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Fine and Antiquarian Books

Americana and the Civil War – July 2026

Another short list of Americana with particular focus on the American Civil War

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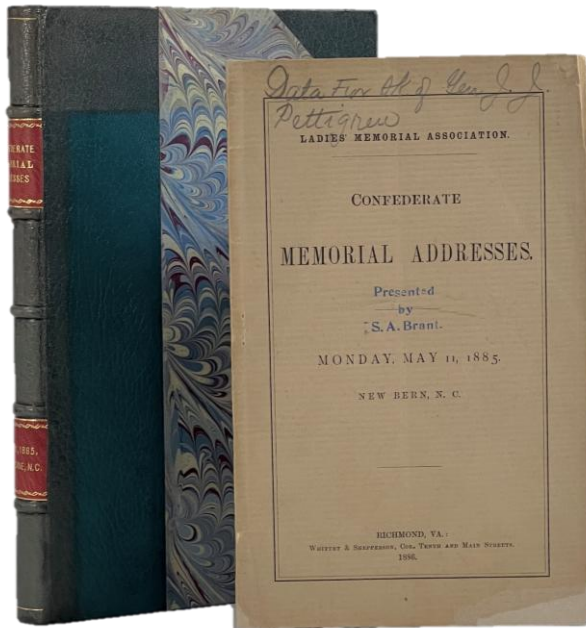
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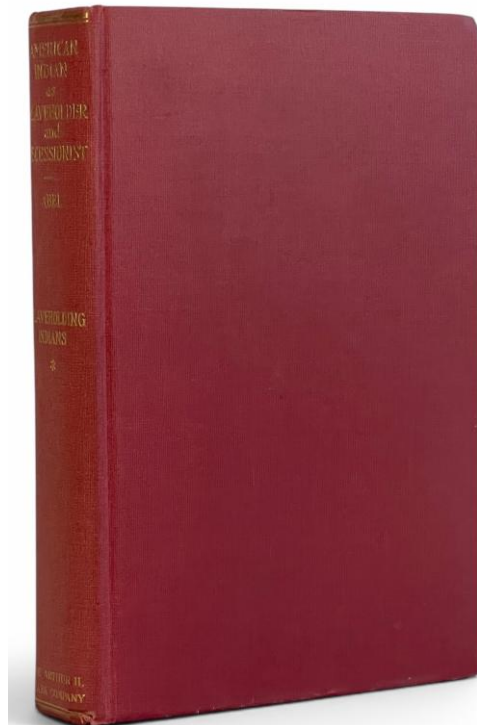
Item #1

1) [Civil War] [Pettigrew, J. Johnston] [*Ladies' Memorial Association | contributors including L. C. Vass, H. C. Graham, and Mary Bayard Clarke. Ladies' Memorial Association. Confederate Memorial Addresses. Monday, May 11, 1885, New Bern, NC.*](#) Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, 1886. Octavo. 32 pp., frontis. First edition. In original wrappers and housed in a half morocco clamshell. Conservation work includes the removal of the original staples; pamphlet has been sewn; minor, marginal loss to the front wrapper has been filled out; vertical crease throughout from folding; heavy pencil notation on the front wrapper identifying the subject—J. J. Pettigrew; another pencil note at the head of Capt. Hamilton C. Graham's biographical sketch. Clamshell shows some irregular sunning to the boards and more even sunning to the spine.

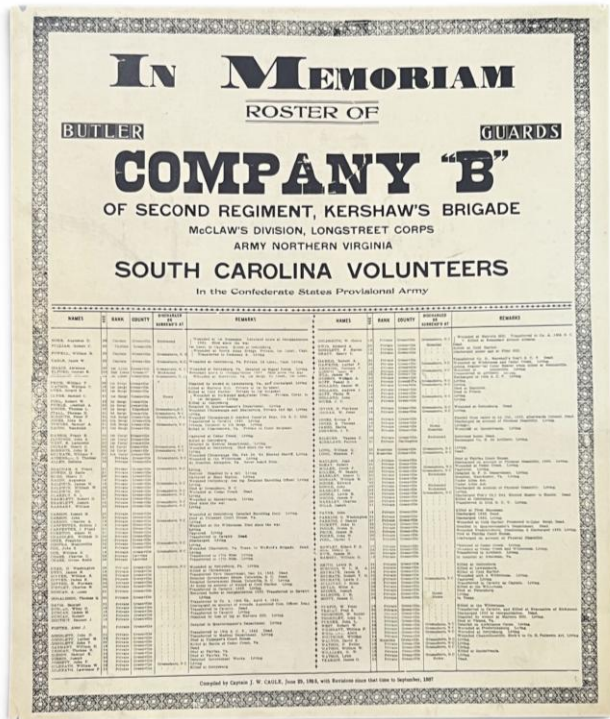
Graham served under Pettigrew in the 22nd NC Infantry. Promoted to captain in the 7th, he was badly wounded at Gaines' Mill. Contemporary rubber stamp on the front wrappers: "Presented by S. A. Brant." Not in Dornbusch. Wright G-473. \$950

2) [Civil War] Abel, Annie Heloise. [*The American Indian as Slaveholder and Secessionist: An Omitted Chapter in the Diplomatic History of the Southern Confederacy \[Volume 1 of Slaveholding Indians\]*](#). Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1915. Octavo. 394 pp., plates, maps (included in pagination). First edition. As issued, in publisher's red cloth. Spine is a trifle sunned, but generally, a very nice copy; contents clean but for some foxing to the pages adjacent to the plates and maps. This is the first volume in a three-volume work titled *Slaveholding Indians* and issued by Clark between 1915 and 1925. Nevins writes, "Abel concentrates on the background and general situation in the Indian Territory, then covers its relationship to Texas and Arkansas" CWB II, 179. Fairly uncommon in commerce. Howes A-9, "aa"; Dornbusch IV, 10101.

