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FOREWORD

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Here now, our first catalog consisting entirely of early Western Americana manuscripts.

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All the best,

Pavel Chepyzhov,

The head of Globus Rare Books & Archives



#1

ALASKA
GOLD MINING

\$ 1750

Butler, Charles M. (ca. 1866 – after 1930); [Hopkins, William A.] (ca. 1862-1951). **Collection of Three Original Autograph Letters** Signed to His Friend William Hopkins from Watsonville, CA, **Talking about His Gold Mining on the Sunset Creek near Nome, the Success of the “Pioneer Mining Co.”** on the Metson Bench and of Other Miners on the Ophir Creek, the Creation of a **New Gold Mining Camp on the Iditarod River**, and that **“it is the hardest time I ever saw in Nome”**. Nome, Alaska, 20 June 1909, 28 October 1909, 10 March 1910.

Three Quarto letters (ca. 25x20 cm or 10 x 7 ¾ in). 2, 2, 3 = 7 pp. Brown and black ink on watermarked laid and wove paper; filled in on rectos only. All letters with the original envelopes, addressed to “Mr. W.A. Hoppkins, #25 Carr St., Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co., Calif.,” with postal ink and U.S. postage stamps. One envelope with period handwritten pencil calculations and a list of groceries. The envelopes slightly soiled and with a couple of minor tears on extremities, but overall a very good collection.

Collection of three content-rich original letters, talking about gold mining in Nome and near the newly founded Iditarod camp in the lower Yukon River basin in 1909-1910. The author, Charles M. Butler, originally from Redding, California, came to Nome in 1899 or 1900. He remained in Alaska and owned several gold mining claims there (see: Returns from Nome// Weekly Searchlight, 9 November 1900, p. 4; Has Property at Nome, Alaska// The Searchlight, 25 May 1905, p. 4; The Nome Daily Nugget, 28 June 1917, p. 4). The US Federal census for 1930 listed him as a 69-year-old placer miner in Nome. The addressee, William A. Hopkins, was evidently Butler’s fellow gold miner in the past. In 1891, he came to California with his family, and in 1899 settled in Watsonville (Santa Cruz county), where he resided for over 30 years (Golden wedding of Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Hopkins at home// Santa Cruz Sentinel, 25 March 1934, p 5).

Hopkins spent “seven years in Alaska during the goldrush period at the turn of the century” (W.A. Hopkins dies at age 89// The Peninsula Times Tribune. Palo Alto, California, 26 May 1951, p. 2)

In the letters, Butler talks about the progress of his gold mining activities (mostly without success), the work of the “Pioneer Mining Company” near Nome, where they “took out lots of big dumps over \$1,000,000,” and the Metson Bench. He also describes the new gold mining camp on the Iditarod River (a tributary of the Innoko River, which is a tributary of the Yukon). The camp was founded in the summer of 1909 and saw a massive stampede in 1910, but was largely abandoned in the 1930s after the gold deposits were exhausted, and is now a ghost town. There are also mentions of other Nome gold miners, including Oscar Margraf (?-1958) - “a pioneer Alaskan bismuth mine owner” (Nome miner dies in States// Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. 12 August 1958, p. 12), John Reick, Jack Stegler, and their successful mining on the Ophir Creek (another tributary of the Innoko River), &c. Overall an interesting early 20th-century collection of letters from a Nome gold miner.

Excerpts from the letters (the spelling is original):

20 June 1909: “Dear Friend Hop, <...> I was not luckey on the Oakland, struck lots of water and could not handle it. I have bargained the engin [sic!] for \$600 and hope to get the money. So if nothing turns up here soon, we will gamble the engin on [...?]. We surely can get there and if we can get hold of any thing we can get parties to help us. You know I can peddle [sic!] some, if I could get what is do [sic!] me, I would have a few thousand, but it is the hardest time I ever saw in Nome. Look down the street and it is full of idle men.

The steamers will so be loaded taking them back again. The P[ioneer]. M.[ining] Co. made lots of money this winter, took out lots of big dumps over \$1,000,000. Lots of small out fits run behind caught the banks for a few thousand as usual. <...> I wish a many a time you had of been here but was better off where you are then up here, for this place is worse then when you left. <...> P. M. Co. took out a nice dump on the Metson B[ench]. this winter again. Margraf is here but he to [sic!] lost this last winter, but he can still peddle the bool pretty strong. <...>”

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28 October 1909: "Dear Hop, I am awful sorry to disepoint you by not being able to come out. Money is short with me. I feel sure I can't do with out money, of the new diggings up on the Youcon R. The Iditarod in the name of the new camp. There are about 2,000 miners there now, lots have gone from here and still going. Margraf is on his way with 6 horses to put in a telephone line, thinks he is on a winner this time, but you know he is full of b_s_. If he had not of been we moved of got rich out of the Metson Bench. I had a long talk with John [Reick?], he came down here this fall after absence of two years from the Noko [Innoko River] on Ophir Cr., a tributary of the Noko. He took out with Jack Stegler \$24,000 and went out home to see his folks. He looked fine.

He says that his camp is about 100 miles from Mt. McKinley, lots of big game, 50 miles from his mine. He says a man is better broke in the country then here. If you were here we would take a trip over there in the spring, there is lots of timber there. John said he would return over the ice in February. Some time he says that the country has big [porphydicts?] carrying gold, that is the feeder of the placer gold. Let me know if you get excited, and I make some money this winter. <...>"

10 March 1910: "Dear Hop, <...> I located all of snow gulch quartz mines and I will make a little turn so to come out. So far I have found nothing in placer. There has been lots of work done up near Sunset Cr., but no pay found up to date. Nome looks blue, it has been a hard winter, lots of snow about 4 ft on the level. I wrote and told you where Jack Stegler was up at the Noko, he & John Reick are to gather, and have some pay on Ophir Cr., a tributary of the Noko. Margraf started to put in a telegraph line up there, from the Youcon River. I hear he is broke, he's take the cake. I will come out this year without fail. The winters are too long. I hear that J.C. Brown is going to put a dredge on his claim on Little Cr. this year. The Pioneer M. Co. will be through with their winter work this year, then they will work the ground over again with hydraulics. <...> Most every one are hard up here and I don't see what they will do, if something is not found soon. <...> I would like to put a check in this for you, but it will come just as soon as I get on my feet. <...>"



Nome Alaska
 June 20th 09
 Dear Friend Hop
 Yours of late date just received it come in on the St Corod the Corwin got in on the 28th of May, I was not lucky on the Oakland struck lots of water and could not handle it I have bargained the engine for \$600.00 and hope to get the money so if nothing turns up here soon we will gamble the engine on Mexico we surely can get there and if we can get hold of any thing we can get parties to help as you know I can peddle some, if I could get what is do me I would have a few thousand, but it is the hardest time I ever saw in Nome look down the street and it is full of idle men, the Steamers will so be loaded taking them back again the P M Co made lots of money this winter took out lots of big dumps over \$1,000,000.00 lots of small out fits run behind caught the Banks for a few thousand as usual, I have just wrote Father and want to get this off

#2

ALASKA
FUR TRADE

\$ 1250

["Wadhams & Co."] (1865-1905). **Collection of Three Manuscript and Two Typewritten Official Autograph Letters** Signed to the Offices of the "Wadhams & Co." in Portland and San Francisco, **Regarding the Shipments of Deer, Hair Seal and Wolf Skins from Howkan and Loring (Alaska) and by Transit from Port Townsend (Washington)**. Loring, 4 May 1889; Howcan [sic!], 5 March and 26 April, 1890; San Francisco, **30 April and June 13 1890**.

Three Octavo letters (ca. 26x20,5 cm or slightly smaller); the two remaining letters are ca. 22x20,5 cm (8 ¾ x 8 in) and 14x20,5 cm (5 ½ x 8 in). In all 5,5 pp. of text. Three manuscript letters: brown ink on lined paper; one leaf watermarked; two leaves with blind-stamped papermaker's monograms in the left upper corners. Two typewritten letters: blue text on yellow wove paper; signed in blue ink; printed letterheads of the "Pacific Coast Steamship Company." All letters docketed in period ink on verso. Foldmarks, the letter from Loring with the ink on several words slightly smeared but still readable. Overall a very good collection.

Interesting collection of original business letters illustrating the trade in deer and hair seal skins between Alaskan pioneers and "Wadhams & Co." in Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco in 1889-1890. Founded by William Wadhams (1831-1905) in 1865, "Wadhams & Co." became the first wholesale grocery business north of San Francisco and one of the largest such companies on the West Coast (Wadhams Stevens, H. Wadhams Genealogy. New York, 1913, p. 404). In 1895, William Wadhams joined the partnership with Portland wholesalers Kerr Brothers under "Wadhams & Kerr Bros." The company erected an attractive five-storey building for its headquarters in 1912 in Portland (northwest corner of 13th and Davis Streets) and remained in business until at least 1922.

The earliest letter is written by a manager of the "Alaska Salmon Packing & Fur Company" from Loring (Revillagigego Island). The other two manuscript letters are most likely authored by James Wright Young (1842-1904), an Alaskan pioneer who came to Fort Wrangel in 1884 and "in 1889 started a trading post at Howkan [Long Island, Alexander Archipelago], <...> which he operated successfully for several years" (Seattle Daily Times, 31 May 1900/ <http://genealogytrails.com/alaska/ketchikangateway/bios.htm>). A brother of a noted Presbyterian missionary Samuel Hall Young (1847-1927), J.W. Young later supervised the school in Saxman and built the well-known "J.W. Young & Son" general merchandise store in the Newtown area of Ketchikan. The two typewritten letters were written by a representative of the "Pacific Coast Steamship Company" - a pioneer San Francisco shipping enterprise (1867-1916). Overall, an interesting collection of original letters, giving insight into the particulars of the Alaskan fur trade in 1889-1890.

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Pacific Coast Steamship Company.

Goodall, Perkins & Co., General Agents.

San Francisco, June 13th. 1890

Mess. Wadhams & Co.

No. 22 California St.

San Francisco Calif.

Dear Sir:

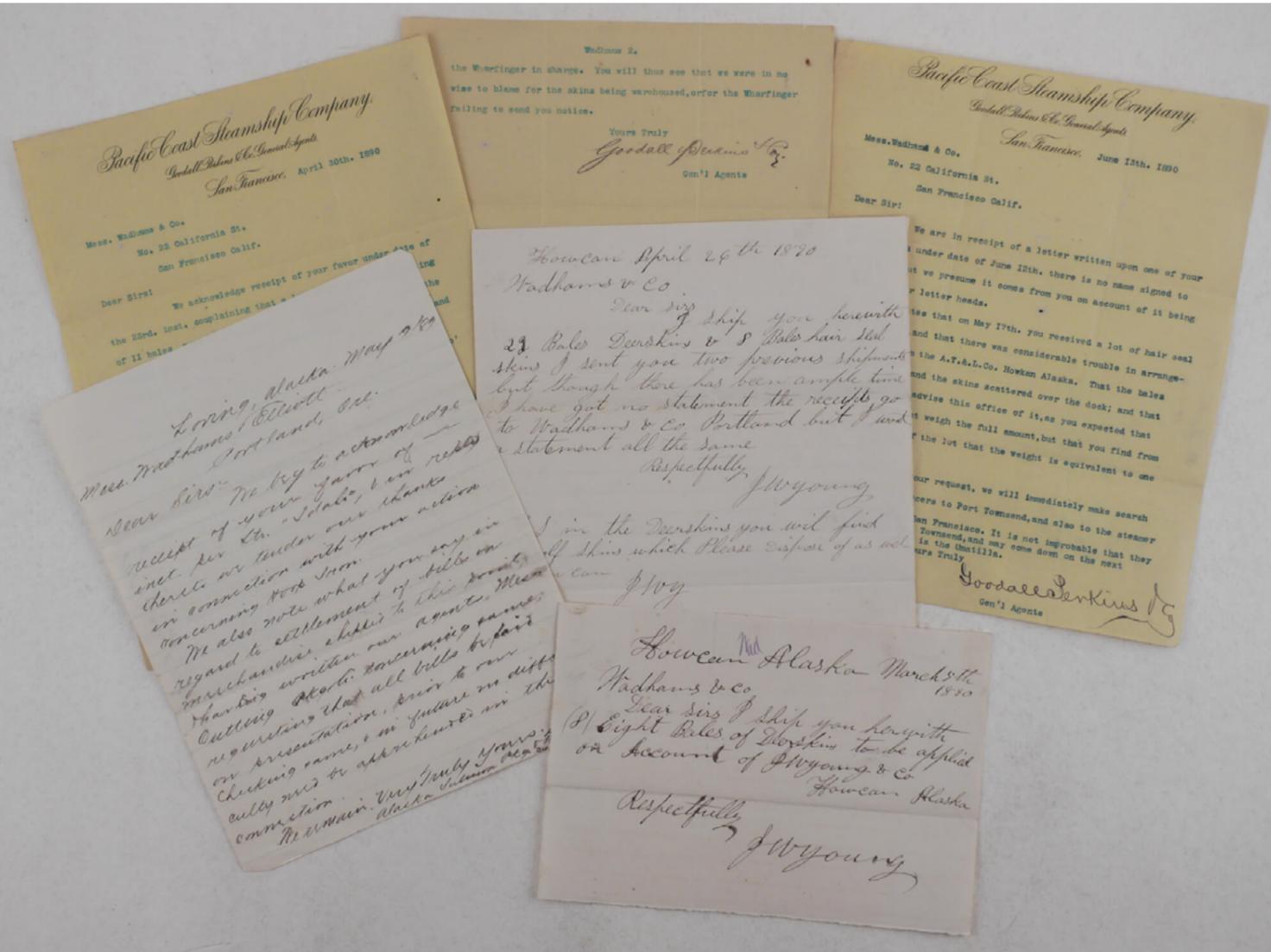
We are in receipt of a letter written upon one of your letter heads under date of June 12th. there is no name signed to the letter, but we presume it comes from you on account of it being on one of your letter heads.

The letter states that on May 17th. you received a lot of hair seal and deer skins, and that there was considerable trouble in arranging one lot from the A.T.&L.Co. Howkan Alaska. That the bales had been broken, and the skins scattered over the dock; and that you neglected to advise this office of it, as you expected that probably they might weigh the full amount, but that you find from the full returns of the lot that the weight is equivalent to one bale short.

In compliance with your request, we will immediately make search for same, and send tracers to Port Townsend, and also to the steamer that brought them to San Francisco. It is not improbable that they were left over at Port Townsend, and may come down on the next steamer due here which is the Umatilla.

Yours Truly

Goodall Perkins & Co.
Gen'l Agents



The text of the letters:

1) "Loring, Alaska, May 4/89.

<...> Dear Sirs, We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of __ inst. per Str. "Idaho," & in reply thereto, we tender our thanks in connection with your action concerning hook iron. We also note what you say in regard to settlement of bills on merchandise shipped to this point, & having written our agents, Messrs. [Outting?] Pkg. Co. concerning same, requesting that all bills be paid on presentation, prior to our checking same, & in future no difficulty need be apprehended in this connection. We remain very truly yours, Alaska Salmon Pkg. & Fur Co., by S.S. Smith."

2) "Howcan, Alaska, March 5th 1890. Wadhams & Co. Dear Sirs, I ship you herewith (8) Eight Bales of Deerskins to be applied on Account of J.W. Young & Co. Howcan, Alaska. Respectfully, J.W. Young."

3) "Howcan, April 26th 1890. Wadhams & Co. Dear Sirs, I ship you herewith 20 Bales Deerskins & 8 Bales hair seal skins. I sent you two previous shipments but though there has been ample time I have got no statement the receipts go to Wadhams & Co. Portland but I wont [sic!] a statement all the same. Respectfully, J.W. Young. P.S. in the Deerskins you wil [sic!] find 3 Woolf [sic!] skins which please dispose of as wel [sic!] as you can. J.W.Y."

4) "San Francisco, April 30th 1890. Mess. Wadhams & Co., No. 22 California St., San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sirs, We acknowledge receipt of your favor under date of the 23rd inst. complaining that a lot of skins consisting of 11 bales, arrived here from Port Townsend, necessitating a storage charge and cartage of \$5.60. We would say that we find upon investigation of the matter thro' our delivery clerk at Broadway wharf, that the skins arrived ex "Umatilla" March 18th from Port Townsend consigned to you. That notice was immediately sent to you upon the arrival of same. That four days later March 22nd you sent down and paid the frt. charges and an order was given for their delivery.

The skins however remained upon the dock, and no one called for them, the Wharfinger Mr. Fitch, in charge of Broadway Wharf No. 1 instructed the California Transfer Co. to warehouse them.

The P.C.S.S. Co. had nothing whatever to do with placing this shipment in the warehouse, as we gave no orders in relation to the matter. The wharf as you are aware is under the control of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, their executive officer being the Wharfinger in charge. You will thus see that we were in no wise to blame for the skins being warehoused, or for the Wharfinger failing to send you notice. Yours truly, Goodall, Perkins & Co., Genl. Agents."

5) "San Francisco, April 30th 1890. Mess. Wadhams & Co., No. 22 California St., San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir, We are in receipt of a letter written upon one of your letter heads under date of June the 12th. There is no name signed to the letter, but we presume it comes from your account of it being on one of your letter heads. The letter states that on May 17th you received a lot of hair seal and deer skins, and that there was considerable trouble in arranging one lot from the A.T. & K. Co., Howcan Alaska. That the bales had been broken, and the skins scattered over the dock, and that you neglected to advise this office of it, as you expected that probably they might weigh the full amount, but that you find from the full returns of the lot that the weight is equivalent to one bale short.

In compliance with your request, we will immediately make search for same, and send traces to Port Townsend, and also to the steamer that brought them to San Francisco. It is not improbable that they were left over at Port Townsend, and may come down on the next steamer due here which is the Umatilla. Yours truly, Goodall, Perkins & Co., Genl. Agents."

#3

ALASKA KODIAK ISLAND GOLD MINING

\$ 1 500

Lascy, Albert (ca. 1827-1917). **Collection of Two Extensive Autograph Letters Signed by Gold Miner and Surveyor Albert Lascy, Giving a Detailed Account of His Gold Exploration near Karluk, Uyak and Uganik Bays on the Northern Kodiak Island. 1893.**

1) Kodiak, Kodiak Island, 25 August 1893. Quarto (ca. 25x19 cm or 9 ¾ x 7 ½ in). 6 pp. Brown ink on lined paper. 2) Karluk, 28 September 1893. Octavo (ca. 20,5x12,5 cm or 8x5 in). 3 pp. Black ink on lined paper. Fold marks, minor holes from a pin fastening the leaves in the left upper corners, otherwise very good letters.

Collection of two historically significant original letters with a detailed first-hand account of the experiences of an early gold miner on Kodiak Island. The author, Albert Lascy, was a native of Berlin, Prussia, who arrived in the United States in 1850. Various official records list him as a miner (US Federal Census 1880) or government surveyor (US Federal Census 1910). These letters addressed to a California politician Colonel Burns, who apparently either owned the mines or was interested in them, reveal Lascy's profound knowledge in mining. The letters describe in detail the structure and contents of the mines, applied mining procedures, as well as the weather, working conditions, and complete absence of land communications on the Kodiak. Lascy also discusses difficulties with sending mail and leaving the island, mentions the Alaska Canneries Association and its bark "Thayer," other mail ships, the latest gold discoveries in Alaska, etc. Overall a very rare fine source of the history of Kodiak Island gold mining.

The recipient of the letters was Colonel Daniel Monroe Burns (1845-1927), California '49-er and later the last surviving member of the Society of Sacramento Pioneers. A Civil War veteran and a Republican Politician, Burns served two terms as the Yolo County Clerk in the 1870s (with controversies on spending the budget on private purposes), was Californian Secretary of State in the 1880s, unsuccessfully tried to run for the US Senate in the 1890s and was listed as the Inspector General of the National Guard of California in 1891. Burns owned several gold mines (including the Candelaria mine in Mexico) and was an avid supporter of horse racing (Last Pioneer of Local Society is Here on Holiday: Colonel Daniel Burns Tells of Experiences as a Child in Sacramento in '49// The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, California), 10 September 1926, p. 19; Col. Burns, '49-er, to be buried today// The San Francisco Examiner, 1 June 1927, p. 12).

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Kodiak, Kodiak Island.
August. 25th 1893.

Mr. D. M. Burns.
Dear Sir

We have kept on prospecting the mine till the middle of July, when our powder gave out. During this time we have sunk a shaft 25 feet deep, another one further on about 15 feet deep, and commenced a tunnel on the face of the lode at high water mark. The ore obtained in those places is of the same nature showing perhaps more free gold in some places than others. The lode in the bottom of the shaft 25 feet deep shows the most free gold. The ore carries a heavy percentage of galena antimonial and copper sulphate, particularly is this the case in the face of the tunnel we started at the lowest point obtainable at high water mark on the sea shore. Here we found a solid streak of galena & antimony near the foot wall from 8 to 10 inches wide. Assays of pieces of ore in which no free gold was perceptible varied from \$50 per ton.

Excerpts from the letters:

August 25, 1893: "We have kept on prospecting the mine till the middle of July, when our powder gave out. During this time, we have sunk a shaft 25 feet deep, another one further on about 15 feet deep, and commenced a tunnel on the face of the lode at high water mark. The ore obtained in those places is of the same nature showing perhaps more free gold in some places than others. The lode in the bottom of the shaft 25 feet deep shows the most free gold. The ore carries a heavy percentage of galena, autimonial and copper sulphurets <...> we started at the lowest point obtainable at high water mark on the sea shore. Here we found a solid streak of galena and autimony near the foot wall from 8 to 10 inches wide <...> The country rock is blueish stale, very similar to the slate at Angels Camp and on the Stanislaus, the stratas nearest the vein containing also a great many sulphurets resembling the auriferous slate found in California. <...>

During July and the forepart of August we prospected the country for a distance of several miles. We found another lode about 300 yards from the one we worked <...> The ore is very much of the same nature as the ore of the other lode, the rotten quartz showing however more free gold in panning than the first lode. <...>

Hearing that a steamer was going to leave shortly Kodiak for San Francisco, we went to Kodiak on the steamer "Royal." Arriving here we found no steamer and there will be no ship leaving here before November. We therefore shall return to Karluck and leave Karluck for San Francisco on the first ship which will leave there probably about the 1st of October. I have considerable rock sacked at the mine which I wish to ship to San Fr. The difficulty to overcome will be to get it to Karluck on board of one of the Cannery ships. <...>

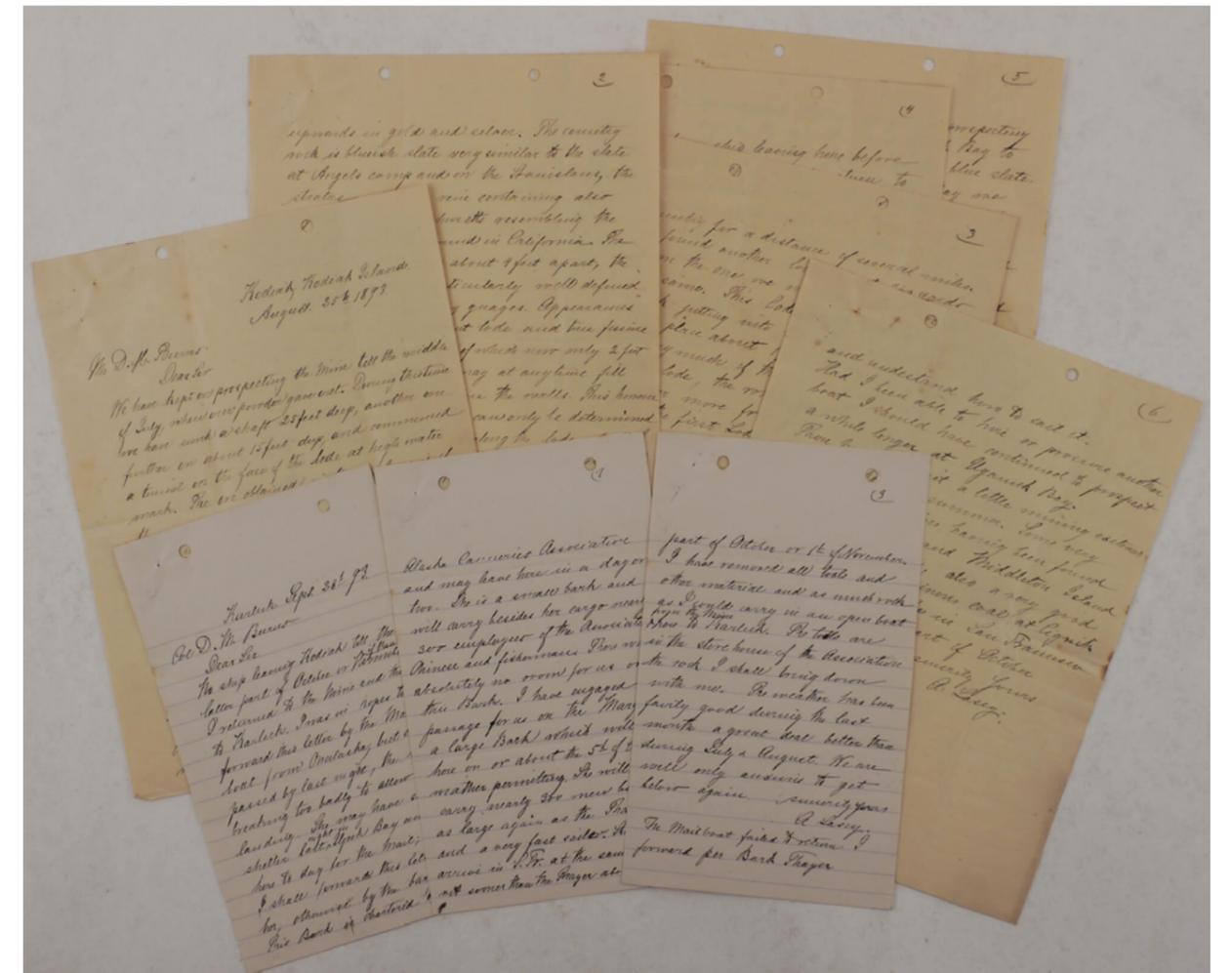
We have had an extraordinary wet summer. It rained nearly every day, but all of us kept very well in spite of exposure. The past winter had been very mild, the thermometer not going below zero. We had eggs, fish and game in abundance. Mosquitoes were the greatest trouble. A mine can be worked here the whole year without any trouble as far as climate is concerned, all that is needed is a comfortable house for the men. Cotton wood and birch timber is abundant.

