NOTES
ON THE
War in the South;
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF THE LIVES OF
MONTGOMERY, JACKSON,
SEVIER,
The late Gov. Claiborne,
AND OTHERS.

By Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne,
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA.
A Member of the Executive of Virginia during the late War.

RICHMOND:
PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM RAMSAY.
1819.

Rare Work on Southern Military Campaigns


Commentary on the War of 1812, most of the text having been written while the war was in progress. Includes, besides the biographical sketches noted in the title, material on the Creek Indians and their relations with the government. This book is particularly interesting in connection with Jackson’s 1814 campaign against the Creeks. William C.C. Claiborne, brother of the author and at one time governor of Louisiana, receives the most biographical attention. Not in Sabin. Scarce.

Britain Attempts an Alliance
with the Red Stick Creeks During the War of 1812


A fascinating and forceful pair of draft addresses by British fleet second-in-command Rear Admiral Edward Codrington, directed chiefly to the “Red Stick” Creek faction to persuade them to ally with the British against the Americans in the War of 1812. Until the late summer of 1814 the Red Stick Creeks had been fighting a civil war against the Lower Creeks, who were allied with the United States as well as the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations (traditional enemies of the Creeks). The British and Spanish offered support to the Red Stick Creeks during the conflict. The Creek War was largely settled by the Treaty of Fort Jackson (August 1814), in which Andrew Jackson compelled the Creek on both sides of the conflict to cede twenty-one million acres of land to the United States in what is now southern Georgia and Alabama.

Hoping to exploit lingering resentment against the Americans, Codrington here drafts two appeals to the “Creek and other Indian Nations.” He begins one by noting: “The great King George our common father has long wished to relieve the sufferings of his warlike Indian Children and to assist them in regaining their rights & possessions from the rebellious and perfidious Americans.” He continues: “The same principle of Justice which led our father to wage a war of twenty years in favour of the oppressed nations of Europe animates him in support of his Indian children.” Codrington then reminds them of how the British have kept their earlier promises: “We promised you by our letter of the 29th June 1814 that great fleets and armies were coming to attack our foes, & you will have heard of our having taken their capital city of Wash. & created terror in the heart of their country.” Codrington continues by asserting that “by the efforts of [the King’s] warriors he hopes to obtain for them [the Red Stick Creeks] the restoration of those lands of which the treacherous people of the bad spirit United States have basely robbed them.” And so, “Come
forth then you brave chiefs & warriors as one family, & join the British Standard....If you want covering to protect your wives & children against the winter’s cold, come to us....If you want arms & ammunition to defend yourselves against your oppressors come to us....And what do we ask in return...? Nothing save that you should assist us manfully in regaining your lost lands, the lands of your forefathers, from our common Enemies the people of the United States...."

These drafts exhibit numerous cross-outs and emendations, showing the clarifications and refinements Codrington made to his texts. While there is no surviving reply, Codrington’s appeal seems to have failed to motivate the Creek or any other Native American nation. The Creeks did not accept the British offer and did not participate in the Battle of New Orleans, although members of the Choctaw Nation did fight alongside other New Orleans troops under Jackson. Coincident to Codrington’s drafting of these addresses, American and British negotiators at Ghent were finalizing the terms of the peace treaty that would end the War of 1812.

Manuscripts by Codrington are uncommon in the trade and at auction. An important British appeal for Native American support in the waning days of the War of 1812. $11,500.

Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
Court-Martialed for Losing Detroit


Account of the court martial of Brig. Gen. William Hull, tried for the surrender of Detroit during the War of 1812. The fall of Fort Detroit to the British and their Indian allies was a very important event in the early months of the War of 1812, as it emboldened the British and encouraged Indians in the northwest to take up arms against American settlers and outposts. It became quite clear to American leaders in the months leading up to the Congressional declaration of war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812, that a stronger defense was needed on the northwest frontier of the United States. The town of Detroit and the fort there was immediately recognized as a strategically important outpost, and President Madison sent hundreds of troops, led by Brig. Gen. William Hull, there in the summer. Hull arrived at Detroit on July 5, and discussed plans to take the offensive and attack the British in Canada, though his indecision stalled him. Meanwhile, the British took control of Mackinac Island on Lake Huron, and the British navy controlled Lake Erie. Hundreds of Indians from local tribes began to side with the British forces. At the same time, the British general, Isaac Brock, was leading a large force toward Detroit, and he formed an alliance with Tecumseh in mid-August. On August 15th Brock and his Indian allies attacked Fort Detroit and quickly subdued the poorly-supplied American forces. Hull's belief that he was greatly out-manned, and his concern for civilians in the fort led him to surrender the following day. The British held Detroit for more than a year, until the American victory at the Battle of Lake Erie. The defeat was tremendously dispiriting to American morale, and Hull faced a court martial, at which he was convicted (largely on the testimony of Ohio volunteer officers) and sentenced to be shot. Madison commuted Hull's sentence on the basis of his service during the Revolution, and he was dismissed from the army.