\$350



Item #2



Item #3

3) [Civil War] Cagle, J. W. (compiler). *In Memoriam. Roster of Butler Guards, Company "B" of Second Regiment, Kershaw's Brigade*. c 1961. Broadside. 22-1/2" x 19." Printed in black on the verso only. Small holes at the corners with some very minor loss to the paper where this may have been tacked up; faint residue from double-side tape at three spot along the top margin where it was more recently mounted to mat board; light soiling and light edgewear; verso is slightly toned.

Boldly titled filling the top 40% of the broadside, the bottom 60% contains a roster of approximately 150 names, that include "age," "rank," "county," "discharged or surrend'd at," and "remarks." This is a very good facsimile of the original c. 1887 broadside. Both are unrecorded with no copies noted in institutional holdings and only a couple copies of the original known in private collections. Even this very good facsimile is remarkably rare. While it is undated, the watermark compared with the papermaker's advertisements in trade journals

suggests an early 1960s printing, which aligns with the centenary of the Civil War.

SOLD

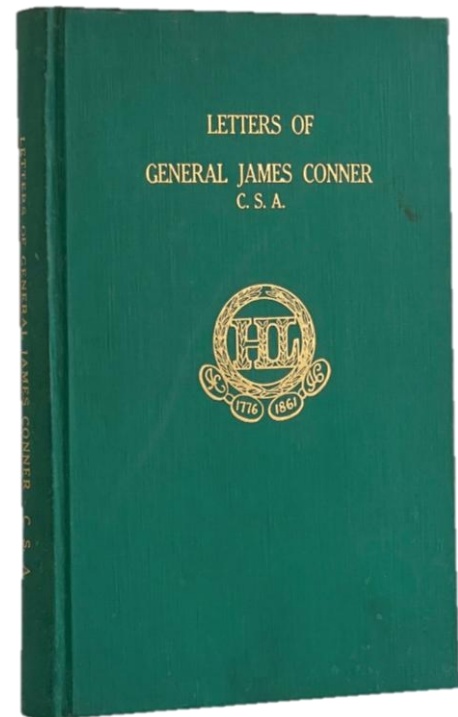
4) [Civil War] Coker, James Lide. *History of Company G, Ninth S.C. Regiment, Infantry, S.C. Army and of Company E, Sixth S.C. Regiment, Infantry, S.C. Army*. Charleston, SC: Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co., 1899. 12mo. 210 pp. First edition, limited to 150 copies. Signed and inscribed by Coker. As issued, in gray boards with title in gilt on the front cover and spine; light soiling and a touch of shelf rubbing at the spine, but generally, a very nice copy; light and even toning to the pages; one line of text has been effaced on p. 195 with editorial addition of a period to suggest this might have been done by the printer?

The 9th South Carolina was disbanded in 1862, and those soldiers were formed into the 6th South Carolina. James was in the 9th and 6th regiments and fought in both Bull Runs, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and others. He was on Lookout Mountain during the Battle of Chickamagua when he was wounded, concluding his military career. But, as Douglas Southall Freeman writes, Coker "became one of the greatest industrialists of the South, founded Coker College, [and] brought new hope to agriculture in the Carolinas" (p. 149). This copy is signed and inscribed by Coker to his nephew, Frank W. Coker at Princeton University and is dated 1910. Francis Coker was a political scientist and taught both at Princeton and Yale. A rare Confederate regimental history with a very nice family association. Howes notes that only 150 copies were printed. Howes C-554, "aa," Dornbusch II, 912; Turnbull IV, p. 394; Freeman, Douglas Southall, *The South to Posterity* (1951).

\$2,250

5) [Civil War] Conner, James. [*Letters of General James Conner, C.S.A.*](#) Columbia, SC: Presses of the R. L. Bryan Co., 1950. Octavo. [4], 246 pp., frontis. Second edition, one of only 50 copies. In publisher's cloth. Minor silverfishing to the rear board; covers show trivial soiling; minor foxing to the contents; all in all, a very nice copy of a rare book.

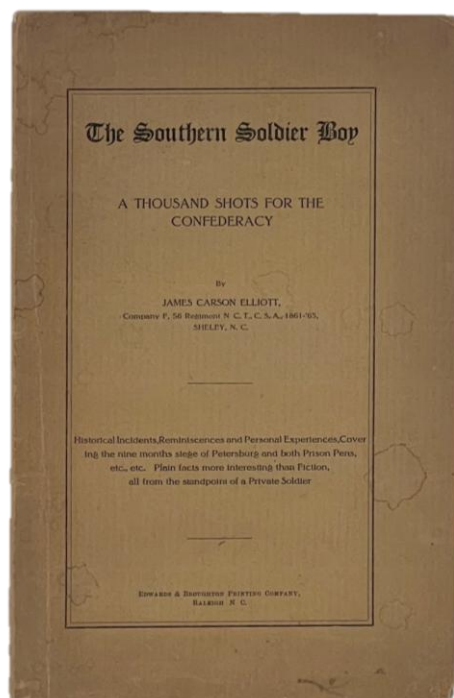
Originally issued in 1933 in an extremely limited edition of 20 copies for private distribution, this is the second edition and not much more common, and is thought to have been limited to about 50 copies. Robert Krick writes of the work: "[Connor's] uncommonly intelligent and literate letters provide one of the most fascinating first-hand perspectives on the leadership of the Army of Northern Virginia" (*In Taller Cotton*, 43). Coulter echoes Krick in calling these letters "an excellent view of conditions in the Confederacy" Coulter 88. This copy with a presentation inscription to A. S. Salley from the daughters of General Connor. Additionally, two ALSs are tipped in, both to Salley: one on the verso of the front free endpaper from Nannie Conner Young and another on the recto of the final blank leaf. At some point this was this book made its way into the library of notable Civil War



Item #5

and Americana collector Charles Sanders, Jr, with his bookplate on the rear pastedown. An extraordinarily rare book with exceptional provenance. CWB I, p. 73; Dornbusch II, 2656.