We extended the range of our prospecting across the country and Uyak Bay to Uyanuk [Uganik?] Bay, following the blue slate. On an island in Uyanuk Bay we found and located a lode prospecting rich in free gold, but this place was below high water mark and we only could get at it at low water. <...> There is no doubt in my mind that there exist rich gold and silver bearing lead the whole length of this belt of slate ranging N. Easterly through the Island towards Cooks Inlet. There are no roads or pack animals in this country, the interior is entirely unknown, the only means of communication is by water and one must have a boat of some sort and understand how to sail it. <...>

There has been quiet a little mining <...?> in Alaska. Some very good placer mines having been found in Cooks Inlet and Middleton Island near Copper River, also a very good article of bituminous coal at Lignik [?] Bay..."

September 28, 1893: "Dear Sir, No ship leaving Kodiak till the latter part of October or November, if then. I returned to the mine and thence to Karluck. I was in hopes to forward this letter by the mail boat from Onalaska, but she passed by last night, the sea breaking too badly to allow a landing. She may have seeked shelter last night in Uyak Bay and return here today for the mail, if so I shall forward this letter by her, otherwise by the bark "Thayer."

This bark is chartered by the Alaska Canneries Association and may leave here in a day or two. She is a small bark and will carry besides her cargo nearly 300 employees of the Association - Chinese and fisherman. There was absolutely no room for us on the bark. I have engaged passage for us on the "Margarette," a large bark which will leave here on or about the 5th of October, weather permitting <...> I have removed all tools and other material and as much rock as I could carry in an open boat from the mine here to Karluk. The tools are in the store house of the Association. The rock I shall bring down with me..."



#4

ALASKA KODIAK ISLAND RUSSIAN MISSION / IQUGMIUT

\$ 25 000

Collection of Two Original Manuscript Journals of Meteorological Observations with Additional Notes, Kept in St. Paul's Harbour, Kodiak in 1838-1846 and the Kuigpak Russian Orthodox Mission (Iqugmiut/Russian Mission) on the Lower Yukon River in 1848-1854.



Ca. 1838-1846, 1848-1854. A Folio (ca. 37,5x23 cm) and a Large Quarto (ca. 31x19 cm) journals. 136 (18 blank) and 45 (16 blank) leaves. Brown and black ink on wove and laid paper. The Quarto journal with red ink corrections of dates in text. Folio journal: period brown quarter calf with marbled papered boards and a colour-lettered title on the spine. Quarto journal: period style brown quarter calf with marbled papered boards and a colour-lettered title on the spine. The Folio journal with neatly repaired cracks on the spine, but otherwise a very good set of journals written in a legible hand.

Historically significant collection of two manuscript meteorological journals, likely period administrative copies, recording air temperature, winds, atmospheric pressure and a number of particular weather events observed in two settlements of Russian America in the 1830s-1850s. The Folio journal contains over 230 pages of meteorological data (on ca. 118 leaves filled in on recto and verso), collected in St. Paul's Harbour (now the city of Kodiak) – the largest settlement on Kodiak Island, Alaska. Founded in 1792, it became the first capital of Russian America (until the capital's relocation to New Archangel/Sitka in 1804) and remained the administrative and commercial centre of Kodiak after the Alaska Purchase in 1867.

The main body of the "St. Paul's Harbour" journal covers the chronological period from December 12, 1838 to September 20, 1843 and contains information on the date and hour of observation (8 am, 12 pm, 4 pm and 8 pm), air temperature (on the Reaumur scale), weather conditions (clear, overcast, cloudy, rainy, foggy, snowy, &c.), and the strength and directions of the wind. A separate, thirteen-page table records air temperature in January 1839 – February 1841; an uncompleted five-page table records air temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind direction and weather conditions (in French) in January-April 1846.

The Quarto journal includes two manuscripts occupying over sixty pages and recording weather in the Russian Orthodox mission on the Kuigpak (lower Yukon) River from September 1, 1848 to February 1850, and from September 12, 1853 to June 24, 1854. Russian American Company established a fur trading post on the lower Yukon River near the Yupik village of Iqugmiut in 1837, which enabled a convenient overland crossing to the lower Kuskokwim River. Russian Orthodox mission was founded there in 1845 by Aleutian missionary Jacob Netsvetov (1802-1864). Born on Atka Island, in 1825, he became the first native Aleutian priest of the Russian Orthodox Church and served on the Atka Island for over ten years, where he built a church and a school. In 1845-57, Netsvetov developed the Kuigpak Orthodox mission, continuously travelling along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and building a church in Iqugmiut village in 1851. For his missionary works, Jacob Netsvetov was canonized by the Orthodox Church of America in 1994. The journal covers the early period of the settlement's existence and falls completely within Jacob Netsvetov's tenure at the mission.

The entries include the information on the date of observation (most likely, given in the Old Style; the red ink corrections apparently add the dates in the New Style), the height of mercury in the barometer (at 6 am, 12 pm, and 6 pm), the strength and direction of the wind, and "the state of weather" (clear, overcast, cloudy, rainy, fog, snow, &c.). A column titled "Special notes" includes over fifty longer or shorter entries reporting various events, recorded in the mission: the dates of the first snow, the first ice and the breaking of the ice on the Kuigpak and Kuskokwim Rivers and near St. Michael Redoubt in the Norton Sound, aurora borealis, moon halo, extreme cold and snow storms, the number of fish spotted in the rivers during a particular fishing season, hunger among the natives, epidemics, wildfires, an earthquake in the nearby Paimiut village, &c. A separate page describes the weather in January 1854 (temperatures, winds, aurora borealis). Overall an important content-rich original source on the history of climate change and meteorological observations in Russian Alaska in the first half of the 19th century.

Excerpts from the "Special Notes" in the Kuigpak Mission's journal:

"1 September 1848. There was very little fish in the autumn in the Kuskokwim and Kuigpak Rivers and their tributaries. Generally, the year of 1848 was a hungry one, many natives left their homes in hope of bigger abundance in other places, but there they also found shortage. There was an epidemic in the second half of this month, similar to the one in the summer of 1851, but in a weaker degree, - a strong cough with prickling pain in the stomach, but there were not many cases of death. On the 16th, the first snow fell and covered the ground for ¼ of arshin.

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29 October 1848. The Kuigpak is covered entirely with ice.

July 1849. Around the second half of the month, there were frequent fogs with the smell of the burning forest.

October 1849. On the night from the 30th to the 31st there was a bright aurora borealis.

January 1850. During the winter of 1849-50, there was an extremely small number of fish in the Kuigpak, Kuskokwim and their tributaries. Many natives moved to different sites in the hope of bigger abundance, but also found hunger there.

30 January 1830. The cold was so cruel that even local dogs, used to strong frosts, were dying. <...>

September 1853. On the 19th the ice appeared on the Kuigpak opposite the Nulato odinochka [post]. <...> On the 24th the ice appeared on the Kuigpak opposite Iqugmiut.

25 October 1835. For the first and last time this year, a few lampreys were caught. This fish can be found only in Kuigpak and runs in abundance in the autumn, but there are years, like this one, when there is no lamprey run.

1 November 1853. In the native village of Paimiut (100 verstas from the mission to the east), an earthquake was felt from S. to N. Earthquakes are rare here, and the previous one happened more than sixty years ago.

1 December 1853. A bright whitish round near the moon.

1 March 1853. Strong snowstorm and blizzard from 4 pm.

13 March 1853. Bright aurora borealis from midnight to sundown.

April 1854. The winter of 1853-1854 here in Iqugmiut, in the St. Michael Redoubt (about 600 or 700 verstas to the WNW from Iqugmiut), in the Nulato odinochka (600 and more verstas from Iqugmiut to NNW if sailing up the Kuigpak, but much less [if going] straight) and along the entire coast of the Bering Sea, was not cold, and a rare abundance of reindeer was observed. We encountered numerous herds of them. Fish was also abundant, except for lampreys, which didn't come at all this year.

8 May 1854. The sea [near St. Michael Redoubt] is covered with snow and ice, and natives ride across in dogsleds without trouble. But if looking from Cape Stephens through the spyglass, quite large patches of open water are seen far from shore.

11 May 1854. At 1 pm the ice broke on Kuigpak and partly stopped.

25 May 1854. Kuigpak has cleared from ice, but sometimes the river carries trees.

29, 30 and 31 May 1854. The river carries a lot of trees and debris.

30 May 1854. The last ice was carried away by the wind from WSW, and the sea is completely cleared near St. Michael's Redoubt. By the ten-year observations and notes of Russians, who have lived here for a long time, it can be said that Kuigpak by one month and the sea near St. Michael's Redoubt by six weeks free of ice later than the Neva River in St. Petersburg. In 1845 at St. Michael's Redoubt the sea was freed from ice on May 24. In 1849 – on June 14. In 1853 – on May 31. The summer of this year (1853) was cold and rainy, but the spring was early and warm."

Метеорологическія наблюденія,

сведенныя въ 1848, 49 и 50^{лѣтъ} годахъ,
при Михайловской Куигпакской
миссии.

#5

ALASKA
RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY

\$ 3 750

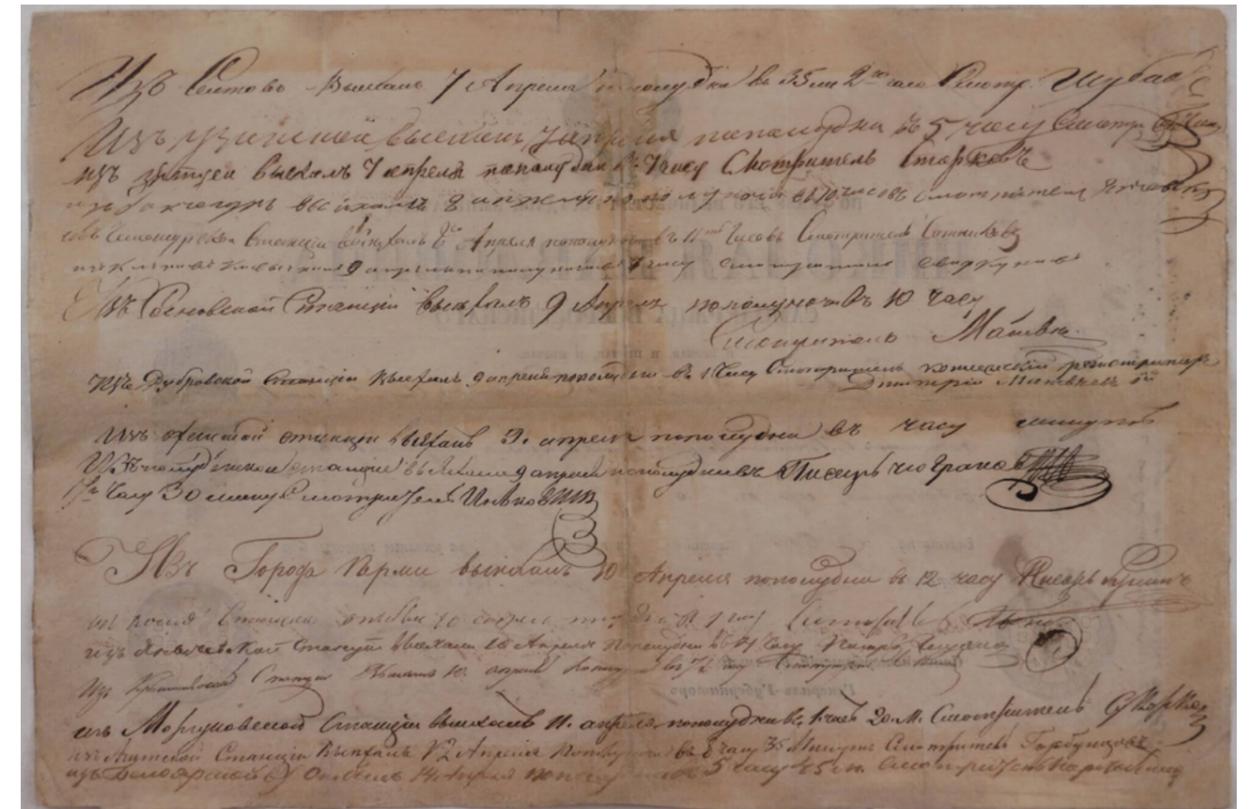
Original Podorozhnaya Gramota or Transit Pass, Given to one Gavriil Platan [Platov?], a Newly Appointed Missionary for the Russian American Colonies, and Authorising Him To Get Two Horses at Each Station on the Way from Saint Petersburg to Okhotsk. Saint Petersburg, 3 March 1845.

Printed form with the Imperial coat of arms and official stamps, completed in ink. Ca. 23,5x35,5 cm (9 ¼ x 14 in). Signed by the Military Governor of Saint Petersburg Kavelin. Paper slightly age-toned, fold marks, minor tears on folds neatly repaired, but overall a very good original document.

Interesting original document relating to the history of Alaska when still a Russian possession (1799-1867). The official "podorozhnaya" or transit pass was the main document that allowed travellers to obtain fresh horses while moving across the vast territories of European and Asiatic Russia in the pre-railway years and centuries (the first major railway in European Russia between Moscow and St. Petersburg was built in 1842-51, and the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway would not start until 1891). This podorozhnaya obliged the managers of the government-funded stations on the roads from St. Petersburg to Okhotsk to provide two horses for a "newly appointed Preacher for the Russian American Colonies Gavriil Platan [or Platov?]." The document is signed by Alexander Kavelin (1793-1850), a Russian military officer, participant of the Napoleonic Wars and military governor of Saint Petersburg in 1842-1846. Nineteen manuscript entries on recto and verso document Platan's route in April and June 1845, mostly while crossing the Ural Mountains.

The April entries contain the names of stations of the 19th-century Vyatka and Perm provinces – modern-day Kirovskaya, Permskaya and Sverdlovskaya oblasts of Russia. Among them are Uzinskaya, Chemoshurskaya stations (Vyatka province), Klenovskaya, Sosnovskaya, Dubrovskaya, Poludennaya stations, Perm city, Yanychevskaya, Morgunovskaya, Achitskaya, and Beloyarskaya stations (all in Perm province). The only entry on recto dated June 1, 1845, records the passing of the Olekminsky okrug (district) in modern-day Yakutia. Overall a very rare and historically interesting survival, illustrating the typical travel of many Russian-American Company's associates to Alaska – across Siberia to Okhotsk and thence by ship across the North Pacific.

The full text of the pass: "According to the Decree of His Imperial Majesty Nikolay Pavlovich, the Autocrat of All the Russias, from Saint Petersburg to Okhotsk to the Instated Preacher of the Russian-American Colonies Gavriil Platan [?] from the Postal Expenses Give two Horses with the Guide without delay..." Two official stamps on the lower margin read "On the state business."



#6

ALASKA
SHUMAGIN PACKING COMPANY

\$1500

Smith, W[illiam] D. Collection of Three Original Autograph Letters Signed by W.D. Smith, Owner of the "Shumagin Packing Company" in the Chignik Bay (Alaska Peninsula), Addressed to His Agents in San Francisco and Discussing Financial Operations and Shipping of Supplies and Canned Salmon. 1889.

Karluck [sic!], 25 May 1889; Chignik Bay, 27 July 1889 and 16 August 1890. In all three leaves with 5 pp from ca. 28,5x21,5 cm (11 ¼ x 8 ¼ in) to ca. 24,5x19,5 cm (9 ¾ x 7 ¾ in). Brown and black ink on wove and lined paper. All letters docketed in period ink on verso. Fold marks, the paper of one letter age-toned, but overall a very good collection.

Historically significant collection of three early letters documenting the beginning of the salmon canning industry in Alaska. The "Shumagin Packing Company" was a short-lived enterprise that operated in the Chignik Bay (central Alaska Peninsula) in 1889-1891.

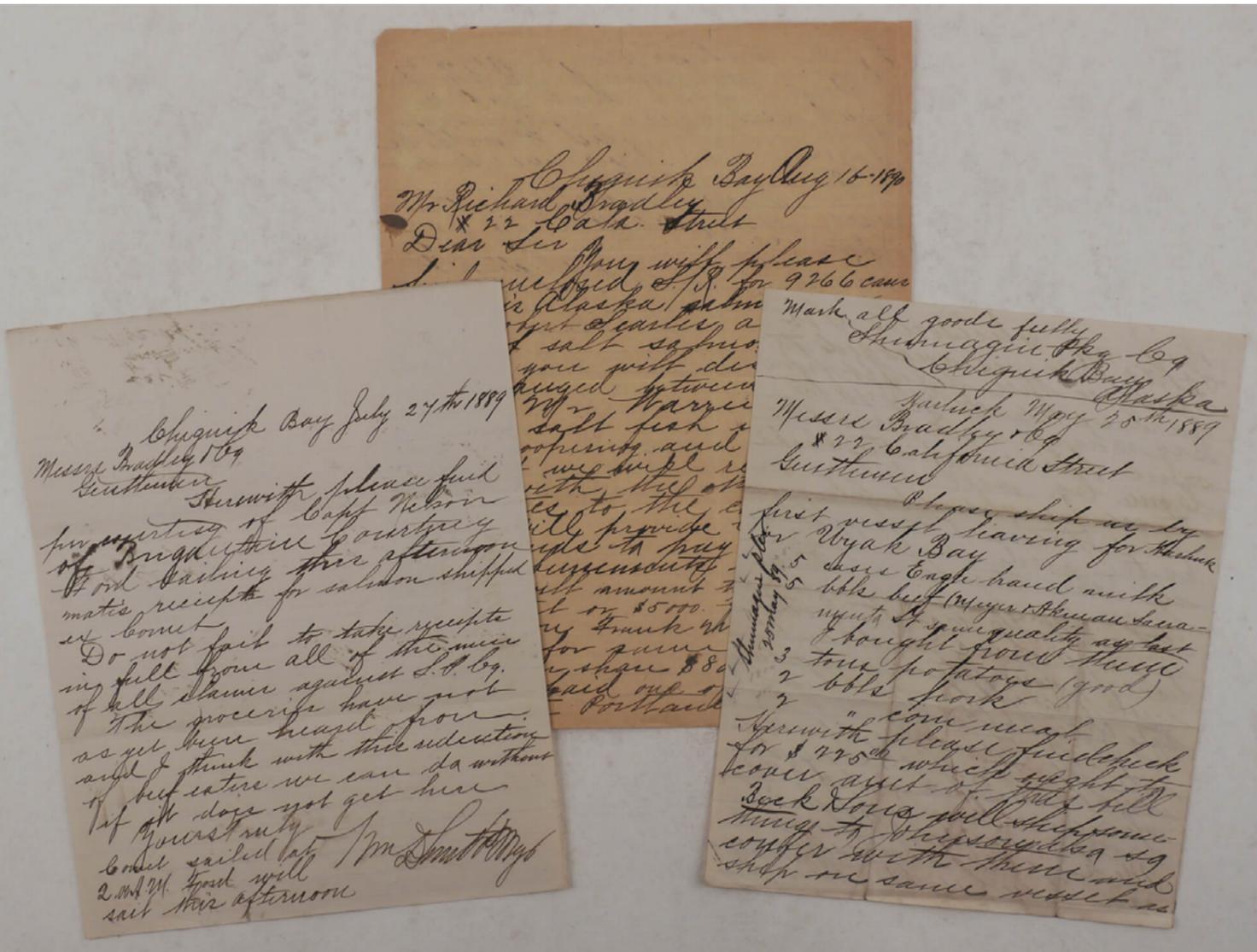
"The Chignik Bay Company's cannery was built and operated in the spring of 1889 by the Fishermen's Packing Company of Astoria on the eastern shore of Chignik Lagoon <...> The Shumagin Packing Company, composed of capitalists from Portland, Oregon [including a prominent Oregon salmon canning magnate Frank M. Warren Sr.] built a cannery on Chignik Lagoon in 1889, near that of the Chignik Bay Company, and operated in that year, and the same year the Chignik Bay Packing Company, of San Francisco, built and operated a cannery near the two just mentioned. Though these three canneries were built by different companies, they soon became closely allied and finally combined into one organization. The operating agreement of these three canneries was successfully carried out in 1890 and 1891.

In 1892 they all joined the pool of the Alaska Packing Association, and the cannery of the Chignik Bay Company alone operated. In 1893 they all became members of the Alaska Packers' Association. Since 1891 only the Chignik Bay Company's cannery had been operated. The Shumagin building has been moved alongside that of the Chignik Bay Company and the machinery consolidated, so as to form practically one large cannery..." (Moser, J.F. The Salmon and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska: Report of the Operations of the US Fish Commission... Washington, 1899, p. 165).

A contemporary newspaper titled W.D. Smith as the owner of the "Shumagin Packing Company" (A Salmon Syndicate. Big Combination of Alaska Cannery// San Francisco Chronicle, 12 January 1893, p. 12).

>>

Chignik Bay July 27th 1889
Messrs Bradley & Co
Seattle
Herewith please find
for courtesy of Capt Nelson
of Bradstreet's Courtyer
Horn sailing this afternoon
mate's receipts for salmon shipped
ex boat
Do not fail to take receipts
in full from all of the men
of all claims against S. O. Co.
The groceries have not
as yet been heard from
and I think with this reduction
of beef cattle we can do without
if it does not get here
Yours truly
W.D. Smith
Boat sailed at 1pm
2nd M. boat will
sail this afternoon



In the letters addressed to his San Francisco agents ("Bradley & Co.," 22 California St.) Smith discusses shipping of supplies in and canned salmon out and mentions the load of "Shumagin Packing Company's" "Warren's Alaska Salmon" brand, W.F. Beck & Co. (agents of the Astoria-based "Chignik Bay Packing Co."), S.B. Peterson (the owner of the San Francisco-based "Chignik Bay Packing Co."), and several shipping vessels, including steamer "Polar Bear," schooners "Courtney Ford" and "Robert Searles," "Alaska Commercial Company's" steamer "Bertha," etc. Overall interesting original source on the history of the early salmon canning industry in Alaska, illustrating the difficulty in obtaining supplies and shipping out products, and the formation of the first cooperatives of Alaskan canneries.

Excerpts from the letters:

Karluck [Kodiak Island], 25 May 1889: "Please ship us by first vessel leaving for Karluck or Uyak Bay: 5 cases Eagle brand milk, 5 bbls beef (Meyer & Akman Sacramento St., same quality as last I bought from them), 3 tons potatoes (good), 2 bbls pork, 2 [bbls] corn meal. Herewith please find check for \$ 225.00 which ought to cover amt of this bill. Beck & Sons will ship some things for Johnson also so confer with them and ship on same vessel as they as Johnson's Str. Polar Bear is regarded to transfer this freight from Karluck or Uyak Bay which is about the same place. If the Alaska Com. Cy. will deliver the freight at Chignik pay them 5.00 per ton extra and it will save us the trouble of transferring up here.

The A.C Co's str. Bertha is now here and will leave for your city in a few days and possibly might bring the freight back but I hardly think so. At any rate get the goods on same vessel as Beck and S.B. Peterson who is sending supplies for his cannery at Chignik. Make check 300 so you can pay freight."

Chignik Bay, 27 July 1889: "Herewith, please find per courtesy of Capt. Nelson of Brigantine Courtney Ford sailing this afternoon, mate's receipts for salmon shipped ex Comet. Do not fail to take receipts in full from all the men of all claims against S[humagin]. P[acking]. Cy. The groceries have not as yet been heard from and I think with this reduction of beef eaters we can do without if it does not get here. Comet sailed at 2:00 A.M. Ford will sail this afternoon."

Chignik Bay, 16 August 1890: "You will please find enclosed S./R. for 9266 cans Warren's Alaska Salmon [the brand name of the Shumagin Packing Co's canned salmon] ex Sch. Robert Searles. Also 133 bbls of salt salmon all of which you will dispose of as arranged between you and Mr. Warren.

The salt fish will need some coopering and if any is lost we will receive [...] with the other two parties to the combination. You will provide Capt. Peterson with funds to pay our share of disbursements of R. Searles which will amount to about \$15,000 total or \$5,000 for our share. Drawing on Frank M. Warren print for same deduct. from our share \$ 800 which I have paid one of the men off with Portland check.

I am writing in a great hurry and am probably forgetting a great deal <...> We have made a very good season if we can sell the salmon for any thing, but that seemed doubtful according to last advices from Mr. Warren on Robert Searles." Smith then ads a postscript, that again confirms the working agreement with the other two canneries were in effect. "I have one fishing boat on the Searles but Beck's people have one from their company, so they can take charge of the two as well as one."

#7

ALASKA
JUNEAU

\$ 950

Kennedy, W. W. **Original Autograph Letter** Written on Printed Letterhead of the Juneau's "Circle City Hotel" by an Alaskan Gold Miner, with Notes about Hard Living and Working in Juneau in Winter.
Juneau, Alaska: 11 January 1899.

Quarto (ca. 27,5x21 cm or 10 ¾ x 8 ¼ in). Two leaves of watermarked lined paper with the printed letterheads of the "Circle City Hotel, Juneau." 3 pp. Text in black ink, written in a legible hand. Fold marks, the lower right blank corner of the second leaf is torn off (not affecting any text); overall a very good letter.

Interesting Klondike Gold Rush-era private letter. The author, one "W.W. Kennedy," wrote to his "Dear Old Mother" ("Mrs. William Kennedy, Whippleville, New York") on the stationery of Juneau's well-known "Circle City Hotel" (built by Lockie MacKinnon and George Miller on Third Street in 1895-96, demolished in 1924). Originally from New York state, Kennedy compared New York State's winter conditions to those in Juneau, talked about his wages, plans for the future and overall challenging situation with gold mining with too many prospectors. He also wrote a lot about his family back in the east. Overall a nice early Alaska letter.

