Double Association Copy

1. Agee, James, and Walker Evans [photographs]: LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941. [2],xvi,471pp, with thirty-one full-page plates from photographs. Octavo. Black cloth, spine lettered in silver. Spine ends faded, small smudge on top edge, pencil notes on rear free endsheet, two ink ownership inscriptions (see below) on front free endsheet, small bookplate on pastedown, but a very good copy in spine sunned, somewhat worn dust jacket with old internal mends and a split along the upper joint.

First edition of this central work in the history of 20th-century photodocumentary. After he graduated from Harvard, Agee was hired by Time Inc. and wrote for Fortune from 1932 to 1937. In 1936, on assignment for the magazine, Agee and Evans (who was then working with the FSA) traveled to southern Alabama where, for eight weeks, they documented via interview and photographs the Depression-era hardships of the daily lives of three families of sharecroppers. In the end, Fortune did not publish their article, largely due to Agee’s resistance to Fortune’s editors demands for substantial cuts. Harper & Brothers, who had contracted for book publication following its appearance in Fortune, backed out over similar issues. Agee and Evans developed the material further and it was accepted for publication in book form by Houghton Mifflin. The first (and for many years, only) printing consisted of 2416 copies, of which only 600 copies were sold before it was remaindered. It would take another two decades before Houghton Mifflin published another clothbound printing,
with an expanded group of photographs. It is now a work considered “by many as the epitome of the genre...pushing the boundaries of the way in which documentary should treat the world” – Parr & Badger, *The Photobook A History*, volume one. In 2005, it was selected for publication in the Library of America.

This is an excellent association copy, bearing on the front free endsheet the ownership inscription of David U. McDowell, “Gambier, Ohio – 1941 –.” McDowell (1918-1985) was then teaching at Kenyon College. He enlisted in the Army in 1942, and after the war worked as sales manager and director of publicity at New Directions. In 1949, he left ND and worked as an editor at Random House where he stayed until 1957, when he and Ivan Obolensky joined in founding the publishing firm McDowell, Obolensky. The firm’s first list included Agee’s posthumously published Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *A Death in the Family*. McDowell served as the first trustee of the James Agee Trust, and at the time of his death, was hard at work on a substantial biography of Agee. There are a number of page references in pencil on the rear endsheet which may be McDowell’s, and in the text block, on pages corresponding to those references, there are some pencil marginal highlights. Above McDowell’s inscription appears the 1963 ownership signature of novelist and essayist Larry McMurtry. His bookplate, based on the McMurtry family’s ‘stirrup’ brand, is affixed to the front pastedown. In his recent biography of McMurtry, *Larry McMurtry A Life* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2023), Tracy Daugherty notes:

“During his time at North Texas State, McMurtry kept a running list of books he wanted to read, foremost among them James Agee’s *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. The North Texas State library had a copy of the book, but it was always checked out, exasperating McMurtry. At [a] party, [Grover] Lewis, drunk, admitted sheepishly that he was the one who’d sat on the book for over a year, just so McMurtry couldn’t get his hands on it. He seemed to think he was being funny. ‘It was at that point that I stopped thinking of him simply as a friend, though we continued to see one another for most of the sixties,’ McMurtry said.”

PARR & BADGER I:144. $3850.
Impressive Early American Bible,  
in Contemporary Bindings


An impressive early American Bible, in five large volumes, styled “the second American edition, from the second London edition, improved and enlarged,” presumably referring to Scott’s annotations. With information inscribed regarding the Lear and Storer families of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.  
SHAW & SHOEMAKER 22356. $1000.
An interesting unpublished manuscript, this is a novel in the form of an autobiography, purportedly written by an American-born soldier in the British Army stationed in India in the late 1850s and early 1860s. The author describes his youth and early adulthood, culminating with an account of his adventures hunting grizzlies in Gold Rush-era California. The chapter on Grizzly hunting in California, called “Westward Ho,” is copied (with a few small adaptations) from an article that appeared in the November 1857 issue of Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, called “The Grizzly Bear of California.” The remainder of the text develops several themes over the course of the work, including the author's strained relationship with his wealthy father, his youthful disillusionment with a career as a lawyer, his friendship with a charming rogue named “Twaddle,” and his unsuccessful pursuit of love. The work also gently lampoons the character of the idle rich. It is unknown whether these other portions of the manuscript are also adapted from other published works, or whether they are the product of the author's own imagination. Either way, this manuscript is a very interesting example of mid-19th-century imaginative fiction and literary adaptation, and worthy of further study.

According to prefatory material, this text was written in 1859-60 by Douglas D. Lindsay, who identifies himself as a member of Company 7 of Her Majesty’s 83rd Regiment, stationed in East India at “Camp Nusseerabad.” On a preliminary page he writes:

“These ‘Reminiscences of Auld Lang Syne’ were written and presented by the author to his friend and gossip, Thomas Smith of Her Majesty’s 83rd Regiment and who, in times to come, as he glances over these pages, will recall to mind the writer and ‘wish him well, wherever fate may have led him’; and he, in turn, will often think of his quondam friend, while far at sea or in the deep piney woods of his native land.”

In several instances in the text, Lindsay disrupts the narrative to offer asides to Smith, providing a sort of post-modern authorial commentary on the proceedings. In a letter at the end of the text, dated July 23,
1860, Lindsay promises Smith that he will write a second volume “in which I propose giving you a few more passages from my experience in America – North – West and South, intermixt with some jottings about the sea, slavers, smugglers, etc. etc.” It is not known whether “Lindsay” ever wrote this second volume.

In the prefatory chapter Lindsay gives a sketch of his early life, claiming to have been born “of a very ancient family who are said to be descended in right line from the Prodigal Son.” He writes that he did not have a good relationship with his father, and most of the assistance in his life was given to him by his deceased mother’s brother. Lindsay says he eventually went to “the law school of old Y...” (later revealed to be Yale), from which he graduated with a lofty idea of the law and jurisprudence. These beliefs were quickly deflated when he moved to the unnamed state’s capitol city and set to work as a lawyer. Finding himself quickly in debt and unhappy, he quit the law and moved back home. The next chapter in the book is entitled “A Screw Loose” and begins with Lindsay arguing with his father and being kicked out of the house. He departs, leaving behind him most of his expensive wardrobe, and ventures out in search of a friend named Twadle:

“A young literary gentleman who was continually occupying the handsomest apartments he could find which he invariably vacated after a month of luxury. He was of a sanguine temperament and I will do him the justice to say that he always intended at the time of taking his rooms to pay for them. But so many extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances intervened between the day of his induction and pay-day, that when that period arrived he regularly found himself in a state of unprecedented pecuniary depletion.”

Twadle was living in New York at the time, and he and Lindsay decide to have a meal at Delmonico’s. Of course, they do not have enough money to pay the bill, but Lindsay is rescued by his ever-helpful uncle, who just happened to be dining there that evening. His uncle then takes Lindsay to his home, welcomes him as a part of the family, and gives him a job in his engineering firm. In the next chapter, titled “Love Struck by Lightning,” Lindsay describes his landlady’s attempts to introduce him to eligible young women, and his courtship with Sophia Walter, daughter of a former governor. The romance fails when Lindsay discovers that his love has false teeth, which horrifies him.