\$4,000



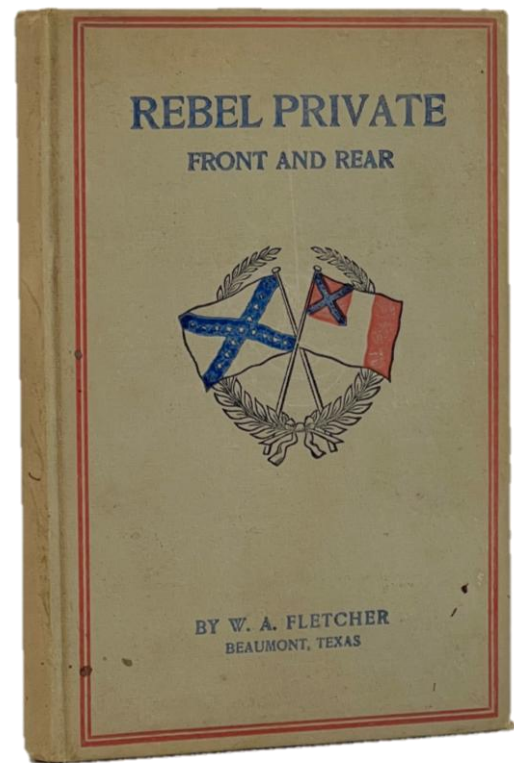
Item #6

6) [Civil War] Elliott, James Carson. [*The Southern Soldier Boy: A Thousand Shots for the Confederacy.*](#) Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1907. Octavo. 77, [1], [2 (blank)] pp., frontis. First edition. As issued, in publisher's wrappers. Wrappers are a trifle toned at the extremities with some very minor soiling; one marginal note correcting a word, otherwise clean. A very nice copy of a book that is rarely found thus. Elliott was a member of Co. "F," 56th North Carolina Troops. The 56th was at Plymouth, Drewry's Bluff, and the Siege of Petersburg. He was captured March 25, 1865 during the attack on Fort Stedman. CWB I, 85.

SOLD

7) [Civil War] Fletcher, William A. [*Rebel Private, Front and Rear: Experiences and Observations from the Early Fifties and through the Civil War.*](#) Beaumont, TX: Press of the Greer Print, 1908. Octavo. 193, [1] pp., frontis. First edition. As issued, in publisher's decorative cloth with title and author and crossed Confederate flags on the front cover. Light soiling to the gray cloth binding, but a very nice copy with E. Szafir & Son Co.'s (Beaumont, TX) stamp on the title page as usually found.

While its veracity is occasionally called into question as it was penned so long after the war, the narrative certainly has its merits. Robert Krick writes of this: "Private Fletcher's lively memoir usually is associated with his service in the 5th Texas Brigade. Almost precisely one-half of his pages, however, cover experiences later in the war in the 8th Texas Cavalry. Delightful humor and ludicrous incidents in camp mix with violent battle scenes, presented with unrepentantly strong ardor, to make Fletcher's books an unmistakable classic" (*In Taller Cotton*, 80). Even Howes calls it the "best personal narrative by a Confederate private" (Howe F-194 "aa"). And its rarity is without dispute. Much of the edition was lost to fire when the Fletcher's home burned in 1924. Some of those smoke-damaged copies can be seen in collections; this copy was certainly not part of the group in the Fletcher home. It is a very nice copy. Coulter 164; Dornbusch II, 1057.



