan had been replaced: “We don’t like the removal of Little Mack and we mourn the loss of our leader.”

In the 1863 diary Hosford details his participation in the battles of Chancellorsville (April 30 – May 6) and Gettysburg (July 1-3). At Chancellorsville the Union lost to Gen. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia, mostly because of Lee’s risky decision to divide his army. Hosford’s regiment had to march hard to get to the battle, but once they arrived, they fought gallantly: “We started out at an early hour. Marched about 15 miles, crossed the Rappahannock river about 10
a.m. crossed the Rappahannock in the afternoon and chased the Rebs off at a great rote” (April 29). “We did not march far today. Found the enemy in force to day...” (April 30). “We left our positions about 4 a.m. fell back about 1 mile and built rifle pits, and we now defy the rebels to come and fight us. The fighting has been on the right of the line today and has been very hard. We hope to whip the enemies of our country this time” (May 2). “We were awoke at 3 this morning and went up on the right of the line, formed line of battle and built rifle pits, and we are now prepared to fight the Rebs any time they see fit to attack us. The battle raged for five hours. This forenoon without any cessation we intend to carry out our intentions, to defeat the Rebels” (May 3). “We were busy strengthening our works. There has not been much fighting on the right of the line today. We are now in the vicinity of Chancellorsville, I have been very fortunate since the battle has been going on, we have had 8 wounded in our Regt.” (May 4). “The boys have been very busy cleaning the sacred soil of Va. off their pants and shoes and we expect to be looking good as ever in a day or two. The roads are in very bad condition as we have had a very heavy rain storm” (May 6). After several days of fighting the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Gen. Joseph Hooker, recognized they had been defeated and withdrew back across the Rappahannock River.

Only weeks later Gen. George Meade, who had replaced Gen. Hooker, involved the Army of the Potomac in the Battle of Gettysburg, which is considered the turning point in the war and produced the most casualties of all Civil War battles. Hosford and the 44th Regiment were stationed on the left of the Union line, defending Little Round Top, where they suffered very heavy losses: 112 killed, wounded, and missing. Hosford records the following entries about his participation, beginning on June 29 as his regiment marched toward the quiet Pennsylvania town.

“We were on the march at 7 a.m. Passed through Frederick city about 10 a.m. it is a very fine place. We passed through Mt. Pleasant and Liberty. We encamped for the night near Liberty. We marched 18 miles today. I am very tiard [sic]” (June 29). “We went on the march at 4 a.m. Passed through the following places. Johnstown, Middletown, Uniontown, Fritzburgh, and Union Mills. We are encamped at the last place quite a body of Rebel Cavalry, left this place at 11 a.m. today. We marched 22 miles today and are very tiard” (June 30). “We left Union Mills at 11 a.m. Our Cavalry engaged quite a force of Rebel Cavalry, left this place at 11 a.m. today. We marched 9 miles from Hanover last night. This morning we started for the front. Took our position at 3 p.m. at which there the battle opened. The Rebs advancing. The carnage was dreadful. The battle raged until dark, we held the field. The loss in our Regt is 112 killed and wounded. I did not get injured at all” (July 2). “Our company went on picket last night, the killed & wounded Rebels in front of our Regmt, lay pretty thick, they all fell into our hands. We fought this morning until about 9 a.m. when we were relieved and fell back. We built rifle pits in our front after we fell back. There is not much fighting going on today” (July 3). “We have lain in the pits all day. Not much fighting going on.
We have driven the Rebels at every point and now hold the field, nearly all nearly all their killed and some of their wounded fell into our hands. We think the Rebs have left” (July 4). “Received orders this morning to advance. We went about one mile. Found no Rebels to oppose us. We shortly got orders to march and accordingly started. We marched till about 1 at night when we encamped. It is very muddy and bad marching, I am very tiard” (July 5). For the next three weeks the Union army halfheartedly pursued the fleeing Confederates, at times lining up for battle while the enemy was nowhere near.

In the 1864 diary Hosford records his participation in the Wilderness Campaign, which pitted U.S. Grant against Robert E. Lee in some of the hardest fighting of the war. During that campaign, which lasted through May and June, Hosford noted building many breastworks and participating in hard marches and heavy fighting. “...marched about one mile formed line of battle....The skirmishers opened a brisk fire the Rebs falling back” (May 22). During the thirteen-day battle of Cold Harbor (May 31-June 12), the only battle that Gen. U. S. Grant regretted, Hosford writes: “we...established our line in a pine woods and threw up heavy breast works. The Rebels moved upon us in two lines of battle, we opened fire on them and after an hour or to fighting we fell back with considerable loss. We lost in our Regt. 5 men wounded and 1 killed” (June 1). “... left our earthworks about 4 P.M. fell back against the swamp the Rebels came down on us in a short time after and we had a heavy battle with them which lasted until dark we held our ground....I think the Rebels have lost heavily” (June 2). “We have lain in our trenches all day with out being shelled but an occasional bullet would fly over our heads reminding us that the Rebels were still in our front, very heavy fireing has been going on today” (June 5). Hosford recorded more of his regiment’s movements and skirmishes with the enemy, which continued for the next few weeks. Although the Army of the Potomac suffered severe losses, they were victorious.

On Aug. 17, 1864, Hosford noted that he had “joined the 1st Div. Sharpshooters to day and was appointed Sergt. Major of the Battalion.” The next day was the beginning of the Battle of Globe Tavern: “[our regiment] moved on the Jerusalem Plank road in the direction of the Weldon railroad. Took possession of the road.... At about 3 P.M. we were attacked by a large force of Rebels both parties losing heavily.” On the final day of the battle, Aug. 21, “The Rebels made an attack on the 1st Div 5th Corps of which I am a member and were repulsed with heavy loss in killed wounded and prisoners. About 500 were taken in this engagement with three or four Battle flags. I think we have won quite a victory to day. Our Sharp Shooters were out popping at the Johnnies to day.” On Sept. 30 the young soldier and his regiment “broke camp on the Weldon R.R. at a early hour and moved to the front. Attacked the Rebels about 10 a.m. and drove them from two line of works capturing 1 cannon and several prisoners.”

In addition to the diary material, this archive also includes the three cartes de visites (two featuring Hosford [both post-Civil War] and one featuring the battle-worn 44th New York regiment flag); three tintypes (two 1/9 plate featuring Hosford as a soldier in Union uniform, and one showing an unidentified man); one ambro-
type (1/9 plate) featuring an unidentified woman. Additional documents include a commendation signed by Brig. Gen. Joseph J. Bartlett, commending the “Soldierly conduct and bearing of Sergeant Hosford” dated Dec. 3, 1864; a 44th New York Infantry Regiment document signed by Col. James Rice dated Jan. 5, 1863, promoting Hosford to sergeant; handwritten special orders regarding sharpshooters dated Nov. 2, 1864; Hosford’s discharge document dated Feb. 18, 1864 (he reenlisted the next day); his appointment as a sergeant in the 44th New York Infantry Volunteers Regiment, Company “I” dated Feb. 19, 1864; a letter written by Hosford dated April 22, 1865, applying to Col. Moon of the 118th U.S.C. Infantry for the vacant position of second lieutenant; Hosford’s final discharge papers dated July 16, 1865; Edward Bennett (a fellow soldier) a.l.s. dated June 13, 1886, regarding an article he had written about the 144th’s participation at the Battle of Gettysburg; three post-war pension documents/letters; a letter of commendation; a G.A.R. membership badge (the ribbon exhibits many tears); eleven brass uniform buttons from Hosford’s Union Zouave uniform coat and held together by string; and a Manual Of Arms For The Use Of The Rifled Musket Adopted By The 44th Regiment N.Y.S.V. (1863, 50 pp.) inscribed to Hosford from Lieut. Johnson of the 44th on Dec. 12, 1863. All items are housed together in a small wooden box with a hinged top.

All told, an interesting archive documenting a Union soldier’s activities in several of the most important engagements of the Civil War. $15,000.

**Detailed Manuscript Account of Hudson’s Bay Company Fur Trading in the Wilds of Canada**


Alexander Stewart, the chief Hudson’s Bay Company factor at Fort Chipewyan (present-day Athabasca) writes a detailed and fascinating “account of the Company’s Affairs in this District,” in 1827. The Fort, just north of present-day Edmonton, was the main jumping-off point for trapping expeditions into what is now northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, especially the area around the Great Slave Lake. This was new country for the trappers; Sir John Franklin’s second expedition had explored the country in 1825-27, with the help of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and particularly Peter Dease.

In this letter Stewart describes the situation at the end of 1827, noting that they might have lost important ship-board supplies for trading with Native Canadians:
...had not Mr. C.[hief] t.[rader] Simon McGillivray...by his judicious manage-ment ultimately succeed in getting them here in due time. La Londe the con-ductor of the craft for this District, I look upon as no longer fit for that duty, having no more command of the men than a common steersman...I, with the able assistance of Mr. P(eter) W. Dease, whom I found here waiting with the remainder of the Mackenzie’s River outfit, made various arrange-ments and settlements with the Indians....Both Peace River and Great Slave Lake (in present-day Northwest Territories) outfits with their people left this on the 5th and 6th.

Stewart goes on to mention that he had difficulty distributing goods to the natives, as they came in greater numbers than expected, and describes a disease (“chin-cough,” i.e. whooping-cough) that has affected the families. He further mentions that non-importation of liquor has not been a problem and that:

The natives of Fort Chipewyan and Great Slave Lake have been as obedient as could be expected to our orders not to destroy the Beaver during the summer season....The Beaver Indians being more destitute and more in the habit of making their hunt by the Gun....I have taken the liberty to forward herewith to Mr. C.F. McTavish the requisition for outfit 1828....I mean to send off three boats, which I have no doubt contain all the packs that may be made at this place and Seal River....There are in the district including 4 interpreters 45 men – To take out 3 boats – 21 men / Two loaded canoes – 9 men / Messrs. Smith & Stewarts Canoe – 6 men: 36 men – 9 men left. / Required for summer establishment: Great Slave Lake – 3 men, incl. interpreter / Fort Chipewyan – 3 / Fort Vermilion – 3 / Dunvegon – 3...showing a deficiency of 4....We must recourse to the hiring, if possible, [of] some of our half-breeds or free-men in order to get our returns.

Alexander Stewart had originally worked for the North West Company, rising from apprentice (in 1796) to partner (in 1813). At the time of the merger of the North West Company with the Hudson’s Bay Company he was based at Little Slave Lake. Stewart was appointed one of the chief factors in the newly merged company, initially based at Fort William (1821-23) and Island Lake (1823-26) before taking over at Fort Chipewyan, where he remained until 1830. He took a furlough in 1830-31, but suffered health problems which led to his retirement in 1833. Peter Warren Dease (1788-1863), whose help Stewart praises in the present letter, would become a chief factor in his own right in the following year. Dease had earlier assisted Franklin during his second expedition in 1825-26, and he went on to gain renown as an Arctic explorer in his own right. In 1836-39, with Thomas Simpson, Dease commanded an expedition which explored the Arctic coast from the mouth of the Mackenzie River to Point Barrow.

$6750.
Hunnewell’s Journal of His Voyage from Hawaii to Boston


Manuscript journal of James Hunnewell (1794-1869) during his return trip from Hawaii to Boston in 1830-31 aboard the ship Owhyhee. The journal mostly gives an account of the weather and conditions at sea, as well as the latitude and longitude positions of the ship. A roster of the crew and passengers is written on the last page. A later manuscript sheet is laid into the front of the journal, containing a listing of Hunnewell’s voyages beginning in 1818 up through the trip aboard the Owhyhee, presumably written by his son, James F. Hunnewell. Hunnewell became familiar with the islands when the ship he was on was sold to Hawaiian chiefs. The senior Hunnewell was responsible for collecting the payment in sandalwood and then selling it in China. As a result, he spent several months in the islands and became friendly with the local populace. In 1820 he arrived in Honolulu as second mate on the brig Thaddeus, the ship bearing the first American missionaries as well as the first printing press there. He later developed a significant business in Hawaii which grew into the commercial house later known as C. Brewer & Company. Though he returned to Charlestown, Massachusetts, he spent the rest of his life actively engaged in exporting goods to Hawaii and California. Part of his considerable fortune was given to found Oahu College.

DAB IX, p.381.

Jefferson in Temporary Retirement from Politics in 1795:
“I am become the most industrious farmer in the world...”

An extraordinary letter written by Thomas Jefferson to his close friend, Elizabeth Trist, during his first retirement from public life, the year before his nomination to the presidency, mentioning his withdrawal from reading, writing, and life outside Monticello. Following his return to the United States after serving as minister to France, Jefferson reluctantly agreed to act as President George Washington’s Secretary of State. While in that position he favored stronger relations with France, who at the time was at war with England. This put him squarely into opposition with Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and his Federalist allies, who had convinced the president to take a pro-British stance and were swaying him toward a more centralized government. Accepting Washington’s pro-British stance, Jefferson labored to solve the problem of British relations. After Jay’s Treaty and his own unsuccessful negotiations with Spain, he resigned as Secretary of State in 1794. His failure to attain his objectives as Secretary of State, together with the bitter antagonism of Alexander Hamilton and the need to put his personal affairs and finances in order, convinced him that his retirement to Monticello would be permanent. He devoted the next two years to the resumption of building operations.
on his estate, improving his crops, and settling his financial difficulties. During no other period of his mature adult life did he read so little or write so rarely. In 1796, having restored his health and personal affairs adequately, he returned to public life with the nomination to the presidency.

Here he writes to Elizabeth Trist while enjoying the life of a gentleman farmer:

I received [sic] by our last post but one your favor from Alexandria. Mr. Giles had before informed us you intended a visit to that city this summer and as I flattered myself with the hope of seeing you here also, and knew that Patsy would be a material object in your visit I was only waiting to know when she would return in order to express to you our general wish to see you, and that I would send my phaeton to meet you at Fredericksburg at any time. From thence here is but about 75 miles. The very day I received [sic] your letter announcing our disappointment, I received one from Mr. Randolph letting me know they would be here by the last of the month. We are sincerely concerned that you have but one blessing and have given that to Jacob but hope that a new shoot will grow from the old stock another year & be given to us, but scripture & metaphor apart we should have been happy to see you during this visit to Virginia, and shall be equally to the next. Another part of your letter gave more satisfaction. We had heard that Browne [?] had purchased a poor tract of land with a great house on it in Gloucester but by your letter it seems not so. No circumstances known to me could have rendered this a prudent purchase and I wish he would not fix himself at all till he sees more of our country. Great misconceptions are entertained of what are in truth the most fertile healthy, & pleasant parts of this state. I hope he will advise with some of his friends who know the whole country. Mr. Giles told me he had promised this. I shall be very happy to see him here. I am sure I can be useful to him in counsel on this subject.

We are made happy by Mr. Randolph's almost perfect recovery of his health by the use of the sweet springs. The warm springs had been of no service to him. I am become the most industrious farmer in the world: and never had reformer great obstacles to surmount from the barbarous mode of culture & management which had been carried on. I read but little, take no newspapers, that I may not have the tranquility of my mind disturbed by their falsehoods & follies, and I have it in contemplation next to banish pen, ink, & paper from my farm. When I pay the sheriff my taxes it is his business to furnish the receipt [sic] and I wish to have no necessity for any other paper. The society of my family & friends is becoming more & more the sole object of my delight, and among my best friends I have ever taken the freedom of counting yourself, assuming you in return of the sincerest sentiments of esteem and respect.

Within a few months his retirement ended when he accepted the nomination for president as the candidate for the new Democratic-Republican Party during the 1796 election. He was defeated by John Adams but would serve as his vice president, ultimately achieving the presidency for himself in the election of 1800.

$35,000.
President Thomas Jefferson Swears “on my sacred honor...”


A remarkable letter written by President Thomas Jefferson to Secretary of War Henry Dearborn in which Jefferson swears “on my sacred honour” that he gives no credence to slanderous gossip circulating about Dearborn. Dearborn (1751-1829), a soldier and politician, was appointed by Jefferson to the post of Secretary of War in 1801, a position he held throughout Jefferson's terms in office. He was moderately successful in most of his life's endeavors, excepting his command during the War of 1812, in which he lost Detroit to the British.

Jefferson acknowledges receipt of Dearborn's recent letter regarding the slanders being spread about him by Seth Hunt, who was seeking a government appoint-
A striking letter from Jefferson as president. His use of the phrase “on my sacred honour” has particular meaning, underscoring his unwavering support for Dearborn. It was with their “sacred honour” – together with their lives and fortunes – that Jefferson and the other fifty-five Signers pledged to support the Declaration of Independence.

$60,000.

An Extraordinary Work of Early American Jewish Calligraphy


A beautiful hand-drawn family genealogy created by Isaac Nunes Cardozo, an accomplished 18th-century Jewish-American calligrapher and artist. 18th-century artworks in any medium by American Jews are exceedingly rare. The present work, which was featured in the 1984 exhibition at the Jewish Museum in New York
called “The Jewish Heritage in American Folk Art,” is an exceptional example of Jewish-American art. Of the fourteen items from the 18th century included in that exhibition, only five (including samplers, congregational records, a marriage contract, and the present genealogical manuscript) are demonstrably by a Jewish hand.

Isaac Nunez Cardozo (1751-1832) was born in London and brought to New York by his parents when he was only one year old. Prominent American jurist Benjamin Cardozo was Isaac Cardozo’s great-grandson. As a young man Isaac Cardozo lived in New York and Philadelphia, where in 1782 he contributed to the cost of building a new synagogue for Congregation Mikveh Israel, the second oldest in the country. He married Sarah Hart in 1798 and moved with her to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he endeavored at various trades, including school teaching, tailoring, and the sale of patent medicine. He is best known today, however, for his illuminated works, including the present Family Genealogy, his most ambitious and accomplished effort to survive.

This work falls into the folk art genre of family registers, which were quite popular in late 18th and early 19th centuries New England. This work records the family genealogy of Samuel Beals and Rebekah Wilkerson, who were married July 16,
1778 and had nine children. The names and birth dates of the children are given, stretching from June 16, 1779 (Samuel Beals, Jr.) to Oct. 13, 1795, the birth date of Isaac Nunis Cardozo Beals, named after the artist himself, and indicative of the close nature of the relationship between Beals and Cardozo. Within a rectangle of wreaths is a casket and the information that the family patriarch, Samuel Beals, died Nov. 15, 1795 at age thirty-nine. Sixteen lines of text attest to Beals’ outstanding character, kindness, and generosity. The elder Beals’ death likely prompted the creation of this genealogy. As with another ink on paper work done by Cardozo a few years later, reproducing the Ten Commandments, the present work bears an arch carrying the phrase: “cemented with love.” The illustration bears a wealth of Masonic iconography, some twenty-eight symbols in all, including the all-seeing eye, the beehive, and the compass. The records of the Rising States Masonic Lodge list Samuel Beals as a member in 1794.

Labels on the verso of the frame indicate this manuscript genealogy had in the past been offered by the Old Print Shop and by Kennedy Galleries (both of New York) and that it was included in the Jewish Museum exhibition.

An exceptional and highly appealing 18th-century folk art family genealogy, by an accomplished Jewish-American artist and calligrapher.


Manuscript receipt endorsed by William Samuel Johnson, a signer of the Constitution from Connecticut. The receipt reads:

Fairfield County ss. Superior Court Augt. Term AD 1766. Please to pay Wm. Saml Johnson Esq & Things, Attorney, Twenty one pounds seventeen shillings and 9d, being a bill of cost allowed on an information against Henry Tomet & Saml. Cheree two Indians for high crimes, exclusive of the Clerk’s fees which was ten shillings more. By order of Court.

Johnson has signed it on the verso, indicating receipt of funds. William Samuel Johnson (1727-1819) was a Revolutionary patriot and signer of the Constitution. As a member of the Federal Convention, Johnson was one of the most generally respected members, and in this role was one of the two signers from Connecticut. During 1766 to 1771 he was Agent and King’s Attorney for the colony of Connecticut. This receipt is also signed by Hezekiah Fitch. Possibly related to the French and Indian War, but interesting in any case for its relation to colonial Indian matters. $950.

Printed decree, signed by President Benito Juarez, acknowledging the service of Captain Victor Aponte during the struggle with the Emperor Maximilian. This proclamation, headed by a large vignette of the Mexican national symbol of the eagle with a snake in its beak, was issued two months after the execution of Emperor Maximilian I and the restoration of the republican government. It is signed by three additional officials on the verso. In translation it reads:

In the name of the Republic, and as just tribute to the merit and valor of citizen Victor Aponte, who in the rank of infantry captain, fought against the French army and its allies...for having saved national independence, fighting against the foreign intervention, has earned the decoration of First Class created by the decree.

$1500.

53. Lacey, John, Jr.: [ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT JOURNAL DESCRIBING JOHN LACEY, JR.'S 1773 EXPEDITION TO THE DELAWARE INDIANS, AND THE 1776 CANADIAN CAMPAIGN]. [Pennsylvania. ca. 1777]. Two manuscript journals. [36],[78]pp., approximately 15,000 words in total. Written on laid paper with a large and unusual watermark depicting a Native American holding a staff. Written in a 12mo. notebook of contemporary plain paper wrappers entitled “Journals” in manuscript on front wrapper and “John Lacey’s Journal” in manuscript on first leaf. Front wrapper and first gathering of text neatly detached, several leaves loosening. Text toned. Several instances of cross-outs and corrections in the text. Occasional staining, one leaf torn in bottom edge affecting a few words, but in very nice original condition. In a half morocco box.

A remarkable American Revolutionary manuscript describing John Lacey, Jr.’s participation in the 1776 Canadian Campaign, in which he served under Anthony Wayne and clashed many times with that famous figure. Especially noteworthy are Lacey’s descriptions of the poor physical condition of the soldiers of the Continental Army during their retreat from Canada, the illness and death that ran rampant through the camps, and the deplorable state of their supplies and provisions. Lacey’s Revolutionary War journal is preceded by his description of his 1773 Quaker missionary expedition to the Delaware Indians and his interactions with the Indians.
in the Ohio country, including the important Chief Logan. The two manuscript accounts are contained in a contemporary notebook and appear to have been written shortly after the Lacey’s 1776 resignation from the Continental Army but before he rejoined the army in 1777. Lacey very well may have wanted to record his 1776 experiences and his clashes with Anthony Wayne, while the events were still fresh in his mind. A version of Lacey’s memoirs were published in 1901, but the published account differs in several respects from the present manuscript.

John Lacey, Jr. (1755-1814) was from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. While still a teenager, in 1773 he accompanied his uncle, a Quaker minister, on a missionary visit to the Delaware Indians (see below). Despite his Quaker pacifist religious beliefs, he became captain of a company of Pennsylvania Associators in August 1775. In January 1776 he was commissioned a captain in the Continental Army as an officer in the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion under Col. Anthony Wayne. He served under Wayne in the ill-fated Canadian Campaign, engaging in a bitter feud with Wayne until resigning in November 1776. In March 1777, Lacey accepted the office of sub-lieutenant for Bucks County with the rank of lieutenant colonel, taking command of the 4th Battalion of Bucks County militia in May 1777. On Jan. 9, 1778, Lacey was appointed a brigadier general in command of the Pennsylvania militia, temporarily replacing Brig. Gen. James Potter. Potter returned to his command in 1778, displacing Lacey, but Lacey continued in service as a brigadier general of Pennsylvania militia at least until October 1781. Note that in the following excerpts from Lacey’s journal, spelling errors in the original have been corrected.

The first section here describes Lacey’s remarkable 1773 journey to Ohio to accompany his elderly uncle, Quaker preacher Zebulon Heston (1702-76), on a
missionary visit to the Delaware Indians. The journey of some two months began on July 7, 1773, and Lacey provides detailed information on their route, where they stayed along the way, and whom they encountered. After nine days they crossed the Allegheny Mountains, and on July 19 they arrived at Pittsburgh, where they met with the Delaware Chief, Captain White Eyes. “We had a conference with one Captain White Eyes a Delaware Chief who had been lately at Philadelphia. He expressed great satisfaction at our arrival and said he would go with us, but wanted to stay a few days to see Joseph Simons from Lancaster who was going to bring his goods from thence.” White Eyes, however, had to remain in Pittsburgh longer than Heston and Lacey wanted, so they decided to meet up with Indian trader John Gibson and to have him guide them onward.

[Gibson] informed us that John Logan a Mingo Indian was lying opposite his house with an intention to kill him, as he had been creditably informed by a Shananey Indian and that a Delaware had given him the same information and had also come with him. He then got Kiasuta a Mingo Chief and Captain White Eyes together who agreed to go and see what was the matter with Logan and to pacify him and White Eyes informed Gibson in Indian he would attend us all the way to New comers town for he apprehended the behavior of Logan would make us afraid as he should be were he in our places.