Excerpts from the letter:

"I have been putting off writing to you as I have not known what I was going to do from one day to another. I am still at work here but was cut down to 8 hours a day the middle of last month so that only leaves me \$3.20 a day, but as this country is full of idle men and no work for them to do, I consider myself quite lucky to get work at all and if I was not a good workman I could not get a job at all. I am going to hold this job if nothing happens till spring opens and then I can do better. I am working now for a stake so that we can go home next year <...> It is very lonesome up here for me but when I came up here I expected to get \$5.00 a day but everything is at a stand still at this season of the year and every boat that comes brings a load of men and some of them are dead broke and can't get back if they wanted to. <...> It is 14 years this winter since I was at home, it don't see, that long, does it? The weather is not as cold up here as it is in York state but it is cold enough the last few days. It is 8 degrees above zero today but you know Juneau is on the sea coast and the air is damp and we feel the cold more on that account...".

CAREFUL ATTENTION GIVEN TO INSURE THE COMFORT
OF EVERY GUEST

TOURISTS AND OTHERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO CALL AT THIS HOUSE

Best Accommodations in the Territory

THE CIRCLE CITY HOTEL

JUNEAU

MILLER & McKINNON, Proprietors

LARGEST HOTEL IN ALASKA

\$1.00 PER DAY
AND UPWARD

Juneau, Alaska, Jan 11th 1899

Mrs William Kennedy

Whippleville New York

My Dear Old Mother: Spena sent me your letter and one from Mr Foot and you may be sure that I was glad to hear from both of you I have been putting off writing to you as I have not known what I was going to do from one day to another. I am still at work here but was cut down to 8 hours a day the middle of last month so that only leaves me \$3.20 a day but as this country is full of idle men and no work for them to do I consider myself quite lucky to get work at all and if I was not a good workman I could not get a job at all. I am going to hold this job if nothing happens till spring opens and then I can do better. I am working now for a stake so that we can go home next year to see you and what visits we will have I sent Spena

#8

CALIFORNIA
COLORADO RIVER SURVEY

\$ 950

Whiting, Jasper S.; [Ives, Joseph Christmas] (1829-1868). **Autograph Note Signed by an American Engineer and Surveyor of Lower California and Sonora, Talking about Him Joining Lt. Ives' Exploratory Expedition to the Colorado River. San Francisco: 22 October [1857].**

Small Octavo bifolium (ca. 19x12 cm). 1 p. Brown ink on blueish lined paper. Addressed to "B." on verso of the second leaf. Fold marks, otherwise a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Historically interesting letter, written by Jasper S. Whiting, surveyor of the lower California and the Mexican state of Sonora, who contributed to Lieut. Ives' exploratory expedition up the Colorado River in 1857-1858. Whiting was "the second in command to Captain Stone upon the survey of Sonora. Mr. Whiting is to start with a small party and survey the coast as far as Guaymas, where he is to be joined by Captain Stone and the remainder of his expedition" (Report upon the Colorado River of the West, Explored in 1857 and 1858 by Lieutenant Joseph C. Ives <...> By Order of the Secretary of War. Washington: Government Printing Press, 1861, p.36). In 1859 Whiting continued his work in Mexico, serving as the commander of the Commission for the survey of Sonora (Sonora Affairs// Los Angeles Star, Vo. IX, No. 33, 24 December 1859, p. 1). In his note to a friend, Whiting mentions Lt. Ives and the beginning of the expedition, and Whiting's superior Captain Charles Pomeroy Stone (1824-87), a US Army officer, engineer and surveyor, who surveyed Sonora and Lower California in 1858-1860, and served as US consul in Guaymas in 1858-59. Overall an interesting original note related to the history of the US 19th-century exploration and survey of the Colorado River.

The text of the letter:

"Dear Beaumont, I have rarely time to acknowledge the receipt of your last letter, and give you a few hurried items, regarding the unsettled state of my future prospects. Lieut. Ives of the U.S. Topog's is to leave on the 28th [October, 1857] for the Colorado river. Uncle Sam through the Sec. of War has given Capt. Stone the use of this survey in as far as it affects the boundary of Sonora. An engineer will probably be sent with Lieut. Ives & I shall probably be detached for this duty. This will hurry me up. I have written the same to Drew[?] & requested him not to mention it as some portions may be private. I will send that [...?] to you before I leave arranging with you to make your payments when convenient to my agent here. Ever & truly yr. friend, Whiting."

San. Francisco. Oct 22^d

Dear Beaumont.

I have barely time to acknowledge the receipt of your last letter, and give you a few hurried items, regarding the unsettled state of my future prospects. Lieut. Ives of the U.S. Topog's, is to leave on the 28th for the Colorado river. Uncle Sam, through the Sec of War has given Capt Stone the use of this survey in as far as it affects the boundary of Sonora. An engineer will probably be sent with Lieut Ives & I shall probably be detailed for that duty. This will hurry me up. I have written the same to Drew & requested him not to mention it as some portions may be private.

I will send that level to you b4 I leave. Arranging with you to make your payments when convenient to my agent here
Ever & truly
yr friend
Whiting

#9

CALIFORNIA EL DORADO COUNTY

\$ 1250

[Clark, S.M.?]. **Original Autograph Letter Written by a Gold Miner in the Garden Valley (El Dorado County), Talking about His Sea Voyage, Being Fed with "Hard Bread & Stinking Meat," Gold Mining in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Tree Cutting, Plans to Take a "Job of Fluming to Carry Water from one Hill to Another," California Climate, Liberal Public Attitude to Sundays, and Mentioning: "I have never Found that Large Nugget of Gold you Told me to Send you, but I Expect to Soon"**. Garden Valley, 17 April 185[8 or 9?].

Quarto bifolium (ca. 25x19,5 cm). 4 pp. Brown ink on bluish laid paper. Fold marks, two small holes on folds, ink mildly faded but still legible, paper slightly age-toned, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

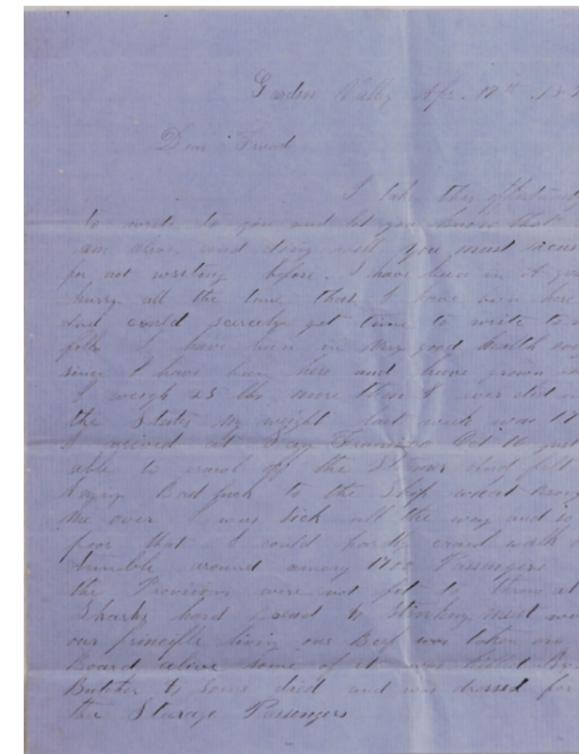
A captivating original autograph letter written by a California gold miner, talking about his experiences in Garden Valley (El Dorado Co.) in the 1850s. The author (originally from Vermont) vividly describes his challenging voyage from New York to San Francisco on board a steamer, when steerage passengers were fed with "hard bread & stinking meat," many people contracted "Panama fever," and the author himself was so sick that "he could hardly crawl, walk or tumble around." In great detail, he talks about the jobs he took, including gold mining, tree cutting and working at a sawmill, and records his salary and the cost of boarding. Optimistically, he mentions that "I have never found that large Nugget of gold you told me to send you, but I expect to soon" and states that he likes California, despite all the deprivations he has experienced. The author also comments on the local customs of spending Sundays – "here it is a place of amusement, playing, dancing, gambling &c.; there is no Sabbath here, it's a day of trade or traffick," California mild climate, &c. Overall a great example of an early California gold mining letter, geographically focusing on El Dorado County.

The text of the letter (the spelling is original):

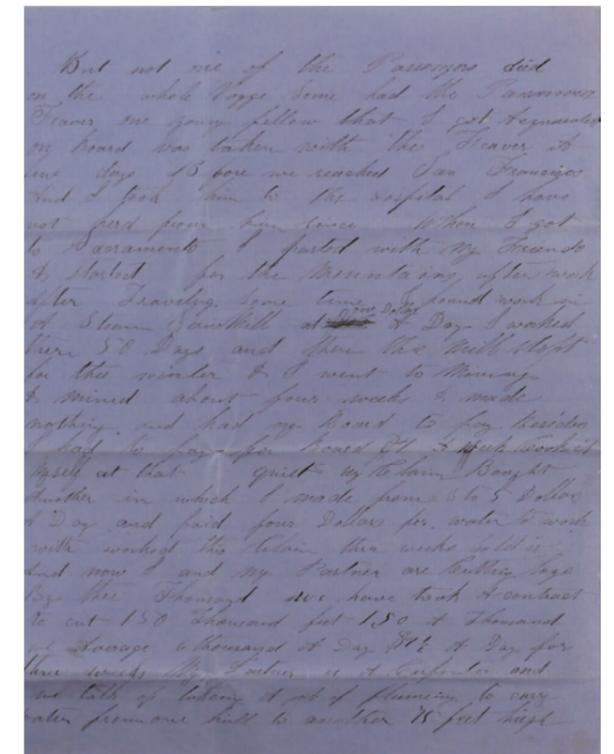
"Dear Friend,
I take the opportunity to write to you and let you know that I am alive and doing well. You must excuse for not writing before. I have been in a great hurry all the time that I have been here and could scarcely get time to write to my folks. I have been in very good health every since I have been here and have grown fleshy. I weigh 25 lbs more that I ever did in the States. My weight last week was 172 lbs.

I arrived at San Francisco Oct. 16, just able to crawl off the steamer, and felt like saying bad luck to the ship what [sic!] brought me over. I was sick all the way and so poor that I could hardly crawl, walk or tumble around <...> 1700 passengers. The provisions were not fit to throw at sharks, hard bread & stinking meat was our principle living. One beef was taken on board alive. Some of it was killed by the butcher & some died and was dressed for the steerage passengers. But not one of the passengers died on the whole voyge [sic!]. Some had the Panama fever. One young fellow that I got acquainted on board was taken with the fever a few days before we reached San Francisco, and I took him to the hospital. I have not herd [sic!] from him since.

When I got to Sacramento I parted with my friends & started for the Mountains after work. After traveling some time I found work in a steam sawmill at one dollar a day. I worked there 50 days and then the mill stopped for the winter & I went to mining & mined about four weeks & made nothing and had my board to pay. Besides I had to pay for board \$4 a week. <...> Quit my claim, bought another in which I made from 3 to 5 dollars a day and paid four dollars for water to work with, worked the claim three weeks, sold it and now I and my partner are cutting logs by the thousand. We have took a contract to cut 150 thousand feet, 1,50 a thousand, We average 6 thousand a day, \$4 ½ a day for three weeks. My partner is a carpenter and we talk of taking a job of fluming to carry water from one hill to another, 75 feet high, 120 rods long at \$5 a rod, that will take about a month. We shall do this or go to mining again. <...>



I have never found that large Nugget of gold you told me to send you, but I expect to soon. I like California very much. I don't expect to come to Vt again to live unless I strike it big. Today is called Sabbath at home, but here it is a place of amusement, playing, dancing, gambling &c. There is no Sabbath here, it's a day of trade or traffick. The weather is very warm here now, as warm as July in Vt, yet there is snow in sight on the Siera [sic!] Nevada Range and will remain in sight all summer from the Valley. It is a very healthy country. I think it would be good for your health to come our her [sic!]. <...> I have not slept in but one bed since I left NY berth on ship, was in the hurricane <...>, and I have slept ever since on a pine board, rolled up in blankets no better than horse blankets. But that is as good as I want. I have to do my own cooking, that is the worst of all and have to do that by a fire place. But I think that here is a better times coming and keep diging [sic!] away <...>".



#10

CALIFORNIA
GOLD RUSH

\$ 1250

Original Autograph Letter Written by a San Jose Resident to His Brother, Professor of Music in Hamilton, Ontario (C.W.), Giving Detailed Advice for his Brothers' "Quickest Route" to California, Suggesting to Cross the Isthmus of Central America at San Juan (Nicaragua) or Panama, the Best Place to Stay in San Francisco, as Well as Underlining the Importance of a Thorough Knowledge of English to Find a Job in California. San Jose (California), 12 April 1854.

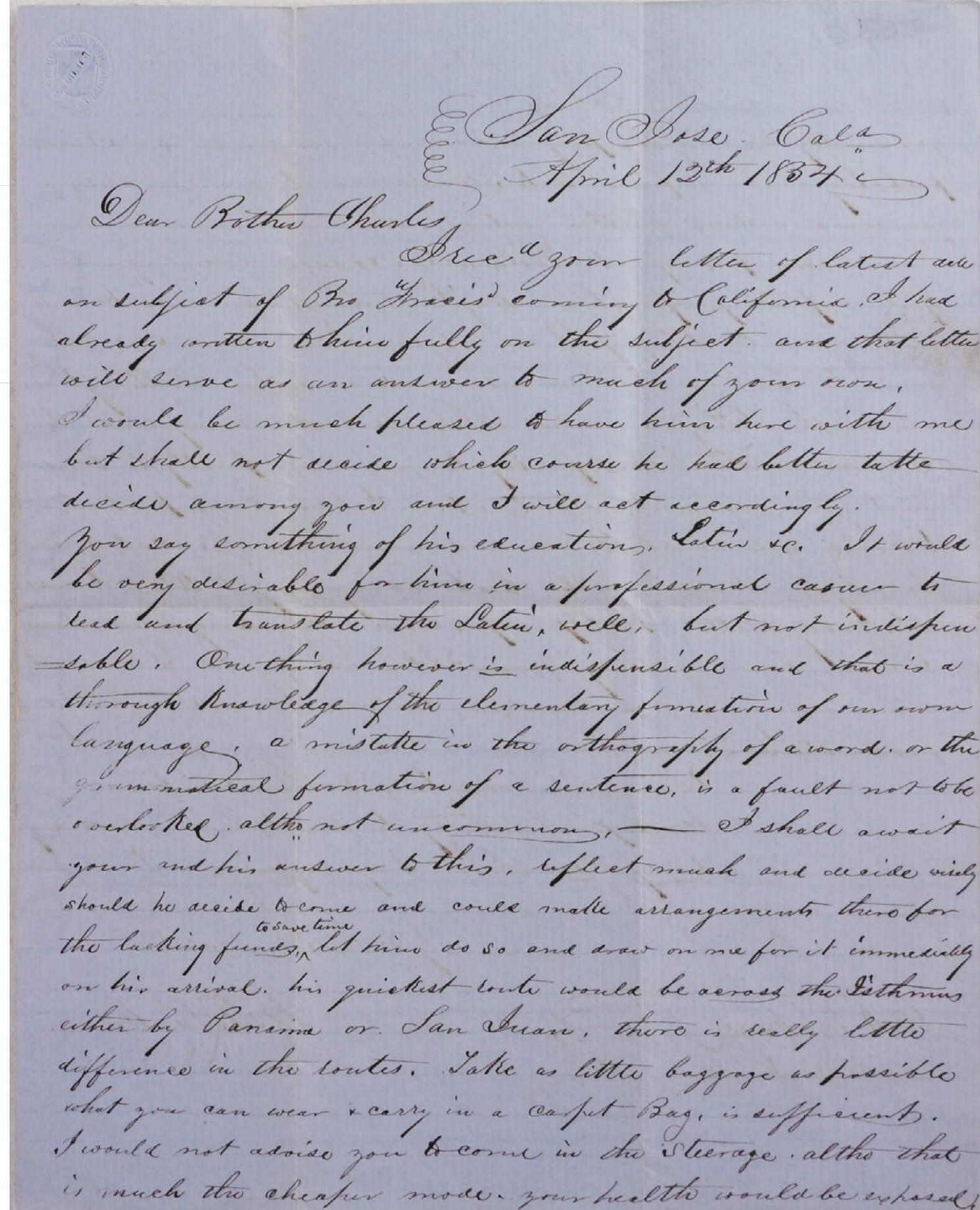
Quarto bifolium ca. 25,5x20 cm (10 x 8 in). 2 pp. Brown ink on blueish watermarked laid paper (watermark "Moinier's London"). Fold marks, paper slightly aged, but overall a very good letter.

A historically interesting California Gold Rush letter, giving details on the quickest way to get to California from the United States' East Coast - via the Isthmus of Central America, crossing either at San Juan (Nicaragua) or Panama.

The letter was written by San Jose resident M. W. Packard (ca. 1822-?) to his brother Charles R. Packard - at the time, one of three professors of music in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada West (1853 Hamilton And Dundas Directory). M. Packard discusses Charles' and presumably, their younger brother's (Francis) trip to San Jose, suggesting the best possible route to California, the most comfortable accommodation in steamboats, and the finest hotel in San Francisco. Providing a vivid insight into the peculiarities of North American migrants' journeys to California, the letter dates to the end of the California Gold Rush (1849-1855), when the tide of migration from Canada to the United States relatively slowed after its peak (approximately 40,000 migrants) in 1849-1850.

In the letter, the author, who apparently moved to the US three years earlier, plans his brothers' travel itinerary and recommends taking the quickest and most popular route to California across the Isthmus either by Panama or San Juan. M. W. also elaborates upon peculiarities of accommodation in steamboats, giving preference to the second cabin for roominess and indicating an approximate price for the journey (200-300\$). The author warns his brothers to "...take as little baggage as possible", apparently not to overburden themselves while crossing the Panamanian jungle by foot or horseback (The Isthmus route was traveled from the east coast of the US to Panama (by steamships), through the Panamanian jungle (by foot or on horseback), and up the coast of San Francisco (by ship). The journey took from 6 to 8 weeks. During the trip, the travelers often faced the risks of catching Malaria, Cholera, etc.). Upon arrival in California, M. W. recommends to "...put up at Wilson's Exchange," San Francisco's principal and most luxurious hotel, built in 1850 by a theatrical manager and miner Baily Sargent. The second brick building erected upon Sansome Street, Wilson's Exchange (1850-1896; later American Exchange) had 153 rooms with prices ranging from 6 to 10\$ a day. With average receipts from 17,000\$ to 18,000\$ a month, the hotel was constructed and furnished on a scale of grandeur and magnificence previously unknown to San Francisco (San Francisco Chronicle/ 29 Jan 1896, p. 9).

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From the mid-1850s, Wilson's Exchange had several lessees, among them being W. W. Eastabrook, whom the author, M. W. Packard, mentions in his letter: "...and enquire of one of the proprietors - Maj Easterbrook - for me he will assist you to 'telegraph' me at San Jose..." The California State Telegraph Co. line between San Francisco and San Jose opened six months before this letter was written and at the time was still considered a novelty, which explains why the author uses quotation marks with the word telegraph. An interesting passage about Francis' education subtly reveals the state of literacy and job market in California of the 1850s. In 1847, when the state was annexed from Mexico and became incorporated into the US, California had one of the largest populations of Spanish speakers in the US, with only a few hundred literate residents out of 26,000 people (2% literacy rate). Although in 1849, California established Spanish and English as the state's official languages, all business matters and high-ranking positions required a profound knowledge of English. Against this background, the author of the letter writes: "One thing however is indispensable and that is a thorough knowledge of the elementary formation of our own language, a mistake in the orthography of a word, or the grammatical formation of a sentence, is a fault not to be overlooked, although not uncommon."

Overall, a historically important California Gold Rush letter, providing details on the quickest route to California from North America, unveiling one of the fanciest places in San Francisco, and subtly revealing the state of education in California in the 1850s.

It is highly likely that Charles R. Packard traveled to California in the mid-1850s and returned to Canada by 1858, since Shepard's Hamilton City Directory of 1856 omits his name from the list of Hamilton residents, but indicates him in the next city directory published in 1858.

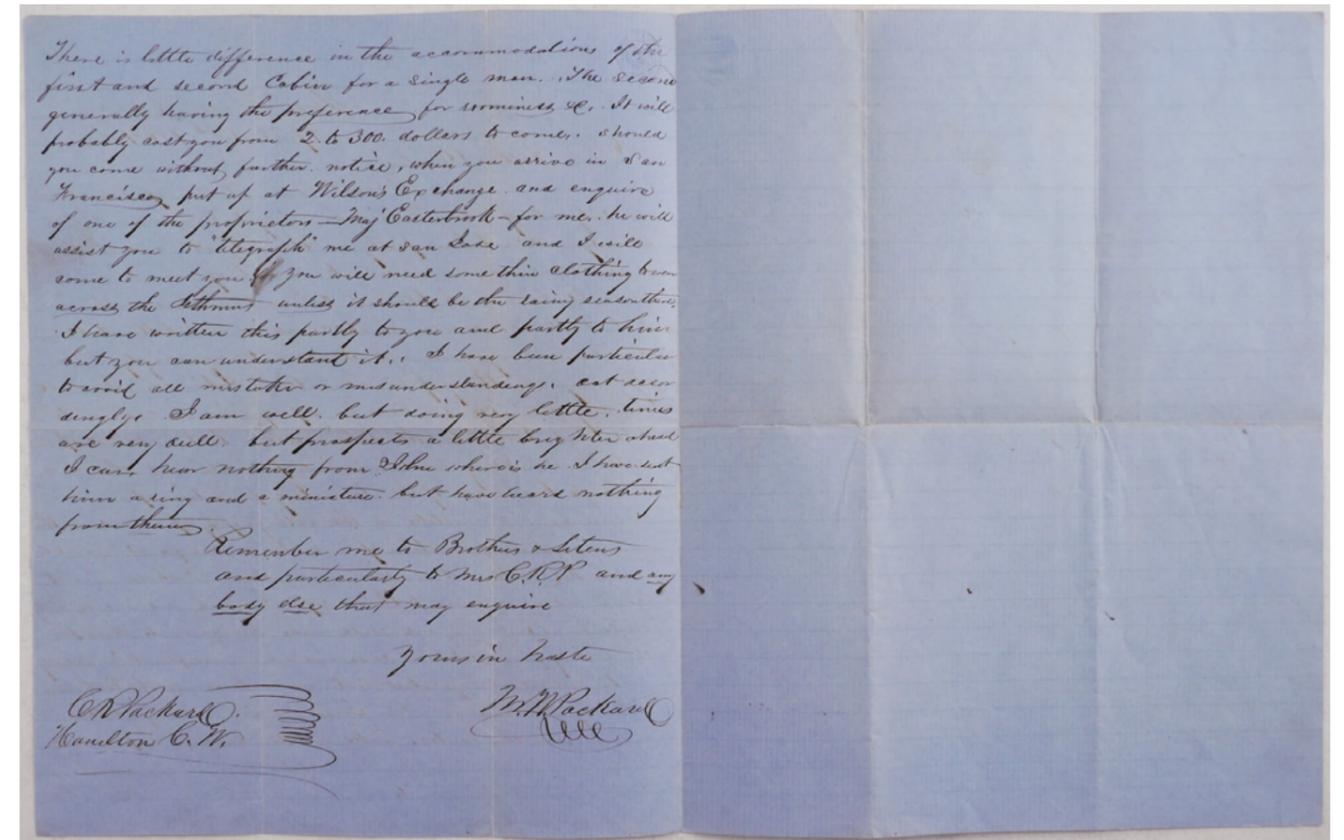
The text of the letter (spelling and syntax are original):

"Dear Brother Charles

I read your letter of latest date on subject of Bro Francis coming to California. I had already written to him fully on the subject and that letter will serve as an answer to much of your own. I would be much pleased to have him here with me but shall not decide which course he had better take, decide among you and I will act accordingly. You say something of his education. Latin etc. It would be very desirable for him in a professional career to read and translate the Latin well, but not indispensable. One thing however is indispensable and that is a thorough knowledge of the elementary formation of our own language, a mistake in the orthography of a word, or the grammatical formation of a sentence, is a fault not to be overlooked, although not uncommon. I shall await your and his answer to this, reflect much and decide wisely. Should he decide to come and could make arrangement there for the lacking funds to save time, let him do so and draw on me for it immediately on his arrival. His quickest route would be across the Isthmus either by Panama or San Juan. There is really little difference in the routes. Take as little baggage as possible what you can wear & carry in a carpet bag is sufficient. I would not advise you to come in the steerage, although that is much the cheaper mode, your health would be exposed.

There is little difference in the accommodations of the first and second cabin for a single man. The second generally having the preference for roominess etc. It will probably cost you from 2 to 300 dollars to come. Should you come without further notice, when you arrive in San Francisco put up at Willson's Exchange and enquire of one of the proprietors - Maj Easterbrook - for me he will assist you to "telegraph" me at San Jose and I will come to meet you. You will need some thin clothing to wear across the Isthmus unless it should be the rainy season there. I have written this partly to you and partly to him, but you can understand it. I have been particular to avoid all mistakes or misunderstandings, act accordingly. I am well but doing very little. Times are very dull, but prospects a little brighter ahead. I can hear nothing from John, where is he. I have sent him a ring and a miniature, but have heard nothing from them.

Remember me to Brothers and Sisters and particularly to Mrs. CRP and anybody else that may enquire.
Yours in haste, M.W. Packard."



#11

CALIFORNIA
MILLERTON / FRESNO CO.

\$1500

Morrow, Jessy (1827-1897); Carroll, Hugh Augustus (1828-1899). **Original Handwritten, Signed, and Notary Certified Deed of the Sale of the Millerton Ferry across the San Joaquin River (now the site of the Millerton Lake, Fresno County) from Jesse Morrow to Ira McGray on June 9, 1855. Millerton: 9 June 1855.**

Quarto bifolium (ca. 24,5x19 cm). 2 pp. Brown ink on bluish wove paper. Annotated and docketed on verso of the second leaf. Fold marks, minor creases, paper worn and with mild stains, but overall a very good document written in a legible hand.