The penultimate chapter (comprising forty-one pages of the manuscript), entitled “Westward Ho,” is set in California during the Gold Rush era, and is largely copied or adapted from a Harper’s article of November 1857 called “The Grizzly Bear of California.” Large portions of the manuscript are copied verbatim from the published article, while in other places Lindsay makes adaptations or particularizes the story to himself. For example, he mentions a “Hindoo Bear” in one passage, and changes the name of the Grizzly hunter from “Colin Preston” in the published article to “Nathan Walker” in his manuscript. He also intersperses original passages which add to the story, among the copied text.

The section begins with Lindsay and a friend leaving Manhattan aboard a steamer bound for Chagres, and then crossing the Isthmus of Panama. Lindsay then goes up the coast to Acapulco, where he “secured passage in a crazy old polacca rigged schooner which was bound direct to San Francisco.” The schooner is wrecked off the California coast, with Lindsay as the only survivor. Next comes a long discussion of the California Grizzly, and the “coastal range” in which it dwells, followed by a recounting of Lindsay’s providential escape from the shipwreck. He is rescued by a bear hunter called “Nathan Walker” (“Colin Preston” in the original Harper’s story), a native of Arkansas, who is described at great length. The rest of the chapter is filled with tales of Walker’s bear-hunting exploits, discussions of the nature of the Grizzly, and the recollection of bear hunts in which the author participated with Walker, often at great risk to his own life.

In the final chapter (comprising twelve pages and called “The Man in the Drab Coat”) Lindsay tells a story of meeting an old Yale classmate of his in the Russian River gold diggings. His friend, Robert, had been quite successful in the mines, saving some $5000, but was gravely ill and soon died. Lindsay promises him that he will collect all his money and deliver it to Robert’s mother in the East. On his way home, Lindsay stops in New Orleans and loses all of his own money in the gambling halls, and leaves the city saddled with debt. Back in Troy, New York he considers drawing on his friend Robert’s money, using it as a gambling stake to win back the money he lost in New Orleans. Late one night, cold and seemingly hallucinating, he is visited by a devilish figure, “the man in the drab coat,” who so frightens Lindsay that he resolves to give all Robert’s money to his family, as he had promised.

An interesting work of adaptive and imaginative fiction, meriting further research. $4000.
Chaplain to the Continental Army
Writes During the Siege of Boston


A letter written by Rev. Ebenezer Cleaveland from the Continental Army's encampment at Dorchester Heights, outside of Boston, requesting that Gen. John Thomas allow his underage son to remain on the muster rolls as his “waiter.” Cleaveland, a minister in Gloucester, Massachusetts, served as an army chaplain during the American Revolution. Here he writes from camp during the Siege of Boston, explaining the difficult circumstances which have led him to keep his young son with him at the army's encampment. Cleaveland had twelve children and lived on a minister's means; in this letter he notes that financial interests require him to keep his son with him whether or not he draws pay from the army, and he finds his son to be very capable around camp. He writes:

“When the alarm was made in good earnest on the memorable 19th of April, my family being exposed to the ravages of the enimy, I sent them out of town all saving my 2 sons. The eldest engaged as an officer in the Army, the other but about 12 years of age chose to tarry with me and upon my engaging in the Army he came to the camp with me and has served by a waiter and his service was so well accepted in the col[onel]'s mess that the col[onel]s judged it just to enter him on wages and had him instal'd in his regiment and he has passed the muster the season past. I am urged to engage him as a fifer, but I know of no one waiter who will serve me so very well as him. and my wages are small, and an expensive family and no other support comes from my parish and unless what would be very expensive, and great study and anxiety, shall be oblige to keep him for my waiter whether his provisons and wages for him are not, and he is but young yet it can be made to appear that he is not the worst not most incapable to act the part of a soldier, but instead is very active and active than some who have five years senior advantage which in age; However, supposing that it is not in my province to pay him as a soldier that you Honors would so far condescend my suffering this inconvenience as to select his recency General Washington for my helper. Had I the least thought it would meet the case would be best but submit to our wisdom and subservin your most sincere humble serv. Eb. Cleveland Chapl.

To the Honorable General Thomas 
In Camp before Boston.
and I must study frugality and shall be obliged to keep him for my waiter, whether I draw provisions and wages for him or not, and tho' he is but young yet it can be made to appear that he is not the weakest nor most incapable to act the part of a soldier, but exceeds in vigor and activity some who have five years advantage of him in age. However, I pray that if it's not in your province to pass him as a soldier that your honor would so far commiserate my suffering circumstances as to solicit his Excellency General Washington in my behalf. Had I the least thought it would injure the cause I would be silent but submit to your wisdom."

An intimate look into some of the issues facing those men who joined the Continental cause. $2500.
Queen Victoria’s Grandsons Go Cruising


These volumes compile the notebooks kept by Queen Victoria’s grandsons, Prince Albert Victor and Prince George of Wales, on a round-the-world cruise from 1879 to 1882. The voyage took them from Portsmouth to Gibraltar, across the Atlantic to the West Indies, and then around the Cape of Good Hope to Australia and Fiji. From there they visited Japan and China before going to Egypt and Palestine via the Suez Canal on their return. There are several smaller maps of the route, as well as plans of various cities. The book also includes a list of the ship’s officers and a schedule of the daily routine on board. John Dalton was chaplain on the cruise. $375.
The Rarest DuPont Volume


"These extracts from DuPont's journal and letters, privately printed for his family by his wife after his death, are a valuable and almost unknown account of U.S. Naval operations in the Pacific and Gulf of California during the Mexican War. After conveying Fremont and his battalion from Monterey to San Diego and participating in the taking of San Blas, DuPont entered the Gulf of California, seized La Paz, and at Guaymas burned the Mexican fleet. Within a few months he had cleared the Gulf, and in 1847 aided Commodore Shubrick in the occupation of Mazatlan, and later led his troops to the rescue of the American forces at Mission San Jose" – Streeter. "The richest mass of first-hand source material extant on the conquest of California" – Eberstadt. "Even more important than DuPont's detailed and meticulous account of his own actions is his careful recording of the movements of, and communications with, other important figures with whom he was in almost constant contact" – Hill. Only fifty copies were printed for the family.


My Nephews and Nieces

who have had little opportunity of knowing their uncle, except through his public services and official records, these extracts have been made from his private letters while in command of the Cyane, during the war with Mexico.

They will give some glimpses of the principles, convictions, and traits of character that were the sources of his success, and of the respect, affection, and confidence he inspired.

From a child, his highest ambition was to do right; to use the abilities and opportunities given him in the best manner, and be thoroughly efficient in every duty. He valued commendation only as an encouragement to these endeavors, and a pleasure and satisfaction to his parents and friends. Every success was but an incentive to do better; and his highest earthly reward was the approbation of those he loved.