Logan was one of the most prominent Indian leaders of the Ohio Valley, and it appears that he blamed Gibson for giving the Indians alcohol, which resulted in the drowning death of a member of the tribe. Lacey records: “about eleven o’clock Logan, Kiasuta, Gerty and several Indians came over to Gibson's. Logan & Gibson soon began to talk very loud. Kiasuta and all the others stood round them with their tomahawks in their hands and tho Logan at times appeared in a great passion their difference was soon made up.” The next morning they again encountered Logan who, now apparently more sober, “expressed great sorrow for what he had said yesterday and bid us go forward.” Two days later they came to a Moravian Indian town on the Muskingum River where they met with the local chief, Kilbuck (i.e. Lenape/Delaware Chief Gelelemend), and were welcomed:

On the twenty-fifth our guides met us a little out of town in order to conduct us to the King. When we came before the King he received us with great kindness and declared he received us with love and friendship as great as our forefathers and theirs received one another and after giving us the welcome we were conducted to a house they had prepared for us where we were again welcomed....The twenty-sixth we breakfast with one John Freeman a trader and about ten o’clock Captain Kilbuck came and ordered the women to get us some victuals. In about two hours they brought us some hominy boiled in bears grease, boiled squashes, some milk and an Indian cake baked in the ashes. We were visited by the King, Thomas Mekec, the King’s brother White Eyes, Kilbuck and Gibson with whom we had some conversation but not very material.
While in the Indian village Lacey heard stories of fur trappers being attacked by Mingo Indians, but his reception is described as very warm and accommodating, and they held Quaker meetings with the tribal leaders:

On the twenty-eighth we had a middling large meeting. There were Zebulon Heston, John Parish, myself, Friends, Netowelemon King, Thomas Mekee, Kilbuck, White Eyes, Indians Chiefs, Samuel Moor interpreter Abraham Smalley and other Indians. John Parish read our certificates from the respective monthly meetings, also an epistle from the Meeting of Friends at Philadelphia which being interpreted to the Indians by the said Moor they expressed their satisfaction and said 'Kakeluh,' that is in English, very well. After which a meeting for divine worship was held in which the Indians behaved remarkably sober and attentive. When the meeting for worship was over Captain Kilbuck said if Friends would withdraw they would hold a Council & consider what answer to make, for Friends to take home with them on which we withdrew and went to our House.

The reply of the Indians was quite favorable and indicated their willingness to accept the Quaker faith. Lacey records:

Captain White Eyes rose up and after receiving from the King a belt spoke thereon as follows. “We are glad and rejoice in our thanks to see our Brothers the Quakers, standing & speaking before us, and that what you have said we believe to be right, and we heartily join in with it. Since our Saviour came a light into the world there has been a great stir among the people about religion, some are for one way & some for another. We have had offers of religion many times, but would not except of it, til we had seen our Brothers the Quakers, and hear what they would say to us. And now you have come and opened the road, and we have heard what you have said, and we have felt the grace that was in your hearts conveyed to us. We think that as we two Brothers the Quakers & Delawares were brought up together as the Children of one man, and that it is our Saviours will we should be of one religion. Now you have come and opened the road, we expect to see the way from town to town, quite over to the great King over the water. Then our King will know that the Quakers and Delawares are as one man and make one religion. We are poor & weak and not able to judge for our selves, and when we think of our Children it makes us sorry; we hope you will instruct us in the right way, both in things of this life as well as the world to come. Now what we have said we hope to be strengthened to abide by.” Then delivered the belt to Zebulon Heston.

Lacey and Heston met with the Delaware over the next few days and in early August began their journey back to eastern Pennsylvania. He describes the trip, the Quaker meetings they attended over its course, and the country they crossed, writing, for example: “The uplands on the west side of the Ohio is not equal to the uplands on the East side, but the bottoms and on the sides of Creeks & Rivers almost surpasses belief for richness, some places on the hills abounds with freestone
of the best quality.” A couple days later, on Aug. 14: “we crossed the Monongahela and came to Braddock’s Field of Battle which we viewed, saw but very few human bones.” Lacey reached York, Pennsylvania on Sept. 9, left for Philadelphia the next day, “and on the 14 got home.”

The next two-thirds of the manuscript journal gives a long and detailed account of Lacey’s first service in the Revolutionary War, beginning with his commission in early 1776 and his subsequent expulsion from the Quakers as a result of his taking up arms. He was first voted a captain of a local Bucks County volunteer militia which disbanded upon pressure from the Quakers. In January 1776 he was commissioned captain of the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment in the newly formed Continental Army, commanded by Anthony Wayne, with whom Lacey would have a complicated and tempestuous relationship, which is well described in this journal. In fact, early in this memoir Lacey writes that his assignment to Wayne’s battalion had been “unhappily forced,” and that despite his attempts to find another command, “all my endeavors proved ineffectual,” after which Lacey writes (and then crosses out): “by some sinister views of Col. Wayne.”

Lacey would first come into conflict with Wayne over the payment of several citizens in Pennsylvania who had been underpaid by Wayne for the regiment’s housing while en route to meet the army in New York. Lacey discovered Wayne put the blame for the dispute on Lacey himself, which sorely disappointed him: “this gave me great pain as I then plainly saw the manner the Colonel had imposed upon me, without being able to help myself, and that I had nothing favourable to expect from him whom I had placed my whole dependence upon.” Lacey would return to Pennsylvania to settle the dispute, but upon his return found Wayne had sent his company to Albany in support of the Canadian invasion. Early on Lacey writes of the difficulty of enforcing order among the young and unruly troops under his command:

Twenty-eighth [March, 1776] arrived at New York almost wearied to death in keeping my company in order. I find that an officer who has young recruits to command might to act with prudence, and to be endowed with great fortitude. It was through difficulty I got them better regulated here, than it was possible to have them at Darby [Pennsylvania].

Lacey writes that he has heard reports that many of the men in his company are deserting, unhappy that they had been ordered to Canada without him. They had enlisted in order to serve with him, and he being absent “had deserted because I was not with them....In those circumstances how must a man feel, who has made it his only study to raise, discipline, and equip a company of men; and after all have them torn to pieces by the humours of others, such is my unhappy case.” Eventually he appealed to his superiors, and Gen. Nathanael Greene reviewed his case and ordered him to rejoin his company rather than wait for their return, as Wayne would have preferred.

Arriving in Albany in late April, Lacey found that company had already departed for Lake George, and he continued on in hopes of joining them. He describes the
country around Lake George, through which he travelled: “they say in this lake is 365 islands representing the days of the year; the water is clear and wholesome. It is surrounded on all sides with horrid mountains. We arrived at the carrying place between Lake George & Lake Champlain in the dusk of the evening, where we stayed all night.” Lacey finally joined his troops on April 30 near Crown Point. Shortly thereafter he received a reprimand from Wayne for disobeying his orders to remain near New York City. Lacey records the text of Wayne’s message in this volume and notes:

here is a fresh proof, that Colo. Wayne was determined to do me all the ill he could; never have I yet rec’d. one favour from him but to the contrary, he has made it, by all appearances, his study to cross, perplex & disappoint me in almost every way, and this is a glaring instance after all the toil I had undergone to overtake a company I had spent so much care upon, for him arbitrarily to force them by his order, before my eyes, under the command of a fawning favourite, and a younger Captain, who had already drove eight or ten brave soldiers from the company; and had never added the value of three farthings to it. This is too much for mortals to bear.

A few lines later Lacey writes even more harshly of Wayne, words which he subsequently crossed out in the text.

Also described is Lacey’s assignment to deliver messages to Benedict Arnold at Montreal, as he was ordered to do so by Gen. John Sullivan. He briefly describes the arduous journey to Montreal and records that on June 6 he:

...dined with General Arnold in Montreal and about four o’clock this afternoon with five men whom General Arnold had ordered to go with me, set off with express from him to General Sullivan. At the Sorrell, we got in a large canoe, on which we hoisted a blanket for a sail had a fair and easy wind til we came opposite Lapararee when the wind raising to such a degree that we had to steer for shore as fast as we could, which with difficulty we made, but had hardly time to get clear of the canoe before she sunk. We found a battau laying on the shore which we landed [?] and with great difficulty got her under way; the waves running like little mountains. Had it not been for the urgency of the Express I would never of trusted myself amongst them, in such a leaky and tottering vessel. Proceeded all this night down the Saint Lawrence which has but very little current, and contains a great many islands.

Lacey goes on to describe some of the military skirmishes of the summer of 1776, the defeats suffered by the American troops, their retreat from the advancing British, and the actions of their commanders. By mid-June they had retreated to Ile aux Noix near Lake Champlain, and Lacey writes on the 19th: “this day the whole army arrived on this island. Eleven of our soldiers died this day, and two officers; had for their coffins only dirty blankets.”

Two days later, as the army began to depart Ile aux Noix, Lacey writes:
our men die here very fast every day. The whole army is infected with the smallpox, fluxes, fevers, and almost eat up with lice. On this island is a shocking scene, such as my eyes never til now beheld; and I pray may never again. Poor mortals laying on the ground covered with the smallpox, lice and maggots by thousands creeping over them, some a blanket to lay on, some none....Almost all the doctors out of medicines so, that little relief is to be expected for them, from that quarter. We were this day alarmed by the fire of some guns at a Canadian's house opposite the lower end of this island toward St. John's: where a party of the sixth Pens. Batt. officers was drinking some spruce beer, with the inhabitant were surprised by a party of Indians, who had been lurking in the woods, they took six of them prisoners, left four killed whom they had inhumanely scalped and barbarously tomahawked. Two only made their escape.

In mid-July 1776, Lacey was ordered to lead some 150 men to Fort Ticonderoga, where many units of the Continental Army were gathering. He describes the scene:

On the 15th returned with the 6th Regiment to Ticonderoga. The New Jersey, New York, and New England troops encamped on the east side, and high point of land opposite the old fort of Ticonderoga, which they called Rattlesnake Hill, on account of the great number of that venomous serpent found there, on clearing the ground where they began to fortify and where they had pitched their tents. On the troops first taking possession, it was covered with thick underwood and timber growing on it. The Pennsyl. troops, composed of the first, second, fourth & sixth regiments, lay on a level piece of ground, on the back or north of the Fort, and large house, where Gen. Gates had his headquarters.

Lacey goes on to relate the work undertaken to refortify Ticonderoga, as breast-works that had been last utilized during the French and Indian War were rebuilt, and he describes the daily drills undertaken by the troops in preparation for an anticipated British attack.

He also gives an account of the sorry state of supplies and food for the army:

The meal of flour was hardly ground – it was what at my father’s mill in Bucks County we called chopped....The pork had chiefly been taken from the neighborhood of Albany. The barrels in which it was packed became leaky by handling, had long lost the pickle and such of the pork that did not stink was so rusty it could not be eaten. The way it was cooked as I saw it, and had it done for my own eating – was, first to fry it in an iron pan, or vessel, so as to get all the fat or grease out of the meat, then throw it away, making the meal into a kind of batter, pouring it into the grease, after holding it over the fire a short time we had a very rich and eatable cake which served both for meat and bread. We had chocolate, tea, & some coffee, we sweetened with maple sugar. This would have done very well if we could but procure enough of it, for we seldom drew more than half the ration, and often times not a third. As to fresh meat, I don’t recollect seeing any.
Interestingly, Lacey also records the reception of the recent news of the Continental Congress’ Declaration of Independence: “Col. Johnston brought with him the Declaration of Congress of the Independence of America. It made a little buzz, but was soon forgotten. No particular notice was taken of it.” By mid-July, Lacey’s frustrations with Wayne’s seemingly capricious decisions had led him to decide to resign his commission, only to be rebuffed by other commanders. The text concludes with further descriptions of the poor relations between Lacey and Wayne, particularly with Lacey’s recounting of his detainment by Wayne after comments about Wayne were overheard while several men drank in Lacey’s tent. Lacey closed the 1776 campaign at Fort Ticonderoga and was sent back to Pennsylvania by Wayne in order to recruit more soldiers into the 4th Pennsylvania. He ultimately used this as an opportunity to resign his commission. He would fight as a volunteer in the Battle of Germantown before re-enlisting and being commissioned brigadier general in January 1778, where he was instrumental in the protection of Washington’s depleted troops at Valley Forge.

A remarkably rich narrative by a major Revolutionary War figure, describing his pre-war Quaker mission to the Delaware Indians, his thrilling experiences taking part in the Canadian Campaign of 1776, and his very contentious relationship with Anthony Wayne.


Richard Henry Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, writes to a nephew or other young relative (“my dear Carter”) offering advice. He writes from the Bahamas, where he has been recovering his health, although he is hopeful of embarking for home by way of South Carolina or Georgia within a few days. He offers Carter career advice very much modeled on his own life:

I find your mind is charmed with eloquence & I infer that the bar is the theatre selected for its display. The rank of man as established by the concurring judgement of ages stands thus – Heros, Legislators, orators, & poets. The most useful & in my opinion the most honorable is “Legislator” which is far from being incompatible with the profession of law is congenial to it. Generally, mankind most admire the Hero, of all the most useless only when the safety of a nation demands his saving arm.

The letter then takes a long tangent on the topic of classical generals, including Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Hannibal, whom Lee considers “the first soldier of the three” because more than the others, he “had a justifiable cause of war.” Lee then develops at length his thesis that “the constant exercise of the mind struggling to maintain freedom & independence of the state brings forth that superb
display of genius which seizes in a little time the highest rank in literature & the arts.” He believes this to have been the case in ancient Greece and Rome, as well as more recently in France and England, citing as proof the appearance of William Harvey, Robert Boyle, Sir Isaac Newton, John Milton, Samuel Johnson, and John Dryden. Nor is the United States exempt: “Even our own country never exhibited such a display of genius before or since as she did during her eight years war.”

In concluding, Lee asserts:

It may therefore be considered as a truth demonstrated by the history of man that continued & arduous excitement of the mind especially in regaining lost, or in defending menaced rights, places man in that train of mind and body which brings forth the greatest display of genius, particularly after the storm has subsided, & the mind reposing with security in the sweets of tranquility, meditates without fear.

Richard Henry Lee (1732-94) was a Virginia statesman and leading figure in the American Revolution. He was a persuasive orator, and during the Second Continental Congress famously moved that Congress should declare the colonies to be “free and independent states.” He signed the Articles of Confederation and the Declaration of Independence. He later had strong Anti-Federalist leanings.

A Remarkable Collection of Robert E. Lee Letters
About His Family Slaves: “…I cannot recommend them for honesty.”


A very interesting group of letters from Robert E. Lee, written in the years just before the outbreak of the Civil War, as he is seeking employment for six slaves from his recently deceased father-in-law’s estate. The issue of Robert E. Lee’s views on slavery and his treatment of slaves have been debated since the end of the Civil War. These letters, all in Lee’s hand, show the burdens that his inherited slaves put on him and the time and attention they took from his military career, as well as divulging some of his views on the character of the slaves.

Lee’s father-in-law, George Washington Parke Custis (the step-grandson and adopted son of George Washington) died in October 1857, leaving a large estate to the Lee family. Robert E. Lee was named the executor of the estate, which was extensive and in financial disarray. It included Arlington Plantation (some 1,100 acres), White House Plantation in New Kent County, and nearly 200 slaves. Custis’
will called on his slaves to be freed once the debts from his estate were cleared, but no later than five years after his death. Lee, then a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, had to take leave from his post in Texas in order to settle the estate, a task which took several years. The duty was a heavy burden on Lee. The plantations were barely functioning and heavily mortgaged, there was no cash to pay Custis’ daughters their promised inheritances, and most of the slaves were unwilling to continue to work the farm to pay off family debts when freedom was a few years away. These three letters, all of which are written from Lee to William Overton Winston (1816-62), clerk of Hanover Circuit Court, show him busily engaged in the work of the estate, and specifically employed in the disposition of six slaves (three men and three women). Lee hopes to hire the slaves out, thus recouping some funds to use toward the Custis estate. The first two letters are both docketed: “Custis executor.”

The first letter is dated July 8, 1858 and at Alexandria. Lee writes Winston:

I have made arrangements to send down the three men on Monday next, 12 inst. They will reach Richmond about 2 p.m. I am told, & the man who is to carry them, is now undetermined whether he will go by the mail boat via Fredericksburg or by Gordonsville. Of this you will be advised. He will have orders to deliver them to you at Richmond, or in the event of not meeting you, to lodge them in the jail in that city subject to your order. Please inform me by return of mail whether any other day or arrangement, will be more convenient to you. I may wish to send at the same time three women – one about 35 years old, one 22, & the other 17. They have been accustomed to house work, the eldest a good washer & ironer. But I cannot recommend them for honesty. I wish you to hire them out, in the same manner as the men, for one or more years, to responsible persons, for what they will bring. Should you not be able to hire any or all these people, you may dispose of them to the end of the year to the best advantage, on some farm, or set them to work at the White House [Plantation] as you may judge best. Should there be an agent in Richmond to whom you could turn them over, you are at liberty to do so, with specific instructions as to their disposition & security – according to your suggestion.

Two days later, again from Alexandria, Lee writes Winston that he will go ahead and send the three male slaves shortly:

In the absence therefore of hearing from you I will send the three men referred to in my letter to Richmond on the morn. of the 12th inst. via the Alex. & Gordonsville R.R. which will reach Richmond I am told about 2½ p.m. The hour the train leaves here will be 7¼ a.m. & you will know the hour it will reach Hanover Ct. House. The men will be in charge of Richard Williams P.O. for Alex. Co. Please make arrangements for their disposition.

The third letter is written from San Antonio, Texas, where Lee was engaged in fighting Indians, and is dated some eighteen months after the first two communications, in the spring of 1860. He apologizes for his inability to communicate with Winston before leaving Virginia:
I had not time before leaving home to apprize you of my intended departure. I had hoped to have rec’d. your accounts for the year 1859 & to have placed them in the hands of the Commissioner; but was obliged to come off suddenly.... If you have not already sent them to Arlington, will you do so at your earliest convenience, that they may be presented within the period prescribed by law. I made arrangements before leaving for their proper presentation....Please also write to me at this place of the manner in which you have arranged matters, & of everything interesting & important to me know [sic]...I must therefore at this distance thank you for all the trouble you have taken for me & my affairs & hope you will give such advice to my son Fitzhugh as he may require & you find necessary. I hope to hear from you before being obliged to take the field, but letters addressed to ‘San Antonio, Texas’ will always reach me.

An interesting group of letters, informative with regard to Robert E. Lee’s labors in dealing with the slaves he inherited from his father-in-law, and revelatory with regard to his views of the slaves themselves. $37,500.

Commission Signed by Lincoln and Stanton

56. Lincoln, Abraham: [PRINTED BROADSIDE, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, APPOINTING ARTHUR B. CARPENTER TO THE RANK OF FIRST LIEUTENANT]. Washington.
Attractive engraved broadside, completed in manuscript and signed by President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, appointing Arthur B. Carpenter to the rank of first lieutenant in the Nineteenth Regiment of Infantry in the Union Army. Carpenter survived the Civil War and was promoted to captain, serving with Philip Sheridan in the Indian wars on the western frontier. With the embossed seal of the War Department and contemporary docketing near the top. Very nice and framed for display.

Books of a Pennsylvania Railroad


Deed book containing fair copies of documents connected with the Little Schuylkill Railroad, comprised of over 200 pages of handwritten entries of deeds, patents, letters of attorney, mortgages, deed polls, and declarations of trust, dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Founded by Friedrich List and Isaac Hiester in 1826 to build canals in order to link coal fields, the Little Schuylkill N.R.R. & C. Company expanded its operations in 1831 by opening a twenty-mile railroad connecting Tamaqua and Port Clinton in eastern Pennsylvania. In the 1860s the company was purchased by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

This deed book of the very early railroad company is comprised of two parts. Part one contains an index of both grantors and grantees, plus nearly 160 pages of land records, some involving important
Pennsylvanians, such as Benjamin Franklin (as president of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, originally dated August 1786); Pennsylvania governor Thomas Mifflin (as the first governor, originally dated 1794); Charles Albrecht, "musical Instrument maker"; Thomas McKean (a signer of the Declaration of Independence as the second governor of Pennsylvania, originally dated 1800); and Thomas Biddle (hero of the War of 1812 and brother of Second Bank of the United States President Nicholas Biddle). An entry on page 47, originally dated 1786, contains land payment in Spanish silver milled dollars: “John Rheiner...standeth bound unto the said George William Steinhauer in the sum of Two thousand six hundred and sixty six Spanish Silver milled Dollars...each Dollar weighing at least seventeen penny weights and six grains of fine Silver.” Part two, nearly fifty pages in length, comprises a “Schedule of Land papers in the Office of the Little Schuylkill Navigation Rail Road and Coal Company. January 17th, 1834.”

The American Minister in France Describes His Impressions, 1802


A very interesting letter from Robert Livingston, United States Minister to France, to his sister in America, describing the workings of the French legislature’s “Corps Legislatif,” the architecture of the Saint Sulpice cathedral, and giving his impressions of Parisian life. Livingston’s most notable achievement while in France was his negotiation, with James Monroe, of the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803. However, he had a long career in American politics, serving in the Continental Congress, being assigned to the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence, and helping to write the constitution of New York in 1777. Livingston was a man of keen intellect, and his observations of political structures and machinations are insightful. In this letter Livingston offers valuable descriptions and impressions of French politics and society, and also gives an excellent description of the magnificent Roman Catholic cathedral, Saint Sulpice.

Robert Livingston (1746-1813) was born in New York City, attended King’s College, and as a young man practiced law with John Jay. He had a long career in politics and diplomacy, beginning with his appointment as recorder of New York City in 1773. A member of the Second Continental Congress, Livingston was assigned to the committee appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence,
though it does not appear that he played a significant role in the process, and he was not on hand in Philadelphia to sign the document. From 1777 to 1801 he was the first Chancellor of New York, the highest judicial position in the state, which entitled him to administer the oath of office to George Washington when he assumed the presidency in 1789. In 1777 he also served on the convention that wrote the constitution of the state of New York. Politically, Livingston would eventually align himself with the Jeffersonian Republicans, which estranged him from many of the leaders of his region, including Alexander Hamilton and John Jay. From 1781 to 1783 he was the United States’ Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the chief diplomatic position under the Articles of Confederation. In 1801, Livingston became American Minister to France, and it was in this role that he and James Monroe negotiated the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, signed April 30, 1803. Late in life he was involved with Robert Fulton in developing steamboats as a means of transportation.

A large part of this letter is taken up by a description of the lower chamber of the French legislature, the so-called “Corps Legislatif.” Livingston’s description is valuable for giving an account of the functioning of this body some two years before Napoleon stripped it of much of its power. He writes:

I set out with my sons upon a visit to the Corps Legislatif to whose sittings you are admitted by tickets. The constitution having directed that there shall not be more than two hundred spectators – this regulation originated in the influence that the galleries formerly had, in the deliberations of the Legislature. It was usual for the violent party to have a mob occupy the tribunes as they were called, who cryed [sic] down their opponents, indeed interfered so much, as in a great measure as to govern the debates & resolutions. The new constitution not only guards against this evil but by condemning the Legislature themselves to silence, they take care that one member shall not influence another – all they can say is yes, or no, every law being proposed by the government, debated by the Tribunate, & if they & the government disagree, they each appoint orators. These are pitted against each other in the Corps Legislatif, who determine ultimately on what is offered without debate; you may easily believe that a set
of French politicians condemned to lose the use of their tongues cannot feel very easy in their seats.

After discussing the procedures of the legislature, Livingston moves on to a detailed description of the legislative chamber itself, and of the manners and dress of the members of the body:

The house they sit in was a palace of the prince of Conde, very large and elegant, it has one front upon the Seine, another upon the place de Vindoms at the distance of about 700 feet. The room the Legislature occupies is a semi-circle, the seats rising in regular gradation one above the other, with a very elevated seat for the president, in front of whom is the altar of Liberty & Law & one each side, statues of the greatest statesmen & orators, apparently speaking from their nitches [sic]. The floor is tipulated marbled & the wall so exact an imitation of it as not to be distinguished but by a connoisseur. Above & at the extremity of the circle are the boxes for the spectators. The roof supported by Ionic columns of the same materials of very singular beauty, the light is only admitted from above, & as the sky light is covered with a gauze shade painted in clouds, the whole together with the dead silence that prevails in the house, has a very solemn effect, which however is some what relieved by the dress of the members, which you will find very singular for grave senators; those who are officers civil or military wear their own costumes which is always very rich, in gold, silver & embroidery. The others wear a light brown coat, short boots & overalls, a scarlet silk sash, a round hat turned up before with a national red & white cockade & large blue feather. Everything here even the Legislature themselves having something a la militaire.