Item #7

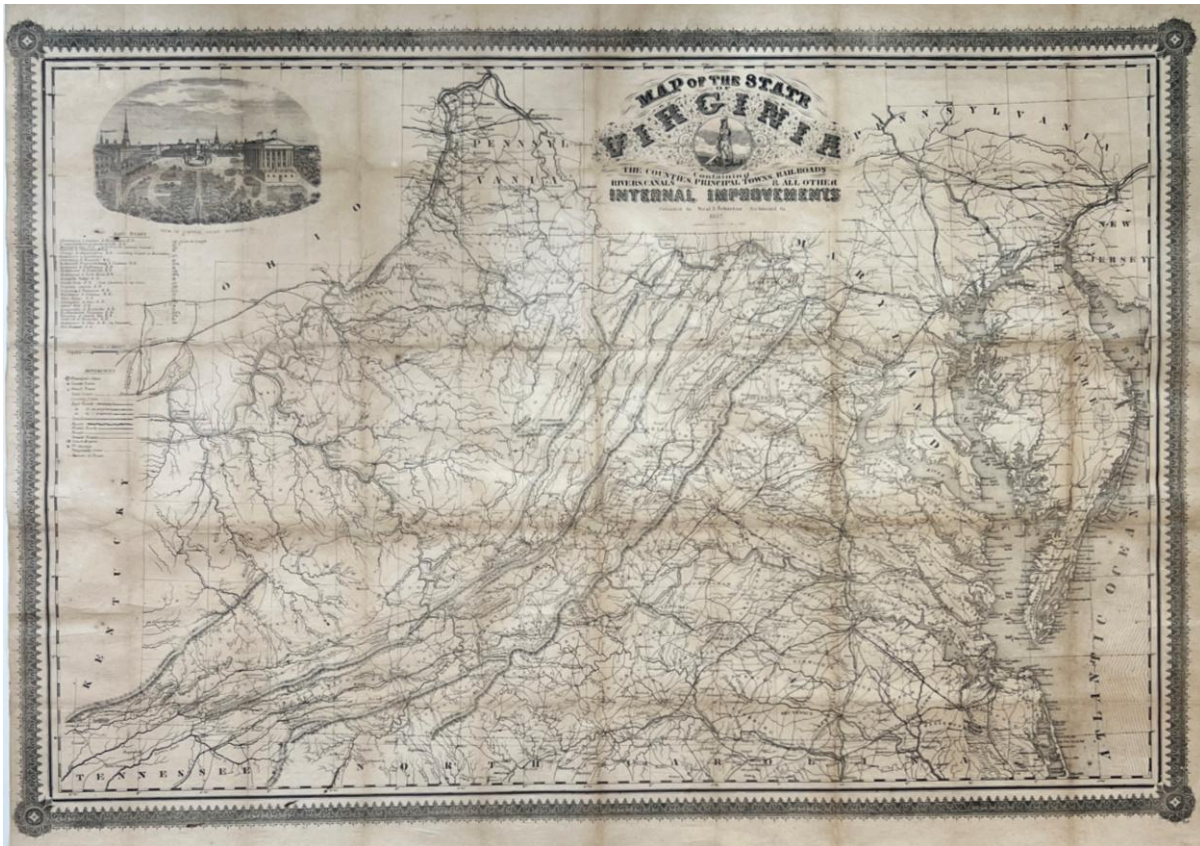
\$3,500

8) [Civil War] Lieber, Francis. [*Guerrilla Parties Considered with Reference to the Laws and Usages of War.*](#) New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1862. 12mo. 22, [2] pp., errata slip. First edition. As issued, sewn and in printed wrappers. Horizontal crease from early fold, but otherwise, a very nice copy with little wear; contents are evenly toned throughout.

German-born, Lieber emigrated to America initially to New England, but took a chair in history and political economy at South Carolina College in Columbia where he authored some of his most important work in political science: *Manual of Political Ethics* (1838), *Legal and Political Hermeneutics* (1839), and *On Civil Liberty and Self Government* (1853), all of which advocated for a strong national union and in opposition to the growing States' Rights movement. As the secessionist fevers rose in the South, Lieber moved to New York and took a position at Columbia University. Throughout the War he was prolific and frequently advised the Federal government. This present pamphlet is among the important works issued during the war. Uncommon in commerce, and remarkably uncommon in the condition. Dornbusch III, 277; *Oxford American National Biography*.

\$350

9) [Civil War] von Bucholtz, Ludwig | lithography by Charles L. Ludwig. [*Map of the State of Virginia, Containing the Counties, Principal Towns, Railroads, Rivers, Canals & All Other Internal Improvements*](#). Richmond: West & Johnston, 1862. Confederate imprint, first edition, thus. 37-3/4" x 27-1/2." Originally issued, folded in printed paper over boards case; this copy is lacking the case and has had professional conservation including infilling extremely minor loss and mending fold-tears; it is now fully backed in Japanese paper. In the few instances of loss to content, the conservator has carefully and tastefully redrawn the few lines over the patched area. These areas are small and not readily apparent except under careful examination. The map presents very well but should not be folded again.



Item #9

This is the second iteration of the Bucholtz-Ludwig map of 1858. Of the origin of this map, William C. Wooldridge writes, "At least four maps of Virginia published between 1858 and ca. 1868 derive in whole or in part from the same lithographic stone—or were copied with such minute care as to make their common parts indistinguishable. The maps have different borders, different sizes, and different publisher's imprints. They look different.... The common denominator of these four maps is the lithographic stone prepared by Charles L. Ludwig in 1858 for Ludwig von Bucholtz's new map of Virginia" (p. 26). Wooldridge goes on, "This new 1858 map grew out of work Ludwig von Bucholtz did in preparation for the 1859 revision of Herman Boye's 1826 copperplate map of Virginia." (p. 26). This present map is geographically superior the Bucholtz-Boye map because it wasn't superimposed on Boye's incorrect copperplates, but was drawn anew.

In this, the Buchholtz-Ludwig map is significant in the history of Virginia cartography and is one of two Confederate printings of the map, the second would be issued in 1864. The map depicts Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, as well as small parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina and it includes the railroads and a table of distances. Additionally, there is an inset view of capitol square in Richmond. Wooldridge, William. "The Buchholtz-Ludwig Map of Virginia and Its Successors, 1858-1868." *The Portolan* 68 (Spring, 2007), pp. 26-39.

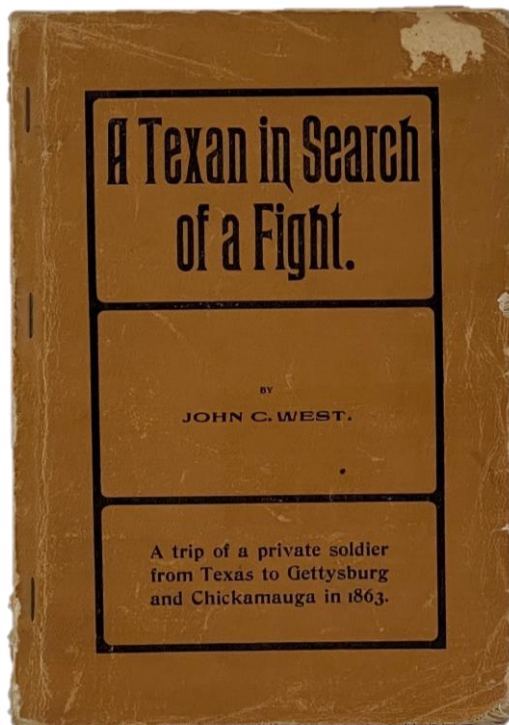
Of note, this map is significantly larger than called for by Parrish & Willingham (6204). They offer a size of both printings (and a variant of the first printing) of 87.5 cm x 57.5 cm (ie. 34-3/8" x 22-5/8"). These dimensions are notably smaller than the outer border of the map.

\$3,000

10) [Civil War] Wells, Edward L. [*A Sketch of the Charleston Light Dragoons, from the Earliest Formation of the Corps*](#). Charleston, SC: Lucas, Richardson & Co., Steam Book and Job Printers, 1888. Octavo. 97, [1] pp., frontis, plates, errata slip. First edition. Originally issued in wrappers, this copy is bound in early straight-grained morocco with corners and pebbled cloth over boards; wrappers are not bound in. Housed in exquisite full morocco slipcase with felt-lined chemise. A clean, bright copy, virtually without wear. Slipcase a trifle rubbed and evenly toned at the spine.

"A detailed account of the numerous engagements in with the Dragoons participated throughout the Civil War" Chapel Hill #172, 279. An exceptional copy of this uncommon work. Dornbusch 881; Nicholson, p. 917; Turnbull IV, p. 260.