SHAW & SHOEMAKER 32628. $400.
Gerry Discusses His Role as President of the Senate, and His Conflict with Senators Over “Usages” of the Senate


A superb letter written by Elbridge Gerry to an unidentified recipient discussing his role as presiding officer of the Senate during his term as vice president, written just a few months before the end of his life. Gerry served as President Madison’s vice president and staunchly supported Madison’s aggression against the British in the War of 1812. The vice president’s job, as stated in the Constitution, is to preside over the Senate; most holders of that office, however, had relinquished the post to a
president pro tem. In a move that went entirely against tradition, Gerry refused to relinquish his position as presiding officer of the Senate after the close of the session, lest a peace advocate from Virginia take his place.

Gerry’s letter, which is entirely focused on his work as the presiding officer of the Senate, discusses the issue of “usages” — unwritten rules that governed the Senate in addition to the recorded rules. He was informed by the Senate that they would let him know, as needed, what these usages were and where they were applicable, a practice Gerry refers to near the end of the letter as “a mean snare to entangle the presiding officer.”

Gerry writes:

“I suspect from appearances, there have been anonymous complaints against our friend B.; there certainly have against Mr. [Henry] Dearborn. Your conduct in regard to the former was wise, honorable & friendly; & let the issue be as it may, he never can impute blame to you, & would I think prefer you as a successor, to any other person. This mode of shooting in ambush is savage, & if countenanced, would drive from office every man of honor & substitute in his place an assassin....The attempt to criminate Governor [Return Jonathan] Meigs has failed, & he after an ordeal is confirmed by the Senate [as postmaster general]. In it there is at present such a number of Federalists, & of ostensible Republicans, as to nicely ballance this body on some points, & to preponderate in their favor or others.

“The former, in regard to myself, have preserved in general more delicacy than the latter; several of whom, at the moment of my taking the chair, opened a masked battery on it, under the denomination of usages. The written rules & Jefferson’s Manual were sent to me by the Secretary before I came to this city, & another set of them was placed on the Senate table. These I applied but was informed of another kind of rule called usages, which were to govern my conduct & that of the Senate. I enquired whether they were in the Journals, or any record, or in print, & was answered in the negative, but that the members knew them & would from time to time give me information. This queer kind of orders was communicated to me from time to time & submitted to the awkward mode adopted by some gentlemen of being thus catechized into the knowledge of their usages; but took the precautions always writing them as stated, & of taking the sense of the Senate, whether they were to be considered as the usages of that body. This record I left on the table for the use of new members, as well as for the government of myself in the last session; during which, one of the members being disposed at a time to dispute the usage, the chair was supported, & Judge Anderson declared, that the

President ought to be embarrassed with such kind of rules, but that they ought to be exploded.”

Gerry then launches into a lengthy and detailed account of an incident involving a dispute in the Senate over usages. He notes that the entire incident was subsequently stricken from the record, likely making this one of the only records of the occurrence:

“One of these usages required that each member presenting a petition should not only comply with the written rule by stating the purport of the petition, but should declare that ‘it was conceived in respectful terms.’ Mr. King soon after my arrival presented a petition, [which] complied with the written rule, & refused to comply with the usage; altho it was read & confirmed by a number of gentlemen who declared it to be correct. Mr. Mason demanded whether the usage was on the journals, & objected to my record of it; but he was corrected by Mr. Dana of Connecticut & others....[Mr. King later] preferred another petition from the city of N. York, complying with the written rule only. I enquired whether it was conceived in respectful terms, he refused to answer, & demanded whether he was in order; saying that if the chair refused to receive the petition, he would take it back, & return it to his constituents with a statement of the facts. In answer, I informed the Senate that the member was in order according to the written rules, but out of order according to the usage; & requested the sense of the Senate, in order to put an end to such unpleasant conflicts on this question, whether not having complied with the usage of the house requiring the declaration mentioned, he was in order?

“This produced a warm debate....During the debate, Mr. Giles in an il-liberal, & I tho’t ungentlemansly manner cast blame on the chair for having in one instance only produced excitement in his feelings by merely enquiring whether a petition which he had preferred, was (agreeably to the requisite of his usage) conceived in respectful terms. He stated that the question had not been presented by any President pro tem, & implied a distrust of the honor of the member. I stated if there existed a distrust, it was not on my part, but on that of the Senate; which had established the usage & made it binding on the members of the Senate, & who made it the duty of the President to apply it as a rule....After the [flame?] had risen, I informed the gentlemen, that they had not supported the Chair in applying their usage, which was here apparently a mean snare to entangle the presiding officer; & that until the usages were ascertained, recorded & determined to be rules of proceeding by the Senate, they would not again by me be applied as such. The next day Mr. Dagget moved to amend the Journal so as that the decision of the Senate should not appear to have
been against a usage. I read the motion & informed the Senate that they had a right to put what they pleased in their Journals, over which I had no control; but that the motion did not state the fact, & that this was truly recorded by the Secretary. Another member then moved to strike out the record in regard to this matter & so it ended.”

Gerry adds in a post script: “The members of the Senate have appeared since this affair attentive, more so than usual. But it develops I think a high degree of party prejudice. I shall bury it however in oblivion, & alter my future proceedings, so as to stand on recorded rules and practices.”