Livingston continues his letter with a long and detailed description of the Roman Catholic cathedral of Saint Sulpice, describing its relatively modern architecture and its ornate interior decoration. He goes on to lament that much fine public architecture has been destroyed during the course of the French Revolution: “It is much to be lamented that the barbarians of the revolution have destroyed all the monuments of art that ornamented the different chappels [sic] & tombs of the nobility within this & every other church in France.” Livingston concludes by alluding to the licentious habits of the French:

It is certain that the Roman Catholic religion was wonderfully calculated to catch the senses & would I think with the aid of confessions have had a powerful effect in preserving the morals of the lower classes of society had it not too often degenerated into a mimicry that leads to licentiousness. While I am now writing it being Sunday (in carnival) the public gardens are crowded with men and women masked in masquerade dresses. You may easily see the licentiousness this leads to.

A fine letter from Livingston a year before he negotiated the Louisiana Purchase. 

DAB XI, pp.320-25 ANB 13, pp.774-76. $3750.
Letter from John Marshall About the Slave Trade

59. Marshall, John: [MANUSCRIPT LETTER, SIGNED BY JOHN MARSHALL AS SECRETARY OF STATE, TO TURRELL TUFTS, THE AMERICAN CONSUL IN SURINAM, IN WHICH MARSHALL DISCUSSES THE SOUTH AMERICAN SLAVE TRADE].


A month before his nomination as Chief Justice, Secretary of State John Marshall writes to Turrell Tufts, the American consul at Surinam, cautioning his diplomatic efforts and commenting on the slave trade in South America. Like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, Marshall owned slaves. In Marshall’s native state of Virginia, slaves had become an integral part of the agricultural-based economy. Marshall, however, detested slavery and publicly declared it an evil, calling for a gradual emancipation. Yet the South, despite growing moral objections, became more and more dependent on slavery, and as this letter illustrates, afforded the opportunity for American slave traders to travel to South America in order to purchase slaves from the large coffee and sugar plantations. He writes:

I have received your letter, dated October last, and several others, evincing your zeal and alertness in the service of your country. I should have before acknowledged your attention, but for the belief, founded on your communications, that you would soon leave the Colony. It is highly to be regretted, that the unsettled state of affairs at Surinam, and the disingenuous conduct of some of the persons in authority, should have given you so many occasions of complaint and disgust. In such a situation, whilst with a becoming spirit of firmness and perseverance, you endeavour to repel the wrongs of your Countrymen, you never lose sight of that respectful manner in your addresses

Department of War.
Washington 5th June 1800.

[Letter content]

I have received your letter, dated October last, and several others, evincing your zeal and alertness in the service of your country. I should have before acknowledged your attention, but for the belief, founded on your communications, that you would soon leave the Colony. It is highly to be regretted, that the unsettled state of affairs at Surinam, and the disingenuous conduct of some of the persons in authority, should have given you so many occasions of complaint and disgust. In such a situation, whilst with a becoming spirit of firmness and perseverance, you endeavour to repel the wrongs of your Countrymen, you never lose sight of that respectful manner in your addresses
to the Officers of the Government, where you reside from the force of your representations. I do not mean this hint as an admonition, but only as a caution, suggested by the state of the correspondence between you and them. Every thing beyond temperate remonstrance must be left for arrangement between the two governments.

Any instructions applicable to the state of things at Surinam more than the above intimation and your standing instructions are rendered unnecessary, by the manner in which you have executed your office. I will only for the present ask your vigilant attention to detect any of our Citizens engaging directly or indirectly in the slave trade. In every such case, you will make it a duty to transmit to this Department an exact account of every fact in relation to that subject, which may come to your knowledge, to the end that the laws may be enforced against offenders.

Turrell Tufts was appointed by President John Adams to the Consulate at Surinam in 1799, and it would seem that it may have been a difficult fit for Tufts, a Medford, Massachusetts native. It is a post that he nevertheless held until 1820, when he returned to his native home to live his life out in gentlemanly fashion. John Marshall served as Secretary of State for a mere eight months before being appointed to the Supreme Court, also by President John Adams.

An interesting and insightful letter, highlighting the difficulties in dealing with eager junior officers in the diplomatic corps and Marshall’s own desire to keep the slave trade from America’s shore. $9500.

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Early Colonial Military Commission

60. [Massachusetts]: WILLIAM TAILER ESQ; LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IN AND OVER HIS MAJESTY’S PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS-BAY IN NEW-ENGLAND IN AMERICA...I DO HEREBY CONSTITUTE
A colonial military commission, signed in manuscript by William Tailer, lieutenant governor and commander in chief of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay. By this commission Tailer makes Samuel Leonard an ensign in the company of Massachusetts militia commanded by Nathaniel Byfield, the noted jurist and historian of colonial New England. One James Leonard, possibly Samuel’s father or brother, is noted as being a captain in the same company. The commission is completed in manuscript and co-signed by Tailer’s secretary, Samuel Woodward. An attractive colonial military commission, and a rare early printed broadside. $2750.

Campaigning Down the Mississippi


Ten letters written by Union lieutenant David McKinney, together with a letter of recommendation signed by Major Walter B. Scates. All are dated between October 1862 and June 1863 and narrate the life of the officer as he travels with the Illinois 77th Infantry from Kentucky through Tennessee and on to Vicksburg, Mississippi.

McKinney (1829-1903), a resident of Peoria, Illinois, was a thirty-three-year-old teacher when he enlisted in September 1862 as a first lieutenant. He served in the field and on the staff of the 77th Infantry, and was promoted in March 1865 to captain and assistant quartermaster. Nine of these letters are written to his sister and one to his father. Probably because he was a teacher by vocation, he writes insightful and fascinating letters in which he comments on significant details of camp life, troop movement and plans, and local color. With a knack for narrative writing, he also includes interesting stories, such as the one recorded in his Nov. 3, 1862 letter regarding a “windy encounter” with a “very pretty young rebel lady, whose father is in the rebel army.” As McKinney confiscated her cattle, the young lady “scolded & cried in turn.” In the first letter (Oct. 16, 1862) McKinney informs his sister that his regiment “is under marching orders for the interior of Kentucky in the direction of Cumberland Gap.” In his next letter (Oct. 24, 1862) he writes that they will soon start marching “farther south into the land of Dixie. The darkies are beginning to come into our camps pretty fast, all saying that their masters are rebel & that they want to along with us & most of our boys say come along darkey & he comes.” In the four letters written from Kentucky he often comments on the different sympathies of the important border states’ citizens.
Early in 1863, McKinney and his regiment arrived near Vicksburg. In a letter dated March 2, 1863 he notes that they did not seem “much nearer the capture of Vicksburg than we did one month ago.” He often writes about “feeding off the fat of the earth” while in the South. As an example, he writes on March 2, 1863 about the expedition that he commanded “up the river...to procure from the enemies country along the river forage.” At a cotton plantation the owner and most everyone else had “skedaddled,” but he did find “an overseer & a few niggers.” The Union detachment took what they needed. Near the end of this letter McKinney tells his sister that he has included a letter he received when he returned from this expedition, “written by Col. Scates by direction of Gen. McClernand the commander of our Army Corps.” This letter, dated Feb. 28, 1863 from “Head Quarters 13th Army Corps,” signed by Walter B. Scates and addressed to Lieut. McKinney, is included in this archive. The letter offers “great gratification” for the “orderly and soldierly maneuver in which you have conducted this expedition and performed this duty.” On March 23, 1863, McKinney informs his sister that “as soon as Grant gives the word of command, more than 100,000 men are within fighting distance & although V[icksburg] is one of the strongest fortifications naturally on the continent, yet I believe it must eventually fall.”

In a political letter written in June 1863 (no day given) from “Camp in view of Vicksburg, Miss.” he clarifies that he is not “turning Republican. I still continue to be a good ‘Jackson Democrat’ of the old school....Copperheads you may truthfully call them, are doing more harm at present to the cause of the ‘Union’ than fifty or even an hundred thousand openly avowed rebels.” He then spends almost four pages opining about the two political parties and their leadership: “Would that we had a Jackson for our Chief Magistrate now, instead of a Lincoln.” He continues in the letter reporting that Gen. John A. McClernand, the former commander of the Army of the Mississippi, has been relieved of his duty because of “a jealousy between Grant & McClellan.” This is the final letter of this archive. Vicksburg fell to Union troops on July 4, 1863.

$3000.
Using the Enemy’s Stationery, Describing the Battle of Palo Alto


Written from the Mexican front shortly after the opening hostilities and the Battle of Palo Alto, this letter is notable for being written on a piece of Mexican Army stationery, captured during the Mexican Army’s retreat. The Battle of Palo Alto, the first major battle of the Mexican-American War, was fought on May 8, 1846, and was precipitated by the Mexican assault on Fort Texas, a U.S. Army post built within the boundaries of Mexican Texas. General Zachary Taylor, receiving supplies from Port Isabel, heard the distant report of cannon fire which signaled the attack on Fort Texas. Taylor gathered his troops and rushed to relieve the defenders of the fort, but was intercepted by a Mexican force commanded by Gen. Arista. The U.S. Troops used “Flying Artillery” (mobile attacks with light artillery) in an effective effort to rout the Mexican Army. Intensive hand-to-hand combat followed the next day.

Writing to an army colleague, Larnard relates details of the battle but notes that Hitchcock will doubtless receive the official reports around the same time as his letter. He expresses disillusionment with the war, despite the resounding victory at Palo Alto:

This paper was, as you see by the heading, part of Genl Arista’s staff baggage – I thought you might like to have a sheet of it. Since the battles all has been quiet. Genl Taylor is still at Pt. Isabel where he went on the 11th. We are encamped on our old positions. We have reports that reinforcements are on the way to join the enemy, but for the present his army is completely disorganized. The battle was won without an order or a maneuvre [sic] from the Genl [Taylor], solely by the impetuosity and daring of officers & men....Of the first day the principal credit belongs to Duncan and the artillery in general; the 5th repulsed a charge of lancers, but the remainder of the infantry had little to do but to lie still and be shot at. The enemy lost from 7 to 800 in killed and wounded in this first action, the Battle of “Palo Alto” (High Stick). Their whole loss on both days in killed, wounded and prisoners is not less than 1500, probably more; many men were drowned besides in swimming the [Rio Grande] river in their flight....You must excuse this desultory scrawl, it is impossible for me to write – this continual excitement is to me perfectly odious, nor does all our success conceal from me in the least the infernal horror of war, or blind me to the fact that this is really a war of a[ggression]ion on our part.
E.T. Blamire of Virginia writes to a friend with political connections concerning pay given to volunteers who enlisted for the Mexican-American War (namely, that they have been promised pay that has not been forthcoming). The letter lacks an address, leaving no indication of the identity of the recipient; however, Blamire does mention a recent political campaign and his friend’s influence on the state legislature. He begins his letter with a lament about the dismal weather in Mexico:

I suppose you are now making preparations for a winter campaign in Richmond and as I expect you will establish your head quarters there by the first Monday in December, I shall direct this accordingly. I hope you will find it more agreeable than a spring, summer, & fall campaign in Mexico, with the prospect of a winter one with the addition of suffering the extremes of heat and cold every twenty-four hours. The heat here in the middle of the day is as great as it is with you in August, and the nights are as cold and as uncomfortable as they are in December. On the 18th and 19th of the present month we had ice in the streams around our camp 3/4 of [an] inch thick and at noon day it was hot enough to go bathing. But in spite of climate, food &c &c I am still in the enjoyment of excellent health & spirits and I am only anxious for the war to be brought to a close that I may once more have the pleasure of meeting you all in Portsmouth and giving you a true and faithful account of my adventures in Mexico. We are still in quiet possession of all this part of the country and see nothing to remind us that we [are] in an enemies country. How much longer we are to remain here is uncertain. If we are to have no fighting I don’t care how soon they order us home....

As you are now one of our legislators I will say something in regard to our volunteers. When we first commenced raising our company in Portsmouth we were informed by the Adjutant General in his letter to Capt. Young that they (the men) would be entitled to pay from the time they enrolled their names. Twenty two names were enrolled on the 28th day of November and the balance of the men were obtained between that time and the 1st of January, on which day our company was organized by the election of its officers and we left Portsmouth for the rendezvous in Richmond on the 6th of January and were mustered into the service of the U. States on the 27th of January. The men of course expected to be paid from the time of their enrollment as we had assured them they would be, but they have only been paid from the 28th of
January, the day they were mustered into service. Many of them at the time of their enrollment were employed in the Navy Yard and were getting from $1 to $1.25 a day and relinquished their employment and remained in barracks drilling and qualifying themselves for soldiers. This you know yourself and it is certainly nothing more than right that they should receive pay for the time they were so employed. There seems to me to have been some mismanagement on expending the $10,000 appropriated by the Legislature for the Volunteers; some of the companies in our regiment received pay (both officers and men) from the time they enrolled their names, others again from the time they were organized by the election of their officers, but our company only from the time they were mustered into service. You will probably recollect that the Adjutant General decided that a man who signed the enrollment was from that time as much bound as a regular enlisted soldier, and that those who refused after signing the enrollment could be compelled by force to be mustered. If he was correct in his opinions they ought as a matter of right be entitled to the pay.... You may probably be able to bring the matter before the Governor or the Legislature and have justice done them....It has just occurred to me that the Legislature might have no conscientious scruples about appropriating a part of the state’s portion of the proceeds of the sales of public lands which had been laying idle in the Treasury for several years to the benefit of the Volunteers. What think you of it?

An interesting letter from the front concerning local politics and their effect on soldiers’ pay. $950.

James Denver in the Mexican-American War

64. [Mexican-American War]: Denver, James W.: [AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, FROM JAMES W. DENVER TO HIS SISTER, DESCRIBING SEVERAL WEEKS FIGHTING IN THE ARMY OF GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT ON THE MARCH FROM VERACRUZ TO MEXICO CITY, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BATTLES OF CONTRERAS AND CHURUBUSCO]. Mixcoac (Misquaca) near Mexico City, Sept. 1, 1847. 8pp. on two folded folio sheets. Old fold lines. A few stains, slight darkening along folds on final page. Very good.

A fine and lengthy letter from James W. Denver to his sister, describing several important battles waged by Winfield Scott’s army on the march from Veracruz to Mexico City during the Mexican-American War. These battles were among the most significant American victories of the war and paved the road to the capture of Mexico City. Denver, who conducted important reconnaissance, gives details of the movements of American forces and the bloody battles fought with Mexican defenders.

James William Denver (1817-92) was born in Virginia. He had a long and varied political career, serving as a member of the California State Senate in 1852-53, as
California’s Secretary of State from 1853 to 1855, and then as a U.S. Congressman from California in 1855-57. In 1852 he engaged in a duel with newspaper editor Edward Gilbert in which Gilbert was killed. Denver went on to serve as secretary and governor of Kansas Territory in 1857-58. It was while governor of Kansas Territory that land speculator William Larimer named the western Kansas town of Denver after him (the city would become capital of the state of Colorado). During the Civil War, Denver was a general in the Union Army.

Denver writes: “Since leaving Veracruz we have been continually surrounded by the enemy. Guerilla parties have been constantly hanging around us, infesting the roads, and popping away at us every opportunity.” He describes the task of his company:

...our duty was to keep some distance from the road on either side and rather in advance of the main body of the army, to reconnoise [sic] and give the allarm [sic] in case of appearance of danger. In the performance of this duty we were often compelled to scale mountains thousands of feet above the level of the sea, and above the road the Army travelled, whence we could see the clouds far beneath us, and where we were frequently enveloped in their dense vapors.

Less than a week after leaving Veracruz, Denver’s company was involved in a battle at “Puenta Nacional” (National Bridge), a crucial position on the road to Mexico City, and well fortified by Mexican troops:

This is considered one of the strongest positions on the road to the city of Mexico. Capt. Wood and myself were as usual out scouting and were ordered to proceed to a high hill or mountain, which commanded the approaches to the bridge, there to reconnoise and remain for further orders. Arrived at the position indicated, we soon discovered the enemy in possession of the opposite heights, having placed obstructions on the bridge to prevent our troops crossing. One company and a detachment of our Regiment (the 12th Infantry) was in the advance of the Army and moved on quietly and steadily until they neared the obstruction on the bridge, when suddenly the whole heights burst up in one cloud of smoke followed by the sharp, rattling report of small arms. In an instant the fire was returned by our troops, when with a shout they burst over every barrier, scaled the heights and carried everything before them with ease, for the reason that the Mexicans had all run away before our men got to the top of the mountains. Strange to say in this fight where our men were crowded on a narrow bridge in point blank shot and the enemy poured their fire upon them like hail not a man was killed and but five or six wounded.

Later Denver describes passing by the famous Castle of Perote, where the Americans captured during the Mier Expedition were held and executed.

Denver’s company met up with Scott’s army at Puebla on Aug. 6, joining a total force of some 10,000 Americans, with Denver’s division under the command of Gen. Pillow. About half of Denver’s letter is spent describing the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, which took place on Aug. 18-20.
After firing a few guns at one another Gen. Twiggs halted under the guns of a battery of twenty-four heavy pieces of artillery planted by the Mexicans at a place called San Bartolo or Contrarias. Gen. Pillow’s division advanced to support Twiggs, and it is said that some of the regiments were uselessly and foolishly pushed forward through a cornfield which was completely swept by the guns from the enemy’s fort. In order to find a place of even comparative safety our men were compelled to run through this cornfield, exposed to a murderous fire of balls, shells, grape and canister, (which sent many a brave fellow to his long home) until they reached a ravine about 250 or 300 yards from the enemy’s works. In this ravine were posted from 600 to 800 men opposed to more than as many thousand of the enemy.

On the 20th Twiggs’ army attacked the Mexican forces:

They rushed on to charge before the enemy were fully prepared to receive them, and in less than fifteen minutes the battery was carried, a great number of prisoners taken and the Mexicans in full retreat. In retreating the enemy had to pass near the place occupied by our men in the ravine who paid them up well for the treatment they gave us the day before. The slaughter at this time is said to have been immense, our troops having buried upwards of seven hundred and fifty at and near this fortification alone, while our loss did not exceed fifty killed outright....Gen. Worth hearing the firing in the enemy’s rear set his column in motion, carried the advanced works of the enemy in his front and attacked their main works. Here was fought the most desperate and sanguinary battle ever fought in America. The Mexican army outnumbered ours at least three to one, had selected their own ground, were well supplied with artillery and had mostly fresh men; while our men were without artillery, and a large portion of them were scarcely able to walk, from the fatigue of their previous marching and fighting. But Americans were not to be beaten by Mexicans.

The battle raged with unabated fury for nearly four hours, and I have heard old veterans say that is was the longest, sharpest and best contested battle of musketry they ever saw or ever heard of. Cerro Gordo is said by those engaged in both battles, to have been child’s play to this. After maintaining the contest with the desperation of a people fighting for every thing they held dear in the world, they were forced to retire with terrible loss (according to their own account six thousand) and were pursued to the gates of the city about five or six miles. Some of the dragoons even entered the gates in the melee and killed some of the Mexicans within the city. Their troops halted for the night from the fatigues and horrors of the day, and the next morning the enemy sent out a flag of truce which stopped the farther progress of our army. They acknowledged themselves beaten and that we could enter their city if we chose to do so. They said they were willing to make peace on any terms, and begged that we would not enter the city.

An excellent letter, describing in vivid terms the American army’s bloody march toward Mexico City. $4250.
“...it looks a little like peace, but the devil trust a Mexican.”

Charles W. Foster of Massachusetts served in the engineer corps in the Mexican-American War, and later served in the Civil War. He writes to his brother George about family business (including George’s impending marriage) as well as details of his corps’ possible move to California. The United States took Mexico City in August 1847; the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in February 1848, ending the war and ceding a vast swath of Mexican territory to the U.S., including Texas, California, and everything in between.

In your letter of the 2nd March, you very humbly ask my pardon for publishing those letters; I took no offence whatever at the publication, I merely wished to inform you, that I wanted you to keep dark for the future. You can of course show my letters to any of my friends that you think proper. It seems that you are not going to get tied up at present, damn bad plan, I do not see a word about Ellen in your letter; I hope that there is no crockery broken....Col. J.G. Totten the chief engineer at Washington has proposed and recommended to the President to raise 7 more companies of Engrs, four of which are to proceed to California, should the Treaty be ratified (by the way the news of its ratification by our government reached this city on the 2nd of this month) to superintend the erection of fortifications there, therefore supposing the War closed our company may not see home these two years yet, however should the Treaty be ratified by the Mexican Congress immediately I think that we should be among the first to leave for the States. It seems that my letter settled some doubts which had arisen among some of my friends in relation to the duties of our company; I suppose that some imagined that we had a great deal of hard labour to perform, I can assure them that it is very seldom that we have anything of the kind to do. To give you some idea on the subject I will give you some account of our operations at Vera Cruz. Our company was divided into five parts, eight men in each part, and only one set in the trenches or batteries at a time, each detail on duty eight hours only at a time, and thus you see that eight men were divided among about five hundred men or more according to circumstances, each of the engineers having charge of a particular portion of the work, and all under the general superintendence of a detail of Engineer Officers. The Peace prospect brightens; it is said that there is a quorum of the Mexican Congress at Queratero, and it is the opinion of the leading Mexicans in this city that the Treaty will be accepted as modified by our Senate. Orders have already been issued for the downward movement of the troops, the first that move are the sick, who are under orders to move on
the tenth of the present month to Saluppa [possibly Xalapa?]; several of the volunteer regiments together with the Mass. Regt. have also received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march on short notice, so you see that it looks a little like Peace, but the Devil trust a Mexican.

Foster also relates a grim tale of bank robbery gone awry, in which some of the U.S. troops determined to rob a local bank and a clerk was killed defending the safe:

A young Spanish clerk in a banking house was killed here night before last; there was some two or three thousand dollars in the office, which he died in defending. It seems that some teamsters and one or two Volunteer Officers learned that there was a large amount of money in the building and laid there plans accordingly, but on entering they made so much noise that they awoke the two clerks, who drew their pistols and took their position in front of the safe to defend the money. One of them was shot dead, and two of the assailants were severely wounded. I am sorry to say that there were two Lieuts. concerned both belonging to the Pennsylvania Regt. The parties have all been arrested; it creates a great excitement here the more so because American Officers were concerned.

A detailed letter from the front lines of the Mexican-American War, discussing plans to fortify newly-acquired California. $1250.

James Monroe Arranges to Keep Informed While an American Diplomat in Europe, 1794


James Monroe writes to New Hampshire Senator John Langdon immediately before Monroe's departure to take up his position as U.S. Minister to France. Monroe resigned his Virginia seat in the Senate to accept the diplomatic position to France. In this letter he asks Langdon to remain informed about affairs in the Senate:

Dear sir, I cannot take my departure without dropping you a line to request that you will occasionally write & give me such information as you know I expect to possess, where I am going. I sail in a few hours upon a mission which was little thought of when you left Philadelphia. Present our best respects to Mrs. Langdon & yr. daughter & be assured of the esteem & regard with I am sincerely yours, Jas. Monroe.

John Langdon (1741-1819) was a New Hampshire merchant and politician who was one of New Hampshire's first senators. He served as president pro tempore of the Senate and later held the office of the governor of the state. Though he started
out as a Federalist, Langdon switched his views and allegiances to the Jeffersonian Republicans around 1794. He and Monroe served in the Senate together before Monroe left to begin his diplomatic career across the Atlantic. Further evidence of their continued friendship is indicated by President Monroe’s visit to Langdon while he was in New Hampshire in 1817.

James Monroe (1758-1831) was serving as a Senator from Virginia when he was appointed U.S. Minister to France, where he served from 1794 to 1796. In the end Monroe was considered too friendly to the French cause and was replaced by Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. He was subsequently twice governor of Virginia, Minister to Britain, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State before being elected to the office of the presidency in 1817.

Monroe Opposes Federal Funding for Internal Improvements


A significant letter written by President James Monroe to an unidentified recipient in which he takes a strong stand, in the spirit of Jefferson, to oppose publicly funded improvements to the transportation system or indeed any internal improvements. This was a heady topic in the years following the close of the War of 1812 when American trade and technology were advancing rapidly. Monroe had recently won his second term as President and here mentions he is writing a position paper on the topic. In part, he promises “perfect simplicity and candour. You may recollect that soon after I came into this office, I considered it my duty, to take my stand against the powers of the general government in regard to internal improvements: that I declared in a message to Congress, that I did not think that it possess’d that power, & that I should be compelled to refuse my assent to any bill founded on that principle.” He notes that he has corresponded with James Madison and has prepared a statement to be included in his third annual address (later decided against). “I have been guided by principle only, aided by my own experience and observations, and by the lights which virtuous & enlightened men have shed on it.”