\$2,000



Item #11

11) [Civil War] West, John C. [*A Texan in Search of a Fight. Being the Diary and Letters of a Private Soldier in Hood's Texas Brigade*](#). Waco, TX: Press of J. S. Hill & Co., 1901. Octavo. 189, [3] pp. First edition, signed and inscribed by West on the dedication page. As issued, stapled in printed cloth wrappers. Several inclusions have been tipped in, including a bifolium promotional leaflet with portrait, a small sheet of broadside verse, 4-fold (8 pp.) announcement of the death of West's wife titled at the top: "Appendix to 'A Texan in Search of a Fight.'" These turn up in various combinations in other copies and were surely inserted by West, but none were issued with the book initially as the leaflet and appendix were printed some years after 1901. Howes and Coulter call for a portrait. In the several copies we've seen we have never seen a portrait except the one on the occasionally included promotional leaflet; we presume that Howes and Coulter both inspected copies containing the leaflet with West's portrait. Binding is rubbed with some fraying to the cloth covers; contents are evenly toned; paper used for this edition was poor and in this copy

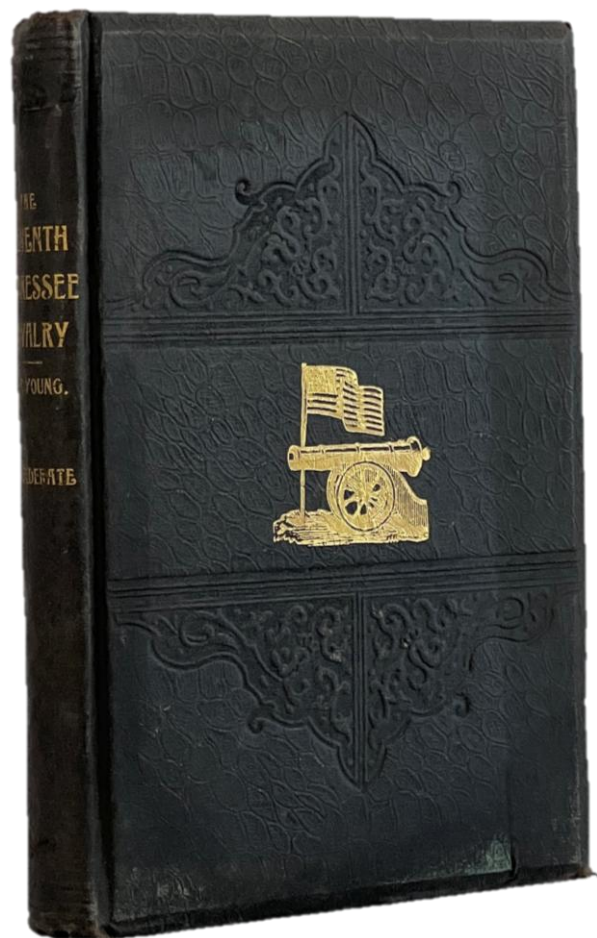
as with all copies, it is a bit brittle; numerous leaves with shallow closed tears or chips to the fore-edge margin; contents are clean.

The book comprises among other things, a diary from April 12 to June 13, 1863, and February 28 to April 20, 1864, separated by nearly 30 letters to family. Nevins calls this, "Among the best personal accounts of life in Hood's famous brigade; West relied on letters and a diary to recount his wide travels and service in both theaters" CWB I, 176. Includes a speech delivered by West at M'Gregor, Texas on Decoration Day, 1897. An uncommon book in better condition than often found, and with the portrait, verse, and appendix. Howes W-278, "aa"; Coulter 496; Dornbusch II, 1090.

\$750

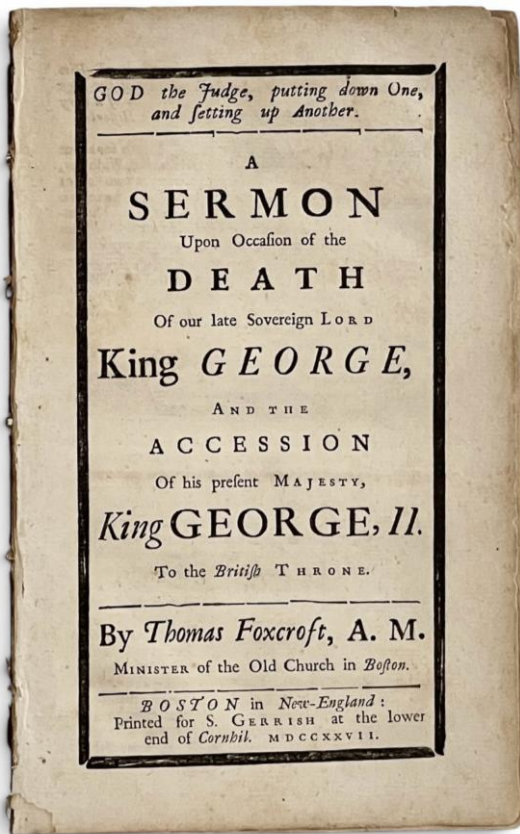
12) [Civil War] Young, J. P. [*The Seventh Tennessee Cavalry. \(Confederate.\) A History.*](#) Nashville, TN: Printed for the Author. Publishing House of the M. E. Church, South. Barbee & Smith, Agents, 1890. Octavo. 227, [1] pp., frontis, plates. First edition. As issued, in embossed cloth with gift vignette on the upper cover and title on the spine; all portraits present. Relatively minor shelf wear to the extremities; bumped area along the bottom portion of the front board; bottom margin with indication of moisture exposure manifest by the faintest waviness to that area of many leaves and tidelines to the tissue guards to each of the four plates; else clean.