Historically important early deed from the pioneer days of Fresno County, central California. The document regards the sale of the Morrow & Carroll's (later known as McGray's) ferry across the San Joaquin River, which operated in 1853-1868 near the town of Millerton. Grown around Fort Miller (1851-52), Millerton became the original seat of Fresno County in 1856, mainly because of the abovementioned ferry. The town started losing its prominence after a major flood on the San Joaquin River in the winter of 1867-68, which also destroyed the ferry. In 1872, a station of the Central Pacific Railroad was built near the site of the future city of Fresno, thus overpassing Millerton, and the county seat was moved to Fresno in 1874. In 1944, the site of Millerton was flooded with the completion of the Friant Dam.

Jesse Morrow came to California from Ohio in January 1851 and started as a gold miner on the San Joaquin River. After operating the ferry at Millerton, he got engaged in cattle raising, flour making and later real estate, living mainly in Centerville. In 1853 "with Hugh Carroll, late of the U.S. Army at Fort Miller, he established the ferry about half a mile below the county seat. Jesse Morrow evidently acquired possessory rights to a considerable extent of the San Joaquin shore, for in June, 1855, he sold to Ira McGray his claim to the land upon which the latter subsequently built his famous Oak hotel. At the same time, he also deeded his interest in the Morrow and Carroll ferry to McGray, who had come to the settlement supplied with ample means. Those papers of conveyance were among the first to be recorded when the county of Fresno was organized in 1856" (Winchelle, E. Fresno Memories; Jesse Morrow// The Fresno Morning Republican. Fresno, 4 October 1931, p. 4). Hugh A. Carroll, a Fresno County pioneer, served as a postmaster in Millerton in the 1850s.

Overall an important original document from the pioneer days of Fresno County.

See more about the history of the Millerton ferry in: Winchell, E. Fresno Memories: The Ferry at Millerton// The Fresno Morning Republican. Fresno, 1 February 1931, p. 4.

>>

Bell's sale
Ferry at Millerton

The State of California
County of Mariposa. Know all men by these presents that I Jesse Morrow of the County and State aforesaid of the first part. for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty five hundred dollars Cash to me in hand paid by Ira McGray of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have this day bargained, sold and conveyed and do by these presents grant bargain sell and convey unto the said Ira McGray party of the second part, all my right, title, interest, claim and demand in and to a certain Ferry across the San Joaquin River formerly known as Morrow & Carroll's ferry, located at, and situated in the town of Millerton on the said San Joaquin River County and State aforesaid and one half mile below Fort Miller, together with Ferry Boat, Small Boats, Ropes, Tackle, &c, including every thing belonging at, or appertaining to said ferry necessary to carry on the same. And I the said Jesse Morrow party of the first part hereby agree to warrant and defend the title to the said Ferry, Boats, &c against the claim or claims of all and every person or persons whatsoever, and warrant that the same is free from all incumbrances of any kind whatever. In testimony whereof I

Deed

Jesse Morrow
to
Ira Mc Gray

Filed for Record
May the 21st 1857 at
page 45 Minutes of
And Recorded at
Request of Geo. R. Miller
in Book A of Deeds
Filed 49th 50

Recorded Tuesday Dec 9th 1857
at 10 o'clock A.M.
recorded at request
of Chas. A. Hart Esqr
Book B. p. 112
R. J. Miller R.M.C.
Wm. J. Miller Esqr R.M.C.

James S. S. S.
Recorder of
Fresno Co

Filed 3. 25

The text of the deed:

"The State of California. Country of Mariposa. Know all men by these presents that I, Jesse Morrow of the County and State aforesaid of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of twenty five hundred dollars cash to me in hand paid by Ira McGray of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have this day bargained, sold and conveyed and do by these presents grant bargain, sell and convey unto the said Ira MacGray, party of the second part, all my right, title, interest, claim and demand in and to a certain Ferry across the San Joaquin River, formerly known as Morrow & Carroll's ferry, located at and situated in the town of Millerton on the said San Joaquin River, county and state aforesaid, and one half mile below Fort Miller, together with ferry boat, small boats, ropes, tackle &c., including everything belonging at or appertaining to said ferry necessary to carry on the same.

And I the said Jesse Morrow party of the first part hereby agree to warrant and defend the title to the said ferry, <...> against the claim or claims of all and every person or persons whatsoever and warrant that the same is free from all encumbrances of any kind whatever. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal using a scrawl for seal at the town of Millerton this the 9th day of June AD 1855." The deed is witnessed after Morrow's signature by Hugh A. Carroll and Jas. Cruikshank; additionally witnessed by Hugh A. Carroll and certified by Charles A. Hart, J.P. on December 1, 1855. The notes on verso of the second blank leaf certify that the document was recorded in the Book of Deeds of the Fresno County on May 21, 1857."

#12

CALIFORNIA
MINING

\$ 950

[Stech, Baron Ferdinand] **Original Autograph Letter to an Agent of a Potential Buyer for a Mining Property in California, Urging Him to Make up His Mind and Complete the Negotiations Because the Repairs of Machinery Need to Be Done and the Mine Needs to be Pumped before the Winter Rains. San Francisco: California: 21 September 1872.**

Quarto bifolium (ca. 23,5x18 cm). 3 pp. Pencil on laid paper, written in a legible hand. Fold marks, a minor small split on the margin of the first leaf (on a fold), but overall a very good letter.

An interesting letter giving insight into the negotiations in California gold and quartz mining in the 1870s. The main is about a local mining property offered for sale, and the potential buyer's delay to make up his mind about the purchase, although the mine needs to be pumped before the winter rains, and special machinery needs to be repaired as soon as possible. The letter was apparently written by a representative of Baron Frederick Stech, a German miner active in California in the 1860s and 1870s. Contemporary publications call Stech "a well-known German promoter" (Baron Reichtoven Once Mined Here// The Morning Union, Grass Valley, California, 5 June 1903, p. 4) and "an eminent mining engineer of great experience" (Raymond, R.W. Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains. Washington, 1873, p. 71). Originally from Schleswig Holstein, Stech started a quartz mining enterprise in 1865, working in Meadow Lake, Nevada Co, together with another German miner Baron Richthofen (most likely, with Ferdinand von Richthofen, a noted German traveller and geographer, who later coined the term "Silk Route").

In the 1870s, Stech held positions of a superintendent at several Californian mining enterprises - the Kanaka mill, Sierra Co. (Mining Summary// Scientific Press. San Francisco, 2 July 1870, Vo. XXI, No. 1, p. 4), Indian Valley Mine (Feather River Bulletin, Quincy, Ca., 7 October 1871, p. 2), and Brown's Valley Consolidated Mining Co., Yuba Co. (Raymond, R.W. Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains. p. 71). Stech still lived in California on a "very comfortable villa" as late as 1895 (The Independent. Santa Barbara, 19 September 1895, p. 2). Overall an interesting original letter illustrating German involvement in California mining in the latter half of the 19th century.

The text of the letter:

"Robt. Connely.

Dr. Sir, I have read your telegrams of 19th & 21st to Baron Stech. The first saying you had found parties willing to advance money after seeing property, provided it suited them, which is satisfactory, as the Baron is desirous that they should see the property before concluding negotiations, and satisfy themselves of the merits of the investments. Your dispatch of today repeats the offer of money necessary to execute work and says that parties will start in twenty days for San Francisco and to wait for letters explanatory.

The Baron is getting very impatient waiting on uncertainties without any security that the business will terminate satisfactory. Twenty days to start and seven to come and three or four to go up and look at property, consumes another month. Castings for repairs of machinery will consume a little more time, after negotiations are concluded, all of which delays bring on the rainy season, and it is important that the mine be pumped out before the winter rains. Besides the time is running on the bonds, although they are most liberal in terms, so much so that other parties here are desirous of investing in them. <...> If he [the Baron] had any security that your negotiations with others would terminate satisfactorily, then he would commence operations by ordering repairs & machinery.

Your letters on the way may give that security, if not it would have been better that you came instead, or sent someone competent to close the transactions. On receipt of this I hope you may be ready to start at once, or send someone authorized to act in the premises, though I had rather you come yourself. The Baron is really vexed at the delay, hence you must talk business...".

San Francisco Cal.
September 21st, 1872.
Robt Connely
Dr. Sir, I have read your Telegrams of 19th & 21st to Baron Stech. The first saying you had found parties willing to advance money after seeing property, provided it suited them, which is satisfactory, as the Baron is desirous that they should see the property before concluding negotiations, and satisfy themselves of the merits of the investments. Your dispatch of today repeats the offer of money necessary to execute work, and says that parties will start in twenty days for San Francisco and to wait for letters explanatory.

The Baron is getting very impatient waiting on uncertainties without any security that the business will terminate satisfactory. Twenty days to start and seven to come and three or four to go up and look at property, consumes another month. Castings for repairs of machinery will consume a little more time, after negotiations are concluded, all of which delays bring on the rainy season, and it is important that the mine be pumped out before the winter rains. Besides the time is running on the bonds, although they are most liberal in terms, so much so that other parties here are desirous of investing in them. Which fact in connection with delays from your party gives the Baron just cause to sever a prayer or two. If he had any security that your negotiations with others would terminate satisfactorily, then he could commence operations, by ordering repairs & an Machinery.

Your letters on the way, may give that security, if not, it would have been better that you came instead, or sent some one competent to close the transaction. On receipt of this

#13

CALIFORNIA
PIONEERS
GOLD MINERS

\$ 1750

Murray, John Sutherland (1818-1882); Moore, Henry M. Original **Autograph Letter Signed from Moores Flat (a Gold Mining Town Later Abandoned in the Early 20th Century)**, Written by a **California Forty-Niner** and Talking about the Construction of a "Store-Room" in the General Store or the Hotel of Town Founder H.M. Moore, **Successful Gold Mining, When "an Ounce of Beautiful Gold"** was Obtained after an Hour Washing **"under Disadvantageous Circumstances,"** Nevada County Pioneer and Gold Miner James Weaver, &c. Moores Flat (Nevada Co.): 1 January 1854.

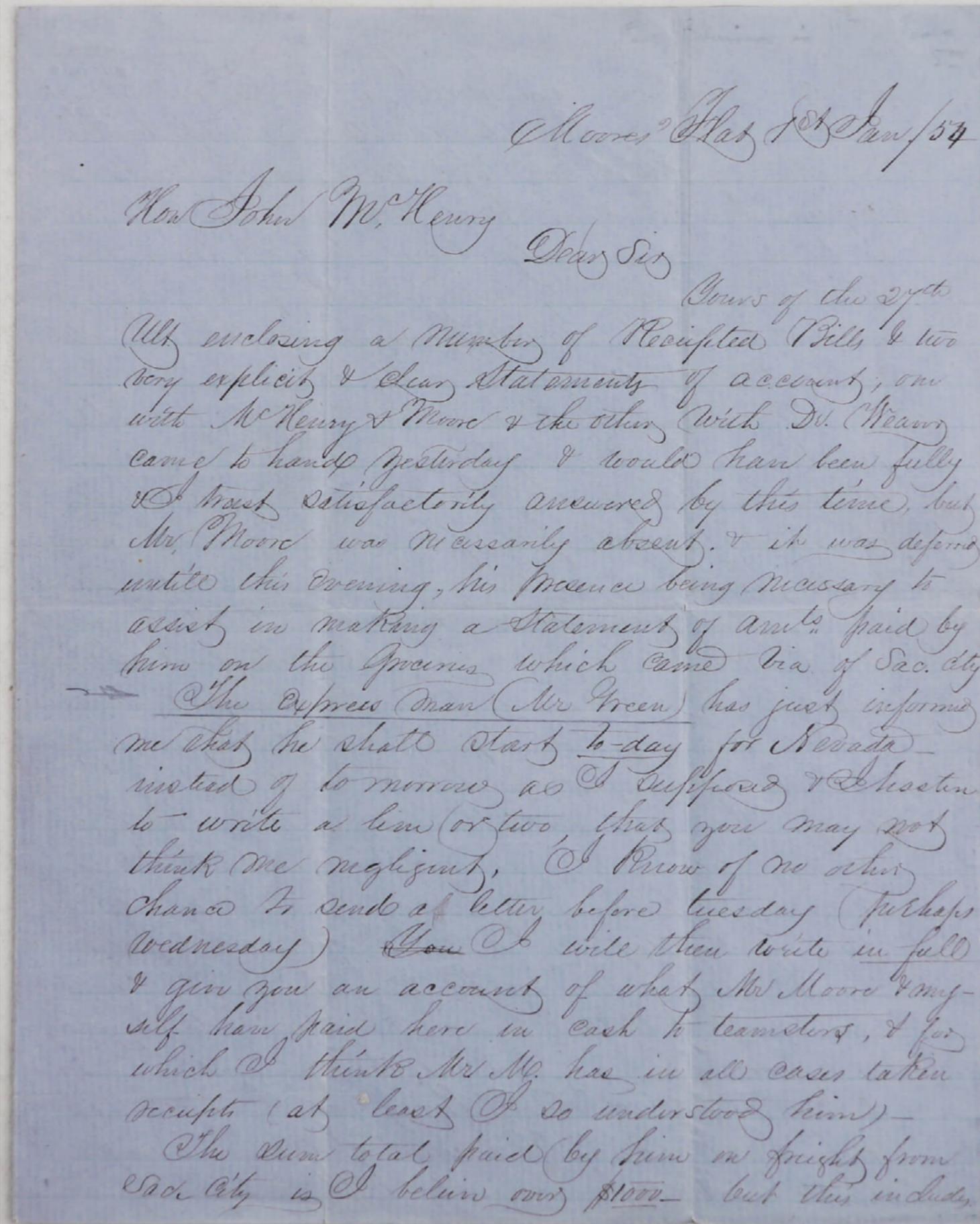
Quarto bifolium (ca. 25x20 cm). 3 pp. Brown ink on laid paper. Docketed on verso of the second leaf. Fold marks, but overall a very good letter, written in a legible hand.

Historically significant content-rich original letter, from the first years of the gold mining town of Moores Flat (Nevada Co.) and closely related to its founder Henry M. Moore. In 1851, Moore became the first settler who brought his family to a flat site on the Middle Yuba River, several kilometres northeast of the North Bloomfield, and the growing mining camp was named after him (Bean, E.F. Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County, California, Nevada, 1867, p. 402). "Shortly thereafter, Moore's Flat became an important hydraulic mining town, with large-scale operations at Moore's Flat, Orleans Flat, Woolsey Flat, Snow Point, and Snow Tent. By 1880, the town had grown to a population of 500, but 1884 brought the Sawyer Decision, which effectively put an end to large-scale hydraulic mining in the northern Sierra Nevada. The district and town lived on while the emphasis changed from hydraulic mining to drift mining and the lode mines. The only significant drifting was done at Snow Point. The mines began to fail in 1895, and the town of Moore's Flat was abandoned".

The last mail coach to Moores Flat arrived in September 1914 (Old Mining Town Erased from Post Office Map// The Grizzly Bear, Vol. XVI, No. 1, whole No. 91, November 1914, p. 23). In the 1850s-1860s, Henry M. Moore was known to keep the only hotel and serve as the postmaster in Moores Flat (Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County, California, p. 406).

The letter is written by Moore's partner, John Sutherland Murray - a California pioneer, who arrived in San Francisco from New Zealand in 1849, and since 1850 mined and worked as a land surveyor in the Nevada County, residing in Eureka (Graniteville since 1867). The letter, addressed to one "John McHenry" (apparently, the investor of Murray and Moore's partnership), provides a detailed account of the partners' expenses related to the construction of Moore's general store (or possibly the hotel) in Moore's Flat. Murray talks about what they spent on hauling, "teamsters" salary, delivery of hardware, groceries, ale and porter, &c., the progress of the construction of the "store-room," and mentions their recent success in gold mining. "They washed the other day one hour under disadvantageous circumstances & obtained an ounce of beautiful gold."

>>



No. 10th
 From Moore's Flat
 Jan. 1st 1854. Promises
 that he and Moore will
 send immediately one
 acct. of freight & hauling,
 and what has been done
 with all the money I have
 advanced for the same.
 Moore paid \$1000 but
 it includes \$400
 which Murray let him
 have. They work
 sixteen hours a day.

He also briefly talks about "Dr. Weaver" – apparently, a Nevada county pioneer Dr. James Weaver, who mined for gold near Eureka and in 1853 constructed the famous 30-mile long water ditch, named "Memphis Race." Despite the overall positive tone of the letter, Murray & Moore apparently ran into problems with John McHenry. In January 1855, the Supreme Court of California had a hearing on the dispute between the two parties (Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of California. Vol. 5. San Francisco, 1906, pp. 90-93). Overall an important early California pioneering and gold mining letter.

Excerpts from the letter:

"Dear Sir,

Yours of the 27th ult. enclosing a number of receipted bills & two very explicit & dear statements of account, one with McHenry & Moore & the other with Dr. Weaver came to hand yesterday & would have been fully & [most?] satisfactory answered by this time, but Mr. Moore was necessarily absent & it was deferred until this evening, his presence being necessary to assist in making a statement of accounts paid by him on the groceries which came via of Sac. City.

The express man (Mr. Green) had just informed me that he shall start today for Nevada instead of tomorrow, as I supposed, & I hasten to write a line or two, that you may not think me negligent. I know of no other chance to send a letter before Tuesday (perhaps Wednesday) & will then write in full & give you an account of what Mr. Moore & myself have paid here in cash to teamsters, & for which I think Mr. M. has in all cases taken receipts (at least I so understood him).

The sum total paid by him on freight from Sac. City is I believe over \$1000, but this includes the \$400 I let him have of the first \$500 you gave me & some, paid for Weaver. How much I have not now time to ascertain from the book. The amt. of drafts on S.J. Curtis is I think near \$2940. The sums paid for hauling seem to me as to you enormously large, but I trust there is nothing wilfully wrong on the part of any one connected with the disbursement & that the statement of the whole matter will convince you of this.

One thing I know, the estimate of weights of machinery by foundry men & others, & my opinion of the weights of the boxes of crockery, hardware, ale & porter, &c. &c. fell far short of their true weight, in many instances over one hundred per cent.

The completion of the store-room I have hastened as much as I could, by encouraging the workmen & laboring myself, but "Christmas times" has interfered somewhat & the time required to put in doors & windows, lay floors, make partitions, put up shelves & counter &c. &c. was longer than any one anticipated. Many things we cannot open until we get in, but I have commenced the inventory, & as the store will be complete by Tuesday we will have the whole arranged by the close of the week, & I think by Thursday night, if sixteen hours labor in the twenty four will accomplish it, we will have it done. I have taken on acc. of every thing in the kitchen and pantry & from this date all accounts of expense & receipts of the table will be accurately kept & regularly balanced <...>. The future expenditures <...> will be trifling until a rain or thaw enables us to wash constantly & then two or three days will fully test their profitableness. They washed the other day one hour under disadvantageous circumstances & obtained an ounce of beautiful gold. Yesterday evening there was water enough to wash two hours & the yield was Mr. Bristow thinks over two ounces. It was too late to fully clean & weigh it last night. Dr. W. is I suppose with you. He left Nevada on Thursday morning for S.F. The letter of the 24th you refer to has not come to hand. Mr. Moore wishes your opinion on the rates he shall charge Dr. W. for goods &c. <...>".

#14

CALIFORNIA RANCHING

\$ 1250

[Rowley?] Autograph Letter Signed by a Hog Rancher from Alviso, San Francisco Bay Area, Talking about Prices and Cost of Ranching (Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Bees) and Grain Farming in California, Remarking that "Calafornia <...> is Entirely Played Out" and Mentioning the American Civil War, which Started Three Months Prior. Alviso, 15 July 1861.

Octavo (ca. 20,5x12,5 cm). Two bifoliums with 8 pp. of text. Brown ink on lined laid paper. First leaves of each bifolium with blind-stamped papermaker's monograms in the left upper corners. Foldmarks, otherwise a very good letter written in a legible hand.

The identity of the author of the letter hasn't been confirmed, but it could be Albanus B. Rowley, a pioneer of Alviso, who founded the "Rowley Mills" to produce flour in 1853 and became a commanding officer of the "Alviso Rifles" in 1863.

Historically significant content-rich original letter written by a pioneer rancher from Alviso (San Jose, San Francisco Bay area) to his friend from the East Coast. The author states that the mining industry in California has become profitable only for "capitalists" as "surface diggings are exhausted," gives a comprehensive picture of the cost and profitability of ranching in the state (separately for cattle, sheep and hogs, with a price quote for beekeeping), and briefly describes grain farming. The author mentions that he is engaged in a "hog business" and is going "get out of it." The letter is written about three months after the beginning of the American Civil War (12 April 1861 - 26 May 1865) and mentions the author's female friend or relative leaving Philadelphia due to her fear of the city being attacked by the troops of Jefferson Davis, who will "end them all up." At the end of the letter, the author asks his correspondent: "How about the war, we hear and talk about nothing else." Overall an interesting extensive original letter about the practicalities of California ranching, written during the American Civil War.

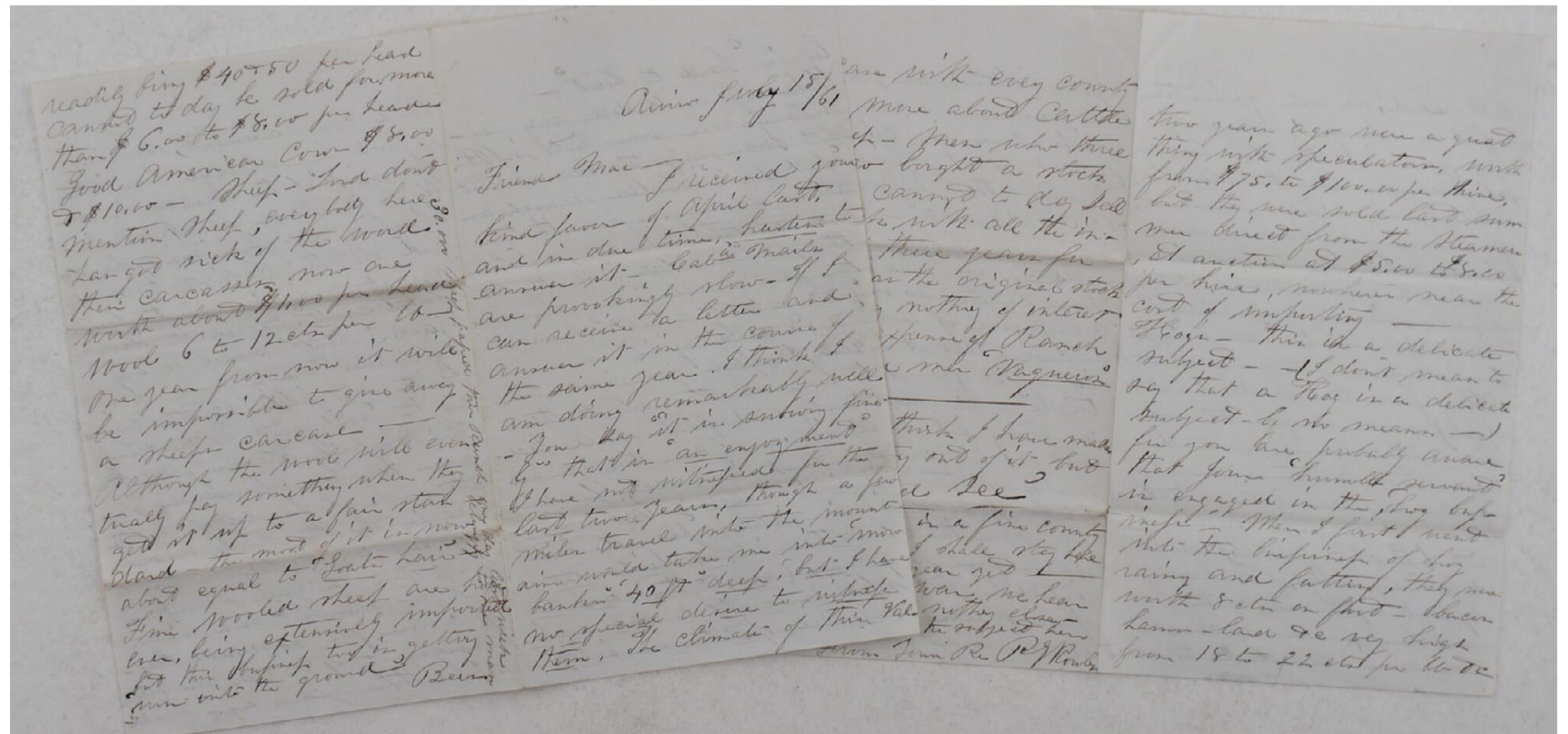
Excerpts from the letter (the spelling is original):

"Friend Mac, I received your kind favor of April last and in due time, hasten to answer it. Cala Mails are provokingly slow. If I can receive a letter and answer it in the course of the same year, I think I am doing remarkably well.

You say "it is snowing finely." That is an enjoyment I have not witnessed for the last two years, though a few miles travel into the mountain would take me into snow banks 40 ft deep, but I have no special desire to witness them. The climate of this valley is "hard to beat."

I hear from Ardell very regularly, she was in Phil. but was mightily scared [...?] "Jeff Davis" would march an army of n....., into the town and end them all up, so she thought "discretion was the better part of valor" and she would "beat a hasty retreat" back to "old [...?] again."

Well, I suppose you would like to hear something about this country that folks call Calafornia [sic!]. I can tell you all about it in a very few words, it is Calafornia no longer, it is entirely "played out." Everything is run into the ground (except that one thing which is so apt to seek a more congenial spot to run into). As a commencement, mining which has always been the pursuit of the country is wholly in the hands of Capitalism. Surface diggings are exhausted and it takes capital to crush quartz and "dig into the bowels of the earth" to find the "dirty-yaller stuff" which nearly sets men crazy.