He continues by noting, however, that if he doesn’t have to say anything on the subject, that is probably for the best:

...I have thought for the present, that I ought to say nothing on any particular controversy which is discussed before the public. Regarding this office which I hold, I have thought it fair to my country, if I appeared at all, to appear, when called on by some obligation bearing on that office, such as to reject or approve a law, or by a full exposition, founded on general principles, and dictated by
a sense of duty....If I publish this paper I shall probably do it before the next meeting of Congress; if I do not publish it before that time, if the object is not acted on, in the next session, it probably will not be while I remain in office.

James Monroe (1758-1831) served as ambassador to France 1794-96, then as special envoy to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and later as Secretary of State for most of the Madison administration. Monroe’s presidency (1817-25) has been characterized as the Era of Good Feeling, due in part to his balanced approach to appointments and political decisions.

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Old folds. Two letters with small tears (one where wax seal had been affixed), but with no loss of text. Near fine.

A very interesting and informative group of letters from the American consul in Alicante, Spain to American diplomat Tobias Lear in Algiers, transmitting intelligence on the activities of Napoleon in Europe and the early stages of the Peninsular Campaign in Spain. Montgomery describes several of the early battles in the Peninsular War, as well as rising tensions between France and Britain, and French depredations on American shipping. In one letter Montgomery also offers his assistance in paying the ransom for American prisoners held in Tripoli, an episode that brought Lear sharp criticism. Lear’s was one of the most important American diplomatic positions, as this was the era of the Barbary Wars. In these letters he shows that he kept abreast of events in Europe as well.

Robert Montgomery was a Philadelphian who established a commercial house in Alicante, Spain in 1776. Throughout his career Montgomery involved himself with American diplomatic activities in the Mediterranean and North Africa. In 1783, apparently at his own initiative, he attempted to open diplomatic relations with the Sultan of Morocco, an early American overture to the Barbary states. He applied for the post of American consul at Alicante in 1787 and was appointed to that position in 1793. Montgomery and other consuls as they were appointed were effectively the United States diplomatic service abroad, since only the major European powers rated ambassadorships, and during this era these posts were not always filled. Three of the letters, and the postscript of another, appear to be all in Montgomery’s hand. The others are apparently in secretarial hands.

Tobias Lear (1762-1816) is best known for his service as George Washington’s personal secretary, and for his diplomatic work. He served as Washington’s aid from 1786 to 1793, and again from 1798 until Washington’s death the next year. He was very close to the Washington family: he married two of Washington’s nieces, was at George Washington’s bedside when he died, and was executor of his estate. Lear’s activities in that capacity were clouded by controversy, as he was suspected of destroying several of Washington’s personal papers after the General’s death. Thomas Jefferson appointed Lear as consul to Saint Domingue during the reign of Toussaint Louverture, a position he held for a year, until May 1802. Shortly afterward, Jefferson appointed Lear consul general to the Barbary States. Stationed at Algiers, he held the sensitive post until 1812, when the dey of Algiers expelled him. Lear’s tenure as consul in Algiers was controversial as well, as he negotiated a treaty with the pasha of Tripoli in 1805, which included provisions to pay a ransom of $60,000 for the captive crew of the American ship, U.S.S. Philadelphia. During the War of 1812, Lear negotiated with the British over prisoner-of-war exchanges in northern New York. He committed suicide in 1816.

The earliest letter in this group is dated December 1, 1803. Montgomery sends Lear a report on possible military conflict between Britain and France, and the activities of Napoleon. Despite the fact that the two nations had signed the Treaty of Amiens in March 1802, tensions remained high:
The preparations on both sides for the grand expedition equal to its magnitude, the coast of France from Brest to the Taxel is one continued line of Army, while the whole face of England is covered with pikes and bayonets. At same time it is generally believed both in France and England that no meeting can possibly take place. The first Consul is returned from his tour to Boulogne and has advertised his intention of making the [?] his winter residence. If so the invading army must remain on this side til spring, as the council has engaged him to command in person. This kind of procrastinating the business is highly injurious to commerce in general and not only the belligerent power but all others in Europe are suffering by it, while neither of the parties take [?] any essential advantages.

The next two letters, dated March 15 and April 7, 1804, are both written on the same sheet of paper. Significantly, in the letter of March 15, Montgomery discusses the American captives in Tripoli, and offers to furnish Spanish “dollars” for their ransom. He also sends news on the activities of Lord Nelson, and also offers to help Lear in freeing Americans captive in Tripoli:

Your opinion of Lord Nelson’s conduct was well founded. A fleet in Tolon [sic] of equal force to his were in readiness to sail and had any of his ships got disabled before Algiers, ought to have attacked him the moment that event was known. Nelson is much censured here by the French party who endeavours to turn his impotent insults of the day in ridicule as to the affairs in the north....I shall not again write you to command my services. I hope you are convinced you may dispose of them, but I shall take the liberty to mention that as our men now prisoners in Tripole [sic] must be redeemed some time or other and money sent there for that purpose it is in my power to furnish for account of the United States any sum in Spanish Dollars and place them either on board of any of our ships of war here in the bay or send them direct to Tripole and it will oblige me if in your power to get this commission for me.

In the letter of April 7, Montgomery reports that the only fighting between France and Great Britain is being done in the popular press:

The gentleman like warfare formerly carried on between those heroic nations seems almost to be forgotten and they now content themselves with throwing dirt at each other across the Channel. Bonaparte's preparations for the destruction of England are enormous, but it may not be proper nor prudent to undertake it during the fine weather and short nights that are now approaching. In winter it is very cold!

In a letter dated Jan. 17, 1807, Montgomery sends more news of events in Europe. He tells Lear that since it appears he is receiving French newspapers in a timely manner via Marseilles, he will now concentrate on sending him American papers instead. Montgomery also reports on French military activities in central Europe, and naval depredations against American shipping:
Report says the Emperor of the French has got a severe check at Posen near Warsaw and from their silence on this some veracity may be adjudged thereto. If so this Colossus who aims at bringing all nations under his stride may be humbled and a general tranquility restored. A French privateer has blocked this port in a great measure for a little time past & captured two of our vessels loaded with salt fish from Boston, notwithstanding their being furnished with every necessary document and even certificates from the Spanish & French Consuls. These greedy plunderers are using their utmost exertions to condemn them under an unfounded pretext that their cargoes are of English catch. The servile condescension & pusillanimity of this government, in direct opposition to our treaty, will I fear permit them to carry this point. Should our commodore be with you please inform him of this and that I very much require a small vessel of war to protect our trade.

On June 2, 1808, Montgomery writes Lear an important letter giving him details of the increasing French presence in Spain, as Napoleon geared up for the Peninsular Campaign and forced the Spanish monarch to abdicate the throne. He begins the letter by telling Lear that he may want to send letters to Montgomery via a third party, a Spaniard in Alicante, in case the letters are being intercepted by the Spanish authorities. Montgomery continues:

The journey of the royal family of Spain to Bayonne has nearly finished the political existence of the House of Bourbon. They were thought by the Emperor of the French to want talents for governing this country and in consequence he has obliged them to renounce their right to the crown in his favor and retain them prisoners in France, where it is said they will live very much at their ease. The people seemed to bear this desertion of their King with some degree of patience, till on the 2nd May in Madrid much blood was let run between the French troops and Spanish peasantry who were put down as the Spanish troops were passive spectators of the business. Murat now the Grand Duke of Berg is Regent and after the affray of Madrid nothing of note occurred till the 26th inst. when orders were issued by the captains generals of this and all the adjacent provinces for the people from sixteen to forty years of age to enrol [sic] themselves and take up arms in defence of their country against the French usurpation.

Montgomery describes the Spanish people as enthusiastic in defense of their country, and estimates that they may field as many as a million combatants. He writes that it is said that the French have some 150,000 troops in Spain and Portugal, well disciplined and with clear lines of communication. He concludes by writing: “The Spanish troops of the line are about seventy thousand good men, and their recruits (I think) might be made the first army in Europe, discipline is all they want.”

The final letter is dated July 24, 1808 and is filled with news of the early stages of the Peninsular War, giving detailed reports of battles between Napoleon’s forces and the Spanish resistance.
Since the date of my last 2nd June in which I mentioned the very noble exertions of the Spanish peasantry to shake off the yoke of Corsica a very bloody and depredatory war has been carried on in almost every part of Spain. Gen. Monsae [i.e. Moncey] was immediately dispatched towards Valencia with about 12,000 of their best troops, Gen. Lefebvre toward Zagragosa with a similar force and Dupont with about 15,000 men towards Cadiz and Seville. Monsae in his way to Valencia had several skirmishes with the Count Cevillon [?], at the head of the peasantry drawn from Almanza, but as might be expected these generally gave way and on the 28 Monsae having lost about 3,000 men in his march arrived before Valencia who after some parley refused him entrance. He attempted the assault with great intrepidity and the confidence the French had acquired by repeated victories, but this town inclosed by a miserable mud wall and as so cannot hastily brought in became a second Numancia [i.e. Numantia] by the bravery of its inhabitants resisted these vigorous attacks and almost covered their adjacent fields with slaughtered French. The engagement lasted from two till nine in the evening. The next morning the French...retreated towards Madrid pursued by the Spanish rabble without arms or discipline harassing their rear insomuch that Monsae will not bring in above two thousand men.

Montgomery continues and gives details of the battles Zaragosa and Cordova. He concludes by writing that “there is no doubt at this day, between climate, sword, and desertion the French have lost eighty thousand men....”

In all, a fascinating group of letters relating important information on events in Europe during the Napoleonic Wars, details of battles during the opening months of the Peninsular Campaign, and negotiations over the freeing of American prisoners in Tripoli. $6000.

Gouverneur Morris Expresses a Sense of Duty


A lengthy letter from Gouverneur Morris to his nephew, James Morris, providing details of a 1787 loan on which significant interest was still due from the debtor, Morris’ older half-sister, Mary Morris Lawrence. Morris composed this letter while serving as U.S. Finance minister to France.

Most of the text is an explanation of the interest due. He states that a recent payment was made through William Constable, Morris’ former business partner and who, along with other Philadelphia associates, had loaned Morris the money needed to purchase the family estate, Morrisiana, in 1787. He then embarks on a description of the remaining debt and entreats his nephew to facilitate payment “speedily.” Morris ends his letter with this statement: “I perfectly agree with you
that a small sum on my farm with contentment is better than any thing in a situa-

tion like that in which I am now placed but the first of all enjoyments is that which 

results from doing our duty.”

Having previously served as an assistant to Robert Morris (no relation) in the 

Department of Finance under the Articles of Confederation, Morris was named 

to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Credited with being that document’s 

“stylist,” he would write in a later letter to Thomas Pickering: “the Constitution was 

written by the hand which writes you this letter; having rejected all the equivocal 

and redundant terms, I thought it as clear as our language would permit.” Morris 

would later serve in the U.S. Senate and participate in the re-mapping of the city 

of New York that was largely responsible for its present grid pattern.

Good evidence of Morris’ personal finances and a fine expression of his civic spirit. 

A Share in an Investment Disaster

70. [Morris, Robert]: [PRINTED CERTIFICATE FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY, COMPLETED IN MANU-


and framed. Minor soiling. Scalloped cut along left margin. Near fine.

Document signed by Robert Morris – signer of the Declaration of Independence, the 

Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution, and the “Financier 

of the Revolution” – granting four shares in the North American Land Company 

to Dr. Enoch Edwards. Enoch Edwards, a surgeon by trade, was a leading patriot 

who served as a member of the June 18, 1776 Provincial Congress, and a signer of 

the 1790 Pennsylvania Constitution. Robert Morris played a leading role in the 

financial decisions of the Revolutionary government: he founded the first national 

bank, sought to fund public debts by means of a national revenue, and used his own 

funds, when necessary, to finance the Revolution and the fledgling American gov-

ernment. In the late 1780s and the 1790s, Morris speculated extensively in various 

land deals, becoming fabulously wealthy, then losing everything in 1798, spending 

two and a half years in debtors prison. The North American Land Company, the 

most ambitious of his schemes, is the venture that finally brought about Morris’ 

downfall. Counter-signed by Secretary James Marshall, brother of future chief 


71. [Nantucket Lighthouse]: UNITED STATES TO PAUL PINKHAM DR. FOR MATERIALS AND LABOUR IN REPAIRING THE 

LIGHT HOUSE DWELLING HOUSE AND BUILDING A BARN AT NANTUCKET 1797 [manuscript title]. Nantucket, Ma. Feb. 20, 


Very good.
Contemporary manuscript evidence of the reconstruction and maintenance of the main lighthouse on Nantucket, called the Great Point Lighthouse, or simply the Nantucket Lighthouse. The light sits at the end of a seven-mile long strip of land and overlooks Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, an area that by the end of the 18th century was one of the busiest shipping channels on the East Coast. An iconic lighthouse in an important location, it continues in operation to this day.

The Nantucket lighthouse was built in 1784 (its construction delayed several years by the American Revolution), and Paul Pinkham, a former whaler and the creator of an important chart of the shoals of Nantucket and Vineyards Sounds, was made the first lighthouse keeper. Initially there was no keeper’s house and Pinkham had to walk several miles each day to reach the lighthouse. This situation was rectified in the late 1790s when Pinkham was authorized to build a house and barn at the lighthouse, and to improve the structure itself. The present document is Pinkham’s bill for the work he did on site in 1797, apparently written in his hand. The total bill comes to $150.37, and includes reimbursement for Pinkham’s labor, as well as money spent on twenty panes of glass, paint, barn shingles, hinges, “freighting the lumber from town,” carpenter’s work, and for other expenses. The bulk of the work was done in June 1797, and Pinkham was reimbursed $100 by Captain Alexander Gardner that December. As of February 20, 1799, according to a note at the bottom of the invoice, Pinkham was still owed $50.37. He has signed the document as “Keeper of the Light House Nantucket.”

An excellent piece of Nantucket lighthouse history, quite displayable. $1750.

Who Had It Worse, Slaves or Indians?


Four pages of debate on whether the “Africans of America” have suffered more than the native peoples, with the unidentified author’s arguments that the suffering of the Indians is undoubtedly and obviously greater. It is written as though for public speech or letters with intent to persuade. The author writes:

In considering the question we are to understand, I suppose, that the condition of these two species [of] the human race, are to be compared from the time they were both known to the civilized world, or after America was discovered by Columbus. Taken in this light, we easily discern that there is and has been a great difference in their condition. The African, to be sure, suffers the cruelty of slavery, but what is this when placed even within sight of what the poor Indian has suffered.
The author writes of the gentle and acquiescent savage, receiving the white man as a superior being, only to be cruelly enslaved and wiped out by him; in this vein, the pillage and murder of the Spaniards upon Peru and Mexico are used to illustrate the cruelty imposed upon the natives:

In the island of St. Domingo, as the white population increased...the Governor, to supply the necessary laborers, was obliged to get 40,000 of the inhabitants of the neighboring islands. But in about 30 years after scarcely 150 were alive, being carried away by disease, and a species of labour to which they were un accustomed. Now an equal number of Africans never suffered anything that could bear comparison with this, much less what the Mexicans suffered when Cortez invaded that country.

To the author, the fact that the Africans have not suffered nearly to the same extremes as the Indians is “evident to every candid, impartial and discerning person.”

A fascinating manuscript, possibly written by an Indian rights activist in the 1840s, incensed, perhaps, by the cruel removal of the Indians along the Trail of Tears and other resettlement plans. $1500.

Impressive Album of Original Drawings of the White Mountains


Finely executed landscapes by a skilled amateur, from an important center of 19th-century American landscape painting. There are forty views of the White Mountains, mostly centered at Glen House near North Conway, New Hampshire. The area was long established as an attraction for artists both major and minor, and the many works generated there constitute a distinct chapter in the history of Hudson River School painting. In the summer Glen House, Kearsarge House, and other grand hotels in the area were both centers of artistic activity and fashionable retreats for wealthy city dwellers. The artist who produced the present body of work, H.C. Van Post, was a New York businessman who summered with his family in North Conway. He was clearly a trained draughtsman with genuine talent. His delicate, austere, and finely detailed drawings are each titled and dated, and show long views from mountain tops, townscapes, Saco River scenes, and views of Glen House from different angles. The White Mountain series is followed by drawings of equal quality of the Delaware Water Gap and upstate New York scenery. $9000.
A lively and entertaining account of the times and exploits of Reuben Nichols, who went to sea as a merchant sailor in 1811 at the tender age of seventeen, on the eve of the War of 1812. His narrative describes many encounters with other trading ships, with pirates and privateers, and tells of the sentencing of mutineers and deserters to death or brutal punishment under the whip's lash. Nichols lived through numerous skirmishes with British cruisers. After one such engagement he and his shipmates were impressed into service and taken to England, where he met John Quincy Adams, then minister to the Court of St. James. With Adams’ help, Nichols set sail on an English ship bound for St. Petersburg. Among the many ports of call he encounters over the course of the narrative are Norway, Malta, Turkey, Greece,
Smyrna, Seville, Cadiz, Lisbon, Gibraltar, Aruba, Brazil, Haiti, Grenada, among others. At a number of these destinations he had chance to observe and record the customs of the native inhabitants, as well as his own unusual and entertaining exploits. In Spain, for example, he notes a visit to abandoned torture chambers in monasteries. The narrative continues up to about 1840, at which point Nichols tired of the hardships of a seafaring life.

Among the many interesting moments in the memoir is the author's 1837 rescue in New York City of John Hopper, who was to be tarred and feathered by an angry mob who believed him to be an abolitionist. In this effort, he was partly aided by the mayor of New York, Aaron Clark. A separate memoir by Hopper confirms Nichols’ actions. The memoir references a number of important historic events, such as Napoleon’s return to France in 1815; the Battle of Waterloo; the election of James Monroe as fifth president of the United States; the outbreak of a yellow fever epidemic in Charleston, South Carolina; and a defeat in battle of the revolutionary forces of Henri Christophe (later king of Haiti) in Haiti.

Born near Bridgeport, Connecticut, the author returned there after his adventurous and exotic life at sea. Upon settling in Bridgeport, he involved himself in local politics and pursued a career in shipbuilding. An entertaining and interesting account of one man’s life abroad.

_A Signer of the Declaration Tries to Feed the Army after Yorktown_

75. **Paca, William:** [DRAFT OF AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER FROM WILLIAM PACA TO JOHN VOORHEES, DISCUSSING FORAGE FOR THE ARMY]. Talbot County Courthouse [Md.] Nov. 2, 1781. [1]p., docketed on verso; with manuscript corrections and additions. Folio. Old fold lines. Document separated into two pieces along central horizontal fold. Light soiling. Good. In a blue half morocco and cloth clamshell case, spine gilt.

Unsigned draft of a letter in the hand of William Paca to Captain John Voorhees of the New Jersey Militia, discussing the need for forage for cattle and flour for the Army. William Paca was a Maryland politician and lawyer who signed the Declaration of Independence and would go on to become the third governor of Maryland and later a federal judge. At the time this letter was written Paca was sitting as a judge on the Court of Appeals for Admiralty and Prize Cases. In 1787, he declined to serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and opposed the Constitution when it was made public because it lacked a Bill of Rights, though he would become a firm supporter of the federal government once the Bill of Rights was added.

In this letter Paca writes to Captain Voorhees, lamenting that he is not able to do more for the army by way of forage or supplies, but hoping the current feeling of public spirit will be pervasive enough that the populace will be willing to assist the army. The Continental Army had won a decisive victory at Yorktown just two
weeks before, which would be the last major battle of the American Revolution. His letter reads, in full:

Sir, We rec'd yours of the 25th and in answer thereto we can only say we wish it were in our power to enable you to fulfill your engagements for forage for cattle: we have had a small sum of hard money sent us for the special purpose of getting flour barrels, & therefore cant be applied to other purposes, which is far short of the sum wanted; we have requested Mr. Rd. Tilghman with whom we have lodged fifty pounds to pay you a proportion of it to satisfie as far as possible your contracts for flour barrels. If forage is wanted for cattle try all the means of persuasion to get it of the well affected: surely on such an occasion as the present there must be public spirit enough to lend the state a little hay & pasturage for the support of a few cattle for a few days [crossed out:] but if persuasion will not do however painful and distressing it is to give the order we must nevertheless submit to the necessity of the case and direct you to seize such forage as the subsistence of the cattle requires.

An excellent letter, highlighting the perennial problem of supplying the Continental Army.

Thomas Paine as Clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly


An official communication, signed by Thomas Paine, transmitting a resolution of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Paine was involved in Pennsylvania politics for several years after his arrival in America in 1774. He was associated with the men who drafted the state’s new constitution in 1776, and he wrote a series of letters in local newspapers supporting the constitution. In 1777, Paine was elected to the Committee
of Correspondence of the Whig Society in Pennsylvania. He was appointed clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly in November 1779, shortly after resigning his position as secretary of foreign affairs for the Continental Congress. He needed other employment in order to supplement his income as a writer. In this document Paine, as clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly, transmits a resolution to the state’s Supreme Executive Council in care of Gov. Joseph Reed. The resolution (not present here) addressed the question of the state’s boundary with Virginia and the extension of the Mason-Dixon line.

$25,000.

Signed by the Famed California Missionary


A document signed by the famed California missionary, Francisco Palou, toward the end of his long career, when he was Guardian of the College of San Fernando. Palou (ca. 1722-89) was a student of Father Junipero Serra and followed his teacher to California, where the two men, in conjunction with other missionaries, labored to build a system of missions in Upper and Lower California. Palou founded Mission Dolores in San Francisco, and was at one time or another the superior of the missions of Upper and Lower California. His historical writings are still the principal source for the life of the venerable Father Serra, as well as for early California missionary history.
This manuscript, written in a clerical hand and signed by Palou, is illustrative of the struggle for influence in the Californias between the church and the secular government. In the mid-1780s, Palou became “guardian” of the College of San Fernando, a Franciscan seminary in Mexico City. Pedro Fages, governor of both Californias, often interfered with the passage of missionaries to and from the region. On April 24, 1787, Ramon de Posada y Soto, the Fiscal of the Royal Treasury in Mexico, issued a decree that the Governor should be informed which friars would be travelling to California. Upon learning of the decree Palou contacted newly-appointed interim Viceroy Archbishop Alonso Nuñez de Haro y Peralta, and the Viceroy determined that the only authority which needed to be informed was the “higher government” and not the secular authorities.

In this letter Palou writes Posada y Soto with characteristic diplomacy after having gone over the head of the government official, and informs him of the new order of things. The text reads (in translation):

With due respect and attention I received the Official Communication of the 21st of this month in which you so kindly inform me that it was a slip of the pen to have stated that it was necessary for the Missionaries of this Apostolic College who are working or will be working in the active Missions of New California and Monterey, to have a license from and permission of the Governor of that Peninsula, but that all that is necessary is for that Higher Government and the Guardian of this College to be aware of the fact and to give his permission; with this determination the error contained in the first copy of the Decree of the preceding April 24 is obliterated. I am advised of the explanation, and I shall communicate this information to all those Chaplain Missionaries who serve under your Excellency and Illustrious Self, so that they may commend it to God and pray for health and happy achievements in both governments; and I shall do likewise with regard to all individuals of this your Apostolic College of San Fernando and Mexico.

Palou’s signature shows his advanced age (this letter was signed by him in 1787, two years before his death at age sixty-six). Documents signed by Palou are rather scarce on the market, and this is an excellent example of his deep and continued interest in the California missions he helped found, and of his guardianship of the independence of church missionaries from secular control.


$7500.

*A British Sailor Writes Home with Accounts of Adventures at Sea and in the Americas*

Autograph manuscript of William C. Parsons, a British sailor of the merchant marine. Parsons’ nautical career spanned some twenty-one years and included service on about thirty-five ships. His narrative begins on leaving England in 1822 and goes through 1843. His was a typical sailor’s life of the period: suffering under despotic captains, press gangs, tempests, and shipwreck. The author spares the reader no detail of his personal bravery and is at pains to leave an impression of his self-sufficiency and sense of fair play throughout some harrowing escapades, particularly on the Pacific coast of South America during the wars of independence. An educated man, Parsons’ career advances until he rises to become mate on the ship, eventually settling in America and taking command of a trading vessel that plies the Eastern Seaboard. Much of the narrative takes place in the Americas, either on the west coast of South America or in United States ports.

This autobiography is written to Parsons’ mother and seems to have been a response to a box of gifts sent to him from England. Parsons reciprocated by sending his own box of curiosities to be shared among his family members (not present here), including tapa cloth, Indian beadwork, and articles made from wood from various famous ships, all of which are described in the separate letter. Of particular interest is Parsons’ description of sitting for his daguerreotype portrait by Mr. Cohill, which he included in the box of treasures.

“Below decks” narratives of ordinary sailors from this period are relatively rare.

$4500.