"Young served in Company A and provides a detailed history of the regiment. It was in this unit that Nathan Bedford Forrest began his Confederate service, enlisting as a private in Company D on June 14, 1861. He soon assumed command of the 7th Tennessee and remained its leader until transferred into service of General Rucker. The regiment participated in the capture of Union City, the assault on Pulaski, the Battle of Nashville, the campaign around Atlanta and several other actions" (Chapel Hill #172, 295). Unit roster from page 152-227. A better copy than is typically found of this regimental history. Howes Y-28; CWB I, 183; Dornbusch II, 994.
\$1,500



Item #12

Americana



Item #13

13) [Colonial America] Foxcroft, Thomas. [*God the Judge, Putting down One, and Setting up Another. A Sermon upon Occasion of the Death of our Late Sovereign Lord King George, and the Accession of his Present Majesty, King George, II. to the British Throne.*](#) Boston: Printed for S. Gerrish at the lower end of Cornhill, 1727. Octavo. iv (p. iv mispaged "v"), 39, [1] pp. First edition. Removed from binding. Lacking the half title; minor wear to the fore-edge of the title leaf, otherwise, quite a nice copy with expected light toning.

this opens with a dedication to William Dummer, lieutenant governor of Massachusetts Bay from 1716 to 1730. Foxcroft praises George I, who "seem'd to be form'd from the Happiness of Mankind: rais'd up by a kind Providence, to be the common Protector of Europe, the Guardian of the Reformation, and the Defence of Britain." But God is ultimate judge "who putteth down kings.... [but] hath given his Servant a Royal Heir and Successor, who we hope will improve the Felicities we are left in possession of and complete the excellent Designs his Royal Father died in the prosperous

Pursuit of."

The Congregationalist minister also touches upon the Reformation, the Hanoverian Succession, and a poetic flourish for Catherine I of Russia: "And now King George, the most renowned Hero of the Age id dead, as well as an unhappy Russian Empress. Their breath was alike in their nostrils: It went forth and they are fallen a common Prey to devouring Worms." Remarkably uncommon in commerce. Evans 2873; Sabin 25394; ESTC W20383.

\$950

14) [Military Law] Cross, Trueman. [*Military Laws of the United States; Including those Relating to the Marine Corps, to Which is Prefixed the Constitution of the United States.*](#) Washington City: George Templeman, 1838. Octavo. [2], xxvi, [2], 288, [2] pp. Second edition. In contemporary full sheep with morocco title and date labels on the spine. Some staining and rubbing to the binding, but it remains a solidly bound copy; minor dampstaining to the boards; and faint rippling to some of the first and last leaves; foxing and toning as expected.

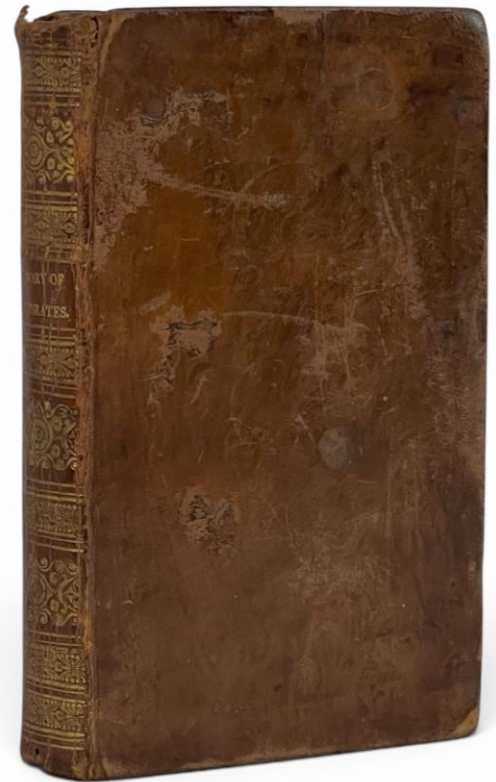
This copy with the previous owner name: "Lieut. George Lincoln, 8th Infty. / U.S. Army. 1840" is neatly penned on the front cover with faint guidelines still visible. Lt. Lincoln's name is found

again on the top of the title page. Lincoln was born in Worcester to Levi Lincoln, Jr. former governor of Massachusetts. Lt. Lincoln served in the Mexican War and was killed in combat in 1847 at the Battle of Buena Vista. By way of interesting symmetry, the author of this text, Cross, is generally considered to be the first casualty of the Mexican War. (Lt. Lincoln's biographical details come from the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library). Originally published in 1825, American Imprints does not cite either the first or this second edition. Sabin only identifies the second edition (Sabin 17664).

\$275

15) [Pirates] [Carey, Thomas (editor)]. [*The History of the Pirates, Containing the Lives of those Noted Pirate Captains....*](#) Hartford, CT: Ezra Strong, 1835. 12mo. 283, [1] pp., frontis, plates. Early edition. In publisher's calf with gilt-decorated spine; 14 engraved plates. Light rubbing to the binding, but generally, a handsome copy; contents foxed and toned throughout with numerous leaves with creases from being dog-eared; very occasional pencil markings throughout.

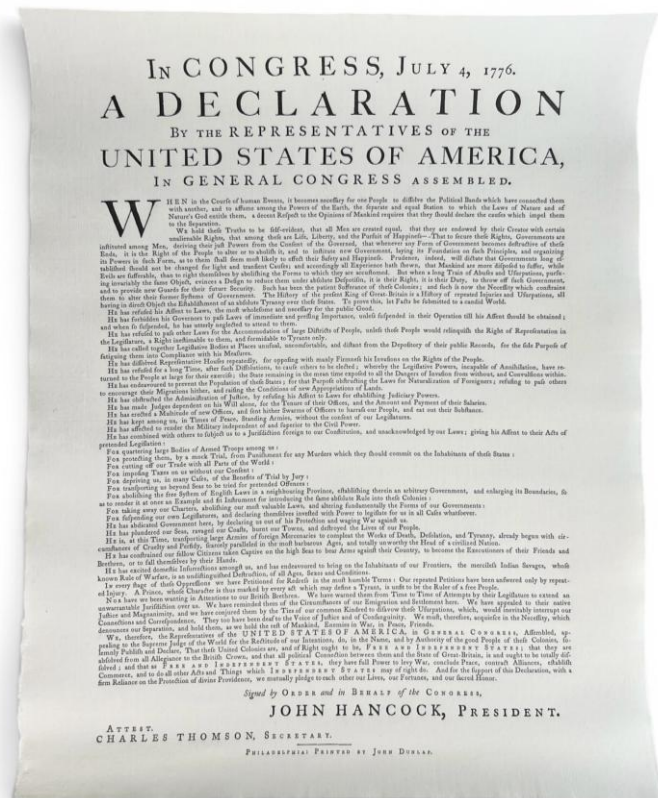
Originally issued in 1825, Carey's compendium of the lives and brutalities of Robert Kidd, Thomas Tew, Thomas White, John Cornelius, etc, is closely modeled on (and sometimes wholly plagiarized from) Charles Johnson's *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the most notorious Pyrates* (1724) that was frequently reprinted in the 18th century. Little to nothing is known about Johnson and the name is often thought to be a pen name of Daniel Defoe. As often as these compendiums were issued, 18th and 19th century copies remain uncommon in commerce. This is a nice copy with previous owner name of W. R. Shackelford of Richmond, KY and dated 1884. Another owner name "O'Keen" has been marked through in pencil, presumably by young Judge William Rhodes Shackelford (1869-1936). Howes C-144; American Imprints 32167.