A brief synopsis of the cruise of the Cyane, found among his papers (and given at the request of Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers to the United States Naval Institute), induced a renewal of the letters of that period, and gave the impulse to the extracts following.

LOUVIERS, March, 1885.

S. M. D. P.
With Illuminated Manuscript Renderings for His Wife of “Dutch Lullaby” and “Little Boy Blue”

7. Field, Eugene: WITH TRUMPET AND DRUM. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1892. Publishers quarter vellum and boards, t.e.g., others untrimmed. Binding somewhat soiled and worn, former owner’s bookplate, otherwise a very good copy. Cloth folding box.

First edition, limited issue. One of an unknown number of out of series copies, unnumbered, in addition to 250 numbered copies, signed by the publisher. In this copy, on a sheet of matching handmade paper inserted in place of the front free endsheet Field has neatly copied out his poem, “Little Boy Blue,” in red and black ink, in his diminutive hand, with rubricated initials at the beginning of each stanza and two small hand-colored drawings (a toy soldier and a toy lamb) in the margins. Beneath the poem is his presentation inscription, which reads: “For My Dearest and Most Beautiful Julia, Ever yours devotedly, / Eugene Field.” On integral blank leaves at the back of the volume the author has written out his poem, “Dutch Lullaby” (beginning “Wynken, Blynken and Nod one night / Sailed off in a wooden shoe...”), also in black ink with rubricated initials, with a double-rule border in black and red in the left margin, and with his presentation inscription at the end: “For My Dearest and Most Beautiful Julia -- / Eugene Field.” Field married Julia Sutherland Comstock on 16 October 1873.

BAL 5750. $8500.
Scarce California Overland


Second and best edition of this privately printed book, with the addition of the journal of an 1857 voyage to California via Panama. Contains three journals of overland journeys undertaken by this Illinois family in 1849, 1852, and 1853, including accounts of the early gold mines, ranch life and outlaws, Santa Barbara, San Jose, etc. “One of the scarcest of the latterly published overland narratives...aside from the four overland narratives, there is a wealth of detail about early California pioneer families not to be found in any other work” – Decker. DECKER 36:156. HOWES F292. ROCQ 14119. KURUTZ 215b. EB-ERSTADT MODERN OVERLANDS 428. MINTZ 416. COWAN, p.847.

$1500.
In Original Wrappers


This book chronicles an exciting year by anyone’s standards, the life of the Fremonts from 1848 to 1850. It describes their trip to California to take up pastoral life there after John C. Fremont’s retirement from the Army, their acquisition of the vast Mariposa Estate, the discovery of gold and the excitement of California in 1849, and finally their return east. Included are three letters by Fremont relative to his disastrous Fourth Expedition into the mountains of Colorado. Make no mistake, though, this account is clearly written from Jessie Fremont’s point of view, and in her voice. Aside from her husband’s exploits, she discusses the quality of life for women in the West, the slavery controversy in California, local politics, her trip across the Isthmus in early 1849, Spanish customs, the status of Mission Indians, and more. Her primary motivation for writing the book was to raise money for the family after Fremont’s bankruptcy during the Panic of 1873. Jessie’s writings, in fact, became the family’s most reliable source of income.

“The coincidental events of the California gold discovery combined with her own adventures make her recollections doubly interesting” – Kurutz. Although at first glance this book would not seem a candidate for rarity, considering the prominence of the author and the publishing house (Harper’s), the experience of a number of veteran Americanists would suggest otherwise. We have only handled three copies of this work previously, all of those more than twenty years ago. Not in either the Eberstadt or Decker catalogues.


$5000.
Family Copy


First edition. An inscribed presentation copy from the author to her daughter and son-in-law: “For Nancy and Percy, with love from Mama.” Nancy Tate Wood, Gordon’s only child with poet Allen Tate, was born in 1925, and married Percy H. Wood Jr. in 1944. They were the joint dedicatees of Gordon’s 1944 collection, The Forest of the South.

$600.
Correspondence of the Wide-Ranging Hancock Family

11. [Hancock Family]: [ARCHIVE OF CORRESPONDENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHS TO AND FROM MULTIPLE GENERATIONS OF THE HANCOCK FAMILY OF VIRGINIA, ALABAMA, AND TEXAS]. [Mainly Virginia, Alabama & Texas. 1857-1929]. Approximately thirty-two letters, some with original transmittal envelopes; twenty-three photographs and real photo postcards; and assorted family documents, calling cards, and greeting cards. Overall very good condition. Housed in a modern gray archival box.

A wide-ranging collection of correspondence, photographs, and documents centered on the Hancock family of Virginia, Alabama, and Texas in the second half of the 19th century, and first quarter of the 20th. The Hancock family members involved in the correspondence or pictured in the photographs in this archive include Benjamin Palmer Hancock, Arthur B. Hancock, Thomas Benton Hancock, Jane A. Hancock, Jane C. Hancock, Richard J. Hancock, Claudia Hancock, and Harris Hancock.

Richard J. Hancock, Sr. was father to Richard J., Jr., Arthur B., and Harris Hancock, and uncle to Benjamin Palmer Hancock. Jane C. Hancock was B.P. Hancock's daughter. Thomas Benton Hancock and Jane A. Hancock were married, and Claudia Hancock was their daughter. The family, though spread out over vast distances, seems to have remained relatively in touch with one another. The correspondents also often write from or receive letters from different cities, suggesting they moved around a bit or traveled more widely than most families at the time.

Benjamin Palmer “B.P.” Hancock (1868-1943) lived in Dallas, Crockett, and Corpus Christi, Texas in the late 19th-century, and worked for both the Mexican National Railroad and the Texas Mexican Railway. He later returned to Texas, working as the Division Traffic Superintendent for the Western Union Telegraph Company in Dallas from 1913 until his retirement in 1938. He also maintained a family estate in Scotia, Alabama. In one 1905 letter, B.P. Hancock writes home to his wife Martha in Scotia, with detailed instructions for her imminent travel to meet him in New York City. He also writes a very loving letter to his daughter, Jane C. Hancock in 1913, while she was living in Winslow, Arkansas. He praises Jane for “the fine little girl – almost young lady – that you are today.”

Richard J. Hancock, Jr. (1873-1920) writes a long letter to B. Palmer Hancock on April 12, 1890. Richard was apparently working for the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway, as he writes his four-page letter on the company's stationery, and mentions hearing about a couple of
Richard J. Hancock, Sr. (1838-1912) writes three letters to his nephew, B. Palmer Hancock in 1902, on “Ellerslie” Stationery. Ellerslie Plantation (later Ellerslie Farm), near Charlottesville, Virginia, came into the Hancock family after Richard married Thomasia Harris, whose family owned the estate. Richard J. Hancock served as a Confederate captain under Stonewall Jackson during the Civil War. His letters to Palmer are mostly concerned with family business matters, especially Palmer’s property in Alabama. At one point, Richard consoles B.P. for his mother’s ill health, apparently from typhoid fever. In his third letter, Richard mentions his growing aversion to the life of a farmer at Ellerslie, commenting that he would “quit farming and sell out but for my son Arthur....” Richard had already largely turned away from farming to breeding thoroughbred racehorses at Ellerslie, and became quite famous and successful at the venture, winning the 1884 Preakness Stakes with his horse, Knight of Ellerslie. His son, Arthur Hancock, later established a breeding farm in Kentucky named Claiborne Farm, and became one of the most legendary horse breeders of the 20th century.