Alviso July 15/61

Friend Mac

I received your kind favor of April last, and in due time, hasten to answer it - Cab^a mails are provokingly slow - If I can receive a letter and answer it in the course of the same year. I think I am doing remarkably well - You say it is ^{co} "subtly fine" that is an enjoyment I have not witnessed for the last two years, though a few miles travel into the mountains would take me into snow banks 40 ft deep, but I have no special desire to witness them. The climate of this Val-

In the next place cattle comes as the next great interest. This business stands part this way. We have hundreds of thousands of heads of cattle grazing on the hills and mountains, costing nothing to keep them the year around - and no market as a matter of course, for so much beef, consequently 4 or 5 years old steers which three years ago would readily bring \$40 to 50 per head, cannot today be sold for more than \$6.00 to 8.00 per head. Good American cow \$8.00 to \$10.00. Sheep - Lord, don't mention sheep, everybody here has got sick of the word, their carcasses now are worth about \$1.00 per head, wool 6 to 12 cts per lb. One year from now it will be impossible to give away a sheep carcass.

Although the wool will even finally pay something when they get it up to a fair standard, the word of it is now about equal to goat's hair. Fine woolled sheep are however, being extensively imported but thin business too in getting run into the ground. 30 000 sheep passed this ranch one day last week belonging to one man. Bees two years ago were a great thing with speculators, worth from \$75 to \$100.00 per hive, but they were sold last summer direct from the steamers at auction at \$5.00 to \$8.00 per hive, nowhere near the cost of importing.

Hogs - this is a delicate subject. (I don't mean to say that a hog is a delicate subject by no means), for you are probably aware that your "humble servant" is engaged in the "hog business." When I first went into the business of hog raising and fattening, they were worth 8 cts on foot, bacon, ham, lard &c. very high, from 18 to 22 cts per lb. &c. But Lord, in one year's time what a change, everybody has gone into the hog business, it seems even the damnest Chinamen. One million acres of swamp <...> lands are now infested with swine. Grain fields, barley especially is allowed to "volunteer" (which means to grow without tilling from the seed of last year) and hogs turned into it when ripe and harvest it themselves. They of course soon get fat, and now hogs are a ding at (3 cts per lb). (Don't tell anybody, but I am going to get out of the hog business). Cured meats are now reduced to about [gone?] standard, and there is moreover a very great risk here in curing meat, much of it spoils. <...>

A man can make a living at most anything but as to making what is vulgarly termed "a pile," I tell you it is "played out." To sum the country up, it is a fine place for capitalists but a d__d poor place for a poor man, and this I believe is the case with every country. A little more about cattle and sheep. Men who three years ago brought a stock of cattle, cannot today sell that stock with all the increase of these years for as much as the original stock cost, to say nothing of interest of money, expense of Ranch and hired men "Vaqueros," &c. <...>

For all this, it is a fine country to live in, and I shall stay here probably may a year yet.

How about the war, we hear and talk about nothing else. So I have avoided the subject here entirely <...>

#15

CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO

\$1500

Spurr, George Graham (1828-1903). **Original Autograph Letter** Signed by George Spurr - a **Renowned Forty-Niner and Sacramento Pioneer**, then the **Owner of a "Tea and Coffee Saloon"** on the K Street, Delivering the Latest News about His Correspondent's Sons and Describing **Sacramento's "Deplorable Condition"** during the **1853 Flood**: "Streets are Like Swamp & Goods are again Transported in Flat Boats from the Levee to Places of Designation. All Business Matters Seem Suspended & Grim <...> Merchants Count their Future over Hot Stoves & Brandy Smashes...". Sacramento City: **30 March 1853**.

Quarto bifolium (ca. 25,5x18,5 cm). 3 pp. Brown ink on bluish wove paper. Fold marks, paper slightly age-toned, but overall a very good letter, written in a legible hand.

Historically significant California Gold Rush letter, talking about the flood in Sacramento, which followed the Great Fire on November 2, 1852. The letter is written by George Graham Spurr, a California pioneer and forty-niner from New York State, who arrived in San Francisco in July 1849 and mined for gold near Sacramento. In 1851, he lost his arm in an encounter with a grizzly bear and then opened a small restaurant at No. 3, K Street (today's Old Sacramento). Together with most of the city, Spurr's restaurant was destroyed during Sacramento's Great Fire on November 2, 1852, but he managed to rebuild it. After the flood in the spring of 1853, Spurr closed his restaurant and mined gold for a year, returning to New England in 1855. He later resigned in Boston and became famous after the publication of his book, titled "The Land of Gold: A Tale of '49" (Boston, 1881), describing his adventures in California. Spurr was one of the founders of the New England Association of Forty-Niners and served as its secretary for 15 years.

The letter is addressed to the father of Spurr's friends Robert Allison (1796-1875), then a resident of Whitestown (Oneida Co., NY). Apart from the description of the Sacramento flood, Spurr talks about Allison's sons John (c. 1826-?) and William (1831-1909), and several other young men from the same group (likely, from Oneida Co.), who came gold mining in California. He also notes that one of the men, John Parker, has left for Oriskany (Oneida Co.), and Allison will see him soon.

Overall a nice early Sacramento letter written by a renowned New England forty-niner.

>>

Sacramento City March 30th 1853
 To Robert Allison Esq.
 Honored Sir
 Your favor of the
 25th 1853. arrived in due season & received
 a most hearty welcome
 In answer to a request made by you desiring
 me to correspond occasionally, not with a warm
 approval on my behalf & I trust that my letters
 will not all together be void of interest. but
 contain matter satisfactory & gratifying
 I intended a few days since to have given you
 a minute view of the events that have transpired
 since the memorable day 2^d Nov^r. but day after
 day has passed till now tis too late & I fear my
 letter will be composed of very little if any news
 of importance
 I am at present located in S.F. keeping
 a Tea & Coffee Saloon & being accompanied with
 your son John & William together with J. Parker
 left here a short time since for Washington
 on the South Yuba. the said place being if you
 remember right our "bear quarters" last summer
 before leaving. John sold his portion of the lot
 situated on the Levee for \$500. this is very valuable
 property & in my opinion in getting this John
 sold his "birth right".

I was very much opposed to John going to the mines this summer. As he has been very unsuccessful in his operations for the last year past, but as his opinion of the mines is much greater than mine I grew cautious & spoke but once.

John spoke strongly of going to Australia previous to his departure for the mine & stated to me that should his trip prove fruitless he should return in one month, then go for Australia.

Marcus Yarwood is with me having just recovered from a severe illness he will remain here till able to work at something.

Marcus has experienced considerable trouble arising from his Gouty, the whole of which I fear he has lost from this sickness.

John Parker left here the 26th inst for Oriskany. You will probably see him by the time you receive this.

I hear nothing from Jas. Lee the last I heard from him he was on [?] Bar, Middle Feather River, as there is no communication between here & there. I don't expect to hear from him, for some time. <...>

I have not your review paper containing all the items of matters in journal. I will send you the Mail a Pictorial Union.

I will send you the Mail a Pictorial Union.

Excerpts from the letter:

"To Robert Allison, M.D.

Honoured Sir, <...> I intended a few days since to have given you a minute view of the events that have transpired since the memorable day 2nd Nov. [Sacramento Great fire], but day after day has passed till now tis' too late <...>.

I am at present located in K. St. keeping a tea & coffee saloon & doing comparatively well. Your son John & William together with [Paul?] Parkins left here a short time since for Washington on the South Juba, the said place being if you remember right our "head quarters" last summer. Before leaving, John sold his portion of the lot situated on the Levee for \$500. This is very valuable property & in my opinion in selling this John sold his birth right.

I was very much opposed to John's going to the mines this summer, as he has been very unsuccessful in his operations [sic!] for the last year past, but as his opinion of the mines is much greater than mine, I grew cautious & spoke but once. John spoke strongly of going to [Australia?] previous to his departure for the mine & stated to me that should his trip prove fruitless, he should return in one month, then go for [Australia?] <...>.

Marcus Yarwood is with me having just recovered from a severe illness. He will remain here till able to work at something. Marcus has experienced considerable trouble arising from his [...?], the whole of which I fear he has lost from this sickness. John Parker left here the 26th inst. for Oriskany. You will probably see him by the time you receive this. I hear nothing from Jas. Lee. The last I heard from him, he was on [...?] Bar, Middle Feather River, as there is no communication between here & there. I don't expect to hear from him, for some time. <...>

Our City is again in a deplorable condition. We have experienced 3 days & nights of rain in succession. The river is again up to the top of the Levee & it is a matter of [speculation?] whether or no we escape a second inundation. The streets are like swamp & goods are again transported in flat boats from the Levee to places of designation. All business matters seem suspended & grim <...> merchants count their future over hot stoves & brandy smashes. Begging seems to be an every day occurrence even in rich California situation as I have a very good opportunity to know. I have since I have been into business lost upwards of two hundred dollars from persons that were not able to buy their board <...>."

#16

CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO

\$ 950

Allison, William P. **Original Autograph Letter Written by a Young Gold Miner in Sacramento City, Telling the Latest News from the Gold Mines and Mentioning the Latest Cholera Epidemic in the City.** Sacramento City: 14 September 1852.

Quarto bifolium (ca. 25x19,5 cm). 1 p. Brown ink on wove paper, written in a legible hand. Docketed on verso of the second leaf. Paper slightly age-toned, fold marks, but overall a very good letter.

Original letter, giving insight into the life of gold miners during the first years of Sacramento City (incorporated in 1850). The author talks about his plans to start gold mining, the latest developments from his brother and friends, who also engaged in mining, and mentions "a number of cases of cholera in town" - the Sacramento cholera epidemic, which struck the city in August 1852.

The text of the letter:

"Dear Parents, I shall start for the mines tomorrow morning. I can not get into anything in the city that will pay at present. Business is very dull just now. I received a letter from Brother John a few days ago, he had been sick but has got better and gone to work again. They are now working the bed of the Creek and doing pretty well. Marcus Yarwood, Geo Spurr, Noel Perkins, James Lee, John Watson & W. Brunnell are up where John is, they are all well. I received a letter from Robt. Brett a short time since, he is at Nevada and thinks he shall stay there all winter. John & Rober Parker was at Lander's Bar on the Yuba the last I heard of them. We did not receive any letters by last mail, I expect to get some by the next which is due the 20th. It has been very sickly for some time past, we have had a number of cases of cholera in town, but the health of the city is much better right now. I like this country first rate, although I have not made anything yet, but I am determined to make something before I leave it. My love to Mother, Sisters & Brother George. Give my respects to all friends."

Sacramento City, Sept. 14th 1852

Dear Parents,

I shall start for the mines tomorrow morning I can not get into anything in the city that will pay at present business is very dull just now - I received a letter from Brother John a few days ago he had been sick but has got better and gone to work again - They are now working the bed of the Creek and doing pretty well - Marcus Yarwood Geo Spurr Noel Perkins James Lee John Watson & W. Brunnell are up where John is they are all well - I received a letter from Robt. Brett a short time since he is at Nevada and thinks he shall stay there all winter John & Robert Parker was at Lander's Bar on the Yuba the last I heard of them - We did not receive any letters by last mail I expect to get some by the next which is due the 20th - It has been very sickly for some time past we have had a number of cases of Cholera in town but the health of the City is much better now I like this Country first rate although I have not made anything yet but I am determined to make something before I leave it My love to Mother Sisters & Brother George - Give my respects to all friends

Your affectionate Son
Wm P Allison

#17

CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO

\$ 950

Sutro, Adolph (Ca. 1830-1898). An Interesting **Original Autograph Letter** Signed by "A Friend of Humanity" and **Addressed to San Francisco Mayor Adolph Sutro**, Urging Him to "Immediately" **Ban the Voyage of the Poorly Repaired SS Oregon from San Francisco to Portland**, Predicting the **Inevitable Crash of This "Death Trap"** Intended Only for Those **"Who Wish to Commit Suicide,"** and Accusing the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Co. of Its Failure to Properly Mend Both the "Condemned" SS Oregon and Luxurious SS Columbia. **San Francisco, 21 [April] 1895.**

Octavo bifolium (ca. 20x12,5 cm or 8 x 4 ¾ in). 4 pp. Brown ink on watermarked lined paper. Blind-stamped papermaker's monograms in the left upper corners of both leaves of the bifolium; period red ink inscription "A Friend of Humanity" (made in a different hand) on top of the first leaf. Foldmarks, otherwise a very good letter written in a legible hand.

The SS Oregon was a coastal passenger and cargo ship built in Pennsylvania for the Oregon Steamship Company in 1878. A year later, the SS Oregon's ownership was transferred to the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company (ORNC), which effectively held a near-monopoly on regional waterways. The steamer cruised for years on the Portland-San Francisco route until a series of unfortunate incidents resulted in a hull breach. Ultimately, the SS Oregon was deemed unsuitable for service as a passenger liner and was laid up for repairs in 1894.

This urgent letter of concern was written almost immediately upon the announcement that: "The steamer Oregon, which has been laid up in Sausalito for several months, came over yesterday at the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company's wharf. She will take the place of the steamer Columbia, which is to be laid up for repairs." (The San Francisco Call. 20 April 1895. P 8). The letter was penned by "A Friend of Humanity," a former employee of the SS Oregon who worked on the painting of the steamer in the summer of 1894 and a person who spent "all their life at the iron ship building."

In this letter, addressed to San Francisco Mayor Adolph Sutro (1830-1898), the disquieted author calls for immediate action against the SS Oregon's scheduled sea voyage from Portland to San Francisco on April 24 at 9 am. The letter writer predicts the inevitable crash of this "death trap" and accuses the ORNC of ignoring much-needed repairs on the hulls and plates of the "condemned boat" earlier that year. The author describes in great detail all the malfunctions of the boat's machinery ("plates are so worn that the rivets stick below the plates..." etc.) and flatly concludes: "Such boats are only for people who wish to commit suicide." Fearing for the lives of his "friends and relatives that work on this line," the author urges the Mayor to take prompt measures to prevent a potential tragedy. >>

A. Friend of
Humanity.

She ought not be allowed
To carry even her crew
The Company have fixed
her Cabins up very nicely
But her Bottom has
never been disturbed
I worked on her painting
when she was on the Union
Iron Works Dry Dock last
Summer and being a
person who has worked
all their life at the
Iron Ship Building I can
candidly say I believe
I can take a carpenters
mawl and put the face of
it through the Iron plates
under the bottom. The
plates are so worn and

San Francisco Cal - 21st 95

Hon. Adolph Sutro
Mayor - San Francisco Cal
Dear Sir

I wish to
call your attention to
something which will
happen on April 24th at
9 a.m.

The Steamer Oregon
will leave the dock April
24th at 9 a.m. for Portland
She will take the Columbia
place to carry passengers
and merchandise. The reason
I write this is the Steamer
Oregon is condemned to
carry passengers, in fact

Near the close of the letter, the writer reveals his concerns over the ORNC's other steamer, the luxurious SS Columbia (1880; Portland-San Francisco), going back to sea after a major overhaul at the Union Works Dry Dock earlier that year. The author proposes to give up half of his annual salary in exchange for the Mayor to come and see the "repaired" steamer with his own eyes and realize that "the boats on this coast are run till they sink." "A Friend of Humanity" ends his letter by accusing the ORNC of its disregard for human life, stating: "they think no more of the human freight than so much of canned goods."

Apparently, this letter either never reached or was ignored by the San Francisco Mayor, as both the SS Oregon and SS Columbia soon embarked on their sea voyages. On May 3, barely two weeks after this letter was written, the Tacoma Daily Ledger published an article with the headline "Steamer Oregon Broke Her Shaft." The ship arrived in Portland fourteen hours overdue due to the breaking of her crank soon after leaving the dock.

In the early 1900s, after the SS Oregon sank Clan McKenzie in a collision in the Columbia River (1899) and following the wreck of SS Columbia with the loss of 88 lives (1907), the ORNC became a target of public outrage due to alleged maritime safety violations. In 1910, the company became a subsidiary of Union Pacific (UP) and was taken over by UP in 1936.

Overall, an interesting original autograph letter written by "A Friend of Humanity," calling for immediate action against the voyage of the poorly repaired SS Oregon, predicting the inevitable crash of this "death trap," and accusing the ORNC of disregard for human life.

The text of the letter (original spelling preserved):
"I wish to call your attention to something which will happen on April 24th at 9 a.m. The Steamer Oregon will leave the dock April 24th at 9 a.m. for Portland. She will take the Columbia place to carry passengers and merchandise. The reason I write this is the steamer Oregon is condemned to carry passengers. in fact she ought not to be allowed to carry even her crew. The company have fixed her cabins up very nicely but her bottom has never been disturbed. I worked on her painting when she was on the Union Iron works dry dock last summer and being a person who has worked all their life at the iron ship building I can candidly say I believe I can take a carpenter's maul and put the face of it through the iron plates under the bottom. The plates are so worn and rusted that the rivets stick below the plates in some places $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. Such boats are only for people who wish to commit suicide. The word 'Death Trap' might easily be applied to them. As there is no inspector of hull in San Francisco to look to such work or are they bought off or are they in the employ of the Co. I have both friends and relatives that work on this line of boats and I would like to see some way not to see them go to sea on an old condemned boat. The Steamer Columbia will be on the Union Iron works dry dock about the 24 or 25th of this month and I would give $\frac{1}{2}$ the money I earn for the next year to see the Hon. Adolph Sutro and some of the board supervisors to see that boat as she is first put on the dock and you could tell by her that the boats on this coast are run till they sink merely for a few \$ of repairs they think no more of the human freight than so much canned goods."

#18

CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO COIN COLLECTING

\$ 950

Kellen, Robert. An Interesting **Original Autograph Letter** Written by Robert Kellen and **Addressed to a Pioneer Coin Collector in the US**, Documenting **One of the Earliest Sales of Ancient Coins From the Ruins of Nineveh** (Now Considered Iraq's Lost Cultural Heritage) in the American Antique Coin Market, Assuring "Dear Sir" About the "**Genuineness**" of the Three "**Most Valuable Specimens**" of Ancient Mints He Purchased From the Author, and Claiming That the Coins Were Originally Sold by a Friend of Nineveh's First Excavator (Henry Layard) to the **US Consul at Java (Israel Diehl)**. San Francisco, Cal. **18 February 1868.**

Large Octavo (ca. 21,5x20 cm or 8 ½ x 7 ¾ in). 1 p. Black ink on lined laid paper. Foldmarks, paper slightly age-toned, a couple of minor tears on extremities, but overall a very good letter.

This letter gives rare insight into the early years of the American antique coin market and documents one of the earliest sales from the mints from Nineveh, now considered Iraq's lost cultural heritage. The letter was penned only ten years after the establishment of American Numismatic Society in New York, a time when coin collecting was first gaining popularity in the United States.

In the text, the author, Robert Kellen, talks about the three "oldest and most valuable specimens" of ancient coins that the addressee ("Dr."), one of the first coin collectors in the US, purchased from him earlier. Assuring "Dear Sir" about the unquestionable "genuineness" of these mints, Kellen insists that the coins were originally obtained from the Ruins of Nineveh, apparently during Henry Layard's (1817-1894) discovery of the city remains (1847-1849).

The young archaeologist and "distinguished antiquarian" was permitted by the Ottoman Sultan to excavate the ancient site and ship off uncovered antiquities (including Roman and Greek mints) to his patrons and friends. According to the author, the three antique mints he sold to "Dr." were initially purchased by Israel Diehl (the US Consul at Java) from Layard's friend during his trip to Eastern countries. "Hon. Israel S. Diehl, late U.S. Council at Batavia, Java, ... has traveled through all the countries of the East, and occasionally lectures on his experiences in the old world. His lectures are illustrated with diagrams of the cities, ruins, palaces, customs and manners of the Holy Land, Egypt and Asia Minor. He has also many relics gathered among the ruins of Babylon, Nineveh, and other ancient cities." (The Morning Herald. 10 April 1864). Kellen claims that he purchased the coins from Diehl immediately after his return to Washington (1863/1864) and assures the addressee that the authenticity of the mints is "unquestionable" as the US Consul "is a gentleman of... integrity."

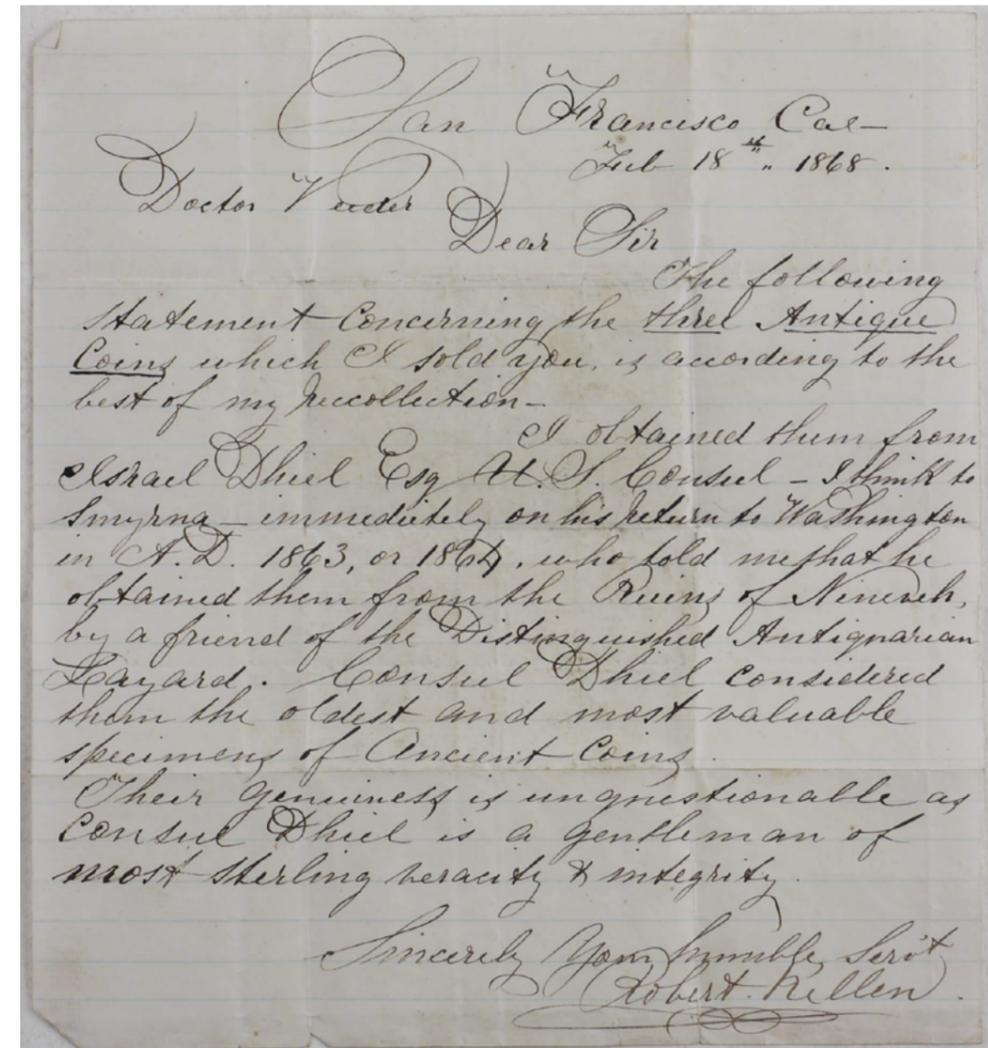
By the 1940s, when the Iraqi government established a legal basis for collecting and housing Iraq's historical heritage, the antiquities given by Layard to his friends and relatives came to be seen as Iraq's lost cultural heritage.

Overall, an interesting original autograph letter addressed to a pioneer coin collector in the US, giving insight into the early years of the American antique coin market and documenting one of the earliest sales from the mints from Nineveh, now considered Iraq's lost cultural heritage.

The text of the letter (original spelling preserved):
"The following statement concerning the three Antique Coins which I sold you, is according to the best of my recollection.

I obtained them from Israel Dhiel Esq. US Consul - I think to Smyrna - immediately on his return to Washington in A. D. 1863, or 1864, who told me that he obtained them from the Ruins of Nineveh, by a friend of the Distinguished Antiquarian Layard. Consul Dhiel considered them the oldest and most valuable specimens of Ancient Coins.

Their genuineness is unquestionable as Consul Dhiel is a gentleman of most sterling veracity & integrity".



#19

CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO
GUNS

\$ 1 250

[Curry, Charles] (Ca. 1820-1863); [Curry, Nathaniel] (Ca. 1823-1892). A Period Copy of an Autograph Letter Written by the Owner of a Pioneer San Francisco Gun Shop "C. Curry Guns and Fancy Goods" and Signed to the Founders of "Hardy & Kennedy" in the Forest Hill Mining District, Mentioning the Most Popular Way of Transporting Expensive Goods from San Francisco to Forest Hill, Updating Hardy and Kennedy on Their Recent Order of the Three "Most Magnificent" Large Pistols "Ever Exhibited" on the Pacific Coast, and Bragging about a Large Collection of "the Best" English Guns "Ever Seen" in California at Their Store on 87 Battery St. 87 Battery St., San Francisco, 27 September 1860.

Quarto bifolium (ca. 25x20 cm or 9 ¾ x 7 ¾ in). 2 pp. Brown ink on blueish lined laid paper. Blind-stamped papermaker's monogram in the left upper corner of the first leaf. Later pencil note on verso of the second blank leaf. Fold marks, paper slightly soiled on folds, but overall a very good letter.

This letter gives rare insight into the early negotiations between two prosperous California businesses both largely built on the gold rush.

The letter is written by Charles Curry (Ca. 1820-1863), the founder of one of the most influential gun shops in San Francisco, and the company's clerk and Charles' brother Nathaniel Curry (Ca. 1823-1892). "In 1852, he [Charles Curry] opened a gun store on Commercial Street, San Francisco, California; soon afterwards he moved to 87 Battery Street... Charles Curry was primarily in the import [from England, France, and Germany] and repair business, but did manufacture a few shotguns and rifles to order." (Sovenski, C. California Gunsmiths, 1846-1900. P. 73) In 1861, he moved his store again to 317 Battery Street and was joined in business by his brother Nathaniel (Ca. 1823-1892) who had worked as a clerk for his brother for two years.