Item #15

\$650

16) [Revolution] [Tryst Press]. [*\[Declaration of Independence\] A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States, in General Congress Assembled....*](#) [Philadelphia: John Dunlap, 1776 | Provo, UT: Tryst Press, 2026]. Broadside. 19-1/2" x 15-1/2." A fine copy. A remarkable letterpress-printed replica of the first published edition of the Declaration of Independence, printed by Dunlap the night of July 4, 1776 into the morning of the 5th. Robert Buchert has gone above and beyond to make a stunning edition. Starting at the beginning, the papermaker and fine press printer created new papermaking deckles to match the size of the copy held by the Library of Congress and hand-wired the J Honig & Zoonen crown and post horn watermark. He used period-appropriate fiber to make the sheets by hand. Buchert mixed the ink



Item #16

England including Library of Congress, Yale University, Brown University, University of California.

\$150

17) [Revolution] Dana, James. *A Sermon, Preached before the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, at Hartford, on the Day of the Anniversary Election, May 13, 1779*. Hartford: Hudson and Goodwin, 1779. Octavo. 46, [2] pp. First edition. Stitched, in self-wrappers. This copy has been removed from a volume, but original (or at least contemporary) stitching remains. Residue from binding on the spine; spotting the outer leaves; internally, only minor foxing/toning; a solid, attractive copy of a scarce Revolutionary War-era sermon.

This was delivered by the New Haven clergyman, James Dana (1735-1812), who had gained popularity with his vocal support of the Revolution, stating here that "[f]rom the natural parity of mankind it clearly follows, that all sovereignty is ultimately in the people, of their representatives. They may, at any time, regulate the succession, limit the sovereign, or abolish the kingly government" (p. 19). A few pages further Dana expands upon his blueprint of the ideal government, "which gives encouragement to schools and public worship [and] hath every way the advantage of one that neglects them, in regard of civil order and happiness" (p. 25). Evans 16252; Trumbull, 543; Sabin 18417; ESTC W29321.

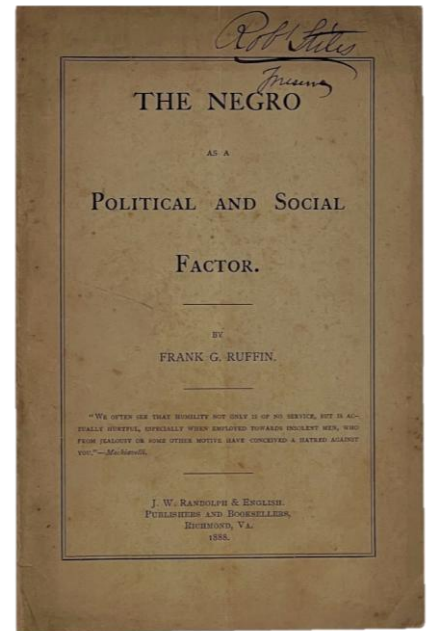
\$650

using an 18th century formulation and having reproduced the type and nearly precise layout including the erratic spacing in the document, he printed this semiquincentennial edition. Buchert notes: "There is a clear imprint of the excitement of that night and the haste in which they had to produce this." He goes on, "The original is wonky, full of the urgency, immediacy and energy of people doing a dangerous thing.... I think I caught that." A painstaking endeavor to get the spacing of each letter as close to his high-resolution scan of the Library of Congress's copy—about 1,000 hours of labor on Buchert's part. But he's correct, he "caught that." The result is perhaps the best reproduction of the 1776 Dunlap printing yet created. A beautiful document containing the highest ideals of a budding nation here reproduced with great fidelity making an absolutely beautiful broadside.

Buchert's Tryst Press is represented in institutions across the United States and

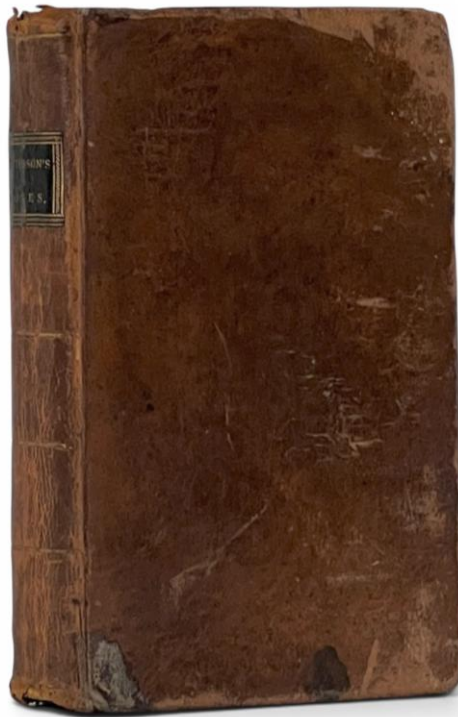
18) [Robert Stiles] Ruffin, Frank G. [\[Association Copy\] *The Negro as a Political and Social Factor*](#). Richmond: J. W. Randolph & English, 1888. Octavo. 32 pp. First edition. As issued, stitched and in printed wrappers. Vertical crease from folding; wrappers are a trifle soiled; shallow closed tear to the fore-edge margin of most leaves (does not approach the text); contents are lightly and evenly toned.