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. “Gerry warned that the Constitution would not be ratified without a bill of rights, and he proved to be right. Massachusetts accepted the document, but only with the strong recommendation that a bill of rights be added. Several other states followed suit, and the Constitution was ratified but only with these provisos. Gerry staunchly supported the new government, helped to frame the Bill of Rights, and served as congressman from 1789 to 1793” – ANB. His name is perhaps most 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. “The shape of one electoral district on the map resembled a salamander, and one wit promptly dubbed it a ‘Gerrymander.’ Hence, the term used today when redistricting results in a concentration of the strength of one political party and a weakening of its opponent’s strength” – ANB. 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.

An interesting and detailed letter by Gerry, unraveling the intricacies of the rules in the Senate, coupled with the difficulties of handling party politics in that body. $9500.
British Officer’s Account of the War of 1812


An account of some of the battles of the War of 1812, told from the British side, wrongly attributed to George Gleig. Gleig was a Scottish soldier in Wellington’s 85th Light Infantry who suffered three wounds in five battles during the War of 1812. After his military career he followed his father into the Church. Gleig’s collection of articles on the Peninsular War, The Subaltern, was published in 1825 and may explain the question surrounding his authorship of the present work. Howes claims the work is “[a]tributed erroneously to George R. Gleig, author of a similar work, A Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army.” This is a different book, and the author is a different British officer. The author, whoever it was, was at Baltimore, Washington, and New Orleans, and gives a firsthand account of these events.

HOWES S1115. SABIN 27570. AMERICAN IMPRINTS 19007.

$750.

During the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson had established martial law during his occupation of New Orleans. State senator Louis Louaillier wrote an article criticizing Jackson’s military dictatorship and was arrested; subsequently Judge Dominic Hall objected to Jackson’s suspension of habeas corpus and Louaillier’s arrest, and Hall was also arrested for treason. Upon his release, Hall fined Jackson the immense sum of $1,000, which was later deemed by several official parties to be an outrageously large fine. This pamphlet, issued during the presidential campaign of 1828, speaks of the injustices perpetrated by Jackson against Louaillier, urging citizens to vote instead for John Quincy Adams (who lost anyway). HOWES L485. SHOEMAKER 29534. JUMONVILLE 596. THOMPSON 1037. $2500.
Refuting Campaign Attacks on Andrew Jackson


One of three 1828 issues of this pro-Jackson account of the mutiny at Fort Jackson in 1814, printed by the New York Democratic-Republicans. Comprised of brief text, but mainly reprints contemporary documents. One of the numerous campaign accounts printed during the controversial election of 1828. Scarce.

Uncommon Lexington Edition


Howes attributes authorship to Isaac R. Jackson, and indicates this Lexington imprint as somewhat later than the New York edition from the same year. Harrison had long thought of running for President, and this is his first campaign biography, covering all the military highlights of his career in the Old Northwest. This Lexington edition is not in Miles, who does note five other editions of Jackson’s biography of Harrison. American Imprints locates only one copy of this edition, at the University of Kentucky, and OCLC adds only four more, at the Filson Historical Society, Indiana University, Toronto Public Library, and DeGolyer Library. HOWES J20. AMERICAN IMPRINTS 38238. OCLC 14159382.

$500.

Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
“The most important print of the battle [of New Orleans]”

9. Laclotte, Hyacinthe: DEFEAT OF THE BRITISH ARMY, 12,000 STRONG, UNDER THE COMMAND OF SIR EDWARD PACKENHAM IN THE ATTACK OF THE AMERICAN LINES DEFENDED BY 3600 MILITIA COMMANDED BY MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON JANUARY 8th, 1815, ON CHALMETTE PLAIN FIVE MILES BELOW NEW ORLEANS ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE MISSISSIPPI. Drawn on the Field of Battle and painted by H. Laclotte archt and assist Engineer in the Louisiana Army the Year
One of the earliest and best representations of the Battle of New Orleans, the final engagement of the War of 1812, in which American forces under Andrew Jackson decisively routed the numerically superior British forces invading Louisiana. The battle took place on January 8, 1815, and was the culmination of Britain’s months-long campaign to take what was then the southwestern boundary of the United States. The artist, a topographical engineer in the First Louisiana Militia, presents a firsthand bird’s-eye view of the engagement at Chalmette Plantation, with the strong American defenses under Jackson handily repulsing the British forces who advance along the riverbank with as many ladders and fascines as rifles. Jackson himself makes an appearance in the center of his breastworks, just beside the American flag, while British commander Packenham is likely the figure being carried off in a stretcher by retreating British troops in the upper portion of the image. The French and English titles for the engraving are printed side by side, separated by an American Eagle and the text “To the United States’ Glory.”

W.C. Cook calls this print “the most historically accurate and best executed of all prints [of the Battle of New Orleans,] regardless of media,” and John Carbonell in his own article describes it as “in some respects the most important print of the battle.” He goes on to say:

“The print itself affords a birds-eye panorama of the action on the east bank [of the Mississippi] at the height of the engagement. It is based on sketches made on the spot by Laclotte, who is identified as an architect and assistant engineer in the Louisiana army...Other veterans of the battle formally endorsed Laclotte’s depiction as reliable and such authority has made it the most frequently copied view of the battle...the panorama is so ambitiously extensive that the viewer is removed a great distance and the accuracy of the scale keeps him there...it is the richness of well-drawn detail which distinguishes the Laclotte print. In the left and center foreground, for instance, a handful of British troops have penetrated to the gun battery ahead of the line. At the front of this battery a spirited sword duel shows up clearly against the smoke of the American artillery...further forward, the British officer with pistol and raised sword at the corner of the line is probably Col. Rennie, who was killed in a courageous charge. In fact, his small group succeeded in taking the gun battery....”