Three letters from 1882 written to “Mrs. J.A. Hancock” in Corpus Christi, Texas are particularly interesting. The recipient was most certainly Jane Alexander Hancock, widow of the late Thomas Benton Hancock. The three letters all concern stories submitted by J.A. Hancock to The Youth’s Companion, a long-running children’s literary periodical in Boston. One of these stories, titled, “Sorrel Top” is bought by the magazine in one of the present letters, and Mrs. Hancock is encouraged to send more stories. “Sorrel Top” appeared in the magazine later in the year, as “Mrs. Marks’ ‘Sorrel Top’” in the October 19, 1882 issue. All three letters are signed “Perry Mason & Co.,” the publishers of The Youth’s Companion. Perry Mason founded the magazine in 1827, and served as its editor until his death; Erle Stanley Gardner was fond of The Youth’s Companion as a young reader, and borrowed the editor’s name for his protagonist when he began writing a series of stories and books centered on his now-famous attorney/detective.

The photographs in the present archive are a combination of cabinet card portraits and real photo postcards. The identified portraits include three of B.P. Hancock (one as a younger man in Corpus Christi, another inscribed “Your Son BP Hancock Dallas Tex March 1886”); one of Harris Hancock in Overton, Virginia from a Charlottesville studio; and a portrait of Mrs. J.A. Hancock inscribed “For BP Hancock age 52 years.” The real photo postcards feature a handful of shots from a family picnic and a large home (presumably belonging to the Hancock family).

The assorted additional material includes J.A. Hancock’s copy of a Presbyterian Church pamphlet; a 1902 trust document involving Richard Hancock, B. Palmer Hancock, Clavelia A. Hancock, Helen J. Hancock, and Thomasia O. Hancock (wife of Richard J. Hancock); and other assorted documents, cards, and invitations. There is also a handful of material relating to H.L. Carleton of Taylor and Austin, Texas. Carleton was a noted pharmacist, and president of the Texas Pharmaceutical Association in the early 20th century. The connection to the Hancock family is unknown, though Carleton may represent another side to the family of a Hancock descendant.

A wide-ranging slice of Hancock family history, and an archive with notable research and genealogical potential. $2250.
Virginia Slaveholder’s Last Will and Testament

12. Hardin, Isaac: [MANUSCRIPT LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ISAAC HARDIN OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, LEAVING HIS PLANTATION, INCLUDING SEVERAL ENSLAVED PEOPLE, TO HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN]. Albemarle County, Va. 1819-1823. [3]pp. manuscript on a folded folio sheet, docketed and with remnants of wax seal on the fourth page. Old folds, some damage to second leaf from where seal was removed, not touching text. Very good.

The last will and testament of Isaac Hardin, a prominent citizen and first legal owner of the land now known as the Greenwood historic district in Albemarle County, Virginia. In his will, written in June 1819 and notarized and effected in May 1823, the ailing Hardin leaves the vast majority of his possessions to his wife Elizabeth. This includes the mansion house and plantation along with a number of enslaved Blacks: Juber, Milly, Milly’s children Willis and Mary Ann, and two girls named Hannah and Pheby. The enslaved people are mentioned in the will after Hardin’s property, and before the listing of his livestock. Later in the will he also transfers legal ownership of a man named Anderson to his oldest son, Berry M. Hardin, and of six other enslaved people to his daughter, Lucinda Scott. The will was signed by Hardin with his mark and witnessed by four individuals on June 26, 1819, and was later notarized on May 31, 1823. We can assume that Hardin’s will was carried out upon his death in 1820, and advertisements for a trust sale in 1830 tell us that much of this same property was later auctioned off, including all of the enslaved men and women left to Elizabeth except for Hannah and Pheby (who were singled out as Elizabeth’s “to have and to hold and to dispose of as she may think proper”). A revealing survival from early 19th-century Virginia. $950.
With Important Maps of Ohio, 
Owned by an Ohio Senator and Michigan Governor


First edition of one of the earliest separate historical accounts of Ohio, with Rufus Putnam’s map, which is the first large folding map of the state of Ohio. One of the other maps shows the headwaters of the Ohio, and another shows plats of land that had been appropriated for military service (also featuring the Moravian Indian towns of Shoeburn, Gnadenhutten, and Salem). This latter map is also attributed to Rufus Putnam, the surveyor general and the dedicatee of Harris’ work. Also included is a plan of the town of Marietta and a bird’s-eye view of the ancient works on the Muskingum. Harris’ journey was undertaken by the author, on doctor’s orders, as a cure for “wasting sickness.” The cure seems to have worked, and the author lived until 1842, despite the fatalistic final lines of his introduction: “...to the hopes not of the present, but of the future life, I resign myself.” The text is also notable for a particularly early discussion of the petroleum deposits near Pittsburgh. Thaddeus Harris (1768-1842) was a minister, librarian of Harvard University, and a founding member of the American Antiquarian Society.

A contemporary ownership inscription on the titlepage notes this as William Woodbridge’s copy, followed by his daughter’s inscription dated 1862. Woodbridge was a Connecticut native who studied at the Litchfield Law School before relocating to Ohio in 1806. He served in the Ohio House and Senate between 1808 and 1814, at which point he moved again to Michigan Territory. After holding various positions in Michigan (including as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1835 and a judge on the Supreme Court), he eventually became the second governor of Michigan after statehood, from 1840 to 1841. A very faded but still legible note at the end of the preliminaries reads: “Juliana T.W. Backus. This came to me in the division of my dear father’s law library in 1862.”

An important early Ohio history, with notable provenance.
Original Questionnaire for Hawaiian Missionaries


A questionnaire produced by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), directed towards new missionaries to Hawaii. The Board was founded in 1810 by graduates from Williams College, and sent its first missionaries to British India in 1812. Beginning in the 1820s, the ABCFM sent twelve companies of missionaries to Hawaii, many of whom became instrumental figures in the public life of the Islands in the 19th century.

The questionnaire consists of two conjugate leaves: the first contains twenty-two questions and is directed at the missionary. The second leaf is headed “For Females,” and contains fifteen questions. In addition to personal questions such as nativity and educational background, missionaries are asked to provide information about when and where they were converted, licensed, and ordained, when they “first decided in favor of becoming a missionary to the heathen,” what their role was in the mission (“if not an evangelist, physician, or printer”), and details of their vessel and journey. The questionnaire for females asks mostly similar questions, but omits those related to preaching and ministry in favor of questions about children and family.