Charles Curry died suddenly late in 1863 and his brother prepared to take responsibility for the flourishing business. Charles, the sole agent for Derringer in San Francisco, succeeded tremendously in his trade with miners and entrepreneurs who flooded San Francisco during the years his gun store was open.

The authors address this letter to their customers William S. Hardy and Samuel S. Kennedy of the "Hardy & Kennedy Co." The company was established in Forest Hill, the most productive drift mining camp in the state, at the height of the Gold Rush in 1856. This business successfully dealt with general provisions and mining supplies, bought gold dust, and briefly served as a Wells Fargo agent, soon emerging as the leading merchant firm for local gold mines. "In 1863 Hardy left the business and founded the town of Hardyville... Kennedy continued the Forest Hill business and was soon joined by J.G. Garrison. Kennedy moved to St. Louis in 1865 and left the store in the hands of Garrison, who operated it with family members well into the 20th century."

>>

87 Battery St. San Francisco
Sept 27th 1860
Mess^{rs} Hardy & Kennedy
Forest Hill. Dear Sirs.

I write to inform you that I have rec^d. the large Pistols you ordered; according to your orders, I have had Mr M Lewis of Wells Fargo & Co Express to Examine them, he, with the rest of the Company thinks very well of them, - that they are the most Magnificent arms for Express purposes ever Exhibited on this Coast. They wanted to purchase one or two pair of them but I informed them that they were already Engaged, but did not give the name of who ordered them, I have only received three pair, but C. Curry says the other pair will be on as soon as possible I am getting Holsters made for them after your orders, I will forward them to you tomorrow by Wells Fargo & Co Express, I think they are the best goods I have ever seen, the Barrels are Stub Damascus Twist of the finest quality, and Calculated to stand a very heavy discharge, after you receive them, I hope you will inform me what you think of them, and if you wish any more, and if so let me know, as our Friend Chas Curry intends

Returning in the Spring. If you have any orders, I should have him to superintend manufacture himself -

I have also rec^d. a lot of English Guns yesterday, ranging in price from \$20 to \$32.⁵⁰ a clean article - and a lot of fine Laminated Steel, ranging in price from \$40 to 80 and as high as \$100 and \$250 - in fact we have best quality of English Guns ever exhibited on coast, and treble the quantity of any Gun in Cal^a - I will send you a bill of Pistols with the goods. Thankful for past and hoping for a continuance of your patronage.

I remain Yours Truly
 Sign^d Chas. Curry
 Nathl. Curry

P.S. 28th Sept

The above letter is a copy of one Mr. W. Curry wrote you the above date ^{27th} which I mis-directed - The Pistols were shipped this day through Wells Fargo Express, hoping they will go safe to hand and give satisfaction.

I remain Yours Truly
 And^d P. Marshall
 at C. Curry's
 87 Battery St

The letter was apparently written by Nathaniel Curry on behalf of his brother Charles, who at the time was out of the city on business and intended to return to San Francisco in the spring.

In the text, the authors, two of the most influential figures in the American gun market in the 1850s, update their customers from the Forest Hill mining district on the three large pistols with holsters and Damascus barrels ordered by "Hardy&Kennedy" earlier that year. The Currys write that they received these "most magnificent" firearms "ever exhibited" on the Pacific Coast and describe them as the best goods they have ever seen. Next, the authors mention the quickest and safest way for transporting expensive goods to gold mining towns and suggest using Wells Fargo Co. Express to deliver the pistols to Forest Hill. The chief provider of express shipping services from California to various mining towns, Wells Fargo Co. actively employed messengers, armed with pistols and guns, to protect their parcels against the increasing numbers of robbers. This is likely the reason the Wells Fargo Co. Express representatives, according to the authors, were interested in purchasing the "one or two pairs" of these large pistols that had already been bought by their agent, "Hardy&Kennedy." Notifying William and Samuel that they turned down Wells Fargo's offer, the authors emphasize the express company's extremely high assessment of the pistols. Near the close of the letter, the Currys proceed to advertise their newly received laminate steel and the "best" English guns (ranging in price from \$20 to \$32.50) in California at their store on 87 Battery Street.

The letter features a period note by Andrew D. Marshall, a bookkeeper or office manager of "C. Curry Guns and Fancy Goods" notifying the customers that he misdirected the original letter and providing updates on the shipment status of the pistols.

Overall, a historically interesting letter by the owner of a pioneer San Francisco gun shop, mentioning the most popular way of transporting expensive goods

from San Francisco to the Forest Hill mining district and talking about "Hardy&Kennedy's" recent order of the "three most magnificent" large pistols "ever exhibited" on the Pacific Coast.

The text of the letter (original spelling and punctuation preserved):

"I want to inform you that I have received the large pistols you ordered: according to your orders, I have had Mr. McLean of Wells Fargo Co. Express to examine them, he, with the rest of the Company, thinks very well of them, that they are the most magnificent arms for "express purposes" ever exhibited on this coast. They wanted to purchase one or two pair of them and I informed them that they were already engaged but did not give the names of who ordered them. I have only received three pairs but Charles Curry says the other pair will be as soon as possible. I am getting Holsters made for them after your order I will forward them to you tomorrow by Wells Fargo Co. Express. I think they are the best goods I have ever seen. The Barrels are stubb [sic!] Damascus twist of the finest quality and calculated to stand a very heavy air charge, after you receive them I hope you will inform me what you think of them and if you wish any more. and if so let me know, as our Friend Charles Curry intends returning in the spring. If you have any orders I should have him to superintend the manufacturer himself. I have also received a lot of English guns yesterday ranging in price from 20\$ to 32.5\$. a very clean article - and a lot of fine laminate steel, ranging in price from 40\$ to 80 and some as high as 100\$ and 250\$ - in fact we have the best quality of English guns ever exhibited on this coast and treble the quantity of any gun housed in California. I will send you a bill of the Pistols with the goods. Thankful for past favors and helping for a continuous of you patronage."

The text of the period note (original spelling and punctuation preserved):

"The above letter is a copy of one Mr. W. Curry wrote you the above date 27th, but which I misdirected. The Pistols were shipped this day through Wells Fargo Co. Express, hoping they will go safe to hand and give satisfaction."

#20

CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO
TRADE SEAMEN
WOMEN AT WORK

\$ 950

[Cattle, J.?.] **Original Autograph Letter** Signed by a Mate on the **San Francisco Trade Brig "Ida D. Rogers,"** Describing the Ship's **Recent Trade Voyage to Costa Rica,** His Salary, a Spaniard Sailor on the Brig "Who did not Know the Bow from the Stern of a Vessel," **Quick Growth of San Francisco,** Favorable Conditions for Doctors, His Private Life, **Views on Politics and Disapproval of Women Going to Work;** the Letter Mentions **American President Andrew Johnson,** Politician Francis Preston Blair Sr., &c. San Francisco: **14 July 1867.**

Quarto (ca. 25x20 cm). 4 pp. Brown ink on lined watermarked wove paper. Fold marks, a couple of minor stains, but overall a very good letter, written in a legible hand.

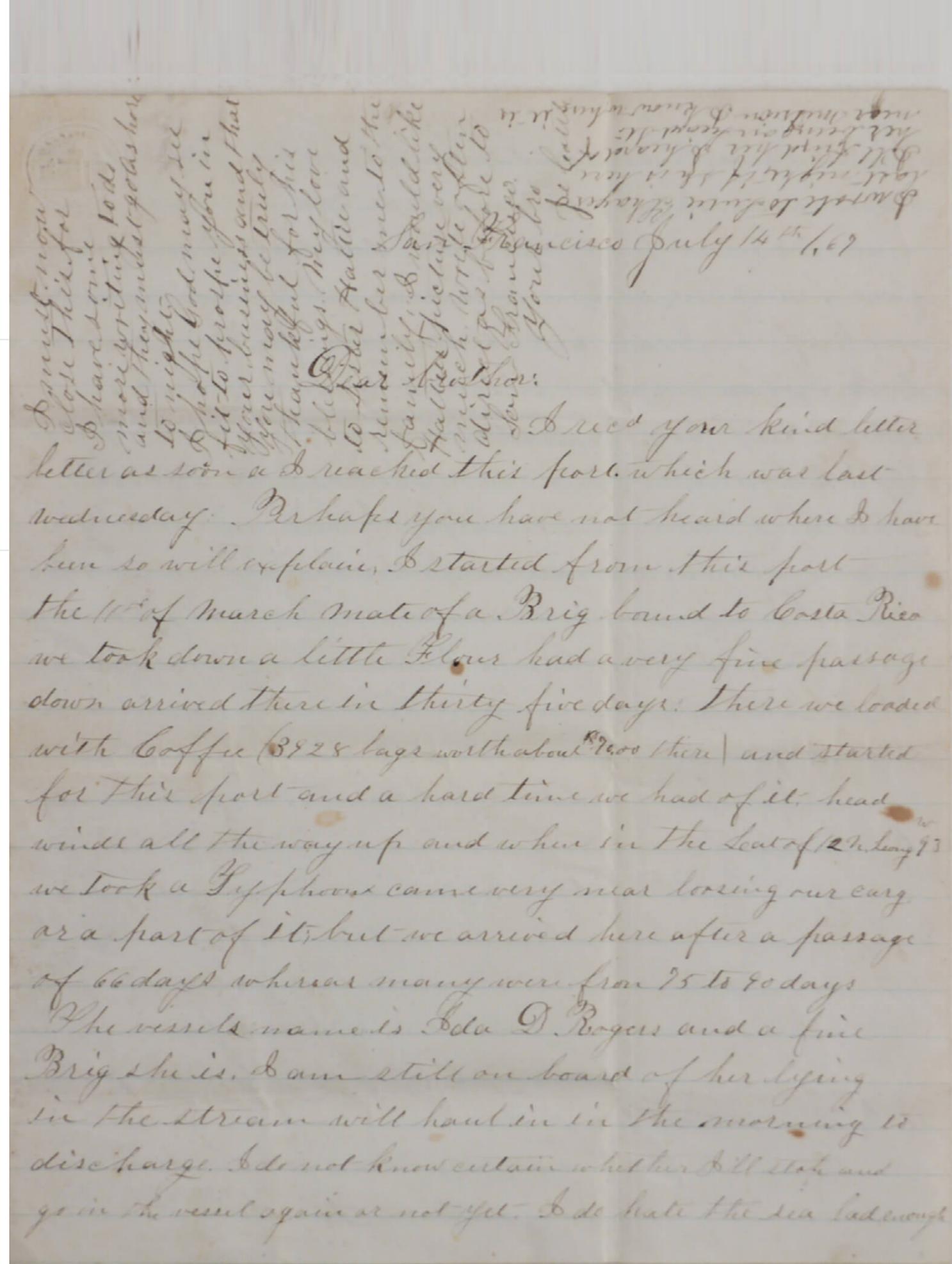
A vivid early San Francisco letter, illustrating life, work conditions, as well as views on political and gender issues of a California trade seaman in the 1860s. Addressing his brother, the author describes his recent trade voyage to Costa Rica on a San Francisco brig "Ida D. Rogers," mentioning his salary, high cost of living and hard work conditions on board the brig, which lacked qualified staff. He encourages his brother to come to San Francisco, adding that life is good there for doctors and apothecaries. The latter part of the letter contains interesting notes on "Abbie," his girlfriend and partner for the last eight years, whom he considers "one of the best girls that ever walked," but still can't marry, since he doesn't "have money enough to buy a second shirt for her to put on." On the last page, the author discusses his acquaintance Andrew and his wife Margaret, who "has had work to get a living." He disapproves of this decision and condemns Andrew, who "ought not to stay at home 'till all his money was gone and then let her suffer."

Overall an interesting extensive content-rich original San Francisco seaman's letter. Brig "Ida D. Rogers," 199 tons, Captain Lemman, was built in 1856 in Essex (CT), and owned in San Francisco. In December 1869, while in Coos Bay (OR), the brig struck a bar, sprung a leak and was lost, but all crew members survived (Disaster// The San Francisco Examiner. 27 December 1869, p. 3).

Excerpts from the letter:

"Dear brother, I recd. your kind letter as soon as I reached this port, which was last Wednesday. Perhaps you have not heard where I have been, so will explain. I started from this port the 11th of March, mate of a Brig bound to Costa Rica. We took down a little flour, had a very fine passage down, arrived there in thirty-five days. There we loaded with coffee (3928 bags worth about \$70.00 there) and started for this port and a hard time we had of it. Head winds all the way up and when in the Lat. of 12 N. long. 93 W. we took a typhoon & came very near loosing our cargo or a part of it, but we arrived here after a passage of 66 days whereas many were from 75 to 90 days. The vessel's name is Ida D. Rogers and a fine Brig she is. I am still on board of her lying in the stream, will haul in in the morning to discharge."

>>



She would be my wife very soon, but I
 cannot marry a girl and not have money
 enough to buy a second shirt for her to put on
 as some do: if I cannot make her happy
 I'll not make her unhappy. By the way what
 do you think of Margaret and Andrew? They write
 me that she has had work to get a living. I do not
 know what to say about it. If Andrew had left her
 when he came home I would not blame him
 but as he did not he ought not to stay at home
 'til all his money was gone and then let her suffer.
 I always had a high opinion of him, he always
 behaved like a man, but the trouble is he lacks
 energy, he can't drive ahead, I do not know whether
 a man is responsible if God has not seen fit
 to give him an organ of that kind, but bumps
 or no bumps I believe if a man of a family has
 his health he ought to support them. I suppose
 her actions have discouraged him and I do not much
 wonder if I have a wife and go a voyage to sea and
 come home after two years find her just ready
 to leave out to sea square away and run for the
 next few years so far that she will not find
 me and risk it. I'll take my quarters in another
 part of the globe. Wouldn't you?

I do not know certain whether I'll stop and go in the
 vessel again or not yet. I do hate the sea bad enough.
 This voyage I have had a hard time, we failed to get a
 second mate and coming up I had one sailor man and
 again Sparyard [sic!] who did not know the bow from
 the stern of a vessel, so I had hard work of it. The Capt.
 had it hard too, for he had to take his own watch. It
 cut both of us down some. My pay is fifty dollars per
 month gold coin, which would be equal to eighty ashore
 here, for board and room rent is high. I have learned by
 experience that a man cannot what he would like to do.
 I wish you could come out here and get into some good
 business, but it takes a long time for one to get started if
 one has a little money. This is the place for him to use it.
 I don't know how your medicine would work here, but am
 inclined to think it work well. Many Dr. get rich and
 do no cures either. I think you would like living here
 very much. The weather is neither hot or cold, but very
 comfortable. San Francisco City grows very fast while I
 have been away, they have put up many large buildings
 and made many improvements. Of course, it will not do
 for me to advise you to come out here for I do not know
 how you would make it, a man cannot tell til he tries it.
 I suppose you remember William Mayhew that went to
 school to [McGonegal?]? He has a Apothecary shop
 here, has done first rate. He inquires about you when I
 see him. I cannot write about political matters, for I have
 not seen but one paper since we came in, but at any rate
 the Johnson and Jeffite's do not prosper here. I think
 Frank Blair showed out their true character. Wherever I
 go I notice that those that speak in favor of Jeff are some
 miserable drunken good for nothing wretches, not fit to
 be among human beings, verily I believe they will have
 their reward. <...>

Abbie and I get along as well as any two ever did. She
 is one of the best girls that ever walked. Of course you
 will say I think so for love is blind, but I know I am no the
 only one that thinks so. <...> I have been with her for
 the last eight years, and I think much more of her now
 than then, and if I were in a proper condition, she would
 be my wife very soon, but I cannot marry a girl and not
 have money enough to buy a second shirt for her to put
 on as some do. If I cannot make her happy, I'll not make
 her unhappy.

By the way, what do you think of Margaret and Andrew?
 They trite me that he has had work to get a living. I do
 not know what to say about it. If Andrew had left her
 when he came home I would not blame him, but as he
 did not, he ought not to stay at home 'til all his money
 was gone and then let her suffer. I always had a high
 opinion of him, he always behaved like a man, but the
 trouble is he lacks energy, he can't drive ahead. <...> I
 believe if a man of a family has his health, he ought to
 support them. I suppose her actions have discouraged
 him...".

#21

CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO BAY 4TH OF JULY PARADE

\$ 1 500

Collection of Three Original Watercolours, Showing the Floats and Participants of the a 1907 Fourth of July Parade – Most Likely, a First Such Parade Held in South San Francisco. Ca. 1907.

Three original loose watercolours ca. 26x43,5 cm (10x17 in), ca. 25,5x41 cm (10x16 in) and ca. 22,5x39,5 cm (8 ¾ x 15 ½ in). Ink and watercolour on laid paper, mounted on period card. All unsigned. Paper with a couple of minor creases, but overall a very good collection of attractive watercolours.

Attractive collection of three large original watercolours, depicting floats and participants of a Fourth of July parade, most likely the first one which was held in South San Francisco in 1907. This was the first such parade held in the city, which was to be incorporated in September 1908. An unknown artist depicted three floats, representing the "Goddess of Liberty" and her attendants, members of the "San Mateo Co. Druids," and a float which can be defined as "Valhalla Vikings" and which most likely belonged to one of the local fraternal organizations. The drawings are made in a combination of ink and watercolour technique and vividly convey the atmosphere of the parade. Overall a nice watercolour collection depicting the first Fourth of July parade in South San Francisco in 1907. More detailed descriptions of the floats can be found below in the excerpts from contemporary newspapers reporting on the parade.

"Fourth of July will be celebrated at South San Francisco this year as it never has been before. The first big rousing demonstration commemorating the birth of the nation to be observed in this end of San Mateo County will take place here this year. With the co-operation of the citizens, all of the fraternal organizations and the efforts of the board of trade it is expected that the event will be honored in grand style. <...> The celebration will commence with a parade at 9:30 a.m. through the main streets of the town, after which the people will go to the picnic grounds, where the games and festivities will be held. In the parade will be many floats, as the rivalry between the fraternal organizations throughout the county is great and each will strive to outshine its rival in the uniqueness and elaborateness of floats. <...> The local fraternal organizations interested are: Tippecanoe tribe of Redmen, South City aerie of Eagles, Progress camp of Woodmen of the World, White Eagle and Golden Eagle groves of Druids, South San Francisco grove of the same organization, South San Francisco butchers' No. 17, Vella Flor circle No. 368, Women of Woodcraft and Wahnita council, Daughters of Pocahontas." (South San Francisco will Celebrate Fourth// The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, California), 24 June 1907, p. 8).

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"<...> Miss Emma Guerra, still in her teens and a leader of her set here, has been selected as the Goddess of Liberty. Aiding her, as maids of honor, will be Miss Hanna Cohen and Miss Alice Ringue, who polled the next largest number of votes. These three will play a leading role in the celebration. In the parade they will occupy the throne on the first float, which will be known as the Ship of the State, gowned in white; the Goddess of Liberty and her two maids of honor will ride on the van will 46 school children dressed to represent the different states of the union. Following the parade the young women will conduct the affairs at the various concessions controlled by the South San Francisco board of trade..." (Miss Emma Guerra Chosen Goddess of Liberty// The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, California), 1 July 1907, p. 10).

"Hurrah for South City! <...> The first Fourth of July celebration to be held in South San Francisco last Thursday proved to be a grand success. <...> South City did itself honor in its first attempt to celebrate the glorious Fourth, and it is the consensus of opinion that the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence shall be appropriately observed in South City every year hereafter. <...> The parade, which started about 10 a.m. from the intersection of San Bruno and Grand Avenues, was headed by Grand Marshal Major E.W. Langenbach <...>

Following the Grand Marshal and Aids, the procession was as follows: The South San Francisco Band; lodges of Redmen, bedecked in gaudy costumes, accompanied with a suitable float; Pocahontas lodges, with a float that deserves special mention; lodge of Eagles, with an appropriate float; the Ship of State, "America," containing the Goddess of Liberty, Miss Emma Guerra, with several beautiful young girls representing the several States of the Union, followed by young girls on foot; Woodmen of the World lodges, with a representative float containing earnest members sawing and splitting logs; Women of Woodcraft, with a float labeled "We Protect the Home"; lodges of Druids, well represented;

Druidess lodges, with a beautiful float which received the plaudits of the crowds on the sidewalks; Mission Parlor Drum Corps <...>; float of Women's Pioneer Club of San Bruno, which attracted considerable attention and won first prize for the best float; citizens of San Bruno in automobiles and carriages..." (Celebration of Fourth in South City a Grand Success// The Enterprise and the South San Francisco Journal (South San Francisco, California), 6 July 1907, p. 1).



#22

CALIFORNIA
TEJON RANCH

\$ 3 750

Pogson, Robert Miller (1846 or 1847-1923), Superintendent of Tejon Ranch.

Collection of Twenty-One Original Autograph Letters and Three Original Envelopes, Addressed to a Los Angeles Socialite Hortense E.M. Sacriste, whom Pogson Wished to Marry; the Letters Mostly Discuss Pogson's Feelings and Relations with Miss Sacriste, but also Describe Pogson's **Life and Work on the Tejon Ranch** and Mention **General E.F. Beale, Kern County Pioneer J.V. Rosemyre** and a Ranch Manager "Jacky Forbes".

Twenty-one original autograph letters signed. Tejon Ranch or Bakersfield, 11 April 1882 – 7 July 1883 (with five undated letters). Eleven Octavo (ca. 20x12,5 cm or 8x5 in) and ten Quarto (ca. 24,5x19 or 9 ½ x 7 ½ in) letters. Brown ink on laid or lined wove paper (several leaves with watermarks); the letters are from one to six pages long; in all ca. 64 pp. Two letters written on paper with printed letterheads "Tejon Ranch, R.M. Robson, Manager" and "T.E. Rowan, Real Estate and Commission Agent, <...> Office 12 Spring St., Temple Block." With three original envelopes addressed to "Miss Hortense Sacriste," all with postal ink stamps, and two – with glued-on postage stamps. Fold marks, three leaves with small tears on extremities, one blank leaf – with a minor loss of a lower corner, one envelope with the right upper corner previously cut off, but overall a very good collection of original letters, written in a legible hand.

An extensive collection of original private letters written by Robert Miller Pogson, then the general manager of the Tejon Ranch, Kern County, Southern California. The ranch is one of the largest private landholdings in the state, established in 1855-1866 by famous military officer and influential California figure, General Edward Fitzgerald Beale (1822-1893) (on the basis of the 1843 Mexican land grant) and still flourishing today.

Born in England, Robert Pogson immigrated to California and for 24 years (ca. 1877-1901) worked as the general manager of the Tejon Ranch, moving to Los Angeles after his retirement (Aged Rancher Dies// The Los Angeles Times, 23 December 1923, p. 1). The letters date back to Pogson's early years on the ranch and document his unsuccessful attempt to marry a Los Angeles socialite Hortense E.M. Sacriste (1857-1935). A daughter of a descendant of a French aristocratic family, she was born in North Carolina and moved to Los Angeles in 1873. Later she was educated at the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Catholic school in Philadelphia (see more: Mrs. Stephen M. White// The Washington Sketch Book Supplement. Washington, 1896, pp. 5-7). Ms. Sacriste apparently met Pogson during a visit to the Tejon Ranch, which started their correspondence. Despite Pogson's passionate and sometimes desperate letters, on June 5, 1883, Hortense married Stephen Mallory White (1853-1901), future District Attorney for Los Angeles County (1883-84) and US Senator from California (1893-99).

>>

R. M. POGSON,
Manager.P. O. ADDRESS,
Bakersfield, Cal.

TEJON RANCH.

Tejon, Cal., July 7th 1883

Dear Hortense

I owe you an apology for so long deferring answering your last letter but have been so busy with Roderos & Co; and then I can imagine people in your State do not care to be troubled with mundane matters, for a time anyway your three or four letters that I possessed I have destroyed, your photo if you do not object I would like to keep as a memento of friendship: if however this is not agreeable to you I will return it Hoping you are well & with kind regards I best wishes to yourself & Mrs White

I remain

Yours Truly
R.M. Pogson

T. E. ROWAN
 Real Estate and Commission Agent.
 — AGENT FOR —
 State Investment and Insurance Co.
 OF SAN FRANCISCO.
 OFFICE, 12 SPRING ST., TEMPLE BLOCK,

LOS ANGELES, CAL. Monday, Nov. 1882.

My dear Hortense

What was the cloud that arose last night I cannot leave without trying to remove it, as it would make me miserable. Shall you be at home this afternoon, or when? as I would like to see you shall not leave before Thursday and will call at any time you say, except Tuesday evening when I shall be engaged. Yours Truly
 R. M. Pogson

Please answer and say this afternoon if possible.

The contents of most of the letters is focused of Pogson's feelings for Ms. Sacriste, and hopes for their engagement and marriage; there are also memories of their rare meetings in Los Angeles and mentions of some of Pogson's rivals (Reginaldo F. del Valle and S.M. White). Nevertheless, the letters also contain Pogson's reports of the latest events at the Tejon Ranch (the beginning of sheep shearing, rodeos, freshets, droughts, sand storms, &c.). The author also talks about nearby La Liebre and Pampa ranches (the former is a part of the modern-day Tejon Ranch) and mentions General Edward Beale, James Vineyard Rosemyre (a Kern County pioneer, ca. 1832-1907) and ranch worker "Jacky Forbes." Overall an interesting original source on the history of the Tejon Ranch and Los Angeles society life in the early 1880s.

Excerpts from the letters:

[N.d.], Bakersfield, Sunday 9 pm:

"<...> Last week I was over on the Liebre and only got home on Friday p.m. This morning myself & Mr. Forbes drove over to "Pampa" (a station on S.P.R.R. on north end of Ranch) where we commence shearing sheep tomorrow morning. Got there at 4.30 and was just in time to catch a freight train and come down here and return by the 11 o'clock train tonight..."