Besides these specific instances, the print shows the whole field, with the American camp to the left, the American lines extending across the middle of the image, and the marshaling British attack from the right.

The artist, Jean-Hyacinthe Laclotte, was a French painter, architect, and engineer. In the early 1800s he was living and working in New Orleans, where he opened an architectural drawing and painting school based on the French model. He was also responsible for designing a number of noteworthy homes in the French Quarter and for planning the Faubourg Plaisance subdivision. He volunteered as a topographical engineer with the First Louisiana Militia during the war, and his eyewitness painting of the Battle of New Orleans quickly became one of the most famous and celebrated images of the battle. While Laclotte made his original painting within days of the event, the present print engraved by Philibert-Louis Debucourt was not disseminated until two years later, as Laclotte travelled across America and then to Paris to have it produced.

A rare and important eyewitness image of Jackson’s myth-making Battle of New Orleans.

HISTORICAL MEMOIR
OF
THE WAR
IN
WEST FLORIDA AND LOUISIANA
IN 1814–15.
WITH AN ATLAS.

BY MAJOR A. LACARRIERE LATOUR,
Principal Engineer in the late Seventh Military District United States’ Army.

WRITTEN ORIGINALLY IN FRENCH, AND TRANSLATED FOR THE AUTHOR,
BY H. P. NUGENT, ESQ.

PHILADELPHIA:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN CONRAD AND CO.
J. Maxwell, printer.
1816.

Lawrence Washington’s Copy

One of the most important books on the War of 1812 in the South and West, describing the campaign around the battle of New Orleans. “Major Latour’s account of the military events is minute and interesting, and the appendix contains an invaluable collection of state papers” – Sabin. “Chief authority, well-documented, on these operations” – Howes. Theodore Roosevelt, in his Naval War of 1812, remarks that “Latour (who was General Jackson’s chief engineer) is the only trustworthy contemporary American historian of this war” (quoted in Streeter). Latour’s text was translated from the French by H.P. Nugent. The portrait of Jackson, not found in all copies, is present here, and is a rare early likeness.

This copy is from the library of George Washington’s nephew, Lawrence, an interesting association.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

Now by, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of James S. Morsell, I do by these presents appoint him, the said James S. Morsell Judge Advocate of the Militia of the District of Columbia: He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Judge Advocate in leading, ordering and exercising the Militia of said District, and in performing all the duties appertaining to his office as Judge Advocate. And he is to observe and follow all such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from the President of the United States of America, for the time being, or other superior officers set over him, according to the laws for regulating and disciplining the Militia of said District. And I do strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under his command, to be obedient to his orders. This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, and in the thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the said States.

By the President of the United States of America,

James Madison

Secretary of War

A War of 1812-era presidential appointment signed in ink by President James Madison and by Secretary of War John Armstrong. Here Madison appoints Maryland attorney James Sewall Morsell to the position of Judge Advocate of the Militia of the District of Columbia. In addition, Morsell has fully endorsed and docketed the document on the verso, pledging to “carefully & diligently perform the duties of a Judge Advocate...to the best of my Skill & Judgement and that I will support the Constitution of the United States.” Morsell would serve as a Judge Advocate for almost two years. From January 15, 1815 until March 3, 1816 he would serve as a circuit court judge in the District of Columbia. Earlier in his career and during his years in private practice, Morsell represented numerous African-American families who petitioned for freedom in the nation’s capital. Judge Morsell passed away in Maryland in 1870.

$2500.

War of 1812 Military-Judicial Appointment
Signed by James Madison

The Beginning of Gerrymandering


Broadside denoting the division of six districts in Massachusetts for the purpose of selecting electors for the presidential election of 1812. The six districts, divided by county, had a total of twenty-two electors—presumably broken down by population density. The broadside goes on to make provision for the day and means of voting for the electors, and the method of counting the votes—which is to be done in an open town hall meeting. The bill was read and passed through the state congress on Oct. 22, 1812. This broadside is particularly interesting in light of a similar bill which was signed by Gov. Elbridge Gerry earlier the same year, in which he apportioned the districts in such a way as to maintain his party’s political power in the state senate, giving rise to the term gerrymandering. The presidential election of 1812 would, in fact, see Gerry elected vice president.

SHAW & SHOEMAKER 25996. $400.

McDonald, who took part in many of the events he details herein, personally knew the subjects of this work, who were border Indian fighters. “He was an actor in many of the scenes he describes; and the incidents detailed in this volume, which he did not witness himself, were communicated to him by the actors...he is thus original authority, and the fullest reliance may be placed on his statements” – Thomson. The Massie sketch is mainly concerned with his activities in southern Ohio in the 1790s. That of MacArthur covers the Indian struggles of the 1790s and, in great detail, his part in the campaigns of the War of 1812 in Michigan and western Canada. This section occupies almost a third of the book. The Wells sketch is almost entirely about Wayne’s campaign of 1794. The Kenton sketch is devoted mainly to his role in opening Kentucky in the 1770s.