This form is addressed to “P.J. Gulick & Mrs. Gulick.” Peter Johnson Gulick traveled to Hawaii in 1828 with the ABCFM’s third company, where he and his seven children would go on to establish the Gulicks as one of the most influential missionary families in Japan and the Hawaiian Islands for the next century.

A remarkable survival from the early days of Christian missionary activity in Hawaii.

$550.
Arguing for the Rights of Women within the Family Unit


A scarce political tract on women’s suffrage by George A. Hickox, a Litchfield, Connecticut lawyer, newspaper editor, and women’s suffrage advocate. At the time he wrote the present pamphlet Hickox was one of the vice presidents of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, along with Harriet Beecher Stowe and a dozen other women’s suffrage supporters. In the present essay Hickox employs his legal acumen to clarify the position of women within the marriage laws of Connecticut, dividing his summation into three sections: “I. The wife’s personal subjection to the husband. II. Her want of legal authority over their children. III. Her property.” He then provides a detailed legal analysis of each portion, and concludes that “The wife should be given entire control of her own person, joint authority with her husband over the children they nurture, and over the property they accumulate.” Hickox characterizes the inequality between husband and wife, and the resulting absolute dependence of the wife on the husband, as an “evil” which “affords the tyrannical husband every opportunity for oppression.” He argues for “wise legislation” to correct this imbalance and dependence, and “concede to the wife the independence she earns in the Family.”

$950.

An original print of one of the sequence of superb photographs taken by Yousuf Karsh on location in South Africa during the filming of the 1964 Diamond Films production, Zulu, directed by Cy Endfield. Karsh’s invitation to join the production and photograph the cast and locale resulted in a sequence of photographs of a very high order, and his interest in the Zulu people lead to additional photographs not directly associated with the film, such as this. The present image is a dramatic seated portrait of a pensive Zulu tribeswoman, in the garb of a married woman, with a child comfortably nestled on her lap with the majestic foothills of the Drakensberg mountains providing the backdrop. The image is identified as “No. 33” in the series in pencil on the verso. Although this project is not as widely known as Karsh’s formal portraiture, examples of the resulting images have featured prominently in both museum and print retrospectives of his career. $650.
A Life of Mayhem, Concluding with Patricide


A rare account of robbery, murder, and patricide, printed in Louisiana. Copyrighted by E.E. Barclay in Ohio, this (possibly) fictional tale was published by the Rev. W. Stuart, and quite likely written by him as well. George Lathrop’s journey on the road to self-ruin began in a gambling hall in New Orleans, where he “wins at first, but then loses all.” The son of a Louisiana planter, Lathrop would go on to commit a slew of crimes, including pickpocketing, the robbery of a jewelry store in New Orleans, other crimes in Louisville and Richmond, and the murder of a constable in St. Louis. In Baton Rouge Lathrop and a partner accost the former warden of Sing Sing prison, nearly beating the man to death. The height of Lathrop’s depravity was the murder of his own father as the elder man travelled to New Orleans to deposit the proceeds of his cotton crop. Lathrop was arrested while hiding in the St. Charles Hotel. His accomplice turned state’s evidence and was sentenced to the state prison at Baton Rouge, while Lathrop was condemned to death by hanging. A brief speech from the gallows concludes the narrative. Lathrop’s adventures also include a Romeo and Juliet story in which he falls in love with his father’s enemy, and both fathers oppose the union. The illustrations show various crimes, including the murder of a constable and of Lathrop’s father. One illustration shows Mary Howe’s father, assisted by his slaves, rescuing his daughter from Lathrop’s “kidnapping” attempt.

Quite scarce in the trade. Rare Book Hub lists no copies in dealer catalogues or at auction since Ernest Wessen offered a copy in 1958. “Rare” – Adams. Not in McDade, this is the first copy we have handled. JUMONVILLE 1644. ADAMS, SIX-GUNS 1285. SABIN 39175. MIDLAND NOTES 70:577. EBERSTADT 123:115. $2500.

A rare account of the first murder trial in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, for a crime that took place just outside of Harrisburg in December 1797. “The will of Peter Shitz left most of his estate to his sons Francis and Peter, but if they died without children, part went to his daughter Elizabeth. Hauer was the husband of Elizabeth, and he hired four Irishmen, newly arrived in the country, to kill his brothers-in-law. Two masked men raided the house one night and killed Francis with an ax, but Peter escaped. M’Manus and Hauer were hanged” – McDade.

ESTC W11939. EVANS 34040. McDADE 663. SABIN 43564. $1750.
$600 REWARD! 2 MURDERERS AT LARGE!

$600 REWARD will be paid by the undersigned Sheriff of Washington county, Mo., for the apprehension and delivery to him, at the Jail of said county in Potosi, of CHARLES JOLLY and JOHN ARMSTRONG, charged with the murder of David Lapine, his wife, Louisa Lapine, Mary Christopher and two children, on the night of Saturday, November 19, 1870, or $300 for either.

DESCRIPTION.
CHARLES JOLLY is about 30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches high, weighs 175 pounds, very dark complexion, eyes and hair dark, form straight, about a half breed Indian.

JOHN ARMSTRONG is about 35 years old, 5 feet 9 inches high, weighs 160 pounds, stoop-shouldered, hangs his head down habitually, coarse, straight black hair, shows Indian blood.

SHERIFF OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSOURI.
Potosi, Missouri, November 23d, 1870.

Dramatic Crime in Rural Missouri, with Native American Suspects

An unrecorded, possibly unique reward broadside, printed in the immediate aftermath of the brutal crime which became known as the “Lapine Murders.” The broadside advertises a substantial reward from Washington County, Missouri, Sheriff John T. Clarke for the apprehension of two men, Charles Jolly (“very dark complexion...about a half breed Indian”) and John Armstrong (“shows Indian blood”). According to contemporary reports, Armstrong and Jolly, both men in their thirties, were working as miners just north of Potosi, Missouri. On November 19, 1870, they supposedly went in to town with Jolly’s younger brother Leon to sell their minerals, where they purchased liquor and became aggressively drunk. The group went to the Lapine family home on the outskirts of town, where they left young Leon outside before entering the house. According to one slightly later account:

“The most extensive, most horrible and outrageous crime ever committed in Washington County was the murder and burning of the Lapine family. This family consisted of David Lapine and Louisa, his wife, and their infant son, about eighteen months of age, and Mary Christopher and her infant daughter, a baby, and they lived in a log cabin about one mile northeast of Potosi. The murderers were John Armstrong and Charles Jolly, Jr....On the evening of November 19, 1870, these men, being under the influence of liquor, took with them a lad named Leon Jolly, and went to the house occupied by the Lapine family, and there, according to the evidence of young Leon Jolly, Charles Jolly, Jr. shot David Lapine through a crack in the wall of the house, and then John Armstrong rushed into the house, with an ax in hand, and with it severed the head of David Lapine from his body, then turned and severed the heads of the two women from their bodies, and then struck each of the infants on the head with the edge of the ax. The terrible deed was done! A family of five persons was slain, and the heads of three were severed from their bodies! Was ever the demon of destruction more hellish? Not being satisfied with their work, the fiends then set fire to the house, thinking, perhaps, that it might be made to appear that the family burned to death. The house was consumed by the fire, as was
mostly the bodies of the victims of the murderers. After committing the terrible crime the murderers, with the boy, went on to town where they got more whisky, and then returned to their homes” – *History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford & Gasconade Counties Missouri*.