Tejon Ranch, 11 April 1882:

"<...> It was raining awfully when I got back to Pampa Sunday, there is no town there only the section mans house. I found "Jacky" (Mr. Forbes) trying to coil his lengthy frame into a 5x4 tent, dodging the rain but having to keep his boots on to avoid getting his feet wet. That was one of the times in which I rejoice in my short stature and did not envy Jacky his extra inches. Smoked and growled until morning, but it would have taken more than a drenching to spoil my temper that night <...>"

Tejon Ranch, 6 June 1882:

"<...> We enjoy the same continued round of pleasure that the ranch always affords. Mr. Rosemeyer is now up at Santa Clara to bring his children home from the Convent. Jacky Forbes has been somewhat sick, the usual thing with all strangers here the first summer. Your humble servant is still in his usual state of disgustingly good health, altho he does not like Jacky get a weekly letter from somebody to brighten his dull monotony. <...> Had a letter from Genl. Beale yesterday saying he was coming out and asking me if I could spare the time to go down to L.A. with him. Busy as I shall be after the 15th of this month (when we commence Rodeos), I am afraid business will have to suffer as I sorely long for a glimpse of you, of course only to strengthen our Platonic affection <...>"

Tejon Ranch, 1 July 1882: "<...> There had been a heavy thunder storm in mountains all the fore noon and about 3 p.m. the results arrive at house in shape of quite a heavy freshet. It seemed to consist more of mud & rocks than anything else and for about half an hour made things "humm" (more slang). Results are: mud knee deep, a cutting off our water supply (for the next few days), general levelling of fences and ruin of crops, one woman (Indian) drowned, and several badly injured, horses rolled over & killed & other minor incidents. What I regret most of all is that all the trout I put in creek last year are now miles away in the plains. I got several of the speckled beauties that were washed on the banks, shed a tear or two over their hard fate & inconsistently handed them over to the Mongolians & enjoyed them for dinner. <...> Our hot weather has come at last, and we are in the state of "summer." <...>"

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Tejon Ranch, 19 July 1882:

"<...> I can't say my mountain trip was particularly jolly, rather too rough for that, but on the whole I enjoyed it in a quiet sort of way. The weather was cool & pleasant and then it is a relief to get away from these hot burning plains at this time of the year. Mr. Forbes tells me most of the times the thermo' has been over 100° in the shade and "Jacky" is rather demoralized, thereby it generally takes strangers a year before they can stand our summers, that is if they have to be exposed much. Next month I intend to let him off for a couple of weeks, I suppose the kind offices of "The Fair Jesse" will do him more good than anything. My cattle Major Domo also wants a holiday <...> I would give almost anything for a roll in the breakers at Santa Monica. <...>"

Tejon Ranch, 31 July 1882:

"Genl. Beale & son are now here for more than a week past. They leave for S.F. tomorrow and I shall have to go there I suppose about the middle of August to see the Genl. before he goes East. <...> Jacky Forbes comes down to L.A. tomorrow night to attend to some business for me."

Tejon Ranch, 12 January 1883: "

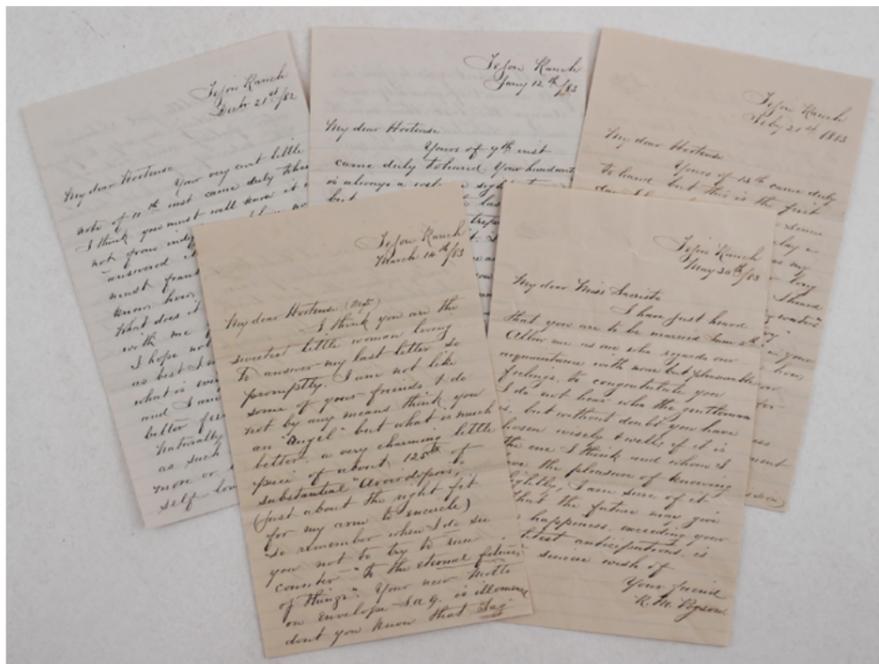
<...> I have sorely needed the sunshine your letters always bring me, the last month or two, as business problems are very perplexing just now on account of the dry season. I see by the papers you had a splendid rain at New Year; we did not get a drop but in lieu thereof a most frightful sand storm. Everything round here is as brown as in July and the whole country is a desert. And yet I once had the selfishness to try & persuade you to leave your bright L.A. home & share mine here. <...>"

Tejon Ranch, 14 March 1883:

"Here in Kern Co, we are in a very slough [...] of despond, surely the "Immortals" have forsaken us. I wander about like a lost spirit & spend most of my time on the mountain trips praying to the Rain God <...>"

Tejon Ranch, 30 May 1883:

"My dear Miss Sacristo, I have just heard that you are to be married June 5th. Allow me as one who regards our acquaintance with none but pleasurable feelings, to congratulate you <...> That the future may give you happiness, exceeding your brightest anticipations, is the sincere wish of your friend, R.M. Pogson."



#23

CALIFORNIA
YUBA COUNTY REPUBLICANS

\$ 1250

Adkison, Lewis D. (1816-1903). **Original Autograph Letter** Signed by the Owner of the **General Store in Oak Valley** Lewis D. Adkison, Addressed to George R. Bearss from his Hometown of **Peru (IN)**, Talking about the **Latest News from the Oak Valley, His Sympathies to the Republican Party**, and the **Results of the California General Election and the US Presidential Election of 1856**. Oak Valley [Yuba Co.]: **14 November 1856**.

Quarto (ca. 24,5x19,5 cm). 2 pp. Brown ink on bluish laid paper. Fold marks, but overall a very good letter, written in a legible hand.

Historically interesting original letter, containing an early reference to the Republicans in California. The author, Lewis D. Adkison, originally from Peru (Miami Co., IN), spent over twelve years in the Yuba county, at first running a general store in Oak Valley and later serving as a county sheriff. In the letter to George R. Bearss (1834 – ca. 1860), a son of his former employer from Peru (IN) Daniel Robert Bearss (1809-1884), Adkison conveys the latest news from the Oak Valley and discusses California politics. He talks about the elections to the California State Senate (which took place just a week earlier, on November 4, 1856), the loss of Democrat candidates, including a former representative of the Yuba County Dr. Charles E. Lippincott (1825-1887), and mentions his betting on the result of the 1856 US presidential election, favouring the Republican candidate John C. Fremont over the Know-Nothing candidate Millard Fillmore. The General Election on November 4, 1856 was the first California election in which Republicans appeared on the ballot, winning a total of two State Senate seats and eleven Assembly seats. Overall an interesting early letter on the history of Republicans in California.

"In 1855 he disposed of his mercantile interests in Peru and emigrating to California opened a general store at Oak Valley, in the mines, in 1856, and while there he attached himself to the order of Freemasons. On the organization of the Republican party in that year he was nominated without his consent for representative. He was subsequently elected supervisor of Yuba county, that state, an office similar to that of county commissioner in Indiana, and after serving a year and a half was chosen sheriff, the duties of which office he discharged for about four years. In 1868 he returned to Indiana <...> In 1882 [Adkison] was elected state senator from the counties of Miami and Howard. <...> In politics he was originally a Whig, but since the organization of the Republican party he has been an ardent supporter of its principles" (Biographical and Genealogical History of Cass, Miami, Howard and Tipton Counties, Indiana. Vol. 1. Chicago, 1898, pp. 305-306; >>>)

Oak Valley Nov 14 1856
Mr George R. Bearss
Sir
I happened
to have a leisure moment to spare
& recollecting that you are a good
letter writer I thought I would occupy
my leisure writing to you not so much
in the expectation of edifying you as
from a more selfish desire of hearing
from you the full particulars of what is
going on at home
Now so far as matters
here is concerned there is nothing new
happening, the only change that has taken
place in our Valley is the addition of
our blacksmith shop I am selling as
many goods as I want to considering
the scarcity of money Will is working
for John & Omar they have bought goods
for Brandy city & will be passing them
up next week Old David Brown
has sold out & left Tell Ben Johnson
that Tom Kelley left him about two months
ago to go down to his Ranch since
which time he has not been heard of

Tell your father that I am Mr. & Tom

It is well understood that his property will pay his debts so that Bill need not feel afraid of losing what Kelly owed him if he never comes back. Politically this state is Democratic, Know-nothingism is dead in this state & Republicanism is bound to triumph next time. McQuade, Doct. Lippincott & Mike Gray all these Democrats, were defeated by the Republicans voting over for their opponents. They were Loco Peto Lippincott & Gray had both killed their man & McQuade is a blackguard. They call Oak Valley a ~~an~~ abolition hole that makes us feel bad you know, but they are beat & that will account for their bad government.

I have a few bets on the election upon which I consider I have the deadwood. I have on with J. Gruse for \$30 that Fremont will get more votes than Fillmore & one with [... Failey?] that Fremont will get more states than Fillmore. I won one here that Fillmore would not beat Fremont/15,000 in this state <...>".

How will they do write me soon & tell me all about every thing & every body. My respects to P. Lippincott & all the friends who remain.

E. L. Dickinson

write to me the next time

Excerpts from the letter:

"Mr. George R. Bearss.

Sir, I happened to have a leisure moment to spare & recollecting that you are a good letter writer, I thout [sic!] I would occupy my leasure writing to you not so much in the expectation of edifying you as from a more selfish desire of hearing from you the full particulars of what is going on at Home.

Now so far as matters here is concerned, there is nothing new happening. The only change that has taken place in our Valley is the addition of one blacksmith shop. I am selling as many goods as I want to considering the scarcity of money. Will is working for John & Omar. They have bought goods for Brandy City & will be packing them up next week. Old Dave Brownlee has sold out & left. Tell [Bill ...] that Tom Killey left here about two months ago to go down to his ranch since which time he has not been heard of. It is well understood that his property will pay his debts, so that [Bill?] need not feel afraid of losing what Killey owed him if he never comes back.

Politically this state is Democratic, Know-nothingism is dead in this state & Republicanism is bound to triumph next time. McQuade, Doct. Lippincott & Mike Gray, all these Democrats were defeated by the Republicans voting out for their opponents. <...> Lippincott & Gray had both killed their man & McQuade is a blackgard [sic!]. They call Oak Valley a d... abolition hole. That makes us feel bad you know, but they are beat & that will account for their bad [manner?].

I have a [few?] bets on the election upon which I consider I have the deadwood. I have on with J. Gruse for \$30 that Fremont will get more votes than Fillmore & one with [... Failey?] that Fremont will get more states than Fillmore. I won one here that Fillmore would not beat Fremont/15,000 in this state <...>".

#24

COLORADO PIKE'S PEAK GOLD RUSH

\$ 850

Barker, Leverett N. (1834-1930). **Autograph Letter Signed by the Owner of a Jewellery Store in Eddyville, Iowa, to His Brother in Oriskany Falls, New York, Talking About his New Shop, the Construction of a Railroad Planned to Reach Eddyville, and a Description of the Recent Pike's Peak Gold Rush.** Eddyville [Iowa]: 25 January 1859.

Small Octavo bifolium (ca. 20x12,5 cm). 4 pp. Brown ink on lined laid paper, blind-stamped paper maker's monogram in the left upper corner. Fold marks, a small minor stain, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Interesting letter by a pioneer jeweller of Eddyville (Iowa) and Chillicothe (Missouri), talking about his store in Eddyville, the construction of the railroad which had extended 20 miles away from Eddyville by that time (the line built by "Keokuk, Des Moines & Minnesota Railway Co." will reach Eddyville in May 1861), and mentioning the unfolding Pike's Peak Gold Rush in western Kansas and Nebraska. Written with spelling mistakes and addressed to Barker's brother, who lived in the family town of Oriskany Falls (NY), the letter is an interesting example of pre-Civil War correspondence by an American Midwest pioneer, showing his thoughts on possible participation in a gold rush.

"Leverett N. Barker, Chillicothe's pioneer jeweler <...> came to Chillicothe in 1867 from New York state and was a resident of this city until two years ago <...> He was born at Oriskany Falls, N.Y., May 3, 1864, where he obtained his education and there passed his youth and early manhood, later going to Lockport, N.Y., where he served a six years' apprenticeship in the jewelry business.

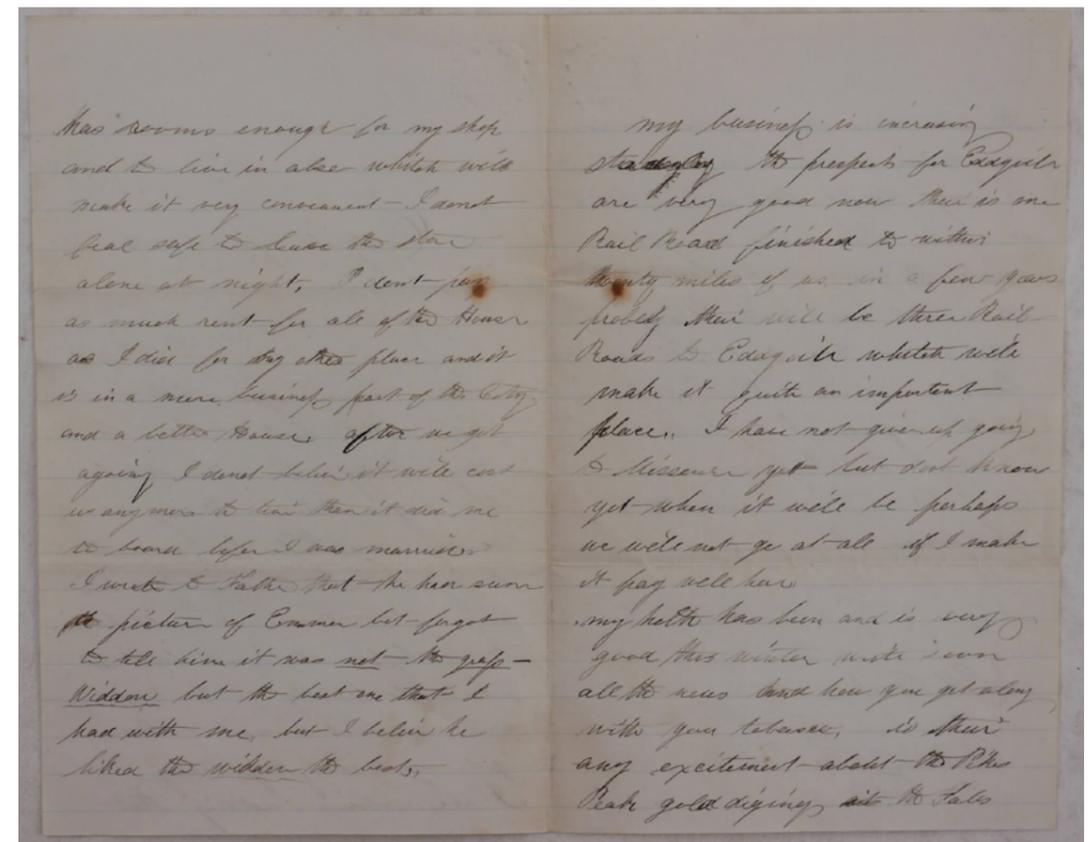
Sometime after completing his apprenticeship, he moved to Eddyville, Ia., where he conducted a business until 1866, going from there to St. Joseph, where he remained a year, then coming to Chillicothe where he engaged in business, continuing in the jewelry business until his health failed.

In 1858 he married Miss Emma C. Gangwer of Pennsylvania <...> Soon after becoming 21 years of age, Mr. Barker joined the Masonic lodge at Lockport, N.Y., and was one of the leading members of the organization after he moved to this city. He was probably the oldest member of the Masonic lodge in America. During his early life here, Mr. Barker served as a member of this city council <...>." (L.N. Barker Dies at Masonic Home// The Chillicothe Constitution Tribune. Chillicothe, Missouri. 2 May 1930, p. 1).

The text of the letter (the spelling is original):

"I should have answered your letter before this but I have been very busey for a few weeks past. You know today is Sunday. My wife has gone to Sunday school and if I write any letter today it will have to be before she comes back. We will probely go to keeping house in about a week. I have got most everything readey. I have rented a building that has rooms enough for my shop and to live in also, whitch will make it very conveanent. I don't feel safe to leave the store alone at night. I don't pay as much rent for all of the house as I did for my other place and it is in a more business part of the City and a better house. After we got agoing I don't believe it will cost us anymore to [live?] that it did me to board before I was married. <...>

My business is increasing steadily. The prespects for Eddyville are very good now. There is one Rail Road finished to within twenty miles of us. In a few years probely their will be three Rail Roads to Eddyville whitch will make it quite important place. I have not given up going to Missouri yet, but don't know yet, when it will be, perhaps we will not go at all if I make it pay well hear. My helth has been and is very good this winter. Write soon all the news and how you got away with your tobacco. Is their any excitement about the Pikes Peak gold diging at the Falls? Their is here and a great many are going. I don't suppose there is any doupt but what there is gold their and enough to make it pay. I have seen men that have been through their and they say the country look just like the Calafornia gold digings. I don't think I shall go at present...".



#25

DAKOTA TERRITORY
DEADWOOD OUTLAW

\$ 1850

West, Isaac E., Attorney at Law (1838-1900) & "Laughing Sam" (Hartman, Samuel S.). **Autograph Letter Signed Regarding the Defense of Dakota Outlaw "Laughing Sam"** (Samuel S. Hartman), and Mentioning the **New Governor of the Dakota Territory William A. Howard**, the First State's Attorney of the Lawrence County A.J. Flanner, and Yankton's Store Owner and Public Figure A.W. Lavender. Yankton, D[akota]. T[erritory]: **25 April 1878.**

Quarto (ca. 27,5x21 cm). 2 pp. Brown ink on watermarked laid paper, West's printed letterhead on top. Ink stamp of "James O. Aplan Library Collection" on verso. Fold marks, but overall a very good letter.

Rare original Wild West letter, giving an insight into the 1878 trial of notorious Deadwood gambler and stagecoach robber Samuel S. Hartman, or "Laughing Sam." The letter was written by Laughing Sam's attorney Isaac E. West and addressed to "My dear Sheriff" – most likely, to the sheriff of Pennington County Frank P. Moulton (1845-1922), who based in Rapid City where Laughing Sam was being detained. Laughing Sam, "a hard case <...> widely known in the [Black Hills]" (Three Omaha Men, while on their Way Home from Deadwood, Corraled and Robbed by Three Road Agents// St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 27 September 1877, p. 2), was a gambler and highway robber, active in and around Deadwood in the late 1870s and once was confronted by the famous Calamity Jane. He was known as a criminal who "moves around town by daylight searching for his victim, and when night comes invariably has two or three captured" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch (St. Louis, Missouri), 13 August 1877, p. 2).

In early 1878 Laughing Sam was arrested for robbery and had a trial in Rapid City. During the trial, he told the jury about "his life's wanderings [which] carried him all over the western States and Territories, from Illinois, Mercer county, the place of his birth, to Mexico, Colorado, Salt Lake and the Buffalo country. He has been engaged in all kinds of business from driving government mules to hunting buffaloes, and from his statement, it has been a hard, laborious one, and from the sweat of his brow has he earned his bread" (All about Laughing Sam// The Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, South Dakota), 8 October 1878, p. 1). Nevertheless, Laughing Sam was found guilty and sentenced to nine years and eight months, which he spent in the Detroit house of correction.

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I. E. WEST,
Room 9,
PENNINGTON'S BLOCK,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Yankton, D. T., April 25th 1878

My Dear Sheriff:

I received a letter from Laughing Sam Saturday - asking if I had seen or heard from you - that he was anxious to see you &c.

What in your opinion ought I to do in his matter? I wish to act fairly and honorably by him - but I am really unable financially to go to Rapid City and incur the expense of Hotel bills &c. during what may be a tedious trial - with little prospect of remuneration - yet I told him I would do so. If he can raise money to pay expenses only - I will gladly keep my promise & defend him to the best of my skill & ability - by the way did you use your warrant under the requisition you had when here?

I wish you would counsel Sam about this matter & let me hear from you soon, as Court is not far off.

Tell Flanner he owes me two letters & that I expect him to either discharge the debt, or go into Bankruptcy - before they repeal the Statute - I have just gotten a job for Elk Horn firm - to file a

Petition in Bankruptcy for them - one partner has left the Terr. which complicates the matter very much. Gov. Howard has assumed the reins. I think him very pleasant - he is old but has a clear head. has appointed me Private Secretary, (which does not interfere with my Law practice) and I remain in the room I have heretofore occupied. Mrs. Lavender has gone East. Cap. rooms at my house - so I keep him straight - by the way he has signed the Pledge - "While yet the lamp holds out to burn" &c.

Very Res Yours
 D. E. West

James O. Aplan
 Library Collection
 No. _____

Isaac E. West was born in Shiloh, N.J. and started his law career in Newbern, N.C. in 1867, where "he acquired the title of judge which he now wears, being elected judge of probate and clerk of the superior court. <...> He resigned in 1877 to come to Dakota and located at Yankton in the practice of law. He served as private secretary to Gov. Pennington and afterwards to Gov. Howard. In 1878 he was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue for North Dakota, having removed to Fargo. When the legislature created the board of railroad commissioners Gov. Ordway appointed Judge West a member and the present board has chosen him secretary. The judge is a member of the staff of Gen. Dennis, commander of the Dakota militia, and one of the most active officers of the G.A.R. <...> The judge is a staunch Republican but thinks better of Cleveland than he ever expected to of any Democrat in that position. He also favors the division of Dakota upon the 46th parallel, and the admission of two states" (The Saint Paul Globe (Saint Paul, Minnesota), 3 April 1886, p. 11).

The letter also mentions the just appointed 6th Governor of the Dakota Territory William A. Howard (in office: 1878-1880), Alonzo Joseph Flanner (1851-1913) - a resident of the Crook City and the first State's Attorney of Dakota's Lawrence County, and Captain A.W. Lavender (1842- after 1905), a grocery shop owner and a long-time resident of Yankton. The verso of the letter bears an ink stamp of the library of a noted South Dakota art and antique dealer and historian James O. Aplan (1931-2018).

The text of the letter:

"My Dear Sheriff,
 I received a letter from Laughing Sam Saturday asking if I had seen or heard from you, that he was anxious to see you &c. What in your opinion ought I to do in his matter? I wish to act fairly and honorably by him, but I am really unable financially to go to Rapid City and incur the expense of hotel bills &c. during what may be a tedious trial, with little prospect of remuneration. Yet I told him I would do so. If he can raise money to pay expenses only, I will gladly keep my promise & defend him to the best of my skill & ability. By the way did you use your warrant under the requisition you had when here? I wish you would counsel Sam about this matter & let me hear from you soon, as Court is not far off.

Tell Flanner he owes me two letters & that I expect him to either discharge the debt or go into bankruptcy before they repeal the Statute. I have just gotten a job for Elk Point firm to file a Petition in bankruptcy for them, one partner has left the Terr. which complicates the matter very much. Gov. Howard has assumed the reins. I think him very pleasant, he is old but has a clear head, has appointed me Private Secretary (which does not interfere with my law practice) and I remain in the room I have heretofore occupied.

Mr. Lavender has gone East. Cap. rooms at my house, so I keep him straight. By the way, he has signed the Pledge "while yet the lamp holds out to burn," &c."

#26

DAKOTA TERRITORY
RANCHING

\$ 950

An Interesting **Original Autograph Letter** Written by a **Pioneer Cowboy of Custer County (Dakota Territory)** Working at the Short-Lived "Union Cattle Co." to "Dear Mother" Back in the East, **He Brags about the Company as the Largest Cattle Outfit (125,000 Head) in the American West**, Urging His Hometown Friend to **Immediately Move to Dakota Territory**, and Talking about One of the **Biggest Roundups Ever Conducted in the State**; Also Delivering the Latest News about His Hard Work at the Newly-Established S&G Ranch (**the Present-Day Town of Dewey**) and Commenting on the **Massive Wave of Migration to the West**. S.&G. Ranch [near Custer City, Dakota Territory], **12 May 1884**.

Octavo Bifolium (ca. 20,5x12,5 cm or 8x5 in). 3 pp. Brown ink on lined wove paper; blind-stamped papermaker's monogram in the left upper corner of the first leaf. Foldmarks, minor stain and tears on the right margins of both leaves affecting a couple of words, but still readable, otherwise a very good letter.

Penned at the height of the Great Dakota Boom and only two years before the Big Die-Up (the disastrous winter of 1886-1887), the letter documents the activities of one of the most prosperous cattle businesses in the American West in the 1880s.

Dakota Territory, soon after its establishment in 1861 and against the backdrop of increased migration to the West, emerged as a center of the range cattle industry. In 1882, when W. Sturgis and G. Goodell founded the Union Cattle Co. in Cheyenne (Wyoming) and located the S&G Ranch in the present-day town of Dewey (Custer County, Dakota Territory), the area became home to one of the most thriving cattle businesses in the American West. "In the flush days of the cattle business the company prospered... and its herd increased to upward of 60,000 head." (Custer County Republican. 26 January 1888. P. 3).