SABIN 43160. HOWES M83, “aa.” THOMSON 750. JILLSON, p.100. $750.
The Massachusetts Militia Adapts Steuben to Its Needs


Designated the “third edition, improved” on the titlepage and the wrapper. Sabin notes a second edition of 1808, but not a first edition. A comprehensive military manual, based on Steuben’s principles, apparently for the use of the Massachusetts militia. The tenets in this manual would have guided American forces during the War of 1812. Included are descriptions of duties for officers, privates, ensigns, and sergeants. The plates show formations for marching. Scarce on the market.

SHAW & SHOEMAKER 20735. SABIN 91460. $900.

Regimental roster and minutes of the 144th New York Infantry out of Saratoga County. The ledger opens with a detailed grid listing the officers of the regiment, with date of commission and any notes or remarks. A further list details the sergeants and captains to which they are assigned. Though this volume is dated 1815-1816, the list of officers indicates that some of the officers were commissioned as early as 1805 and 1811, predating the outbreak of the War of 1812. The minutes list the regiment's order, such as meeting times and places for inspections. On November 4, 1815 the regimental orders involve a call for a court-martial for “the trial of all delinquents at the Regimental, Battalion, and Company parades.” The minutes go on to recount the guilty parties and the time and places of their courts-martial. There are several tables showing inspection returns, accounting for the men, and an apparently aborted record of expenses. A similar court-martial order is given again in November of 1816, once more taking delinquent officers to task. Following the unit's minutes, a later 19th-century owner has used this notebook to record their original translation into English of the first three of Virgil's Eclogues, written quite neatly in purple pen. An interesting glimpse into a small, early militia regiment from upstate New York.

$750.
Beautiful Engraving Celebrating the Treaty of Ghent


A large allegorical engraving celebrating the end of the War of 1812. The caption explains that “Minerva represents the wisdom of the United States” and “dictates the conditions of peace” as Hercules forces Britannia to accept the treaty. In the background an obelisk features the names of major American military figures of the war, including Jackson, Harrison, Decatur, and Porter. An inset below the engraving reads “Under the Presidency of Madison Monroe Secretary of State,” surrounded by the names of the first twenty states (through Mississippi).

The original painting from which this print was modeled was created by Julia Plantou, a French painter who emigrated to America in 1816. Her work was exhibited in Washington, D.C. in 1817, and prints were made as she and her husband toured with the painting to other cities across the country. The engraving is attributed to a rather mysterious Philadelphia engraver known only as “Chataigner.” Some suggest this may refer to the French engraver, Alexis Chataigner, though that artist’s death in Paris in 1817 makes the identification somewhat uncertain.

This print is rare, with OCLC recording only the copy at the Library of Congress, and Rare Book Hub noting only three copies sold at auction since 1912. We also locate a copy at the Yale University Art Gallery. A beautiful tribute to America’s perseverance and victory in what has been called the “Second War for American Independence.”

OCLC 167815670. $4250.
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE FIELD EXERCISE AND MANOEUVRES OF INFANTRY, COMPILED AND ADAPTED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, AGREEABLY TO A RESOLVE OF CONGRESS, DATED DECEMBER, 1814. PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Concord: Printed by Isaac Hill, for the State of New-Hampshire, 1817. Two volumes. 330 [i.e. 332]pp.; forty leaves of folding plates. Four manuscript notes laid into text volume (see below). Text: Contemporary calf, spine ruled in gilt, gilt morocco label. Boards rubbed and edgeworn, chipped at head of spine and upper inner corner of rear board. Manuscript note pasted to front pastedown, pencil inscription on front free endpaper. Lower outer corner of pages 81-82 and 145-146 torn (no loss of text). Moderate tanning and foxing throughout. Atlas volume: Small quarto. Contemporary three-quarter calf and blue paper boards. Wear and soiling to boards, tail of spine frayed. Plate 21 lacking (plate 17 repeated in its place), plates 1, 24, 28, 29, 34 with small closed tears at inside margin (no loss of text); plate 33 with six-inch closed tear at inside margin and fraying to outside margin (slight loss of text), plate 40 with lower outside corner torn away (some loss of text), occasional light soiling. About very good overall.