A Very Early Manuscript Map of Western Pennsylvania

79. [Pennsylvania]: Hooper, Robert Lettis, Jr.: [MANUSCRIPT MAP OF NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA]. [N.p., but likely northwest Pennsylvania. ca. 1770]. Two joined pieces of paper, 15 x 15½ inches total. Old
folds. Three very small separations at folds with no real loss, some wrinkling, else near fine.

An intriguing, detailed, and very rare manuscript map of northwestern Pennsylvania, created by noted surveyor and soldier Robert Lettis Hooper, Jr. The map encompasses the present-day Pennsylvania counties of Erie, Crawford, Venango, Armstrong, Jefferson, and Clarion, a district that would later become famous due to its oil and gas deposits. In fact, “Oil Spring” and “Oil C[reek]” are shown in the northeast corner of the map. The scale of the map is fifteen miles to an inch, and covers the area from Presque Isle on Lake Erie (site of the present-day city of Erie) in the northwest to the region just to the north and east of Pittsburgh (which is not shown) in the southwest. The western branch of the Susquehanna is drawn in the southeast, and the area that is now encompassed by the Allegheny National Forest is in the northeast. The dominant feature of the map is the “Alleghany River,” shown snaking its way north and east to its headwaters. More than a dozen tributaries, rivers, and creeks branching off the Allegheny are shown and identified, as is the Buffalo Swamp and Fort “Wenango” (i.e. Venango). Two roads are indicated on the map in dotted lines, one showing the “road from Fort Pitt to Wenango” and the other, in the far northeast, marking the “Indian Path to Cayuga.” Hooper notes that the fort at Presque Isle has been demolished, and identifies the ruins of another French fort. Along the run of the Allegheny where it branches northeast at Fort Wenango, Hooper notes: “the current of this river is moderate and the canoeing is
good to the mouth of Oil C. “In the area just northwest of present-day Erie, he writes: “when you have passed those short broken hills that confines the Alleghany [sic] River, the country is level, the soil thin and a whitish clay, through which the water does not readily penetrate.” In the south-central portion of the map he has drawn a line connecting the Allegheny and Susquehanna rivers and has added a note reading, “purchased in 1768,” likely referring to an early land speculation in which he engaged. He has signed his name on the map in the right margin.

Robert Lettis Hooper, Jr. (ca. 1730-97) was born in New Jersey, the son of Robert Lettis Hooper, Chief Justice of the colony of New Jersey. Early in his life Hooper was involved in the milling business and as a merchant in Philadelphia. In the 1760s he made trips west to Fort Pitt, and was contracted for making land surveys and engaged in other projects throughout the region for the colonial government for several years. During the Revolution he served as Deputy Quartermaster General in the Continental Army, and was responsible for the area covering Northampton, Bucks, Berks, and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, as well as Sussex County in New Jersey. After the war he became involved in the iron business in New Jersey, operating the Durham Ironworks and the Ringwood Ironworks, and continued working as a surveyor, laying out the towns of Mine Hill and Bloomsbury in New Jersey. He served in the New Jersey legislature in the 1780s, and was involved in land sales in Pennsylvania in the 1780s as well.

A great colonial manuscript map of northwestern Pennsylvania. $25,000.

A Primary Document in the Penn-Lord Baltimore Dispute
Over the Pennsylvania-Maryland Boundary


A highly important original manuscript agreement between Hannah Penn and Lord Baltimore, according a brief peace in the dispute over the boundary line between the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The document is signed by Mrs. Penn; Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore; Penn's agent, James Logan; and various witnesses and counsel for both sides.

This document records one of the attempts to settle the long-standing dispute, and was intended to provide stability in the area for a period of eighteen months, pending a permanent solution between the Penns and the Lords Baltimore. “Hannah Penn had inherited the Pennsylvania proprietorship upon her husband’s death in 1718, and proceeded to mortgage it to Joshua Gee, ‘Merchant,’ and Henry Gouldney, ‘Linnendraper’ (whose name is mis-spelled ‘Goldney’ in the text). Despite the increasing population in the disputed colonial territories, little profit was forthcoming,
either to Hannah and her mortgages or to Charles Lord Baltimore, who had taken 
over the Maryland proprietorship upon the death of the Fourth Lord Baltimore: 
‘while settlers agreed to purchase lands in the disputed areas, they would not pay 
the proprietors for them until the boundaries were determined’ (Wainwright [T], pp.254-255)” – Chew. As with any contract, several original manuscript copies of 
this document were produced; the copy sold in the Chew sale at Christie’s in 1982 
is identical to the copy offered here.

The document reads:

Whereas there are disputes depending between the respective proprietors of 
the provinces of Maryland and Pensilvania touching the limits or boundarys of 
the sd. provinces where they are contiguous to each other.  And whereas both 
parties are at this time sincerely inclined to enter into a treaty in order to take 
such methods as may be advisable for the final determining ye sd. controversy 
by agreeing upon such lines or other marks of direction to be settled as may 
remain for a perpetual boundary between ye two provinces.

It is therefore mutually agreed between the Right Honble. Charles Lord 
Baltemore proprietor and governour of Maryland & Hannah Penn widow and 
executrix of Wm. Penn Esq. late proprietor & governour of Pensilvania.  And 
Joshua Gee of London, Merchant, and Henry Goldney of London, Linnendraper, 
in behalf of themselves & the mortgagees of the province of Pensilvania that 
for avoiding of all manner of contenion or differences between the inhabitants 
of the sd. provinces, no person or persons shall be disturbed or molested in 
their possessions on either side, nor any lands be surveyed, taken up, or granted 
in either of the sd. provinces near the boundary, which have been claimed or 
pretended to on either side.

This agreement to continue for ye space of eighteen [sic] months from the 
date hereof.  In which time tis hoped the boundarys will be determined and 
settled.  And it is mutually agreed on by the said partys, that proclamations be 
issued out in the said provinces signifying this agreement for the better, quieting 
the people.  And the Lieutenant Governours and other proper officers of the 
respective provinces for the time being are directed and enjoyned to conform 
themselves agreeable hereunto; and to issue out proclamations accordingly upon 
the receipt hereof.  In witness whereof the partyes above named have hereunto 
set their hands this 17th day of February 1723.

It is signed by “Baltemore,” J. Clement, Charles Lowe, James Logan, Hannah Penn, 
Joshua Gee, and Henry Gouldney. Though this agreement may have provided a 
temporary respite for the issue, it did not, in the end, move the two parties any 
further toward a permanent accord.

From the time of William Penn’s original grant of Pennsylvania in 1682, he was at 
loggerheads with the Lords Baltimore over the boundary lines between the colonies. 
The present document was one of the sporadic efforts to resolve the problem before 
1732, when both sides put forward maps of their own as guides. Baltimore insisted on 
the use of his map, and the Penns, who were under great money pressure and eager for
an agreement, acceded, as they did to a number of Baltimore’s demands. The settlement was unpopular in Maryland, when it finally reached America in 1733, and Lord Baltimore soon discovered another problem: his map was inaccurate, and the mislocation of Cape Henlopen gave the Penns more land than he had thought. As a result, he tried to nullify the agreement, which led to a lawsuit in Chancery Court in London, charging fraud. The Penns, naturally, replied that it was based on Baltimore’s map, not theirs. From this lawsuit, which was wrangled over for the next sixteen years, came a string of printed documents, all now very rare, in which the parties set out their arguments. Finally, in 1750 the Penns won the case, with costs, and the surveying could again proceed. A number of abortive attempts were made to survey the boundary, before the two sides finally employed Mason and Dixon to make the final survey in 1763–68.

The present manuscript is thus one of the first documents in the protracted negotiations over the boundary which were only finally resolved forty-five years later. A wonderful and important piece of this long-running dispute, vital to the history of both Maryland and Pennsylvania.

CHEW FAMILY SALE 6 (another original manuscript copy). $27,500.

A Contemporary Manuscript Copy of the Abortive Penn-Lord Baltimore Agreement of 1732 on the Pennsylvania–Maryland Boundary

81. [Pennsylvania-Maryland Boundary Dispute]: COPY OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PROPRIETORS OF MARYLAND & PENNSILVANIA; AND OF THE COMMISSION FOR RUNNING THE LINES BETWEEN THE SAID PROVINCES,
A contemporary manuscript copy of the original agreement between the Penn family as proprietors of Pennsylvania and the Lords Baltimore settling the boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland and agreeing on how to survey the boundary. The “Articles of Agreement” agreed to in London in May 1732 were printed in London that year, and in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin in 1733. This manuscript copy was almost certainly made at that time, because in 1734 Lord Baltimore repudiated the Agreement, charging fraud on the part of the Penns. The boundary was then the subject of lawsuits for the next three decades, until Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon were hired to accurately survey the boundary, a task finally completed in 1768. This settlement established the famed Mason-Dixon line, traditionally considered the dividing line between North and South.

The story of the Penn-Baltimore Agreement has been told in great detail by Nicholas Wainwright in his article, “Tale of a Runaway Cape: The Penn-Baltimore Agreement of 1732.” From the time of William Penn's original grant of Pennsylvania in 1682, he was at loggerheads with the Lords Baltimore over the boundary lines between the colonies. Sporadic efforts to resolve the problem finally became serious negotiations in 1731. Both sides put forward maps of their own as guides, and indeed, as Wainwright says, “The map was really the key to the Agreement.” Baltimore insisted on the use of his map, and the Penns, who were under great money pressure and eager for an agreement, acceded, as they did to a number of Baltimore's demands. Baltimore's map was in due course taken to the shop of John Senex, in Fleet Street, where it was engraved. One proof strike of it, with a scale of miles, survives in the Penn Papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The scale was later erased and the map printed on each of the six final copies of the agreement. With the cartography agreed to, the rest of the bargain was quickly struck. On May 10, 1732, Baltimore and each of the Penn brothers signed the document and placed their seals on its bottom edge.

When the agreement was reported in America in 1733, the machinery was set in motion to survey the boundaries. But the deal was unpopular in Maryland, and Lord Baltimore soon discovered another problem: his map was inaccurate, and the mislocation of Cape Henelopen on the Delaware coast gave the Penns more land than he had thought. With his colony unhappy and feeling he had given up more than intended, Calvert sought to abrogate the agreement. As a result, in 1734 he sued in Chancery Court in London, charging fraud. The Penns, naturally, replied that the agreement was based on Baltimore's map, not theirs. Finally, in 1750 the Penns won the case, with costs, and the surveying could proceed. However, it was not until 1763 that both sides agreed to hire Mason and Dixon and share the costs of the survey.
The present document is written in a secretarial hand on folio sheets of paper stitched together. It contains the same text as the printed 1732 document, outlining the details of the boundary settlement and indicating an agreement by the two parties based on the Baltimore map. As indicated by the title, after the agreement a second document has been included here (in the same secretarial hand), from the Penns to their agents in the province outlining the agreement and the boundaries to be drawn up, again mirroring the printed 1732 document. As this is a fair copy, it is not signed by the parties, although their names are inscribed at the end in the same secretarial hand.

This highly important document was the basis for what proved to be a lengthy and contentious colonial dispute, ultimately resulting in the boundary survey that defined the line between the North and the South.


$25,000.


A highly important manuscript document relating to the long-standing dispute regarding the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary. This document, undated but written in June 1776, shows the divisiveness that existed between two of the most important American colonies on the eve of the Declaration of Independence, and the efforts being made to resolve it by some of the leading supporters of independence.

By the summer of 1776 the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary had been in dispute for nearly a century. In fact, the issue was not definitively settled until the Civil War and the creation of the state of West Virginia. The issue originated in the ambiguous terms of the 1681 grant to William Penn, which conflicted with Virginia’s claim to lands “from sea to sea, west and northwest,” over any territory not covered by royal grants. Prior to the French and Indian War of the 1750s, Virginia claimed most of what is now southwestern Pennsylvania, and attempted to settle it. The surveying of the Mason-Dixon line the following decade did little to alleviate the dispute, as it indicated that Pennsylvania extended some distance west of the
Allegheny Mountains. In 1773, Pennsylvania established Westmoreland County in the disputed territory, and the following year Virginia took possession of Fort Pitt and the Westmoreland County seat, arresting the justices who refused to recognize the jurisdiction of Virginia. The dispute almost boiled into open warfare in 1774-75, as the last colonial governor, Lord Dunmore, sought to bring the Virginia frontier under control. In 1776, Pennsylvania proposed that a temporary boundary, “as nearly correspondent to the true one as possible such as will ‘do no injury to either party,’” should be established. The present document is the response of three of the Virginia delegates to the Continental Congress, who received the proposal.

The document is in the hand of Richard Henry Lee, who has signed it himself, and has added the signatures of two of his fellow Virginia delegates, Thomas Nelson, Jr. and his brother, Francis Lightfoot Lee. The text reads:

The Virginia Delegates have received the proposal for establishing a temporary boundary between the States of Virginia and Pennsylvania and for answer, say, their power is ended; having been expressly limited to the line already proposed to the honorable Convention of the State of Pennsylvania as a temporary boundary. That they will without delay transmit the proposal of the honorable Committee to the Governor and Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in order to its being laid before the General Assembly that meets early in October next; and in the mean time they wish that the influence of both governments may be exerted to preserve friendship and peace between the people of both States on the controverted Boundary.

At the time this proposal was considered, Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and Thomas Nelson, Jr. were all representing Virginia in the Second Continental Congress, and all three men would affix their signatures to the Declaration of Independence the following month. Richard Henry Lee, in fact, formally put forth the motion on June 7, calling on the Congress to declare independence.

A highly important step on the road to independence, suspending a dramatic conflict between two of the leading colonies about to become the United States. $25,000.


Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry (1794-1858) writes to his nephew, James DeWolf Perry, concerning a political appointment James had asked his uncle to help him obtain. Both letters are accompanied by James Perry’s retained drafts of the letters to which the Commodore is responding. In the first letter, dated Feb.
Perry writes that he will do all he can to secure the position in question, but will have to wait until the new administration has settled in:

I will write to my friend and neighbour Col. Webb who is now in Washington; he remains there until after the inauguration; he is one of the leading and most influential Taylor men, and will doubtless be disposed to advocate your interest. There is one thing however that will be necessary to prove and that is your political position, in the state. I am no party man myself, having always abstained from voting excepting and only one instance many years ago to support a personal friend, but I feel assured that the offices will all be given to Whigs or those that profess to be of that party. You had therefore better inform me that I may so mention it in my letter to Col. Webb, whether you are a good and available Whig; otherwise I doubt whether you would have any chance of succeeding.

It seems, however, that actions were not fast enough. In the second letter, dated April 7, Perry writes that he has found the requested appointments are already filled:

I duly rec’d your letter explaining your reasons for the course adopted by you with respect to your late application for an appointment when I was informed that you and [your cousin] Grant were desirous of obtaining certain offices. I readily undertook to render any poor service I could in furtherance of the object but on reaching Washington I at once found that the matter of appointments to office was so arranged as to throw nearly the whole power into the hands of the Congressional delegations, and that the offices which you and Grant desired were already disposed of....

Matthew Perry had served in the Navy since before the War of 1812 and ably commanded the U.S. Naval force off the Mexican coast during the Mexican-American War. An expert on ordnance, his bombardment of the walls of Vera Cruz and his control of the coast made possible Winfield Scott’s expedition to capture Mexico City. Perry would later gain lasting fame as commander of the fleet which opened Japan to the western world.

Trouble in the Ranks:
The Commander of a Union Regiment Takes on His Own Officers


$3000.
The extensive archive of Union colonel John Frederick Pierson, consisting of over 145 items, mostly relating to the arguments and disagreements among the officers of the 1st New York Volunteer Infantry. Pierson served as an officer from when the regiment was mustered in June 1861, serving as colonel until he was shot through the chest at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. Before that, he quarreled with other regimental officers, which resulted in arrests and courts-martial. Many of these documents deal with the ongoing and disruptive fights between the officers.

John Frederick Pierson (1839-1932), the son of a New York steel merchant, was privately educated in New York City. He joined the New York National Guard in 1857 (7th New York Regiment, Co. “K”), but once the Civil War broke out he was attached to the 1st New York Infantry, Co. “H” as a lieutenant. He quickly climbed up the ranks, becoming a captain in May 1861, major in July 1861, lieutenant colonel in September 1861, colonel in October 1862, and breveted a brigadier general on March 13, 1865, as part of the general brevet promotion that occurred that day. He was wounded twice, once at the Battle of Glendale and once more seriously on May 3, 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorsville, where he was shot through the chest or shoulder. The 1st New York mustered out in June, and Pierson joined the New York 37th on his recovery. He was captured at Bristoe Station, Virginia on Oct. 14, 1863 and taken as a prisoner of war to Libby Prison in Richmond until exchanged. After the war he joined his family’s business, the Ramapo Iron Works.

The 1st New York mustered into the Army of the Potomac for two years in May 1861, the first U.S. regiment to enroll for that length of time. They were first assigned to Fort Monroe, Virginia, then ordered to Big Bethel. From there they went to Newport News. The regiment was active in several battles, including Big Bethel, Glendale, Second Bull Run, and Chancellorsville. Many of the earliest documents in this archive regard the New York National Guard (7th New York
Regiment, Co. “K”), to which Pierson belonged. One such document is an 1861 roll of the members of the 7th New York, Co. “K,” which includes Pierson, and a list of Co. “K” members killed and wounded during the Civil War.

After Pierson joined the New York 1st Infantry, Co. “H” on June 27, 1861, he became involved in “the Recruiting business” for the regiment, even using family members, such as his brother Charley, to help. Several letters are included from J. Frederick to Charley, one pleading: “You must help me....Can I get any men there?” Documents from this period also include invoices of purchases for military equipment, including military weapons; promotions; and more. Also included are various general orders listing the promotions of Pierson; lists of “the Officers Mess of Company H” (June 14, 1861, four days after participating in the Battle of Big Bethel); a military appointment of Pierson to captain in the 1st New York signed by New York governor Edwin D. Morgan (May 27, 1861); a military appointment of Pierson to major signed by Gov. Morgan (July 29, 1861), with a document signed by Adj. Gen. J. Meredith Reed, Jr.

Trouble began to surface for the 1st New York in early 1862 as the regiment joined the Peninsula Campaign in southeastern Virginia. In a letter from Col. Garrett Dyckman at Newport News, Virginia, Pierson finds out that many of the men under Dyckman were hostile to them:

I occasionally receive a hint that the clique business is still flourishing in the Regt but it does not show itself to me. It appears as if Cl. Co. Bj. & Sil. cannot come to an understanding in what manner they shall remove those above them or who shall fill the vacancies if removed therefore each appears to work on his own hook. The officers in the Regt who are against both of us are (I may as well write their names) Clancy, Coles, Yeamans (Silva against me), Bjorg, (Shaw against you) Hamilton (against you) Campbell (against me) Melville (against me) Hyde, & Carpenter, those not mentioned are either friends, or men of well balanced minds, who would think cliquing too contemptible a business for them to enter into.

Earlier in January 1862, Berry sent a letter to Major Henry W. Breevort (a fair copy is included) suggesting the regiment was dysfunctional and thus should be disbanded:

I have to say that the three field officers of this Regt. are very unfriendly to each other, and since its connection with the Brigade, they have done all they could to render each others places uncomfortable. This fight has of course descended to the line Officers sending one way and many another, and so to the Rank and file, until it came to pass that there was no discipline in the Regiment. I do not mean to say that there are no good Officers, for there are quite a number of good and deserving ones but from the quarrel existing between the field Officers, and from the trouble occasioned by some disorderly officers of Line the Regiment has suffered extremely....Lieut. Col. Pierson is in arrest. Major Jas. Clancy is in arrest also. [Berry then lists the names of eight other officers who have been arrested in connection with the crippling quarrel.] I would recommend that the recommendations of General Birney, General of
Division, to break up the Regt. and place the members with the 37th N.Y.V. be carried out or that the whole lot of the officers now under arrest be got rid of.

Matters got worse when Major James T. Clancy was placed under arrest on July 17, 1862. Two other officers were dismissed in a directive from President Lincoln and carried out by Special Orders No. 179 (included here) issued by the War Department on Aug. 2, 1862. Then in a letter to War Secretary Edwin Stanton (a fair copy is included), Pierson reports the strange desertion of Col. Garrett Dyckman when ordered to the front lines: “At Yorktown he left the Regiment, and has not reported since.” Several others also deserted. In this letter Pierson asks Stanton to dismiss all of them from the army because they “have proved themselves to be worthless officers, if not cowards” (Aug. 24, 1862). Included in this archive are holograph statements dated Sept. 8 and 10, 1862 from two of the accused, Capt. William Coles and Major James Clancy. In their statements they explained their absences from the regiment (Coles cited “Cholic” and Clancy blamed his “horse being lame from a wound”). According to another document Cole was found guilty of being absent without leave and neglect of duty; his punishment was the suspension of rank and pay for one month, along with a public reprimand in general orders. Clancy, who was removed from his appointment, was reinstated later in September (those documents are also included here). Pierson has endorsed each statement by Cole and Clancy with an endorsement arguing that both had intentionally deserted. In a significant letter dated Sept. 15, 1862 to Brig. Gen. David Birney from Annapolis, Maryland, Pierson explains the unfortunate affair. Two copies of this letter are included, one being Pierson's retained copy. After the military trials of Cole and Clancy, Pierson writes his father on Oct. 10, 1862: “I am making a big fight here now, and go around full of impudence and bowie knives....The men are enthusiastic over my return.” Likely, Pierson felt better about his prospects because the day before he received his commission as colonel of the 1st New York (signed by Gov. Morgan and included here). In another letter to his father dated Dec. 27, 1862, Pierson reports on the day that Clancy returned to his position in the regiment:

Upon his arrival, I demanded “What are you doing here sir?” “I am here by order of the Secy. Of War.” Permit me to see the order Sir? He gave it to me and I quietly whistled Yankee Doodle and unhesitatingly endorsed it thus “The position previously occupied by Mr. Clancy was regularly filled before the date of this order, and he cannot therefore be restored....” I handed it to him and said “You will of course leave this camp Sir.”...Mr Clancy backed out....If he prefers to contest the point he can give me much trouble.

On Dec. 29, 1862, Gen. Hiram G. Berry, commander of the division, praised Pierson for improving the regiment:

In justice to your endeavors to make the Regm't under your command one of the best in this Division, I beg leave to say that you may have positive proof of the value set upon these exertions. That, since your promotion to your present position your Regiment has improved beyond my expectations, although I
knew of your previous worth as an officer. When the First New York joined
my Brigade at Fair Oaks, its discipline was very poor. The habits of many of
its Officers were such as to demoralize...I am happy to say that through your
exertions many worthless officers have been got rid of.

Three fair copies of this letter are included.

By then, however, a serious quarrel had broken out between Pierson and Clancy.
Letters of accusation between the two are included. Pierson's impudence became
obvious to his own commanding officer, Brig. Gen. David B. Birney, who got
involved, writing a letter from the 1st Division headquarters on June 13, 1863,
which reads in full:

The conduct of Colonel Pierson has been very insubordinate and I am told by
Gen'l [Hiram G.] Berry has tended greatly to relax discipline in his Brigade.
I am confident his release from arrest is because of...statements made to the
Sec'y of War by the influential friends of Col. Pierson. I would urge that no
decision be made before Major Clancy and Gen'l Berry both are heard.

Pierson himself had been placed under arrest the very next day, in October 1863.
To his utter embarrassment and chagrin, he “was taken by the Enemy and sub-
sequently thrown into a Richmond Prison. While the disgraceful fact that I was
captured while under arrest at the rear of the Army was published in the Papers.
As my conscience Sir, and my memory both acquit me of ever having neglected
my duty or committed any Military Offence.” Many more letters and documents
concerning this affair are included.

This archive contains many other letters (many of which are fair copies) and
documents signed by numerous Union officers, such as requests for leaves of ab-
sence; various directives, many issued by Pierson; general orders; “orders for the
government of the Police Guard” (Aug. 10, 1861); invoices, such as one from the
Depot of Army Clothing and Equipage (April 10, 1862); a list of members of the
“First Regmt. Inf. N.Y.U.S.V.” killed and wounded in the Civil War; letters of
promotion recommendations; a document certifying that Col. Pierson “has been
exchanged as a prisoner of war...He will join his Regiment without delay,” signed
by E.D. Townsend, Assistant Adj. Gen., Oct. 5, 1862; and more. Several post-Civil
War items are also included: The Union Club (1867) containing the constitution,
rules, and list of members and officers of the exclusive New York City social club
(Pierson is listed as a member); The Seventh Regiment Gazette (January 1933), with
an obituary of Pierson; The New York National Guardsman (June 1933); and the
fiftieth anniversary edition of The Seventh Regiment Gazette (August 1933) with
an article on Pierson.