Other descriptions of exactly what happened inside the home vary considerably, but all agree that the father, David Lapine, was shot with a firearm before his wife and children were killed with an axe and decapitated, and the house burned. The assumed perpetrators fled to Jefferson County, but Leon was found on November 23 and quickly confessed to what he had seen. The two men were located and arrested the following day, where lethal force was required to protect them from an angry mob intent on a lynching. After being transferred to St. Louis for their own protection, the pair received a perfunctory trial and were promptly hanged before an eager crowd before the end of January.

Since the men were identified as suspects on November 23rd and arrested on the 24th, the printing of this broadside can only date from the afternoon of the 23rd or morning of the 24th. It is worth noting that the two men pleaded “Not Guilty” at their trial, although according to contemporary reports the jury deliberated for fewer than ten minutes before reaching the opposite verdict, and the case has never been investigated further.

An intriguing and extremely rare artifact from a sensational crime in 19th-century rural Missouri. We locate no other copies of the present broadside.


$3500.

*Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.*
A Signer of the Declaration from New York


An affectionate letter written by Lewis Morris to his son, Jacob, congratulating him on the birth of a daughter. Lewis Morris, the brother of Gouverneur Morris, was one of the few members of the landed gentry of the state of New York who supported the colonial cause. He served in the Continental Congress, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and served in both the New York State Militia and its Senate. His son, Jacob, though educated for a mercantile career, was moved by the patriotic fervor of the times and served as aide to both generals Charles Lee and Nathanael Greene; he served with distinction at Fort Moultrie. After the war he served in the New York legislature; the town of Morris, New York, which he settled, is named for him. Lewis Morris writes:

“My dear Son, I most sincerely congratulate you on Polly’s safe delivery of as fine a girl as ever you saw, it looks like your Mother, the finest feature in her face is her nose, which is very large; Polly was delivered on the 21st instant, a little after four o’clock in the afternoon, by the mother Sickels and she had a very fine time of it, and the old woman went away well pleased after tea with her fee. She is now very well, and has her nurse with her, who seems a good creature, so that we expect in a short time she will be down again and making her boys winter cloaks, which she was very busy about just before the lay in. Your boys and girls are all very well. Yesterday by the packet I had a long letter from your brother James, who was then at Spaw in Germany and by a vessel from London, your good uncle Staats before he went to Spaw, sent me four pr. of most excellent shoes, and two pr. of boots, one a strong pr. the other for day. I find this letter flying; a day or two ago I saw Mr. Upton at New York and he says in a short time he will go up then I will write you a long letter. Give our love to Billy tell him his cattle thrive very well. By Mr. Upton I will write you both and give you all the politick going.”

The letter is sent care of Charles Webster, printer at Albany who, in partnership with Solomon Balantine, established the second newspaper printed in that city. $4000.


**Mining Disaster Near Virginia City**


A rare and dramatic news broadside presenting ongoing updates for one of the worst mining disasters in Nevada history. On April 6th, 1869, a methane fire caused by an unattended lantern broke out in the 800 level of Virginia City’s Yellow Jacket Mine, swiftly spreading to the nearby Kentuck and Crown Point Mines. The strength and heat of the flames precluded any hope of rescue, despite the efforts of firefighters and community members to recover the miners. Ultimately, over thirty-five miners perished in the fire, eleven of whose bodies were never recovered. While this broadside estimates that at least sixty would have been in the mines, the one faint silver lining of the accident is that it occurred during a shift change, and only half of the normal number of workers were present.

The tone of the text in this extra issue is heart-wrenching:

“Wives and children of miners at the hoisting works, shrieking in woe.... There is great danger that the men below will all perish, the smoke and gas being dense and suffocating as to render it impossible to get their aid or operate to extinguish the flames.... The scene at the works beggars description. Wives and children moaning and calling for missing husbands and fathers.... It is supposed that there are at least fifty more miners in the three mines, and it is feared that none of them can be saved.”

It also relates the gruesome and newsworthy (if dubious) story of a miner who was tragically decapitated by the hoisting equipment as he was pulled from the inferno. Unfortunately for Virginia City, its fire troubles were far from over – in October of 1875, a massive fire nearly leveled the settlement. We find no record of a Herald newspaper in or around Virginia City (or in Nevada at all) at this time. It is likely that this was printed in San Francisco (or perhaps Stockton) as news updates came in from Nevada Territory by telegraph. In either case, we do not find this rare extra issue recorded anywhere.

$2500.
MEMORABLES
OF THE
MONTGOMERIES.

New York:
Printed for the King of Clubs.
1866.

One of Ten Large Paper Copies


Number 9 of ten large paper copies with the folding genealogical table, hand numbered and signed by Patterson. This publication reprints a heroic poem, first published in 1770, recording the exploits of the Montgomerie family, the family line from which Gen. Richard Montgomery of the Continental Army was descended. It includes a large folding table showing the family tree. With the bookplate of Richard Montgomery Gilchrist Potter on the front pastedown, and his notes indicating: “This copy belonged to J. Hammond Trumbull. A letter, authenticating this provenance and mentioning a faulty 1st issue of this edition, to Trumbull from D. Williams Patterson was stolen from me while at the binders.” Trumbull was a Connecticut scholar and philologist who held several state government positions in his lifetime and was the librarian of the Watkinson Library. With the original prospectus laid in, as well as some information on Gen. Richard Montgomery. $600.
William Penn Defends His and His Family’s Honor

One of the most important incidents in the early life of William Penn was his trial in September 1670 on charges of unlawful assembly and disturbing the peace. He and another Quaker, William Mead, were tried in the Old Bailey. The bench attempted to intimidate the jury into a guilty verdict, and although both men were found not guilty, they both served time in jail. In 1670 a pamphlet on the trial was produced, loosely attributed to Penn and called *The Peoples Ancient and Just Liberties Asserted*... Samuel Starling, the Lord Mayor of London and one of the judges in the trial, responded with a pamphlet of his own the same year. In the present pamphlet Penn, assisted by Quaker lawyer Thomas Rudyard, offers his spirited response to Starling’s work. “This pamphlet reflects a new side of [William Penn], for instead of the reasonable and cultivated gentleman and Quaker, we find a deeply incensed young man defending his father’s honor [Penn’s father helped secure his release from prison] and slashing out at his persecutor” – Bronner & Fraser. Penn defends his father’s honor and military record, reviews the facts of his trial, and considers the power and role of juries.

An important and scarce early work on the role of the judiciary, by the future founder of Pennsylvania.