Second edition of General Winfield Scott’s new infantry manual, printed for the state of New Hampshire; this copy being an official copy of the state’s Ninth Regiment, according to a manuscript note pasted to the front pastedown: “June 12th, 1817, Capt. Phinehas Stone, received, of Coln. Nathaniel Moore, this book, being the property of the State of New Hampshire, designed for the use of the Ninth Regiment of Militia in said State.” Stone (1775-1852) served as a captain during the War of 1812, and went on to become colonel of the regiment in 1818. The front free endpaper is inscribed in pencil, “Amos S. / Amos Stone Mills.” Loose contemporary manuscript notes are also laid in, with the titles of various sections of the manual written out along with corresponding page numbers. One of these sheets also has a “List of Young Soldiers”; the list has an “X” through it, but is easily readable, and includes the soldier, “John Lufkin 16 years old 5 day July 1816.”
Following the War of 1812 and realizing a need for more modern military tactics, General Scott presided over a board of military officers to produce a new set of rules and regulations to replace those developed by Baron von Steuben, which had been used by the U.S. military since the American Revolution. Borrowing from the French tactician Irenée Amelot de Lacroix’s *Military and Political Hints* (Boston, 1808), Scott first published *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry* in New York in 1815. This second edition was published two years later in Concord, presumably using the same copperplates for the atlas. In both editions, J.D. Stout of New York, is named as the engraver on the first plate. However, neither edition is recorded in *American Imprints* as being conjoined with this atlas, which includes forty plates (one on two sheets for a total of forty-one) illustrating the text. Although the atlas bears no titlepage or other identification, the plates correlate with references in the text volume to the figures (pp.313-28). The plates depict various military evolutions and maneuvers, and if bound with the text, would have created a rather bulky volume.

An important work in the history of the professionalization of the American Army, with a significant provenance.

AMERICAN IMPRINTS 42741 (text volume; 1 copy only). SHAW & SHOEMAKER 36412 (ref). $900.
Scott Brings His Feud with Gaines to President Tyler


An excellent and particularly acrid letter from Major General Winfield Scott to President John Tyler, regarding Scott’s decades-long feud with (Brevet) Major General Edmund P. Gaines. Scott’s feud over seniority with Gaines dated back to the War of 1812, and became particularly bitter over the question of who should succeed Major General Jacob Brown as Commanding General of the Army after Brown’s death in 1828. The argument was heated and public enough that they were both passed over for the role, which was given to Alexander Macomb instead. Regardless, the animosity between the two men continued all the way until Gaines’ death in 1849.

In this letter, Scott enumerates his most recent complaints against his long-time rival, particularly in response to a letter sent by Gaines to Adjutant General Roger Jones less than two weeks earlier. Gaines’ letter, now part of the Edmund P. and Myra C. Gaines collection at the University of Michigan, took legal issue with certain General Orders (40 and 53, specifically) and further suggested that Scott had acted outside of his authority when assigning him to a new command. Far from thinly veiled jabs or oblique criticisms, Scott makes his issues with Gaines explicitly clear in this detailed letter, consisting of twenty numbered, paragraph-length points:

With regard to Gaines’ overall conduct and capacity for command, Scott writes:

"1. In my judgment, this letter, like twenty other communications from Genl. Gaines (within the last few years) on file in the War Department & the Adjutant General’s Office, furnishes conclusive evidence that Genl. Gaines is, mentally, not fit for any responsible military duty or command."
Scott further accuses Gaines of taking unauthorized leave “(a high military offence),” making “an appeal to the troops against the President, the Secretary of War & the general in chief” by questioning the General Orders, and of wearing extra stars on his epaulets and generally “feigning to be something more than a major general.”

Scott also cannot resist bringing up the pair’s long-running argument over seniority:

“16. On the contrary, the said BREVET major Genl. Gaines, in an official letter dated Jan 30, 1825, in a question of rank between us, expressly says to Major General Brown, then sitting as president of a Board to decide that question of rank, ‘I never believed my brevet equal to your complete rank’...my brevet of major general made me his (Genl. Gaines’) senior or superior officer. He now maintains that I am his senior by ordinary commission, [but] that his brevet makes him at all times & under all circumstances, a FULL or absolute major general.”

Ultimately, Scott calls for Gaines to be court-martialed or removed from his position for his own health, depending on whether or not the President truly thinks him of right mind:

“19. General Gaines is either in a state of mind qualifying him for a high & responsible command, or he is not. If the former, he ought to be brought before a court-martial, for his many recent acts of high insubordination. If not, he ought to be placed on an indefinite leave of absence to enable him to recover his mental sanity.

“20. I understand the President to maintain the soundness of his, Genl. Gaines’, mind....Nevertheless, as in my conscience I differ with the President on that point, honour & humanity forbid that I should prefer charges against an officer whom I solemnly believe to be materially deranged.”

The lack of address panel and additional documentation (in his letter, Scott refers to accompanying documents including copies of Gaines’ letter and the disputed General Orders, which are not present) suggest that this may be Scott’s retained personal copy, although the famously fastidious general has not marked it as such. An excellent, colorful letter tied to this long-running feud, and offering outstanding evidence of the rivalries between officers at the highest ranks of the American military. $3750.
Reorganizing the Way the Army is Provisioned, on the Eve of the War of 1812


An interesting unofficial handbill relating to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Department on the eve of the War of 1812, with references to the impending war with Britain, Indian business, and the Barbary powers. In 1811, Congress introduced "A Bill for the Establishment of a Quarter-Master's Department," which the anonymous author of the present document notes "merges the duties of the superintendent of military stores in the quarter master, without naming the former." The author urges Congress to keep separate the military office of the Quartermaster from the civil positions of the Army Purveyor.

$650.
Britain and the United States Address Issues Left Over from the Treaty of Ghent, Including Indemnification for Lost Slaves


The official British printing. Russia, as arbitrator, finds that England must indemnify the U.S. for slaves carried off during the War of 1812. This arbitration resulted from a provision of Article I of the Treaty of Ghent. OCLC locates only one copy of this Convention, at The New York Public Library. Rare.