A considerable archive, worthy of further research. $9500.
“All is despondency and terror in New York...”


Joseph Reed, president of Pennsylvania, writes to James Smith, lawyer and signer of the Declaration of Independence, conveying a resolution of the Pennsylvania government and news of the American Revolution. Joseph Reed (1741-85) was a distinguished Philadelphia lawyer and Revolutionary officer who served as Gen. Washington’s secretary and aide-de-camp, and subsequently as adjutant general of the Continental Army. He was president of Pennsylvania from late 1778 to 1781, and a counselor for the state of Pennsylvania during the Wyoming Controversy, the land dispute with Connecticut. His correspondent, James Smith, was a lawyer who served as a delegate to the Pennsylvania constitutional convention of 1776. Smith was subsequently sent to the Continental Congress, where he took his place in history among those who put their name to the Declaration of Independence. In 1784 he likewise served Pennsylvania during the Wyoming Controversy.

Reed’s letter indicates he is passing on to Smith a Resolution of the Board. At this time Smith was at his home in York, and the matter may have related to his service in the state assembly or his legal practice. Reed writes: “Sir, I duly received your favour & now inclose you a Resolution of the Board on the desired subject. As soon as the Secretary can make out a Pardon in form it will be sent to you.”

But the real meat of the letter is in the postscript, which reads:

P.S. I cannot help congratulating you on the great events which have lately happened. The English fleet defeated, Grenada taken, the Spanish mediation rejected and of course an immediate declaration on her part. We have very authentick accounts that there will be a junction of the two fleets making in the whole 52 sail of the line. We expect every moment to hear further events from the West Indies, Count D’Estaing having gone to St. Kitts in pursuit of Byron. We are sanguine enough to expect a surrender of that island & even the fleet & troops. All is despondency & terror at New York. Clinton is gone home. Ld. Cornwallis has the command & we have every reason to expect he will confine himself to York Island.

$3000.

Signed by a Key Figure in English Settlement in America

Manuscript document signed by Robert Rich, the second Earl of Warwick, who was commander of the British Navy and a promoter of the American colonies. In this memorandum, addressed to the Commissioners of His Majesty’s Navy, the Committee of Lords and Commons for the Admiralty and Cinque Ports recommends that one John Coxe be made gunner on the ship the John. It is signed by Robert Rich (“Warwicke”), Dudley North, John Rolle, John Trevor, and Alexander Berne.

Robert Rich (1587-1658) was an important English political figure in the 17th century. Involved in Parliament, he also held command of the Royal Navy and was involved in several colonial American ventures. After failing to persuade the original Puritan “pilgrims” to settle in Guiana, Rich, as a member of the Council for New England, secured for John Peirce the patent on which the Plymouth colony existed for the first eight years. He likewise signed the second patent for William Bradford in 1630 and was instrumental in the patent for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was also involved in privateering and several settlement schemes along the Central American coast and in the West Indies. His signature is rare. $2500.


A small but exceptional collection of memos and drafts, providing rare insight into how FDR ran the Georgia Warm Springs, a Georgia resort that he took over and developed into a retreat for polio sufferers after founding the Warm Springs Foundation in 1927. The collection comprises five parts:
   To all patients....The Foundation is conducting the treatment, and the patients come here for a definite purpose. The greater part of each day is taken up with the treatment, and while there is no wish to curtail personal liberty or recreation, it is essential to prevent fatigue and to work for the highest degree of health for all concerned. That is why simple rules are necessary. Many patients or their families will perhaps consider that circumstances warrant special exceptions to the rules – but this would soon lead to confusion and discrimination. That is why all patients whether of full age or minors, whether living in the colony, hotel or in private cottages are asked to live up not only to the letter, but to the spirit of the rules. We are concerned with the greatest good to the greatest number.


4) Typed manuscript, dated July 7, 1927, on Georgia Warm Springs Foundation letterhead. [1]p. “Subject: The Comfort & Happiness of Patients,” signed in type: “E.T. Curtis, Mgr.” Reading in part: “A prime reason for the operation of Warm Springs by the Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt and associates, is the establishment of the Cure. The happiness of all patients, whether in the Hotel, in the Colony, or in private cottages, is of the first importance and will be so considered by all members of the staff.”

5) Typewritten newsletter, “The Daily Gossip,” dated July 6, 1927, on the verso of Georgia Warm Springs letterhead. Whimsical report of the disappearance and subsequent location of two of the resort’s patients who happened to be young, male, and inebriated.

Roosevelt acted as general manager in charge of setting policy during first year of the foundation, the period during which these letters were written. He would ultimately meet his end there two decades later, and it was subsequently renamed the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation. This collection of documents outlines policies and reflect Roosevelt’s enthusiasm for the resort’s therapeutic capabilities, from which he felt he had already benefited, as well as his sense of great responsibility for visiting patients. Letters and documents including details of Roosevelt’s time at Warm Springs are rare. $10,000.

**Inscribed by FDR, Charting the Way Out of the Great Depression**

88. **Roosevelt, Franklin D.: LOOKING FORWARD.** [with:] **ON OUR WAY.** New York: John Day, 1933, 1934. 279,[1]; xiv,300,[1]pp. Original blue publisher’s cloth, gilt. Light soiling to cloth of first title. Both jackets clipped at corners, some minor chipping and a few small tears. Both internally fresh and clean, with presentation inscription by the author on front fly leaf and bookplate on each front pastedown. Very good in a very good dust jacket, and
near fine in a very good dust jacket. Housed together in a custom blue cloth slipcase, cloth chemise with leather label for each volume.

First edition of each title, both inscribed to Frederick Holbein at Christmas by Roosevelt the year each was published. In Looking Forward the newly inaugurated president reflects on the events leading to the Great Depression and the way forward out of the crisis. On Our Way is the sequel volume, presenting Roosevelt’s personal account of the first year of his administration and the ideals of the New Deal. Looking Forward is a fifth printing, while On Our Way appears to be a first printing.

$9500.

Sailing from New Haven to Kill Seals in the South Pacific in 1803


A very interesting narrative of a voyage made by Joel Root (b. 1770), a native of Southington, Connecticut, as supercargo and director of a voyage on the ship Huron which left New Haven in April 1802 in search of hair seals for the American market and fur seals to be sold in China. Clearing Cape Horn in January 1803, they arrived at the Mocha, Lobos, and St. Mary’s islands off the coast of South America, where they found a large population of seals. Root and a small party were blown off course in a whale boat and temporarily separated from the Huron. After being briefly imprisoned at Concepcion, they rejoined the Huron on Feb. 25. The captain headed for the Lobos Islands off the coast of Peru, while Root chose to stay behind on St. Mary’s Island off the coast of Chile. With part of the crew he was able to take ten thousand seal skins. On the return of the Huron, they set sail on Sept. 25 for the island of Massafuero, one of the Juan Ferdinand Islands, also off the coast of Chile. There Root proposed to take fur seals for the China market, while the Huron returned to the U.S. with its cargo of nineteen thousand skins. “Mr. Root was surprized to find on the island more men than seals....In all there were about 150 men.” These were lone sealers left behind by various ships. Root himself took about 4,000 skins, and purchased another 5,000 or more from the loners who had been threatened by the Viceroy of Peru with imprisonment if they failed to leave the island. In fire sale fashion, Root bought the skins for twenty-five to fifty cents each, and upon reaching Canton he sold them for ninety-five cents a piece and invested the proceeds in China goods which he then sold in Hamburg. From Hamburg he sailed for St. Petersburg, where he bought a cargo
of mixed goods to sell on his return to the United States. He reached New Haven again on Oct. 30, 1806.

Four other manuscript versions of Root’s narrative have been located, all in some way different. There is also a published account of the voyages in the Papers of the New Haven Historical Society (Vol. 5, 1894) which differs markedly from this. That version is told in the first person while this is in the third; it is generally more detailed but omits two substantial sections included here which tell of an encounter with pirates at Sumatra and an incident with a disgruntled sealer who almost murdered Root. The present narrative was written by Dr. Emile B. Gardette, Root’s grandson-in-law, based on accounts related to him by Root in 1836. According to the text, Gardette wrote this in 1841. As suggested by some of the wording, he may also have used an account which was written in 1840 by Root himself for his family. The original manuscript of that account is not located, but the New-York Historical Society lists a “transcript of memoir originally written in 1840 and subsequently copied by [Root’s] daughter in 1847.” East Carolina University’s Joyner Library also holds a copy of the 1840 memoir, photocopied from an unspecified source and previously owned by Jake D. Moore of Kingston, North Carolina. The University of Montana likewise holds a copy with more or less the same text as the present copy, though theirs is fifty-six pages rather than seventy-three, and is described as a “photocopy of a typescript” with added photographs and genealogy.

A Fine Medical Letter from Benjamin Rush:

“I love to read the productions of young men...”


Benjamin Rush writes to fellow physician Valentine Seaman, discussing Dr. Seaman’s recent work on mineral waters and other medical discourses. Seaman was the first doctor in America to teach clinical surgery, and was likewise the first to introduce vaccination, vaccinating his own children against chicken pox.

Rush was a Pennsylvania physician, delegate to the Continental Congress, and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He later served as surgeon general for the Middle Department of the Continental Army, though he resigned in outrage over the disorganization and corruption in army hospitals. He established several
medical facilities in Philadelphia, including the College of Physicians in 1787. “Writing prolifically over nearly half a century, Rush was the first American physician to become widely known at home and abroad. More than any other physician, Rush established the reputation of Philadelphia as a center for medical training.... His drive to understand mental illness and render the treatment of mental patients more humane earned Rush the title ‘father of American psychiatry’” – ANB.

In this letter he writes:

Your analysis of the mineral waters at Saratoga is ingenious, and calculated to be useful. I admire the intrepidity in thinking discovered by the authors of the inaugural dissertations. I object only to the indelicate epithets with which they condemn the theories from which they dissented. In a science so difficult as medicine...even conjectures should be treated with decency. It will give me pleasure to hear of your not only rivalling your alma mater, but of your exceeding us in useful discourses. “Ubi libertas, ibi Roma.” In like manner where there is truth, there should be the focus of all literary prejudice and attachment. I expect to commit a second volume of medical inquiries and observations to the press in a few days.

Mr. Stall, one of my pupils, will convey to you some copies of the theses of our late graduates. I beg you would continue to send me copies of all that are published in your college every year. I love to read the productions of young men. If they are destitute of new facts, they abound with new tho’ts, & are most necessary to men in the median or decline of life.

A fine letter between two of the country’s leading medical men. $5000.

Benjamin Rush Presents John Jay with His Latest Book:
“...private virtue never fails ultimately to subdue prejudice...”


Dr. Benjamin Rush writes to his friend, Gov. John Jay, transmitted with a copy of Rush’s Essays. Rush was a delegate to the Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. He later served as surgeon general for the Middle Department of the Continental Army, though he resigned in outrage over the disorganization and corruption in army hospitals. He established several medical facilities in Philadelphia, including the College of Physicians in 1787. “Writing prolifically over nearly half a century, Rush was the first American physician to become widely known at home and abroad. More than any other physician, Rush established the reputation of Philadelphia as a center for medical training....His drive to understand mental illness and render the treatment of mental patients more
humane earned Rush the title ‘father of American psychiatry’” – ANB.

The recipient of this letter, John Jay, is no less illustrious. Among his many accomplishments, Jay served as the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, governor of New York, and was instrumental in negotiating the treaty named for him. Rush writes:

Dear Sir, Permit me to request the favor of your acceptance of the enclosed volume of Essays. You will perceive in reading some of them, that the author has been actuated by a belief in the future prevalence of those principles of Universal peace & order which is predicted on the Old & New Testament. Permit me at the same time to express the great pleasure with which I hear from time to time of the satisfaction with which the citizens of the State of New York of all parties and religious denominations, speak of your administration of their government. In the fluctuation of public opinion respecting men, I have uniformly observed that private virtue never fails ultimately to subdue prejudice, and to preserve justice to opinions, and conduct.

This letter likely accompanied a copy of Rush’s Essays, Literary, Moral & Philosophical which was published in 1798. A fine letter from a Signer to an important Founding Father.

ANB (online). $6500.

A Consul’s Daughter Draws Scenes in Algiers, 1825-27

92. Schultze, Frances Kenney: [PORTFOLIO OF PENCIL DRAWINGS BY ARTIST FRANCES K. SCHULTZE, PRIMARILY EXECUTED DURING HER TIME IN ALGIERS AS A YOUNG WOMAN], Tunis. 1825-1827, 1841-1842. Twenty leaves, containing twenty-one individual

Album of charming pencil drawings by English-born artist Frances Kenney Schultze (née Bowen, 1810–61) at the young age of fifteen. Schultze's father was stationed in Algiers as the British consul, and these drawings show scenes in Tunis and vicinity. They demonstrate an able hand and keen eye. Several feature a camel, while others show the consul's residence, ancient ruins and temples, gazelles, one portrait of a woman (possibly her mother), and a figure copied from one of Raphael's frescoes in Rome. Some of the sketches have Arabic captions as well as English. Most of the compositions are from Algiers and dated 1825–27, though the latter leaves contain two pages of sketched notes for a painting and three other pieces which appear to date to 1841–42. The young artist has signed many of the compositions with either name or initials.

Schultze became a noted oil painter, primarily of oriental scenes, and these early sketches show the development of her love for the area and subject matter. A wonderful album of views in an area little seen by European eyes in this period. $6500.

_Voyage from Boston to Palermo and Back to Nantucket_


First-person narrative of a young man's sea voyage from Boston to Palermo and back. Though serving as a hand, the young man seems to be of fairly good breeding and education, having determined to teach himself the art of navigation while on board and often waxing poetic and sentimental. Departing on Oct. 21, 1850, the author says the ship is “a very good looking vessel” and that the Captain and mates are “very fine men;” regarding the rest of the crew he says: “I have not been with them long enough to judge of their characters as yet.” While his journal is filled with weather and wind and resetting the rigging, it also has very contemplative passages:

At eight PM I went to the wheel it was a beautiful night, the full moon shone in all her glory casting a mellow light on all around, so light was the breeze that it scarce ruffled the surface of the Ocean, our ship was gliding through the water with scarcely any perceptable [sic] motion, ah who would not go to sea were it always thus. I have been thinking of home and friends this watch which I may never see again but I hope before many months are passed I shall return to my native land and grasp the hand of friends once more.
He writes often of seeing friends and home again, and of spending his future days more profitably than his past ones. On Nov. 18 he turns twenty and writes: “I must say that but a small portion of that time has been spent as it should have been, but it is passed and cannot be recalled, and I have only to try to do better in future and hope for success.” The ship arrives at Palermo on Nov. 30 and the crew are let ashore on Dec. 8, having finally passed quarantine. The author writes at some length about Palermo and the sights seen, including the King’s gardens and the catacombs, “where are the remains of some twenty thousand people of both sexes and all ages from the infant to the gray headed old man.” But for all the sights of Palermo, he is nevertheless eager to be underway again for home. One of the tasks the crew has been set to is the painting of the ship, which the author finds quite enjoyable: “We have been painting the spars today which is hard work but [I] have a fancy for painting so I have got along very well.”

Impatient to be home, he is not sorry when they set off from Palermo on Dec. 21: “I do not think I shall regret leaving here though I have nothing in particular to complain of respecting the town or the inhabitants.” Light winds hamper their return journey, and at times the ship is entirely becalmed. When they finally reach Gibraltar on Jan. 14, squalls are upon them and they have to anchor there for some days. While in port the author begins to be peevish with the Captain:

...the Capt. has found plenty of what I call humbuging [sic] or unnecessary work for us to do, it seems strange to me that a man professing to be a gentleman should stoop to such low acts of meanness merely to show his authority and gratify a malicious spirit, but so it is with some who wish to exercise a sort of tyranny over those who have not the power to defend themselves, however we shall soon be on an even footing and can say and do as we please and then I shall express myself more freely.

Things eventually settle out, though, with the Duchess arriving in Nantucket on Feb. 22, 1851, ending the journal. An interesting and personal account of a trip to sea.

$1250.

A Call for Fundraising for a School to Teach German Emigrants in Pennsylvania

An evocative letter from the Rev. William Smith, written to the noted emissary to the Pennsylvania Indian tribes, Conrad Weiser, discussing their efforts to build a school for German emigrants in Pennsylvania. Smith wrote this letter shortly after he was named the first provost of the College of Philadelphia, which eventually became the University of Pennsylvania. This letter, however, refers to the efforts of Smith and Weiser in establishing and raising funds for a different educational enterprise, the Society for Promoting Religious Knowledge and the English Language Among the German Emigrants in Pennsylvania. Just two months earlier, in March 1755, Weiser set up such a school at Tulpehocken.

In this letter Smith instructs Weiser to go ahead and pay the master of the new school, and he also asks Weiser and some of his wealthy associates to give financial assistance to the school – in essence sending an early fundraising letter. Smith writes that the school has received a large number of applications and does not want to turn away any students. Smith also alludes to possible competition he feels from other parochial schools among the German settlers, again signaling his desire to see the school grow and succeed. He writes:

I have not lately had a meeting, but am certain the Gentlemen will heartily approve of every thing you have done in the school. You may advance the master a small sum without any danger. We shall settle his salary at our first meeting which will be soon; but as there are so many applications for Schools, we hope the richer sort among you will contribute something, as the people have done in other places. Unless this is done we shall not be able to answer half the number of petitions & we would fain do something for every body of people that has applied. I think you should lose no time in the affair of the Schoolhouse. Neither Mr. Spanenberg's answer, nor anything his people can do, is in the least to the purpose. The ground cannot be theirs exclusively.

William Smith (1727-1803) was born in Scotland and came to America as a tutor while still in his twenties. In 1753 he published an essay, *A General Idea of the College of Mirania*, which impressed Benjamin Franklin, who secured Smith's appointment to the faculty of the Academy of Philadelphia. In 1755 he was named Provost of the newly-reorganized College of Philadelphia. A supporter of the Penns' proprietary government, Smith quickly found himself at odds with Franklin. Smith was frequently embroiled in American politics, all the way to the American Revolution, during which his ambivalent views on American independence alienated him.

Conrad Weiser (1696-1760) was born in Germany and came to New York with his family as a boy. He formed good relations with many of the New York Indian leaders and learned their languages. He is best remembered for his work in negotiating treaties with Indian tribes in Pennsylvania, where he moved his family in 1729. He was briefly a member of the Ephrata Cloister, and at other times was a Lutheran, a Baptist, and a member of the Reformed Church. He was also a trustee of the board to educate German youths in Pennsylvania in the early 1750s. The “Mr. Spanenberg” to which Smith refers in this letter was likely German theologian
August Gottlieb Spangenberg, who at the time was supervising Moravian churches in Pennsylvania.


Sell My South Sea Stock, Please!


Manuscript document authorizing the attorney and agent of Gerard Van Neck to sell £6,000 “credit or stock...in the capital stock of the Governour & Company of Merchants of Great Britain, trading to the South Seas and other parts of America.” Van Neck, a merchant in London, likewise authorizes his agent – Stephen Danbuz, also a merchant in London – to “sign the transfer book according to custom, and to receive monies arising by such sale and to give sufficient receipts and discharges for the same, and to do all things needful for effecting the premisses, ratifying and allowing all that my said attorney shall lawfully do by virtue hereof.”

The South Sea Bubble, the speculation mania that ruined many English investors in 1720, was the greatest financial crisis and public scandal in English history. Organized to promote speculation in the burgeoning British trade with America, the South Sea plan hinged on Spain opening four ports in the Americas to British ships. What investors did not know was that Spain had only agreed to the admission of one ship per year, making impossible the widely touted financial gains. The company was quickly embroiled in numerous financial controversies and difficulties which hastened its collapse. Though many investors from all classes were utterly ruined, none of the directors suffered any serious repercussions. In 1720, after a massive surge in South Sea stock,
the “bubble” burst, leaving many investors ruined. The company nevertheless persisted until 1853, though it sold most of its rights to the Spanish government in 1750.

$6000.

**Trying to Collect the Interest on South Sea Stock**


Manuscript document demanding payment for interest on South Sea Company stocks. The document reads:

Know all men by these presents that I Ann Dryden of Bolton Street, spin[ste]r. do hereby authorize and empower Elizabeth Dryden of the same place, widow, to ask demand and receive of and from the cashier of the South Sea Company or whomever else it doth or may concern the interest due and to grow due on all the South Stock which I now have or hereafter shall be in my name and to give the necessary receipts acquaintances and discharges for the same.”

It is signed by Ann Dryden and witnessed by Bevill Dryden and Elizabeth Dryden Junr.

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$4000.

*A Member of Grigsby’s Cowboy Cavalry Trains for the Spanish–American War*

97. [Spanish–American War]: Baxter, Leighton H.: [TWO LETTERS DESCRIBING LIFE AT CAMP THOMAS IN GEORGIA, STATIONED WITH THE THIRD U.S. VOLUNTEER CAVALRY DURING THE SPANISH–AMERICAN WAR]. Chickamauga Park,
A pair of letters written by Leighton H. Baxter to a friend back home. In his first letter he states that he is “not an enlisted soldier, but has a regulation suit...a horse to ride and am fixed up very nicely. He works for the commander of the squadron, Major Leigh H. French, presumably as a teenage civilian clerk. His duties include “a good deal of writing to do, telegrams to send, take notes of cases tried in the regiment, and a great many other minor duties.” He sleeps in the same tent as the Major and takes his meals with the officers. He is well fed but is very glad not to be a private, as they “fare badly.” It is, however, “a regular circus to see the boys ride and shoot, they beat Buffalo Bill all to pieces.” Baxter reports that there are some 40,000 to 50,000 troops at Camp Thomas, with more due to arrive. Some have already departed for “Porto Rico,” and he expects his squadron to be going there at any time. In his second letter he notes that the men in his regiment are all “crack shots, and fine riders” and all from around Deadwood and the Black Hills. He has been drilling with the men and has learned to handle a sword fairly well. He also mentions practicing “rough riding...such as leap[ing] from a horse while he is running then back again, pick[ing] up a hat while at full speed, etc.”

The Third U.S. Volunteer Cavalry was mustered into service in May 1898 and commanded by Melvin Grigsby, attorney general for the state of South Dakota. The unit was known both as the “Black Hills Squadron” and as “Grigsby’s Cowboy Cavalry.” Its commander, Maj. Leigh H. French, was trained as a medical doctor and surgeon, and had a practice in Washington D.C. when the war broke out. One of his captains, Seth Bullock, was the first sheriff of Deadwood. The squadron never saw active duty outside the continental United States, spending most of its brief career at Camp Thomas in Georgia. In the crowded camp, in the heat of a southern summer, typhus, measles, and other illnesses were rampant, and Grigsby’s Cavalry lost twenty-seven men to disease.

“...for it is in vain to wash the soil of our country in blood to regain her freedom unless we endeavor as zealously against every unhappy habit which threatens to subvert it.”

James Sullivan, Massachusetts lawyer and politician, writes to Founding Father Elbridge Gerry, discussing the need for frugality to be a core American virtue. Sullivan was involved in the convention that wrote the state’s first constitution, and led the movement to secure representation in the lower House for a representative from each town. He served as Massachusetts Attorney General from 1790 to 1807, when he resigned his post to assume the position of governor. He was a good friend of his correspondent, Elbridge Gerry.

Gerry served in the Continental Congress and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was an early and vigorous advocate of American Independence, and played a crucial role in the formation of the new United States government, insisting on a bill of rights being added to the new constitution.

His name is perhaps best remembered, however ignominiously, in connection with the term “gerrymandering.” In his second term as governor of Massachusetts, Gerry redrew district lines to consolidate his party's control in the state senate. Though this was not necessarily a new practice, the name stuck. Gerry ran on the ticket with President Madison in 1812, for Madison’s second term as president, and died in office in November 1814.

Espousing a very New England view of the situation, Sullivan imparts his thoughts on the subject of national character to his friend, emphasizing the ways in which frugality as a national trait will elevate America's position on the world stage. He advocates legislating the expense and extravagance of the President’s table, in order to set a precedent that will filter down to the state leaders, etc., and be passed down as an example to all of the nation’s future leaders.

The letter reads, in part:

My dear Gerry, You will permit me to trouble you with one thought on public measures, which though unimportant in your eye, yet your candour & friendship will pardon the intrusion. I cannot but wish, however unfashionable I may be in it, that our national character (for one we must have) may be marked by industry and oeconomy. I wish it might be said to the traveller who shall
be on his way to America, “You will find then an hospitable people, but men who uniformly attend to the various calls of industry, & while their tables are crowned with plenty, they are governed in their expenses by the rules of frugality. Their state of life is such as affords the most happy presage of their young republic being lasting as the constitution of it is pure.” A character like this would raise us in the estimation of foreigners, would fix our private and establish our public credit among the nations of the world; it would yield us an infinite advantage over what we can possibly obtain in our present carreer [sic] of mimicking fops, and men of fortune in old countries....