BRONNER & FRASER 11. SMITH, FRIENDS’ BOOKS II:286. WING P1392. ESTC R36662. $2500.
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 February 15, 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. $3000.
An extremely rare and interesting legal brief concerning a notable family of Saint Domingue, and a very early piece of printing from the island. This is a lawyer’s brief concerning the trial about the inheritance of the Dureau family in Saint Domingue. The process concerned the division of the estate of the late Laurent Dureau, who died in 1745, between his children from two mothers. The endless quarrels about the inheritance began in 1719 when Laurent Dureau married Marie Louise Michel; the lawsuit began in 1754 and temporarily concluded with this document, an interlocutory judgement, in 1767.

Laurent Dureau’s father, Sebastian, was appointed governor of Saint Domingue by King Louis XIV of France. His son, Laurent, was born in 1694, married three times, and had six children. His most notable offspring was by his third wife, Elisabeth: Jean-Baptiste-Joseph-René Dureau de la Malle (1742-1807), who was known for his translations of Latin literature, and who became member of the Corps Législatif and the French Academy.

The origins of printing in Saint Domingue, now Haiti, are obscure. The best contemporary source, Isaiah Thomas in his History of Printing in America, says that a press was established at Port-au-Prince as early as 1750, but this is uncertain; the earliest imprint we can locate is one from 1767 at the Library Company of Philadelphia. At the same time Thomas says the press at Cap Français was established “as early as 1765, and probably several years preceding.” However, the Library Company has a 1752 imprint. It seems likely to us that Thomas reversed the places, since Cap Français was the largest and wealthiest town in colonial Saint Domingue, and that printing began there around 1750 and in Port-au-Prince about 1765. The present work is the earliest imprint from Saint Domingue which we have handled. We could trace only one copy in institutional holdings, at the New York Public Library. $14,500.
From an Edition of Fifty Copies


First English language edition, translated from the German edition issued in 1905, by Margaret and Erich Zimmerman. Privately printed in an edition limited to fifty copies. This copy is signed on the frontispiece by Scharmann’s son, also named Hermann B. Scharmann, who was age eleven when he accompanied his family on their overland journey to California.

“Scharmann started his overland odyssey on March 20, 1849, from New York as the president of a German company. By November 1, the company arrived at Lassen’s Ranch, where Scharmann encountered Peter Lassen, who imparted little aid to Scharmann’s sick wife and infant daughter. Shortly thereafter, both died. The next portion of the book consists of his experiences looking for gold and the difficulties of trying to survive high prices, hard work, illness, and little success. The German narrates a detailed description of Marysville, Sacramento City, Negro Bar, and various mining methods” – Kurutz. Scharmann describes their arduous overland journey in detail, including stops at forts Kearny and Laramie and encounters with Indians. Their journey turned into a nightmare when they took the Lassen cutoff, “a grisly detour of exhaustion and despair. Many others took this same false cutoff and suffered misfortune. None equal Scharmann’s tale of woe, which he concludes by saying ‘California is a land of vice and gruesomeness’” (Mattes). Dissatisfied with his experiences in California, Scharmann left in late October 1850 and returned to New York with his two surviving children.

A rare promotional broadside for Chang & Eng, the original “Siamese Twins” who became a cultural phenomenon in the United States, England, and Europe in the 1830s. The broadside is undated and has blank spaces that would have been filled in with the dates and duration of their appearance, the city and the venue, and the hours during which they would receive the curious. The present copy has none of the blank spaces accomplished in manuscript, and is undated. The woodcut illustration of the twins, however, shows them at a relatively young age, and in dress and scenery invoking their native Siam. The illustration shows the brothers wearing “exotic” clothes and headdress. The fleshy band that connected them at the torso is plainly evident.

It is significant that the broadside appeals to “ladies and gentlemen,” as the promoters of the Siamese Twins were eager to assure visitors—especially women—that their sensibilities would not be shocked by viewing the pair. The illustration of the twins therefore serves a double purpose—in piquing the interest of potential viewers, and assuring them of the propriety of the event. It is advertised that “Pamphlets, containing an historical account of the Twins” would be available for sale at the show, as well as engraved and lithographic likenesses. Admission was fifty cents, and there was “no re-admission to the room.” This broadside was likely printed toward the end of the twins’ 1829-1839 first major set of tours. As the American Antiquarian Society catalogue notes, the printer, J. M. Elliott, is listed in New York directories at the address printed on the broadside (33 Liberty Street, New York) from 1838 to 1845 and issued lithographs of the twins in 1837 and 1839. This broadside is one of the last depictions of the twins in exotic costume.

Chang & Eng, who eventually took the surname “Bunker,” were born in Thailand in 1811, and were brought to the United States by an American sea captain and a British businessman in 1829. They eventually settled in North Carolina, in 1839, and led relatively normal lives, marrying two sisters and having between them twenty-one children.
We previously sold a similar printing of this broadside, the only differences occurring in the ornamental border, a price of 25 cents added to the lithograph of the twins advertised at the bottom, and a different type font used in the last line, “No Re-Admission to the Room.” The present example is likely earlier, as it lacks the price for the lithograph, which was probably an oversight and added later.

Rare and interesting evidence of the promotion of the original Siamese Twins in the first phase of their career. $1650.
Farming and Family in South Dakota

28. [South Dakota Photographica]: [Huffman Family]: [ANNOTATED VERNACULAR PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM FEATURING A FARMING FAMILY IN SOUTH DAKOTA, WITH PICTURES OF IDENTIFIED NATIVE AMERICANS]. [Various locations in South Dakota, including Pierre, and Oahe. 1918-1928]. 230 photographs mounted on album leaves, captioned in white or red ink throughout. Images range from 2½ x 2 inches to 3½ x 5 inches. Oblong octavo. Contemporary black leatherette photograph album, string-tied. Minor edge wear. Several leaves detached, some photographs wholly or partially removed, most in nice condition. Overall good condition.

An interesting annotated vernacular photograph album featuring a South Dakota family in the first quarter of the 20th century. Members of the family are variously identified as Anna, Beulah, and Dwight Huffman, aided by a few pages of typed family notes that accompany the album. The album was kept by an unidentified member of the Huffman family, who refers to herself in the first person in a few photographs, including a group shot of school girls, captioned “Domestic Science Class when I was a ‘Frosh.’” Comparisons of photographs indicate the author of the captions is probably Anna Huffman.

Most of the photographs feature people from multiple generations of the Huffman family in South Dakota, including Grandma Benjamin. These men, women, and children pose in front of houses and on farms on the South Dakota prairie and at various spots in the capital city of Pierre. The family members are captured in a variety of activities common to rural life: feeding livestock, killing and cleaning chickens, gardening, stacking hay, camping, cutting their own hair, extracting a cow from a muddy lake, tilling farmland with early motorized tractors, and fishing in Lake Oahe.
Two photographs feature Robert Benjamin Huffman – one of him while at Illinois State Normal University (now Illinois State) and one showing him in his World War I uniform. According to the family notes accompanying the album, Robert was killed in France on October 1, 1918. Several more lighthearted photographs in the album show women laughing and clowning for the camera; one photograph shows a female family member dressed as “the Hawaiian in the school parade.”