MALLOY, p.634. OCLC 36000656. $1750.
A German language history of the War of 1812. Although no authorship is attributed, this is, in fact, a translation of William McCarthy’s history of the war published in English in Philadelphia in 1816. Like the original McCarthy narrative, this edition has a frontispiece of Zebulon Pike, copied from that which is included in Pike’s *Expeditions*. Also present are six plates of military and naval incidents of the war, including the folding plate of the Battle of New Orleans not found in all copies.

HOWES G148, M38. SHAW & SHOEMAKER 40910. $750.
U.S.S. Chesapeake’s Crew Rewarded


A contemporary manuscript true copy of this document recording a brief moment of sunshine in the ill-fated U.S.S. Chesapeake’s final years, likely used as a working copy by the original recorder. During the War of 1812, and beginning in December of that year, the Chesapeake ranged in the waters along the eastern coast of the Americas, seeing activity particularly off the coast of Brazil. In her first few months, she saw considerable success intercepting British merchant ships bound for the Caribbean and South America. The first of these was the Volunteer, captured on January 13, 1813, while en route from Liverpool to Bahia with a rather large cargo of dry goods. Loitering in these same waters for the next few weeks, the Chesapeake captured five more British and American merchant ships in service of the enemy before eventually returning to Boston in early May.

Six years after the disastrous Chesapeake-Leopard incident which led to the Embargo Act of 1807, and mere days before the Chesapeake’s dramatic defeat and capture by the H.M.S. Shannon on May 31, 1813, the purser of the Chesapeake, Thomas Chew (formerly of the U.S.S. Constitution), was formally granted power of attorney by Captain Samuel Evans and designated as Agent for the disbursal of the prize money due to the crew from the particularly profitable sale of the Volunteer.

As a result, Thomas Chew created a disbursement list for the crew of the Chesapeake in late May 1813. The present document, notarized as a true copy in 1818, provides a detailed breakdown of the prize money awarded the crew from their first capture: $51,745.26 in all. Ten percent of the prize money went to Captain Evans, with another five percent to Commodore Stephen Decatur, who commanded the Chesapeake’s squadron. The rest of the prize money was divided into classes, with second class receiving $739.21 each, third class $574.94, fourth $232.10, fifth $215.60, and the remaining 309 crewmen in sixth class just $58.61 apiece. Each member of the crew’s name is listed in this document, with their signature (in this case in a secretarial hand for those obtained prior to 1818). Beginning with fourth class, there is a noticeable increase in those crew members who needed to sign with an “x,” attributed by a witness.
Although the text preceding each class states that “We whose signatures are hereunto subscribed do acknowledge each of us to have received from T.J. Chew the sum of [amount] for our lawful proportion of Fifty three thousand and seventy two dollars and six cents, being the moiety awarded to the Officers and Crew of the U.S. Frigate Chesapeake for proceeds of the Prize Volunteer and Cargo. Witness our hands this 24th day of May 1813,” it is well attested that the funds were not yet paid on June 1st, when new captain James Lawrence nearly had a mutiny on his hands trying to coerce the disgruntled sailors to move against the Shannon.

While Chew may have penned the original document on May 24, 1813, there is no question that the Chesapeake’s prize report was added to over the years. Clearly a working copy, the present document reveals details of the extended and difficult process of supplying sailors with their due. Additions, primarily written in red ink in the same hand, note sailors who have retired or passed away since the creation of the document, and maintain ongoing and updated calculations of how much various sailors owe or are owed. A particularly late note is written on another sheet of paper dated 1829 and is affixed to the document at the appropriate place. The addition consists of a signed receipt and witness attestation by one Joseph Ball, verifying that he received payment on behalf of his late brother Harris Ball (marked on the list as deceased and with an outstanding balance) from Thomas Chew at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

After the capture of the Chesapeake, Thomas Chew spent several months as a prisoner of war before returning to Boston and attending to Commodore Decatur’s court case, at which time he likely made additions to the original Chesapeake prize document. After the war ended in 1815, Chew served on the U.S.S. Washington for a tour in the Mediterranean. After the ship returned in 1818, Chew was stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where he served until his retirement in 1832. It seems likely that at that time he requested a copy of the original document (which appears either unrecorded or not to have survived) to be sent to him from Boston so that he could tie up loose ends and finally finish the task he had been given five years prior.

A remarkable record of the aftermath of one of the U.S.S. Chesapeake’s final unqualified successes, documenting the entire crew of the ship as well as the minute details of their receipt of the prize money, and providing a unique and intriguing window into the fraught and extensive process that entailed.

Rare Broadside Celebrating the American Victory at the Battle of Lake Erie

An exceedingly rare, illustrated broadside ballad, celebrating Master Commandant Oliver Perry's decisive victory over the British at the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. Aside from the lasting strategic importance of the victory, Perry's dramatic transfer from the moribund ship, Lawrence, to the nearby Niagara amidst heavy cannon fire and his pithy post-action report almost immediately became the stuff of legend in the United States, and celebratory verses and broadsides were printed and reprinted throughout the following decades. The present broadside, with the text of one of at least three poems titled Perry's Victory, is itself one of several variants. It prints the text of the poem in two columns, with the Boston imprint running vertically down the center to separate the two, and is headed by a woodcut of several ships flying the American colors sailing towards a line of British vessels.