I am persuaded that it is in the power of Congress immediately to lay such a foundation for table frugality throughout the union as will not be shaken for a long time yet to come. You have a gentleman at the head of the federal table whom I conceive to be not only a theoretic but a practical whig and in all instances a firm patriot. Should Congress now advise or direct that his table should be spread in a mode suitable to the state and situation of a young republic, that it should bare [sic] enough for the surrounding guests without groaning under an immense weight or the wasting surplusage, which we generally see at what are called polite tables, it would be an example aided by the strength of superior opinion while all the federal officers and all the governors of the separate states would hand it down with obligations to the people. It would very soon be rendered disreputable to gentlemen of private life to exceed the measure sanctified by so great an authority. I know it may be objected that foreign ministers keep tables which ought not to be more than equal to that supported by the union....The idea of making the entertainment as splendid as the guest is an unfortunate mistake; the table ought to appear as splendid as the owner....

For a young republic struggling under an oppression of public and private demands, with scarcely one man in it who can retire from business upon his fortune, to ape the nobility of old countries must I think end in a most disagreeable manner. I know it would by some be thought a piece of indulgence to move Congress for an ordinance to regulate the President’s table, but should the President himself move Congress, and lay the foundation of such a measure, it would itemize his memory and render him as respectable as if he had conquered armies in defence of his country for it is in vain to wash the soil of our country in blood to regain her freedom unless we endeavor as zealously against every unhappy habit which threatens to subvert it.

An interesting letter by this Massachusetts politician to Gerry, showing one man’s opinion of the ways the government should economize. $3250.

This document, signed by Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, requisitions flour from New Jersey for the use of the Continental Army. Thomson served as Secretary to the Continental Congress during its existence (1774-89). The order reads: “Resolved, that eight thousand barrels of flour be requisitioned from the state of New Jersey, part of which to be furnished as soon as possible to answer the immediate demands of the Army.” That same day Congress also ordered Virginia to supply 20,000 barrels of Indian corn; Maryland to provide 20,000 barrels of flour and 5,000 barrels of Indian corn; Pennsylvania to provide 50,000 barrels of flour of wheat in proportion; and Connecticut to provide 8,000 barrels of flour. Congress also requested that Delaware supply as quickly as possible the 10,000 barrels of flour, or wheat in proportion, previously requisitioned by the supply committee.

$1000.

Painter John Trumbull Gets the Cold Shoulder in London, 1781


Painter John Trumbull writes to his father, Connecticut governor and merchant Jonathan Trumbull, relating information about business affairs in London and some of the anti-American sentiment at work against him there. John Trumbull’s skill with the pen earned him the notice of Gen. George Washington, drawing battle plans at Lexington, and Washington made him an aide-de-camp. Trumbull later served as a colonel under Horatio Gates, but retired from the army in 1777. In 1780 he traveled to Paris on business for his father, also journeying to London and the Netherlands, whence he wrote this letter.

Trumbull expresses a resigned frustration over his treatment as an American in London during the American Revolution. Exactly why he thought he would be welcome, as a former rebel officer and son of a rebel colonial governor, is unclear, and the English showed remarkable restraint in just warning him out of town. He explains to his father at some length the involvement of the London counting house in anti-American politics, noting they host expatriate Loyalists on a regular basis. He writes:

Dear Sir, Before I left London, I called at Messrs. Lane Son & Frazer’s counting house, to have some conversation with them on the subject of their debt; but finding none of them at home, I being oblig’d to leave the City the next morning, I wrote a few lines explaining your wish to bring the affair to a conclusive fulfillment, & assuring them that tho’ the war, & consequent distress of America had not advanc’d the facility of a payment, yet if they chose to confide
full powers on that head to their attorney Dr. Johnson, they might depend upon every degree of honour on your part. After having finished the letter, I was desir’d to step into the house of the elder Mr. Lane, whom I found accordingly. I told him my name and the subject on which I came to converse, and was treated as I expected rather cavalierly. I took leave therefore immediately, in the same style, telling him that he might depend upon it I was as perfectly indifferent to the business as he possibly could be. But if the house should see fit to think a little more at leisure on the subject, I had left a few lines with a direction under which they might write to me. On my arrival here I found the letter of which I enclose a copy & to which I have return’d a few lines in answer, as you will see, & which I hope will prove agreeable.

It is proper I should add a few words on the character which the house supports in the present contest, which is most inveterately anti American. Their table is attended one or two days in every week by the Refugees [i.e. Loyalists], and when some two years ago a subscription was set on foot for the relief of the American prisoners, a counter subscription ‘for the purpose of enabling His Majesty to carry on the just and necessary war against his rebellious subjects in America’ was put about, and among many others this house subscribed one hundred pounds. In short, every part of their conduct & language as I have been constantly inform’d is hostile in the highest degree, and it was for this reason that I avoided calling upon them, until the whole force of Refugee vengeance had been exhausted upon me, & I had nothing more to fear.

$4750.

Trumbull Writes Benjamin West


John Trumbull writes to his friend and instructor, painter Benjamin West, regarding the purchase of several paintings. This was written during Trumbull’s time as John Jay’s secretary on the Jay Treaty Commission, after he had been sent to France to discuss the Treaty with James Monroe, the United States minister to France. Trumbull was delayed in France, awaiting orders, and filled his time by collecting art with the help of connoisseur Jean-Baptiste Pierre Lebrun. The letter, sent from Paris, reads:

Dear Sir, You recollect my asking your opinion with respect to the prudence of purchasing pictures at present. I have been tempted to purchase a number which are now packing up to be sent forward as soon as possible, and I hope soon to have the pleasure of shewing you several such as we seldom see. Among them is a large landscape by Berghem [probably the Dutch painter Nicolaes Pieterszoon Berchem], clear and beautiful as Claude. It is allowed here to have
no equal among his works except one which is in the National Museum—a small picture by Nicholas Poussin, Christ in the Garden of Olives, the most beautiful thing I ever saw—a small picture a Religious Allegory by Guido—a St. John by Murillos—a Virgin, Child & Angels by Schidone—another by Augustin Carrache, a Magdalen by Carlo Dolci, another by LeSoeur—a Holy Family small & beautiful by Nicholas Poussin—Two capital Landscapes by Salvater—two capital pictures by Teniers, &c &c. They have been bought with the assistance of LeBrun’s Judgment, and are most of them from celebrated collections. I have directed them to remain in the King’s Warehouse until I arrive which I hope will be in five or six weeks.

This letter provides an insight into Trumbull’s own collecting interest and artistic influences.

Hailed as the official painter of the Revolution, Trumbull studied painting and art in England and France. The youngest son of the governor of Connecticut, the elder John Trumbull very much wanted his son to go into law. Trumbull did study the law, but gladly joined the fight against the British when the Revolution broke out. He eventually served as Washington’s second aide-de-campe, having been brought to the General’s attention through some very accurate drawings he had made of British gun emplacements. He rose to the rank of colonel as a deputy adjutant-general, but resigned the commission he finally received because it was dated three months late, a slight his honor could not tolerate. He refused to return to the law, finding it quite distasteful, and chose instead to pursue his true passion, art, against his family’s wishes. Though he was never particularly wealthy in this pursuit, he did achieve a certain amount of success in his own lifetime. Among his most famous works are those commissioned in 1817 by Congress to adorn the Capitol building: “The Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga,” “The Surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown,” “The Declaration of Independence,” and “The Resignation of General Washington.”

John Trumbull Hocks “The Declaration of Independence”


A remarkable document written by American artist John Trumbull, utilizing his original painting, “The Declaration of Independence,” as collateral to secure a loan from the Bank of New York. This document, addressed to Charles Wilkes as the cashier of the Bank of New York, reads in part:

Now therefore, being desirous to Secure him as far as is in my power against loss by the uncertainty of Life & prosperity, I do hereby hypothecate & pledge to him the sd. Charles Wilkes the Senate painting of the declaration of Independence now in the hands of Mr. [Asher Brown] Durand the Engraver and also the Copper plate which He is engraving from the Same as collateral Security for any Sum which he may hazard by any accident befalling me. And this pledge shall remain in full force until all and every Note or Notes which He may have endorsed for me shall be paid & Cancelled.

Trumbull is referring to his original painting of this famous event, which was begun in Paris at the suggestion of Thomas Jefferson. Trumbull was later commissioned by the Congress to paint a twelve-by-eighteen-foot version based on this original. The larger painting was sold to Congress in 1819, so it is almost certainly the original smaller version that remained in Trumbull’s possession (now at Yale University Art Gallery) that was being used as collateral for a loan.

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the elder John Trumbull very much wanted his son to go into law. Trumbull did study the law, but gladly joined the fight against the British when the Revolution broke out. He eventually served as Washington’s second aide-de-camp, having been brought to the General’s attention through some very accurate drawings he had made of British gun emplacements. He rose to the rank of colonel as a deputy adjutant-general, but he resigned the commission he finally received because it was dated three months late, a slight his honor could not tolerate. He refused to return to the law, finding it distasteful, and chose instead to pursue his true passion, art, against his family’s wishes. Though he was never wealthy in this pursuit, he did achieve a certain amount of success in his own lifetime. Among his most famous works are those commissioned in 1817 by Congress to adorn the Capitol: “The Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga,” “The Surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown,” “The Declaration of Independence,” and “The Resignation of General Washington.”

Charles Wilkes (1764-1833) was promoted to president of the Bank of New York in 1825, a position he held until his retirement in 1832. Engraver Asher B. Durand (1796-1886) made his name with his 1823 engraving of Trumbull’s “Declaration.” He turned to painting in the 1830s and helped to found the Hudson River School movement.

The original “Declaration of Independence,” redeemed from loan, was later part of Trumbull’s founding gift to the Yale University Art Gallery. $12,500.

“I view the American States tho divided into distinct jurisdictions yet but one great family...”


A lengthy and detailed letter written by Connecticut governor Jonathan Trumbull to Pierre Van Cortlandt regarding the dispersal of the Connecticut militia throughout New York in order to shore up Continental forces in an attempt to halt Gen. Burgoyne’s advance from Quebec. Van Cortlandt presided over the New York Council of Safety (effectively the governing body of the state) while Gov. George Clinton was away serving as a general in the Continental Army; he subsequently served as lieutenant governor from 1778 to 1795.

In the Saratoga Campaign of 1777, Gen. John Burgoyne led a sizable British force down the Hudson Valley from Canada, intending to cut the New England
colonies off from the rest of rebellious America. Burgoyne’s troops met with many difficulties along the way, as the American forces scrambled to impede his path with felled trees and other obstacles. Though the British were slowed in their advance, they were not stopped. The fall of Fort Ticonderoga in July eventually led to the replacement of Gen. Schuyler with Horatio Gates. The expedition ended in disaster for the British that October at Saratoga, where American forces soundly defeated Burgoyne and forced his capitulation.

In his letter Trumbull indicates a sincere desire to assist New York against the enemy’s movements. At the time, the Continental Army was headquartered at Peekskill, New York, an important position for strategic and supply reasons, and thus an attractive target for British raids; Peekskill had indeed suffered an attack from the British naval vessels in the early spring. The invasion by Burgoyne from the north, however, was not the only game afoot. Word was received that the British fleet was planning another attack along the North River, which meant that Connecticut’s militia was called upon to defend other areas of the state. Having sent word to Massachusetts and New Hampshire that troops were desperately needed, Trumbull regrets that he can only do so much to assist New York, but believes that if the men and militias of New York will rally together, they can surely halt Burgoyne’s advance with what reinforcement they have already received. He writes:

The motions of the Enemy of late is truly alarming, and hath spread consterna-
tion through the land; and calls for the joint and spirited acertions [sic] of all
to prevent the ruin of their Country and save from Slavery unborn millions.
By present appearances it seems that they mean to strike some bold stroke,
and bring matters to a speedy Crisis. Howes have put to sea their destination
not certainly known, but while they keep a Superior Fleet on the coast, it will
be in their power to embarrass and perplex us much by removing from one
place to another and thereby evading our main body while our seacoasts are
continually exposed to their depredations.

This State for the security of their seacoasts & frontiers have raised two
Battalions & now on their stations, we have done everything in our power
to fill up our Quota in the Continental Army which is not yet completed,
notwithstanding am far from considering ourselves exempted from affording
all assistance in our power to any of our sister States when invaded, for I view
the American States tho divided into distinct jurisdictions yet but one great
Family and bound by the ties of Interest & Humanity to assist and protect
each other. Have not therefore beheld the present distresses of your State as
an unconcerned Spectator, but on the first notice thereof, gave the necessary
orders for putting the whole Militia of this State into the best position of
defence, and ordered that one fourth part be detached, equipt, and ready to
march on the shortest notice for the relief of any place which may be attacked
by the Enemy, and immediately advised his Excellency General Washington
thereof, by an Express who left here the 26th ulto. and therein proposed to his
Excellency’s consideration to send Continental Troops to the Northward as
the most speedy & effectual relief of your people in that quarter assuring him
that if he approved the measure I would order the Militia of this State who I apprehended would turn out with Spirit to strengthen the post at Peck's Kill [i.e. Peekskill] and for the defence of the important passes at the Highlands, at present have received no answer. Since which have received a requisition from Major General Putnam for five hundred men to be sent immediately to Peck's Kill, which have ordered accordingly, on the 30th last received from General Schuyler a requisition for two thousand Militia to be sent to his assistance and this day have a further requisition from General Putnam for three thousand of the Militia of this State to be held in readiness to march at the shortest notice to Peck's Kill and to be held in service for a term of not less than two months.

The foregoing was intended to be sent off Express, but through my hurry to lay by till August 6th in the morning I received by Express from General Putnam another letter dated the 3rd instant enclosing a copy of a letter from General Washington to him dated at Chester 1st instant informing that he had received intelligence that the Enemies Fleet the day before about eight of the clock in the morning sailed out of the Capes of Delaware on an Eastern Course with an intent as he apprehended to go up the North River, and direct- ing General Putnam to make the speediest application to me to send to his assistant as many of the Militia of this State as could be collected to prevent General Howe getting possession of the Highlands, agreeable thereto General Putnam hath requested in the most pressing terms that the Militia of this State might be sent to his immediate relief, in consequence of this intelligence, orders are given for three thousand of the Militia, including five companies of Col. Enos' battalion under the command of Brigadier General Ward to march to Peck's Kill, which troops are now on their march, and hope they will arrive before the Enemy can approach them, and sent an Express to Governor Cook at Providence with of Generals Washington & Putnam letters with a request to him that copies thereof should be immediately forwarded to the President of the Council of the Massachusetts and by him to the State of New Hampshire, by the pressing requests from General Putnam, and the dangerous situation he was in, and the particular orders from General Washington I esteem it to comply therewith and that hath taken a great part of the Militia of this State.

I received a letter from General Schuyler, of 27th mentioned above which was directly answered informing of my correspondence with General Washington which rendered it improper for me to comply with his requisition, and altho his situation gives me pain, could do no more than write to the States of the Massachusetts & New Hampshire, which I did immediately by Express pressing them to send forward their Militia without loss of time as assist in repelling Burgoyne's Army, and hope they will view the matter of such importance as to exert themselves on the occasion indeed their situation makes it more natural to send their Militia that way. Am persuaded that General Burgoyne flushed with his success, will do everything in his power not only to maintain his present acquisitions, but to penetrate into the country before the inhabitants are recovered from their surprize, and arm in their defence; am therefore clearly of opinion that it is of the last importance to put a stop to their career as soon
as possible. The difficulties attending your Militia in this time of distress mentioned in yours affords a gloomy prospect, that when our subtil [sic] and inveterate enemies are using every art of policy and force to enslave us to find so great a part of your Militia, either in the power or interest of the Enemy, those that are friendly ought not to be intimidated thereby, but nobly turn out in their own & Country’s defence, which if they do, it appears to me, that as General Schuyler hath been reinforced by Nixon’s and Glover’s brigades they will be able to prevent Burgoyne’s further incursion.

August 6th received by Mr. Vandervoort yours dated the 1st instant the same will be laid before the General Assembly of this State, called to meet next Wednesday. We have endeavoured that your State or any of the members of it residing here should have no reason to complain of the want of just, generous and humane treatment from the government, and its inhabitants.

A detailed account of Connecticut’s militia movements by the governor of the state, in an effort to assist in halting a major British advance at a crucial moment in the American Revolution. $5000.


Vice President John Tyler writes to Secretary of State Daniel Webster regarding an appointment for Mississippi lawyer Augustine L. Dabney to the position of state district attorney. Dabney was a Mississippi lawyer and judge who suggested that the state convention propose Tyler as the candidate for vice president, a move that would lead eventually to Tyler’s election to that office. He writes:

Sir, Should a vacancy occur in the place of District Attorney of Mississippi, let me bespeak your favorable notice to the pretensions of Augustine L. Dabney, Esqr.
of Raymond Mississippi. He is a man of fine intelligence and of the soundest morals. He migrated to Mississippi about six years ago from Virginia when I had the pleasure of practicing at the same bar with him, and interchangeing the hospitalities of frequent intercourse. I endorse that no man will acquit himself of his duties more faithfully or honorably. I know nothing of the present incumbent, and am not to be understood as asking his removal. If however he has come into office over the head of another and in a spirit of proscription, even handed justice would seem to require his removal.

Letters by Tyler as vice president are fairly scarce, given the brief period of time that he held that office (March 4 – April 4, 1841). $4750.

The U.S. Pays for the Civil War

105. [United States Debt Financing]: [COLLECTION OF MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS RELATING TO AMERICAN EFFORTS TO REDUCE NATIONAL DEBT INCURRED DURING THE CIVIL WAR THROUGH SELLING BONDS VIA THE ROTHSCHILD BANK]. Washington & London. 1878-1879. Seven manuscript letters, [16]pp. total, on folio, quarto, and octavo sheets. Plus four of the original covers, two of them being Treasury Department envelopes marked “Official Business.” Light soiling, but overall very neat, clean, and readable. Near fine.

An interesting group of letters to Charles Conant, the American Treasury Department official in London charged with overseeing the sale of American bonds in the European financial markets, thereby reducing the debt incurred during the Civil War. The national debt skyrocketed during the Civil War and Reconstruction, from about $78 million in 1861 to $2.5 billion in 1871. To alleviate some of the debt the Treasury Department decided to actively sell American bonds in Europe, using the assistance of the Rothschild Bank in London and several prominent New York bankers (including J.P. Morgan), referred to in these letters as “The Syndicate.”

The centerpiece of this small collection is a group of four manuscript letters (the text written in a secretarial hand) signed by U.S. Treasury Secretary John Sherman to Charles Conant, his agent in London for “refunding the National Debt.” Conant (1835–86) was appointed to the Treasury Department in 1865 and rose through the civil service ranks. Beginning in 1870 he was chief of the warrants division, and responsible for completing the monthly debt statement of the United States, and by 1874 he was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. In 1877, Treasury Secretary John Sherman named Conant the department’s funding agent, and placed him in charge of the financial transactions of the government in London in relation to refunding the national debt. Conant spent more than two years in London, overseeing the sale of U.S. bonds in the European financial market, working closely with the Rothschild Bank (one of the envelopes is addressed to Conant c/o N.M. Rothschild & Son).

In these letters Sherman writes Conant regarding several aspects of his work. In the earliest letter, dated Feb. 12, 1878, Sherman informs Conant:
...the relation of the Syndicate, as an association, will terminate with this Department in accordance with a personal understanding had after the contract was annulled. If no bonds shall be sold in Europe, of course I shall not be justified in incurring any expense there on account of the Loan, and it will be well for you to make provision for closing your business, unless you are cognizant of some plan or arrangement for continuing the business of funding abroad, of which, I am not advised.

Apparently the Treasury Department's agreement with The Syndicate was renewed, as the next letter from Sherman, dated a year later, on Feb. 15, 1879, describes a vigorous selling operation:

The rapid sales of bonds in this country tend to make me solicitous to promote sales in Europe to avoid anything like a drain of coin here in April, May and June. I therefore thought it best to allow the Syndicate to deposit with you any called bonds as collateral, but payment for the four per cent must in every case be made within the ninety days the interest to be adjusted here. Please say to the Messrs. Rothschild that it is desirable to have all called bonds as soon as received by them, and they will be credited with interest to the maturity of the call.

A letter from Sherman to Conant of Feb. 28, 1879 describes some of the nuts and bolts of their dealings. Sherman writes (in part): “I transmit to you to-day...ten million dollars ($10,000,000)...for delivery to the contracting parties as required and paid for by them. The bonds are contained in four (4) iron safes, which are addressed to the Hon. John Welch, U.S. Minister London.” The final letter from Sherman is dated April 21, 1879, and he informs Conant that a large number of bonds belonging to the Manhattan Savings Institution have been stolen, and instructs Conant of the specific bonds that he should decline to receive, totaling some $42,000. The final three letters to Conant are of a more less official nature and are from a variety of correspondents, including one from John Biddulph Martin, who would later marry the famed feminist, Victoria Woodhull. Martin asks Conant if he can give him “the totals of the U.S. interest-bearing debt from 1860-78, which I do not find in any work which I have consulted, but which you may be able to refer to readily.”

An interesting group of letters shedding light on a little-known aspect of post-Civil War American debt financing. $1750.

**The Earliest Utah Printing:**

*A Great Salt Lake Valley Note, Signed by Brigham Young*

106. [Utah]: Young, Brigham: [PRINTED “VALLEY NOTE” CURRENCY IN DENOMINATION OF $2.00, SIGNED BY BRIGHAM YOUNG WITH PRINTED HEADING: “G.S.L. CITY, JAN, 20, 1849”]. [Salt Lake City. 1849]. Small printed paper slip, approximately 2
x 3¾ inches. Overall condition is excellent. Blindstamped with the official seal of the Twelve Apostles, and signed in manuscript by Brigham Young, Thomas Bullock, and Heber C. Kimball. N.K Whitney is named as payee in manuscript. No serial number.

This small piece of paper money printed by the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City is an example of the earliest recorded printing done in Utah. Called a “Valley Note” by Alvin E. Rust, this form of paper currency was printed in several denominations using a font of script type of the style used for calling cards. McMurtrie quotes a passage from a manuscript history of Brigham Young which describes the interesting circumstances under which this paper money was printed:

They had gold dust, but many refused to take it, as there was a waste in weighing it for exchange. To meet this want, we employed brother John Kay to coin the dust, but upon trial he broke all the crucibles and could not proceed. I then offered the gold dust back to the people, but they did not want it. I then told them we would issue paper till the gold dust could be coined. The Municipal Council agreed to have such a currency, and appointed myself and President Heber C. Kimball and bishop N.K. Whitney to issue it. The first bill, for one dollar, was issued on the first of this month [January 1849]. The bills were signed by Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, & Thomas Bullock, clerk.

“...It is definite enough that the first use of the press by the Mormon settlers was in January, 1849, for the production of paper currency. Furthermore, it is gratifyingly definite that the first printer was Brigham H. Young, with the perhaps unskilled aid of Thomas Bullock. Brigham H. Young at that time was a young man of about 25, the nephew of Brigham Young the governor and leader” – McMurtrie.

Very rare. According to Rust, only 204 valley notes in the two-dollar denomination were issued without a serial number.


*Franklin Receives Intelligence from America*

107. Vaughan, John: [AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, FROM JOHN VAUGHAN TO FRENCH BANKER FERDINAND GRAND, ASKING GRAND TO FORWARD TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AN ACCOMPANYING MANUSCRIPT FILLED WITH NEWS FROM REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA]. Bordeaux, France. May 19, 1778. 1p.
A very interesting manuscript letter from British merchant John Vaughan to Parisian banker Ferdinand Grand, asking Grand to pass along to Benjamin Franklin an accompanying manuscript filled with news of events in Revolutionary America.

John Vaughan (1756-1841) was an English wine merchant from a prominent family, and sympathetic to the American cause during the Revolution. He met Benjamin Franklin in Paris in 1778, and in 1782 emigrated to the United States, where he became treasurer and librarian of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia (of which Franklin was the first president). Ferdinand Grand acted as the banking representative of the United States in Paris, and was Benjamin Franklin’s personal banker there. Vaughan’s letter, written from Bordeaux, exchanges family pleasantries with Grand, and asks him to forward the enclosed manuscript news sheet to Benjamin Franklin.

The manuscript that Vaughan asked to be forwarded to Franklin, also written in French, is filled with news from America for the years 1776 to 1778. Vaughan writes (in translation) “that American affairs could not be in a better state.” Most of the news is of military events, beginning with General Howe’s attempt to turn American prisoners of war to the British side following the capture of Fort Washington in November 1776.