Particularly interesting are the three photographs featuring Native Americans, two of them identifying the subjects. The first of these features Mr. and Mrs. Spotted Bear in Oahe, S.D. The second shows Mr. and Mrs. Spotted Bear standing with Mr. and Mrs. Tall White Man. The third photograph captures a large group of Native Americans sitting in a wide circle, with the caption reading “An Indian Conference Pierre, So. Dak.”

Other landmarks captured here include “The old school house,” the “M.E. Church at Pierre, So. Dak.,” the “Old Missouri” River, the Red Wing Seminary, the “Sorensen Home Oahe So Dak.,” and the South Dakota State Capitol building. As with other family albums, there are also numerous vacation shots, with various family members in New York, Virginia, and Illinois; at some point, Beulah and Anna drove from South Dakota to New York for vacation.

An interesting collection of annotated vernacular family photographs from the rural American West. $650.
The Will of George Washington


First edition of Washington's will, exceedingly rare in original wrappers. The first codicil bequeaths the Washington estate to his wife, Martha, but the second provision is by far the most famous – it is here that Washington provides for the emancipation of his slaves upon the death of his wife. The same codicil makes arrangements for the care of older and infirm freed slaves and for the education of the younger freed slaves. The rest of the will contains detailed arrangements for the dispersal of Washington's property to his relatives and friends, including the Marquis de Lafayette (who received a pair of steel pistols taken from the British during the Revolution), and his nephew, Bushrod Washington, who took possession of Washington's personal papers and library, among other items. The schedule of property gives a detailed accounting of Washington's real property holdings at the time of his death. The will reveals how wealthy Washington was, with a value at the time of over a million dollars, making him one of the richest men in the country.

This first edition of George Washington's last will and testament was followed by several other printings in 1800; as such, it has become very scarce in the market.

Dispute Over Land in Washington’s Estate


Part of the ongoing settlement of George Washington’s estate, of which his favorite nephew, Bushrod Washington, was executor. At this time Bushrod Washington was a sitting justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, having been appointed in 1798. Taylor writes to him offering his services as counsel. A prominent Virginia jurist, George K. Taylor (1769-1815) attended the College of William & Mary, entered private practice in 1795, and served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1795 until 1801, when he was appointed U.S. Circuit Judge for the 4th Circuit. Almost certainly it was Taylor rather than Henry Lee who co-authored the Federalist Minority Report with John Marshall on the Alien and Sedition Acts in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1799.

According to the “Commissioner’s Report on the Estate of George Washington, 1 July 1811,” Bushrod Washington sold land from his uncle’s estate to “the late Col. Thomas Lee,” guardian of the children of his late brother, Corbin Washington, for the sum of $15,125, “which purchase their present guardian did not think himself at liberty to confirm.” In the absence of payment, Bushrod Washington, believing himself the rightful owner, apparently intended to sell the land or had already done so. Taylor expresses here that he thinks that the court will order the profits to be turned over to Colonel Lee’s successor, against whom Washington had filed suit, having been appointed to the 4th Circuit Judge for the 4th Circuit. Almost certainly it was Taylor rather than Henry Lee who co-authored the Federalist Minority Report with John Marshall on the Alien and Sedition Acts in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1799.

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Taylor anticipates he will have “ample leisure” to review the case.

$2000.
The Emily Skeel-William Safire Copy of Webster’s Letters to a Young Gentleman


The Skeel-Safire copy of the first edition of this unusual Webster publication. In a series of nine letters to an unknown and likely universal correspondent, Webster discusses the usual array of issues surrounding grammar and parts of speech, as well as virtue and other moral ideals, and also comments on the English language dictionaries of his day, such as those compiled by Johnson, Sheridan, and Kenrick. Following the letters is a “Summary History of the discovery and settlement of America from the time of English settlement through the American Revolution, “adapted to the use of families and schools – and forms a convenient Manuel [sic] for travellers and seamen.” In subsequent years, Webster’s American history would be expanded and reissued, but this is its first appearance.

A esoteric Webster item, with notable etymology-related provenance, having been owned by both Emily Ellsworth Ford Skeel, Webster’s granddaughter and bibliographer, and William Safire, the preeminent popular American language and grammar expert of the late 20th century. Skeel compiled A Bibliography of the Writings of Noah Webster and published the work in 1958; books from her library are scarce. Safire was an author, journalist, and speechwriter who wrote the long-running column “On Language” for the New York Times.

An interesting work by the foundational American language expert, owned by his granddaughter who was also one of his bibliographers, and then the most notable public expert on language in late 20th-century America. SKEEL 533. SABIN 102365. $2250.
Photos of the American West During WWI

32. [Western Photographica]: [VERNACULAR PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM OF A FAMILY, LIKELY FROM TEXAS, IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY]. [Texas? ca. 1917]. 136 original photographs of varying shapes and sizes, mostly about 3 x 3½ inches. Oblong photo album of black paper between brown velvet covers, bound with string. Covers a bit scuffed and soiled, glue remnants on a number of pages, photos in varying conditions. Numerous manuscript captions. Good.

A very personal vernacular photo album of an apparently well-to-do family in the American West during World War I. Most of the photographs are posed photographs of friends and family, sometimes captioned by a first name, date, or comment on the image, such as “sweethearts.” In fact, several of the images appear to be of couples courting. The captions in general provide precious little information, although the manuscript next to a group of men loading a mule reads “Good Ol’ Texas.” Many photos are taken on the family’s front porch or in front of their car, but a few depict men on horseback or in uniform, and several are dated 1917 in the captions. One of the photographs shows an outdoor basketball hoop and backboard (likely at a schoolhouse) and another shows two men standing in front of “Kelley & Sons Furniture and Hardware.” An intimate look into the year of a western American family in the early 20th century.

$500.
The Curious Autobiography of a Vermonter in the West


An idiosyncratic collection of poetry, observations, disjointed anecdotes, and religious argumentation written by a man who claims to be the descendant of a French Count. Willard describes it best in his own introduction:

“The title, ‘Multumissimo in Parvo,’ which means the very most possible to be compressed into the smallest possible space is appropriate to this little book or booklet, since it brings together the most important events of a very eventful, strenuous life and leaves the reader to soar away, to any desired height [sic], on the wings of imagination in search of a multitude of events not in print.”

In addition to entertainment, his goals are to argue that his ancestor, Col. Oliver Willard, was actually the first settler of Hartland, Vermont, and in the final pages to advertise his newly printed “Hebrew Gospel,” the existence of which we can find no evidence. The author tells numerous tales about his life, including fortunes won and lost in mining, farming, sheep herding, and retail, tells jokes and humorous anecdotes, writes songs and poems, muses on Christianity and Judaism, provides a detailed family tree of the Willard family, and recounts many other observations from his life (such as witnessing the discovery of dinosaur bones in Tucson which he describes as “many thousands of years old”). A rare and curious book about a curious man’s curious life; OCLC locates seven copies in libraries worldwide.

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