The poet continues his account of the battle, praising Elliot as well (although Perry would feel differently about his subordinate in the years following the war): “His gallant assistance to Perry afforded,
we’ll place him the second on lake Erie’s chart...Away he did steer and bring up the rear, and by this manoeuvre the victory was gain’d.”

OCLC records only two copies of the present broadside, at the New-York Historical Society and Williams College. A substantially similar version, with a different woodcut and no imprint, is recorded at Yale and Brown. While a positive attribution is difficult, according to the Brown University catalogue, the printer William Rutter (who advertised “Songs and Ballads, Wholesale and Retail”) operated a shop on Fulton street from 1820 to 1834; this is potentially his work. A number of other examples with different imprints, illustrations, and typesettings are recorded through at least the early 1830s, though all are quite rare, and the American Antiquarian Society notes that the verse proved popular enough to appear in at least five songsters between 1816 and 1818. An interesting and attractive piece of 1812 naval ephemera, celebrating a pivotal early victory in America’s “second war for independence.”

Droop Not Columbia:

Tune—In Infancy.

Sung In Memory Of Gen. Washington.

Droop not Columbia, heaven is just,
And would thy chief reward,
The! what was mortal turns to dust,
His name thy coat shall guard—
First' with remembrance of his deeds,
The chiefs he liv'd to form,
Shall mount again their neighing steeds,
And guide the martial storm—
And guide, &c.

Taught by the maxims he approv'd,
The younger race shall burn,
To imitate the sire he lov'd,
And rush to arms in turn—
Inspir'd by liberty and thee,
They'll make invaders fly;
Like Washington, their choice will be,
To conquer—or to die—
To conquer, &c.

Columbia Reliev'd.

Tune—The Death of General Wolfe.

To a mouldering cavern, the mansion of woe,
Columbia did often repair;
She tore the fresh laurel that bloom'd on her brow,
And threw it aside in despair.
She wept for the fate of her sons that were slain,
When the flames of fierce battle were spread,
When discord and carnage, relaxing the reign,
Rode smiling o'er mountains of dead.

As thus the bright Goddess revol'd in her breast
The wrongs which her country had borne,
A form more than human the Genius address,
"Ah cease, fair Columbia, to mourn.
Now lift up thine eyes, and thy records behold,
Inscrib'd in the archives of fame,
The Fourth of July, in rich letters of gold,
Foretells the renown of thy name,
From the caverns of darkness thy day-spring shall dawn.
Ye kings and ye tyrants beware;
Your names shall decay like the vapours of morn,
Or vanish in phantoms of air:
The temple, O Freedom, with grandeur shall rise,
Unshaken by tyranny's blast;
Its basis the earth, and its summit the skies,
And firm as creation shall last."

Chorus.

Then rouse, fair Columbia, to glory aspire;
All nature with transport shall gaze;
E'en now the dark shadows of discord retire,
And Europe is lost in thy blaze.

Patriotic Songs, This Copy Annotated
in the Wake of Gettysburg and Lincoln's Address

24. [War of 1812]: [Songster]: THE EAGLE AND HARP; A COLLECTION OF PATRIOTIC AND HUMOROUS SONGS AND ODES. Baltimore: Published by J. and T. Vance, 1812. 117pp. Original calf-backed paper boards. Hinges cracked, spine ends chipped, some wear and soiling to boards. Later ownership inscription and pencil annotations on front endpapers and titlepage. Moderate tanning and foxing. Good. A scarce collection of patriotic songs published for the War of 1812. Titles include: “Union and Liberty,” “Old Commodore,” “American Star,” “An Ode to the Volunteers of 1812,” “John Bull Get the Grapes,” “Ode for the Fourth of July, 1812,” among many others. In 1863 this volume was owned by George Eitemiller of McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, who was then attending telegraph school in nearby Chambersburg. Four months after the Confederates swept through his region and were defeated at Gettysburg, and just five days after Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, young Eitemiller was overcome by patriotism and inscribed the volume four times in pencil, writing on the titlepage: “Hurrah for Liberty & Union.” Shaw & Shoemaker locate only seven copies; OCLC adds three more.
SABIN 21615. SHAW & SHOEMAKER 25311. $750.
A Controversial General’s Self-Serving Memoir


Wilkinson’s long and detailed memoir, full of justification of his own actions, but a vital work for the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Burr conspiracy. Wilkinson (1757-1825) was a general in the American Revolution; he subsequently served in Wayne’s Ohio campaign against the Indians, and was successively governor at Detroit, St. Louis, and New Orleans. He was embroiled in Aaron Burr’s western schemes and ultimately became a Texas landowner. The narrative begins in 1776 with his appointment to the Continental Army and his part in Arnold’s attack on Quebec, and concludes with the end of the War of 1812. The atlas illustrates battles in both conflicts. A fascinating and well-illustrated biography of one of the most adventurous and controversial figures in American history.


Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.