Not surprising from a Ruffin, this is a vitriolic piece that aptly sets the stage using a three-line quote from Machiavelli roughly summed up: humility is useless when dealing with insolent men who hate you. And with that, Ruffin rages against the Republicans of the North imposing their values on the South, not least of which the right of suffrage to the newly freed enslaved men. "As if the varnish of suffrage could cure inherent defects of the Ethiopian's inner nature any more than whitewash could change his inherent skin!" (p. 6). A deeply racist and embittered diatribe. This copy from the library of Robert Stiles and has his bold ownership name at the top. Stiles was a Confederate officer who served under Robert E. Lee and he was author of *Four Years Under Marse Robert*. Library Company, *Afro-Americana* 9006; Work, p. 387; Haynes 16174.



Item #18

SOLD



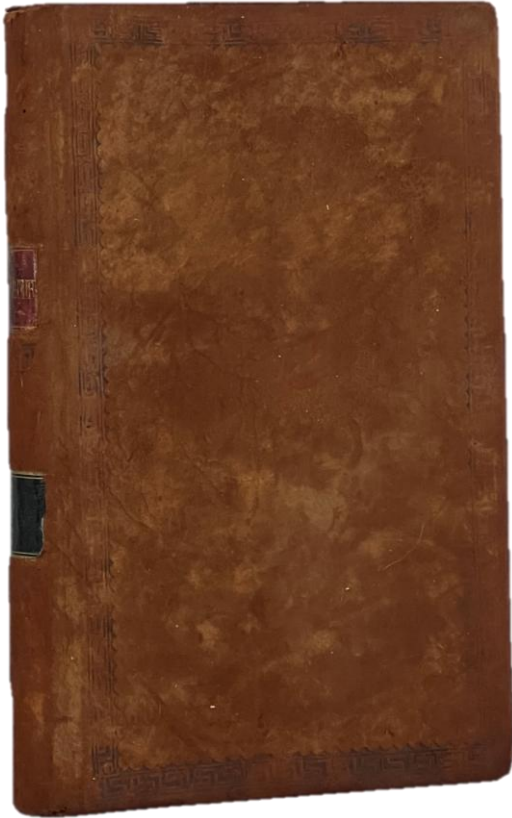
Item #19

19) [Virginia] Jefferson, Thomas. [Notes on the State of Virginia, with an Appendix \[Relative to the Murder of Logan's Family\]](#). Boston: H. Sprague, 1802. 12mo 368 pp., frontis, map, chart. Self-styled, the ninth American edition. In original calf with black morocco title label on the spine. Minor chipping to the spine ends, but generally, the binding is quite handsome with only trivial scuffs; subtle conservation work to a closed tear on the map, otherwise generally toned/foxed with a chip at the top edge touching the border and a ragged fore-edge margin; unfortunately, the folding table of Native American tribes has loss to the final panel—about 3" x 4" loss; two in-text woodcut maps are present; one page with some loss to the margin and a few words due to originally printing on an imperfect sheet; contents generally foxed.

"A comprehensive and very valuable description of the natural history, economic resources, and social condition of Virginia, drawn up in the form of answers to queries presented by Barbe de Marbois.... The answer to the 18th query contains his famous

denunciation of slavery; that to the 17th his defense of liberty of conscience" Larned 1374. Coolie Verner in his Checklist (1950) of editions notes that this edition was set from one of the 1801 editions. The small folding map (8-1/2" x 6") and portrait were engraved by Gridley. An early edition of an important work. Evans 21176; Howes J-78; Sabin 35904; Tompkins 110.

\$800



Item #20

20) [Women's Work] [York County, ME] I. G. Tarbox (?). [\[Account Book\] I. G. Tarbox & Co. Coat Ledger No. 1, 1853.](#) [York County, ME], 1853. Folio. [4], 284, [120 (blank)] pp. In original reverse calf with morocco labels on the spine. Light wear to the extremities, but generally, quite a nice copy; minor soiling to the endpaper, but generally, the contents are quite clean.

A very legible book with an even and consistent hand across the pages. Generally, each of the 284 hand numbered pages relay the accounting for a single individual; though there are a number of pages with multiple individuals. It is double-entry bookkeeping in which the first column doesn't reference specific goods, rather a separate ledger (ie. "for Merch, Book 2"). The "contra" column does identify method of payment: occasionally payment for "Merch, Book 2" is in cash or product (ie. "by potatoes" or "by butter"), but every customer paid at some point, "by work" or "by amount of work" or similar. In and of itself, this is interesting, but what is exceptional about this ledger is that it is comprised entirely of women. More than 300 women are named and balancing their accounts by working.

While we've been unable to find more about Tarbox & Co., genealogical records of all women that we searched (about a dozen in this book with distinctive names) places this in or around the town of Buxton in York County, Maine. The year before this ledger was started, Samuel D. Hanson relocated his Hanson Coat Shop office to the Elden Store in Buxton Center because business was booming—and remained booming for decades. Hanson was taking in material and "putting-out" the finishing work to local women who would complete it at home and return it. At its peak, the company was employing over a thousand women to do finishing work.

Though we've been unable to find any connection with Tarbox & Co. and the Buxton industrialist Samuel D. Hanson, it's not a stretch that Tarbox appeared to have been coordinating with Hanson or perhaps engaging in a bit entrepreneurial forward-thinking, allowing women to pay their shop accounts for piece-work on behalf of the coat company, hence the ledger title, "Coat Ledger No. 1, 1853." This is a remarkable key to a community that provided a massive and productive workforce for, what would be for a short time, the biggest industry in the region.

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