After General [Howe] took Fort Washington, he addressed all the prisoners of war and told them the King wished to pardon all of them who would renew their oath of allegiance to him and would serve him again. He believed they would thankfully fall in with this suggestion, but to his astonishment Lord Stirling replied on behalf of them all: “Sir, we are engaged in defending our country, and the freedom given us by God, which is consequently our natural right; whatever our fate may be we will submit to it without protest...and we are convinced this battle will be the last you will win over us....” If all the inhabitants of the 13 colonies had reasoned thus, they would have been free long ago.

The news continues by recounting that Washington had been made commander in chief of the Continental Army, describing Washington’s complaints to Howe over the treatment of American prisoners, and the repulsion of British troops from Philadelphia. There is also the discussion of the capture and hanging of a spy who was apparently aiding the British in subverting the defense of Philadelphia. The sheet also relates that Thomas Wharton has been made president and governor of Pennsylvania, and that American corsairs “are harassing the Royal navy.”

An interesting collection of Revolutionary War news, meant to make its way into the hands of Benjamin Franklin in France, discussing significant military events in the early history of the war, as well as military and political news regarding Franklin’s beloved Philadelphia. $3750.
An American Advisor in Vietnam:
A Massive Photographic Archive

108. [Vietnam War Photographica]: Harris, Jacob Joseph: [MASSIVE ARCHIVE OF THOUSANDS OF ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES, ALONG WITH NUMEROUS AUDIO RECORDINGS, COMPILED BY JACOB HARRIS, AN AMERICAN WHO SERVED AS A SENIOR POLICE ADVISOR IN VIETNAM AND THAILAND DURING THE VIETNAM WAR]. [Vietnam, Thailand, and elsewhere in Asia, as well as the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. ca. 1964-1974]. More than 1,700 original photographic prints and 2,000 original photographic slides, plus fourteen
audio recordings and miscellaneous documents. Most of the slides preserved in their original Kodak processing boxes. Some photographs loose, but most bound into albums. On the whole, in near fine condition.

A large and remarkable archive of images from Vietnam and Thailand, covering the decade from the Gulf of Tonkin incident and the beginning of the buildup of American forces in Vietnam to a year before the evacuation of the American embassy. The most notable aspect of the collection are the many images showing the training of local security forces by American civil and military advisors. The collection was compiled by Jacob Harris, an employee of USAID’s “Office of Public Safety” (OPS), whose task was to train Vietnamese and Thai police and counterinsurgency forces. Most of the images, in the form of photographs and photographic slides, were created by Harris, his wife, or his associates, and illustrate all aspects of life in those countries at the time. Harris travelled widely throughout the region, and the collection includes images from not only Vietnam and Thailand, but also from Laos, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macao, Malaysia, India, and elsewhere. The images also document Harris’ lengthy career as a New Jersey State Trooper and his travels in other parts of the world.

Jacob Joseph Harris (ca. 1910-2005), also known as “Jack” and “Jake,” served for thirty-six years (1928-64) with the New Jersey State Police, eventually attaining the rank of major. Included herein is a printed card, dated Dec. 31, 1960, marking thirty years of Harris’ service to the state of New Jersey. In 1964 he began what he called his “second career,” taking a position with the U.S. Agency for International Development, and was stationed first in Vietnam and then in Thailand. As his postings permitted, he was joined by his wife of many years, Virginia, and she appears in a great number of the photographs.

Harris was associated mostly with USAID’s “Office of Public Safety,” which was established in 1957 to train the police forces of America’s overseas allies. The OPS was often used by the Central Intelligence Agency as a cover for its agents abroad, and operated in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia until it was shut down by Congress in 1974. At other times Harris was a part of the State Department’s “Office of Missions.” Whether or not Harris was directly employed by the CIA has not been ascertained, and it seems that his actual role in Vietnam and Thailand was in fact the training of local police and paramilitary forces. However, Harris’ proximity to high ranking officials in the governments of South Vietnam and Thailand, as well as the nature of many of the photographs in this collection, show that he played an active and important role in training local forces to fight the Vietcong and Thai insurgents. And it is certainly true that the various departments and agencies of the U.S. government in southeast Asia at that time (those operating overtly or covertly) worked together toward their common goal. Jacob Harris ended his career at the State Department in Washington, and retired to Florida in 1975.

A slide included as part of the collection explains the “Objective of U.S. Assistance to Civil Police Programs & Paramilitary Forces Overseas.” Among these are “encourage humane responsible police administration; enforce the law & maintain
public order with minimum use of force; counter subversion & terrorism; improve
the character and image of civil police & paramilitary forces binding them more
closely to the community.” A large percentage of the photographs and slides in this
collection show Jacob Harris with the Vietnamese and Thai officials and officers
whom he worked with, trained, and advised during his decade of service. Included
are images of military and political leaders, members of the Thai royal family, and
members of military and police forces. A number of the photographs show police
operations against members of the Vietcong or other subversive organizations, several
of them showing dead bodies. One album is devoted to photographs showing a
Thai operation against revolutionaries, with pictures of soldiers, dead and mangled
bodies of the enemy, and members of the Thai forces recuperating and being com-
mended at their hospital beds. This same album contains a number of typescripts
in Thai that appear to describe the actions depicted.

A few other photographs have manuscript ink notes (apparently in Jacob Harris’
hand) identifying the scene. One, showing a dead body, is captioned “Vietcong,”
while another, dated April 2, 1969, shows a Thai military force (with some members
identified), with a caption explaining that they were “assigned to eliminate Durae
Gang.” Some photographs are quite chilling in their juxtaposition, as in one album
where pictures of the Harrises and their friends at the beach are displayed beside
photographs of dead Vietcong soldiers.

The photographs and slides show Harris and his American colleagues (and often
their wives) interacting with Vietnamese and Thai officials, the local citizenry, and
each other. One group of images shows a party thrown for Harris and his wife when
they were reassigned from Vietnam to Thailand in 1968, in the wake of the Battle
of Hue. Several images show Harris visiting villages and interacting with locals,
and the difficulty of lives of Thai and Vietnamese villagers is clearly evident. Many
of these images show villages populated mostly by the elderly, women, and small
children. The absence of most men speaks volumes; they may have left to fight
for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam or the Vietcong, or they may have lost
their lives. It is clear from the images in this collection that despite the hardships
encountered by American troops in Vietnam, USAID officials lived comfortable
lives. Many of the photographs show them at parties, vacationing at beach resorts,
lounging by swimming pools, etc.

As mentioned, though stationed in Vietnam and then Thailand, Harris travelled
widely throughout Asia, including to Hong Kong, Singapore, Macao, Malaysia, and
Laos. He also travelled throughout the countries he was stationed in, and there
are images in this archive of Saigon, the Vietnamese provincial capital of Dalat,
Danang, Bangkok, Ayutthaya, Angkor Wat, and much more. Many of the images
of Vietnam show a country that still bears a heavy French influence, before the
Communist takeover of the 1970s. Other images show trips taken by the Harrises
to Europe and the Middle East, as well as photographs documenting Harris’ life
in New Jersey and his earlier career with the state police.

The more than 1,700 photographs are a mixture of black and white and color,
ranging in size from 2¾ by 3½ inches to 3½ by 5½ inches, though a handful are
larger. Included are more than fifty boxes of slides, some 2,000 original slides in all. The images in the slides appear to have been taken by Harris or his wife, and are in color.

As with the photographic prints, the slides are a mixture of military and non-military scenes: parades, assemblies featuring police and military officials, pictures of village life, aerial views of the Vietnamese and Thai countryside, etc. There are many images of American military airplanes and equipment, training exercises, aerial views of the countryside, several images of the de-militarized zone, and much more. One group of slides shows an anti-American parade in Vietnam, featuring signs reading “Kick out Taylor,” protesting the 1964 appointment of Gen. Maxwell Taylor as ambassador to South Vietnam. As a military advisor to President Kennedy, Taylor had enthusiastically supported sending more American combat troops to Vietnam. Other slides show Jacob Harris accompanying a Vietnamese delegation on a visit to the United States, during which they went to Washington and to New Jersey, where they met with his old colleagues in the New Jersey State Police.

Yet another box of slides is labeled “Hong Kong” and “Red Chinese border,” containing a number of views of Hong Kong in the late 1960s, as well as views of mainland China. Other images document visits by American dignitaries to Thailand and Vietnam, and there is a series of slides featuring Harris with ARVN general Nguyen Chanh Thi, and others showing Harris and police officers at the strategically important Hai Van Pass near Danang. One group of thirty-five slides, housed in a box labeled “DMZ bombing,” shows the aftermath of an air raid (presumably by U.S. forces), with bombed-out buildings and ruined villages and countryside. Other images show bombed out buildings in a more urban setting.

In all, a massive archive of images documenting American activities at the local and police levels in Vietnam and Thailand over the course of a crucial decade. The Harris archive is a wealth of views of all aspects of life in the region during this period which help deepen our understanding of the effects of the American presence in southeast Asia during the era of the Vietnam War. $15,000.

_A Dramatic Battlefield Letter from the Battle of Sackets Harbor, a Key Action in the War of 1812_  


An eyewitness account of the second battle of Sackets Harbor, on the shores of Lake Ontario, written by the commander of the American forces there, Gen. Jacob Brown, to his friend, Joshua Hatheway, quartermaster general and formerly the commander of the defenses at Sackets Harbor. The town, situated near the entrance to the St.
Lawrence River at the far eastern end of Lake Ontario and opposite the Canadian town of Kingston, was a vital defensive point for the Americans, challenging British control of the St. Lawrence and the lake, and preventing a British thrust into New York State. If either side could control both sides of the entrance to the St. Lawrence, they could control the Upper Great Lakes.

Taking advantage of the American action against York, which drew troops away to the western end of the Lake, the British decided to strike. On May 28, 1813 the British Great Lakes squadron under the command of James Yeo appeared off Sackets Harbor, carrying troops under the command of the governor-general, Lieut. Gen. George Prevost. Having been forewarned by several men who escaped the Battle of Henderson Bay the previous day, the Americans had some time to reinforce their defenses before the British could attack. The British landed on the 28th but launched their main attack the next morning. They easily routed the American militia, but the regulars under Brown were able to fight off repeated attacks on their fortifications. Prevost, fearing the arrival of more American troops, ordered a retreat which nearly became a rout. Brown was the hero of the day and was later rewarded with a commission as brigadier general. He must have immediately written this letter describing the action:

Dr. Sir, I received an order some days since from Genl Dearborn to take comm. at this Post. Comd. Chauncey is up the lake. We were this morning attacked as day dawned by Sir George Prevost in person who made good his landing with at least a thousand picked men. Sir James Yeo commanded the fleet after loosing some distinguished officers and of course some gallant men. Our loss is very severe as to the quality of those who have fallen. The enemy left many of their wounded on the Field – but I have no doubt carried off many more. We shall probably be again attacked as Sir George must feel very sore. All I can say is, whatever may be the result we will not be disgraced.

A superb battlefield letter reporting on one of the most significant military actions of the War of 1812. $4750.

A Detailed Description of the Battle of Chippawa, an Important Victory for American Arms in the War of 1812


This detailed letter describes the Battle of Chippawa, a key engagement in the war of 1812. Written by a participant, A. Callender, it is addressed to Levi Callender, possibly the author’s brother. Levi Callender was a member of the New York State Assembly, representing Greene County from 1816 to 1817.
In the summer of 1814 the War of 1812 was deadlocked, but the Americans could see that the British would soon be reinforced by seasoned troops freed up by the defeat of Napoleon. Winfield Scott, who had worked hard to drill discipline into the American forces, decided to launch an invasion of Canada along the Niagara River while the British forces were still weak. The Battle of Chippawa soon resulted. The Americans, led by Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown and Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott, engaged the British troops led by Maj. Gen. Phineas Riall early on July 5, 1814. Due to a misunderstanding of uniforms, Riall assumed he was opposing grey-clad militiamen, when in truth he was fighting more disciplined regulars, the result of Scott’s drilling. After the American lines refused to retreat, he is famously reputed to have exclaimed, “Those are regulars, by God!” After a fierce exchange of fire, lasting about half an hour, Riall and the British troops fled the field, leaving many casualties behind them. Callender describes the carnage in his letter:

I just drop a few words to you relating to our arms, our Army under the command of Maj. Gen. Brown, Brig. Gen. Scott & Ripley. Crossed the Niagara on the eve of the 2nd and on the third Fort Erie was surrendered without opposition in which were about 150 men. On the next day our Army passed down the Niagara met with some little opposition at Black Creek about 12 miles down river, but the British retired to Chippeway where they had a strong and well fortified position. On the 5th Inst. they marched out of Chippeway and met our Army about two miles and a half above, where Gen. Scott’s Brigade, the Seneca Indians, and the Pennsylvania Volunteers engaged them and after a severe engagement of near two hours the British were obliged to retire leaving as report says three hundred dead and wounded on the field. Our loss in killed is stated at 71, wounded 150, many severely. All the wounded capable of being removed have been conveyed to this place and it is a shocking sight to behold. Some with one leg, some with one arm, many shot through the body. Arms, legs and in fact every part of body mangled. One was tomahawked in five places through the scull [sic] was brought here alive. Likewise three that were scalped, all save one of which have since died. The British have since evacuated Chippeway, our Army in pursuit &c. The groans of the wounded and dying are constantly sounding in our ears. We have an Officer in our house which was shot through the body which we expect will not survive many days....I write this in great haste knowing you would be anxious to hear from this frontier.

A graphic, firsthand description of a key action in the War of 1812. $5500.

A Virginian Speculates on American Liberty and the Revolution a Week Before the Declaration of Independence

111. White, Alexander: [AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, FROM ALEXANDER WHITE TO GEN. CHARLES LEE, DISCUSSING VIEWS ON DEMOCRACY, AMERICA’S PROSPECTS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN, AND WHETHER

A wonderful letter from Virginia lawyer and politician Alexander White to Gen. Charles Lee expressing his views on the American Revolution, including doubts about whether or not Americans are ready for republican government. Alexander White (1738-1804) was a successful Virginia lawyer who practiced during and after the American Revolution. He served in the Virginia state legislature from 1782 to 1786, and as a member of the Federal House of Representatives to the first and second Congresses in 1789-93. He was appointed by Washington as one of the three commissioners to lay out the District of Columbia in 1795 and served until the board was dissolved in 1802. He died in 1804.

This letter was written to Gen. Charles Lee, White's client and commander of the Continental Army in the Southern Department. White expresses his doubts about separation from Britain and lays out the argument for continued union with the mother country. Among his concerns for democratic government in America is the sheer vastness of the space, which encompasses so many varied people – a difficulty which would lead to Civil War less than a hundred years later, and which still engenders difficulty in our country today.

After reporting on the progress of current legal matters he is handling for Lee, White proceeds into a discussion of his thoughts on the current situation with Great Britain. He writes:

From the commencement of the present unhappy dispute I considered the shedding of blood (if that event should take place) as the era at which would terminate the British Empire in America or the colonies be subjugated to the absolute dominion of Parliament, and when hostilities commenced my mind was only agitated with the means of defending ourselves and forming a Constitution which would secure substantial liberty to the people; But when I found the Congress entertained different views, that they had again petitioned the King for reconciliation and declared to their fellow subjects throughout the Empire that their only end in taking up arms was to procure a redress of grievances and secure their properties and constitutional rights, solemnly disclaiming every idea of establishing an independent empire, it gave a different turn to my thoughts....

The hope of a re-union with our brethren of G. Britain and of the encreasing grandeur and prosperity of the whole Empire to me, I confess, had something agreeable in it. I therefore with eagerness investigated the proposed plan of operations to enable me to judge of the probable event, and I found, or thought I found, the security of our liberties in connection with Great Britain almost certainly attainable; at any rate, more practicable than the establishing an independent state; for the following among other reasons, that the people
of America were determinately united in support of that measure; that every insult and injury from administration only tended to animate and cement. That the greatest trading cities and most respectable characters in England are our friends; that even our enemies in Parliament dare not stand the attack on the proper ground, but in order to carry their point have always insisted we were aiming at independency. That the belief of this is the sole reason we have any enemies among the people of England and though I am of opinion, the governing powers of Britain would rather lose the colonies totally, than yield one iota of their pretensions, the people will think very differently when convinced our views extend no further than to the security of those rights which they themselves hold essential to liberty.

He continues this thought by stating that the British army would never take up arms against the colonists if they understood that the only concern was for common liberties: “That the sword would even drop from the hand of a British soldier, if he believed it pointed against the breast of a man contending for his birth right.”

White argues that a fight for independence would unite the British people against America, and that it is important to the whole of Europe for the American colonies to remain part of the Empire. A solution that divides the colonies from Britain would, he believes, lead to further conflict down the road. Instead, an accommodation could be reached which would satisfy all.

Let G. Britain relinquish her claim of internal legislation and taxation. Let stated times be limited for the holding and duration of assemblies and councillors dependent on the Crown be deprived of legislative powers....All this would be no real injury to England, the only advantage she ever did, or ever can receive from America is her commerce, an equitable share of which ought to be agreed on by the legislatures of the two countries, and to remain unalterable except by mutual consent. Such a plan of accommodation I think, offers as fair for the permanent security of peace, wealth, and liberty as any I have heard or can devise for the government of America in an independent state.

He continues, discussing the disadvantages of a republican government, noting that when any one man, or one body of men, have complete power, the results are inevitably disastrous and tyrannical.

I take it for granted (as I have never heard it disputed) that a popular or democratic government must take place, which in its most perfect state, I think much inferior to the mixed government of Britain, for I hold it as a maxim, that wherever the supreme power is vested in one man, or one body of men, the liberty of the subject is at best precarious....But is America capable of receiving a democratic government? Have we the industry, frugality, economy, the virtue which is necessary to constitute it? Laws and Constitutions must be adapted to the manners of the people; they do not, they cannot form them; whenever the manners change the laws change with them, or lose their force. Is not N. America too extensive for a popular government? But I find the spirit of the
times is against a Union; we must then become a Confederacy of Republicks, each having supreme powers within itself.

He envisions this leading to further difficulties between republics on the continent, and possible empire within our own borders, and states again his belief in a continued union with Great Britain as a means to stem conflict on all fronts.

White closes this incredible letter with his expressions of regard for Lee and his duty to the country.

$8750.

An American Trader in China

112. Williams, Franklin Delano: [COLLECTION OF SEVEN AUTOGRAPH LETTERS SIGNED BY FRANKLIN DELANO WILLIAMS, CONCERNING HIS BUSINESS VENTURES IN CHINA].

In these letters American merchant Franklin Delano Williams discusses business affairs in China. He was a partner in the China-based trading company, Wetmore, Williams & Co. He is listed as living in Hong Kong in 1859 and is recorded as being elected treasurer of the Shanghai Literary and Scientific Society (later the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society) in 1857. He is likely a distant relative of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as the Delano family is known to have been heavily involved in the China trade in the 19th century. These letters are addressed to an Owen, though some are addressed to W.W. Cowles, Esq. It is likely that Owen was a brother or other relative, as Williams makes reference to “mother” in the letters.

The first letter, dated Oct. 27, 1860 and penned on company stationery, refers to an upcoming trip home: “I intend to leave for home on the 29th inst per mail steamer, stopping on the way for a few days in France and England. The probability is, that I shall (D.V.) be with you in two to four weeks after these lines come to hand.” A letter from June 10, 1862, discusses primarily business matters but also comments on the American Civil War: “Why don’t you put down those infernal rebels? Crush ‘em out!” In a letter dated at Macao on Oct. 11, 1862, Williams brings up his intention to leave Macao to seek better business opportunities elsewhere in China: “I think business at Macao will be pretty much over, in a few weeks. I intend to take a look at Shanghai, then, & shall be likely to return & locate at Hong Kong where I am promised a good business if I will establish myself at that part.” Later letters indicate he resettled in Hong Kong (the next four letters are all dated at Hong Kong).

On Jan. 13, 1863 he writes regarding the Civil War: “I think prospects look very bad at home. The Rep. party must drop their ultraisms & go in for Union only: let the ‘nigger’ alone for the present, or there’s no hope & much to fear.” The final three letters all concern business affairs. A letter dated Feb. 27, 1863 discusses payments owed and received, as well as the plans of a mutual acquaintance: “I think George has done right to return to China if he will keep steady, & he will do well, otherwise not.” Dated July 11, 1864: “We have quite hot weather, & I am not very
well & short of help temporarily, so can’t write much.” In the final letter, dated Oct. 14, 1864, he discusses business and mutual acquaintances: “Bekie arrived here last night, & proposes making me a visit of some weeks. She is very well. George is looking for something to do at Shanghai, & seems to be in good spirits. I heard from Breck today, who says he has changed his mind again & concluded to remain at Hankow for 6 months longer.”

$900.

Rare News of the Yellowstone Expedition of 1819-20

113. [Yellowstone Expedition]: Clark, Isaac, Jr., Lieut.: [PAIR OF AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, SIGNED, FROM LIEUTENANT ISAAC CLARK TO HIS FATHER, COLONEL ISAAC CLARK OF VERMONT, DESCRIBING HIS EFFORTS TO OUTFIT THE ATKINSON EXPEDITION TO THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER]. St. Louis. June 11, 1819 and Belle Fontaine, [Mo.]. February 16, 1821. Two manuscript letters, each of them [3]pp., written on folded folio sheets, addressed on the fourth page. Old folds. Both letters with small splits or separations along folds and tears in paper where wax seal had been affixed, but with no significant loss of text. Some tape repairs on splits of the later letter. Overall, very good.

A very interesting pair of letters, written by Lieut. Isaac Clark, Jr. to his father, describing his efforts to outfit the Atkinson Expedition to the Yellowstone River and giving his impressions of St. Louis. A significant but little-known early western expedition, the Yellowstone Expedition was organized in 1819 and was under the command of Col. (later brigadier general) Henry Atkinson. It was charged with ascending the Missouri River by steamboat (an early attempt at such travel on the Missouri) to establish a series of forts along the Missouri to protect the American fur trade, guard against hostile Indians, and counteract the presence of the British Hudson’s Bay Company in the region. The expedition ultimately reached the “Council Bluff” in eastern Nebraska, where they established Fort Atkinson, near the Missouri River. The troops at Fort Atkinson endured a harsh winter in 1819-20, and lack of provisions left them susceptible to scurvy and other diseases, which ultimately claimed between 100 and 200 lives. Clark’s letters give a rare firsthand account of the logistics and provisioning of the expedition.

Both letters are written by Lieut. Clark to his father, Col. Isaac Clark in Castleton, Vermont. Isaac Clark, Sr. (1742-1822) had a military career that spanned some fifty years. He fought heroically in the Revolutionary War, participating in the Battle of Bennington (1777) and the re-capture of Fort Ticonderoga (1778). During the War of 1812 he led Vermont troops in patrolling the border with Quebec to prevent smuggling, and led several military forays into southern Quebec. He also served in several political and judicial positions in Vermont.

On June 11, 1819, Clark writes to his father from St. Louis:
I arrived here on the 13th of May, since which time I have been constantly engaged in preparing stores for the Missouri Expedition. The agents of government in this quarter have been very dilatory so much so that not a particle of provision or stores of any kind were to be found in this place on my arrival destined for that expedition. By running & riding night and day, I have succeeded so far in procuring stores as to be able to start the Rifle Regiment in two days more, the 6th Regiment will follow in about fifteen days. The Missouri is a grand & noble stream but the difficulty in navigating is almost insurmountable. A current of at least five miles an hour, boats are not able to make more than nine miles a day. The 6th Regiment will go in steam boats if it is possible to get up. Their calculation is to go to the Council bluffs this season, 650 miles from this & about 400 miles above any settlement....I am not able to give you a very correct account of the country, as I have seen no part of it as yet except what borders on the River. This place is the capital of the Missouri Territory & has about 5000 inhabitants of all nations, colours, & languages who have flocked here for the purposes of speculation. There are many very good buildings and considerable wealth. It is the most extravagant place to live in the United States and, at the same time, we live wretchedly. I have been fortunate enough to get into Governor Clark's house for a short time....

The second letter was written on Feb. 16, 1821, from Belle Fontaine, near the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Clark writes:

The country has been almost inundated between this & Vincennes....I view this climate as very unfavorable to persons subject to bilious habits and in fact to any person bred in the frozen regions of the North....I shall never enjoy good health again, my constitution is destroyed. Gen. Atkinson is my sincere friend. He has placed me in command of this post. There is three detachments of troops; in all one hundred men. It gives me double rations and I also draw the additional pay of Asst. Commissary of Subsistence, which makes my pay equal to a major....Should the army not be reduced I shall leave this in March for the Council bluffs in command of the troops now at this post. We shall ascend the river in boats, an arduous task 850 miles against the strongest current in the world....

An interesting pair of letters. $3000.