"For many years the business proved prosperous, but then came the years in the 80's when severe storms blotted out half the herds... which meant the financial ruin of most of those then engaged in the business." (The Brattleboro Reformer. 21 November 1913. P. 3)

This private letter to "Dear Mother" was written by a young cowboy who apparently moved to Dakota Territory from the east during the livestock boom of the 1880s. In the text, the author, a pioneer cattleman of Custer County and a worker of the short-lived "Union Cattle Co." describes in detail his life at the S&G Ranch (the present-day town of Dewey) with thirty-two other cowboys and proudly notes: "the company has about 125,000 head of cattle... the largest cattle outfit" in "this part of the country." Expressing his admiration for the American West, the letter writer comments on the massive wave of migration to the west and urges his friend Edie Trout (possibly from Pennsylvania) to rush to this "country for hemarage... full of men that have come for nothing else but this trouble."

>>

S & G Ranch May 12th 1884
Dear Mother
Your very welcome
letter received a few days since.
After going to Cheyenne.
I am about 225 miles north of
Cheyenne. The Ranch is in
Dakota about 3 miles.
Custer City Dakota is our
nearest town it is about 70
miles from the Ranch.
We have bin having very pleas-
ant weather here of late.
I am in very good health
now. We are going to start on
the Round up the 25th of this month.
This Company has about 125,000
Head of Cattle they are about the
largest. I think they are the largest.

Cattle beefed in this part of the country. I am very sorry to hear that you have bin troubled with Rheumatism hope you are all over it before this. I think the best thing that Edie Trout can do is to come west - this is the country for. Hemorage this western country is full of men that have come west for nothing else but that trouble. When do you expect Uncle Rollin to come East.

Has Fannie Winston given up going to school. Is Aunt Ruth going to stay in Fitchburg.

We have about 32 men here at the Ranch I have bin away for about a week with 18 of the men. We just got home today for dinner. You can form some idea what 32 men that are working hard will eat.

In the text, the author also talks about his hard work during one of the biggest spring roundups in Dakota Territory (the roundup gathered over 400,000 head from 20 participating cattle companies), providing notes on his daily regimen ("breakfast...hardly ever later than 5 o'clock"), ration of food (biscuits, killing beef at the roundup), future plans, state of health, etc.

The letter was written only two years before the disastrous winter of 1886-1887 threw the "Union Cattle Co." into bankruptcy, leaving dozens of cowboys without work.

Overall, an interesting private letter documenting both the flourishing cattle industry of the American West and the massive wave of migration to Dakota Territory.

The text of the letter (original spelling and punctuation preserved):

"Your very welcome letter received a few days since after going to Cheyenne.

I am about 225 miles north of Cheyenne. The Ranch is in Dakota about 3 miles. Custer city Dakota is our nearest town it is about 40 miles from the Ranch. We have bin having very pleasant weather here of late. I am in very good health now. We are going to stand on the Round up the 25 of this month. This company has about 125,000 Head of Cattle they are about the largest: I think they are the largest cattle outfit in this part of the country. I am very sorry I hear that you have been troubled with Rheumatism hope you are all over it before this. I think the best thing that Edie Trout can do is to come west. This is the country for hemorage. This western country is full of men that have come for nothing else but that trouble. When do you expect Uncle Rollin to come East? Has Fannie Winston given up going to school. Is Aunt Ruth going to stay in Fitchburg. We have about 32 men here at the Ranch. I have been away for about a week with 18 of the men. We just got home today for dinner. You can form some idea what 32 men that are working hard will eat. We had breakfast this morning at 4 o'clock hardly ever later than 5 o'clock. I am writing this on one end of a long table while the cook is making Biscuit on the other end all of this cattle outfit live very well. When we are on the Round up we kill a Beef - 2 or 3 days. It does not take 50 or 75 men long to eat up a Beef.

Write me at Custer city Dakota to Union Cattle Co.

Hoping this will find all well.

I remain your affct son Winton.

How long is - be gone love you all."

#27

OREGON
FORTY-NINER

\$ 1250

Guyles, R.B. Original Autograph Letter Written by a **Forty-Niner from Cayuga County (NY)**, Talking about **His Voyage to the Oregon Territory Onboard the USS "Massachusetts"** in Winter 1848-May 1849, **Life and Work in the Oregon City, Local Climate**, Prices, Plans to go to the Walla Walla Mines, &c. Oregon City: **25 June 1850.**

Quarto bifolium (ca. 25x19,5 cm). 2 pp. Dark brown ink on bluish wove paper. Addressed and with remnants of a seal on verso of the second leaf. Fold marks, minor holes on folds, paper with mild stains, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Early interesting original letter, describing the experiences of a forty-niner in the Oregon Territory. Written by a young man from Ira, Cayuga County (New York), the letter recounts his voyage to Fort Vancouver from New York onboard the USS "Massachusetts" in the winter-spring of 1848-1849, with calls at Rio de Janeiro, Valparaiso and the Sandwich Islands, and briefly describes the mild climate of the Oregon Territory, the abundance of work and high wages there. The author showed optimism about his chances to earn a "good sum of money" and was planning to work at the "mines in Walawalla" (a very early mention of mining activities near Walla Walla, WA). The author also notes that he has "grown very rapidly since I saw you last" and "if you should see me now you would hardly know me." The letter is addressed to "Mr. Daniel Pierce," who was identified as an Ira farmer Daniel Addison Pierce (1789-1869). The author also mentions "A.B.P." who was Daniel Pierce's son Abram Briggs Pierce (1814-1866), and Abram's baby son Washington Irving Pierce (1850 or 1851 - 1930). Overall a nice early letter by a forty-niner in the Oregon Territory.

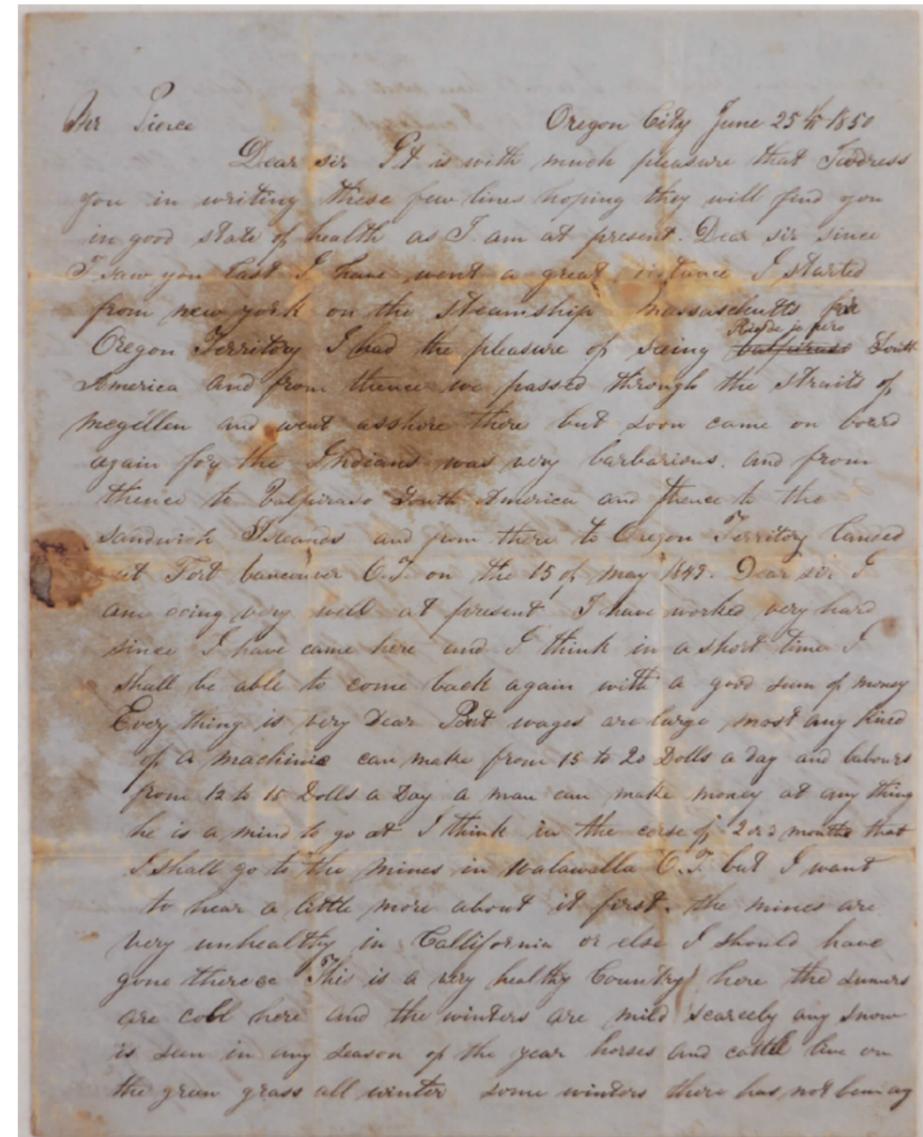
Excerpts from the letter (spelling and syntax are original):

"Dear Sir, <...> since I saw you last, I have went a great distance. I started from New York on the steamship Massachusutts for Oregon Territory. I had the pleasure of seeing Rio de Jenero South America and from thence we passed through the Straits of Magellen and went ashore there but soon came on board again for the Indians was very barbarious. And from thence to Valpiraso South America and thence to the Sandwich Island and from there to Oregon Territory, landed at Fort Vancouver O.T. on the 15th of May 1849.

Dear Sir I am doing very well at present. I have worked very hard since I have come here and I think in a short time I shall be able to come back again with a good sum of money. Every thing is very dear, but wages are large, most any kind of a [machine?] can make from 15 to 20 dolls a day, and labours from 12 to 15 dolls a day, a man can make money at any thing he is a mind to go at. I think in the corse of 2 or 3 months that I shall go to the mines in Walawalla O.T., but I want to hear a little more about it first. The mines are very unhealthy in Callifornia or else I should have gone there &c. This is a very healthy country here, the sumers are cold here and the winters are mild, scarcely any snow is seen in any season of the year. Horses and cattle live on the green grass all winter, some winters there has not been any snow seen.

Dear Sir, I would have wrote to you before but this is the first opportunity that I could get. I should have wrote to my mother but I did not know where to send a letter to her. Dear Sir if you could find out where she is you would do me a kindness if you would send a few lines to her concerning me and tell her I am doing very well and that if I knowed where she was I should send her some money. Tell her to write to me as soon as she can. Give my tenderst love to her and tell her that as soon as I get a handsome of money I shall come home and I think that it won't be long before I shall start and I hope with all my heart that when I come back that I may see all the old buildings standing as they where before I left and that I shall find you all alive and doing well.

Hardly a knight passes by but what I think of you all and what pleasure I had when I was there. Sometimes I say to myself I wonder if I shall ever see A.B.P. son wich he called Washington. I have grown very rappidly since I saw you last. I think that if you should see me now you would hardly know me, but if so I hope I shall have the pleasure of inderducing myself to you <...>".



#28

OREGON
PIONEERS

\$ 950

[McLean, Margaret Rebecca, née Davidson] (1835-1925). **Original Autograph Letter** Signed by an Oregon Pioneer **Margaret McLean**, Talking about the Leaders of the **United Presbyterian Church of Oregon**, Her Family's Upcoming **Wagon Trip to the Oregon Coast**, Where They Planned to Have "**Plenty of Fresh Oysters [sic!] and Big Fish in Abundance**," a School Teacher in Eugene - a "**Young Lady**" Who Gets Paid "**Forty Dollars a Month in Gold**," the Author's Relatives, Including William who "**was out Fighting Indians**," Her Love to **Oregon** which is "**One of the Best Fruit Countrys [sic!] in the World**," &c. Eugene City, Oregon: **18 June 1866**.

Two Octavo bifoliums (ca. 19,5x11,5 cm). 8 pp. Brown ink on creamy lined wove paper. With the original envelope, addressed to "Mrs. S.A. Davis, Pittsburg, Carroll County, Indiana," with a cancelled postage stamp. Fold marks, one page with a minor tear in the right lower corner, the envelope taped on the lower margin, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Historically interesting extensive original letter by female Oregon pioneer, Margaret Rebecca McLean. Originally from Pittsburg, Indiana, she "came to Oregon in 1853 with the immigrant train which was lost for several months in crossing the mountains and was rescued by friends here who sent help to the settlers. She has lived in various parts of Lane county, including Pleasant Hill and Walterville, but has made her home in Eugene for many years" (Birthday Celebrated Sunday// The Eugene Grand, 4 November 1922, p. 14). In 1854, Margaret married another Oregon pioneer Joseph McLean (1822-1894), who came to Oregon from Ohio in 1850 and became the first settler at Camp Creek (Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon. Portland: A.G. Walling, 1884, p. 468). Margaret McLean led active social life, and several articles in Eugene newspapers mention her. In May 1911, during a public reception at Hotel Osburn,

she gave a short speech, "narrating incidents of the Indian uprising and of the town's people seeking refuge at the "Red Top" hotel" (Morning Register (Eugene, Oregon), 21 May 1911, p. 13).

In the letter, addressed to her cousin in Pittsburg, Margaret Mclean talks about the troubles of the United Presbyterian Church of Oregon, and mentions four of its leaders - Samuel G. Irvine, Thomas S. Kendall, Stephen G. Gager and J.M. Dick (the church was organized by James P. Millar in 1852 and joined the United Presbyterian Church of North American in 1859). There are also interesting notes on the upcoming camping trip in a "waggon" to the Oregon coast, where the family planned to enjoy swimming and "plenty of fresh oysters [sic!] and big fish in abundance". Margaret says that the school in Eugene is good and that the teacher, "a young lady," gets paid "forty dollars a month in gold." The letter contains family news, including a note about her relative "William" who "was out fighting Indians" (possibly during the Snake War, 1864-68). Close to the end of the letter, Margaret expresses her love for Oregon: "Oregon is one of the best fruit countrys in the world and I expect if we ever leave it, we will want to come back right off." Overall an interesting content-rich original letter from a noted female Oregon pioneer.

>>

June 18 1866
Eugene City Oregon
My dear Cousin I received your
letter some time ago and intended
to write you the same week but was
hindred. I have been very busy
sewing. but this day finds me
me alone and with leisure to
write. I was real glad to hear
from you but was disappointed
about the pictures. but I am look-
ing for them now every day I
am thankful for cousin Davids
picture. but I never saw him
and I have saw you. Joseph
is gone from home today and
the children are all at school
except Allie and she is play-
ing with her doll. I have not
received a call this morning
from a Gentleman and his
bride they was married yest.

...along the same way to go a
...talking we talk of going out to
the coast next week on a pleasure
excursion would you like
to come and go with us! we can
plenty of fresh Oysters and big
fish in abundance Charley and
Armillda are going too if we do
a lot of others. it is considered
healthy to stay out there a while
and bathe in the salt water
if we go we will be gone about
two weeks we will go in waggon
and camp out in a tent it will
take a little over three days
to go providing we go I will
write you about I can about
it we have had more rain this
season than
since the
I will

Eugene City Oregon
My dear Cousin I received your
letter some time ago and intended
to write you the same week but was
hindered. I have been very busy
sewing but this day finds me
alone and with leisure to
write. I was real glad to hear
from you but was disappointed
about the pictures. but I am look-
ing for them now every day I
am thankful for cousin Davids
picture but I never saw him
and I have saw you. Joseph
is gone from home today and
the children are all at school
except Allie and she is play-
ing with her doll. I have not
heard from you since
morning
and his
arrived yet.

I we have
this
Lady they
a month
thirty school
good money seems to be plenty
crops look very promising
and fruit plenty I believe
Oregon is one of the best fruit
countries in the world and I
expect if we ever leave it we
will want to come back right
off. I know several families
that came the year we did
that went back and came again
in two or three years and
is now on their way back to
stay they think one of them
families is Stephenson

at all left
I blame
on the Agne
healthier
we been to
Albany and Susel Sarah
to you I believe Dr Tate look
considerable older than when
you saw him they have only
got George and their twins
the little girl looks so much
like Dr I believe you would
know her. George is about the
size of his father and he
thinks he is nearly some
how do write immediately
it makes me sick to have
to wait so long how do write
if you dont write often I will



Excerpts from the letter (spelling is original):
"Dear cousin, <...> I have been very busy sewing, but this day finds me alone and with leisure to write. <...> Joseph is gone from home today and the children are all at school except Allie, and she is playing with her doll. <...>

It does seem to me like the United Presbyterian church of Oregon is going to die out entirely. A good many have gone with the old school Presbyterians and some have went to nothing. I feel discouraged with it. The fact is we have only got five preachers in the state and the majority of them verry poor things. I think Mr. Ervine is doing right well, Mr. Kendall is a verry able preacher, but rest of them loses more than they gain. Mr. Gager has quit preaching, so you can see the prospect is gloomey. Mr. Dick is going to the states if he he can sell his property. We ought to have more minesters. John Pattison is going to start back to the states tomorrow (he is Armilda's brother-in-law). He is going to finish his education for the ministry, he is a verry promising young man. I do hope he will be spaire to get through and return again home. He has been superintendent of our Sabbath school this summer. He will be badly missed.

We have been talking some of going back ourselves. I don't know it be yet. Joseph would like to see this mother. If I was real willing I guess we would go. <...> I would not mind going so much but I don't know of anyone going back that was satisfied, but our physician recommends traveling or change of climate for Etta and myself. <...>

We talk of going out to the coast next week on a pleasure excursion. Would you like to come and go with us! We can plenty of fresh oysters [sic!] and big fish in abundance. <..> It is considered verry healthy to stay out there a while and bathe in the salt water. If we go we will be gone about two weeks. We will go in a waggon and camp out in a tent. It will take a little over three days to go. <...> We have had more rain this season that has ever been known since the country has been settled. <...>

Mother is gone to Portland. She went last week on a steamer. She thought she would stay two months or three maybe. It's real lonesome without her. Her health is pretty good, but she is looking old. <...> William has got home, you know he was out fighting Indians. He is a man grown, he twenty one years old this spring. <...> Tuesday, June 19. Since writing this we received a letter from Joseph's folks stating that his youngest sister died in April with bronchit consumption. We feel real bad about it <...>. We may possibly go back in a year or so, but there is nothing certain about it. <...>

We have a verry good school, this summer it is a young lady teaching, they pay her forty dollars a month in gold. She has about thirty schollars. Times are tolerable, good money seems to be plenty, crops look verry promising and fruit plenty. I believe Oregon is one of the best fruit countrys in the world and I expect if we ever leave it, we will want to come back right off. I know several famileys that came the year we did, that went back and came again in two or three years and is now on their way back <...> One of them famileys is Stephenson of Lafayette, Indiana. I don't think I would want to live in that Agne Country again. <...> I think Ohio is much healthier than Indiana...".

#29

OREGON CITY COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

\$ 850

Interesting **Early Autograph Letter** Signed Regarding a **Legal Dispute Likely over a Common Law Marriage in Oregon**, Addressed to "Mr. Harding" (Most Likely a Notable Salem Attorney Benjamin Franklin Harding) and Mentioning **Judge Cyrus Olney**, then the Associate Justice of the **Oregon Supreme Court**. Oregon City, O.T., **4 June 1855**.

Folio (ca. 32x19,5 cm or 12 ¾ x 7 ¾ in). 2 pp. Brown ink on blueish laid paper. Fold marks, paper slightly age-toned, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Interesting original manuscript letter providing an insight into an early legal dispute over the confirmation of what looks like a common law marriage in the Oregon Territory. Written by a resident of Oregon City who concealed his identity under the letters "R.J.G.," the letter is addressed to "Mr. Harding" – most likely, Benjamin Franklin Harding (1823-1899), a notable Oregonian attorney and politician. In 1852, Harding established the "Harding and Grover" law firm in Salem; in 1855-59 served as the Secretary of the Oregon Territory. During the American Civil War, Harding took the office of the US Senator from Oregon (1862-65). In the letter, the author refuses the claim of an unnamed woman to be his alleged wife (apparently, common-law) and declares that he can prove that she is in fact the wife of another man, and that he is going "to defend myself, which I shall do regardless of consequences." In the beginning of the letter, the author notes that the "claimant" lived "at Judge Olney's," who was Cyrus Olney (1815-1870), then the 6th Associate Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court (1853-58). Later Olney served as a delegate to the Oregon Constitutional Convention (1857) and served in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Overall, an interesting early original letter regarding legal disputes over the confirmation of common-law marriages in the Oregon Territory.

The text of the letter:

"Mr. Harding, Sir,

On account of your protestations of friendship I think it strange that you did not apprise me of your agency in depositing in [...?] Office that petition. I have said that I was willing the complainant should marry, that I never would distrust her, that I would not lay a straw in her way. I am informed that she was so informed while living at Judge Olney's. She has been influenced to make application for a Bill, probably on account of such intelligence. Now it is a well founded belief that she would have been married last fall had I not come back when I did, and that too, without a Bill. She has taken the wrong step to succeed. No lawful marriage exists between us, and hence she cannot obtain a Bill from me. I am certainly correct in this view. I consulted the law and lawmakers last fall in reference to this matter, as I was determined to take lawful steps, and found that I was free from her, in every sense of the word. She wishes to marry again, I am willing that she should impose upon some other man if she feels safe in so doing and can find one as foolish as I have been. The complainant is not my wife, but the wife of one Mr. Walker as I shall prove to the court.

>>

Oregon City, O.T.
June, 4th /55.
Mr. Harding, Sir:—
On account of your protestations of friendship I think it strange that you did not apprise me of your agency in depositing in [...?] Office that petition. I have said that I was willing the complainant should marry, that I never would distrust her, that I would not lay a straw in her way. I am informed that she was so informed while living at Judge Olney's. She has been influenced to make application for a Bill, probably on account of such intelligence. Now it is a well founded belief that she would have been married last fall had I not come back when I did, and that too, without a Bill. She has taken the wrong step to succeed. No lawful marriage exists between us, and hence she cannot obtain a Bill from me. I am certainly correct in this view. I consulted the law and lawmakers, last fall in reference to this matter, as I was determined to take lawful steps, and found that I was free from her, in every sense of the word. She wishes to marry again, I am willing that she should impose upon some other man if she feels safe in so doing and can find one as foolish as I have been. The complainant is not my wife, but the wife of one Mr. Walker as I shall prove to the court. Can you not see that she endangers herself, you know the penalty, I presume. I don't wish her

to suffer this penalty, I wish her no harm whatsoever, but if this affair goes to Court, its result may prove fatal to her happiness, to her parents and to yours and family. It has proven an unfortunate affair to us all, and I presume that neither party wishes any more than a quiet future, and freedom from each other. She is not bound to me, nor I to her. It would be for her welfare and happiness, to immediately withdraw (as she has the power of doing) her complaint, and then here or elsewhere apply for a Bill from Mr. Walker, or, if she prefers marry without such application. In either event I shall not disturb her. If she obtains a Bill from Walker she will be safe as there is no public record of our marriage nor were witnesses present at the solemnization. If she does not withdraw her Bill she forces me to defend myself, which I shall do regardless of consequences. If I did not know that we are free from each other by virtue of the law, then I should have long since applied. Take my word for it she cannot obtain a Bill from me, by virtue of her relation to Mr. Walker. But if she blindly persists in her present application, then I must meet her and answer for my horrid (?) abuse! I have suggested this by advice of one of my legal friends, and by virtue of my own feelings toward her. If you have any doubt of the propriety of this course, call and see me and others. If the matter stops here, you must act promptly for additional costs are making. Respectfully, &c.

R. J. G.

Can you not see that she endangers herself, you know the penalty, I presume. I don't wish her to suffer this penalty, I wish her no harm whatsoever, but if this affair goes to court, its result may prove fatal to her happiness, to her parents and to yours and family. It has proven an unfortunate affair to us all, and I presume that neither party wishes any more than a quiet future and freedom from each other. She is not bound to me, nor I to her. It would be for her welfare and happiness to immediately withdraw (as she has the power of doing) her complaint, and then here or elsewhere apply for a Bill from Mr. Walker, or if she prefers marry without such application. In either event I shall not disturb her. If she obtains a Bill from Walker, she will be safe as there is no public record of our marriage nor were witnesses present at the solemnization. If she does not withdraw her Bill, she forces me to defend myself, which I shall do regardless of consequences. If I did not know that we are free from each other by virtue of the law, then I should have long since applied. Take my word for it, she cannot obtain a Bill from me, by virtue of her relation to Mr. Walker.

But if she blindly persists in her present application, then I must meet her and answer for my horrid (?) abuse! I have suggested this by advice of one of my legal friends, and by virtue of my own feelings toward her. If you have any doubt of the propriety of this course, call and see me and others. If the matter stops here, you must act promptly for additional costs are making. Respectfully, R.J.G."

#30

OREGON 1860 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

\$ 1250

O'Meara, James (1825-1903). Historically Significant **Autograph Letter Signed by an Oregonian Democrat Journalist James O'Meara to a Member of the Oregon House of Representatives, Colonel Benjamin Stark, Following the Democrats' Defeat in the 1860 Presidential Election.** Jacksonville, Oregon, 13 November 1860.

Three Octavo bifoliums (ca. 20,5x16 cm or 8 x 6 ¼ in). 12 pp. Brown ink on creamy lined wove paper. First leaves of each bifolium with blind-stamped papermaker's monograms in the left upper corners. With the original envelope ca. 8x14 cm (3 x 5 ½ in), addressed to "Col. Benj. Stark, Portland, Ogn." and with an ink postal stamp. Foldmarks, several minor tears on folds, envelope with a residue of a paper leaf it used to be attached to on verso, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Historically significant extensive original manuscript letter illustrating political struggle and disagreements among the Oregonian Democrats before the Presidential election on November 6, 1860, and their emotions after the Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln had become the President of the United States. The author noted Oregonian Democrat journalist James O'Meara, heavily criticizes William H. Harrar (District Attorney for Oregon in 1853-59 and the mayor of Portland in 1862) and mentions other state politicians, including Andrew J. Thayer (1818-1873), who in November 1860 was elected as a Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Oregon's At-large district. O'Meara also contemplates future actions of Oregonian Democrats, preparations for the 1862 election of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and urges his correspondent to join him in the attempt to move the state capital from Salem.

Overall an interesting content-rich original source on the political history of Oregon in the months leading up to the American Civil War.

James O'Meara, a pioneer California and Oregon journalist, was active in Oregon in the 1850s-1870s, when he edited several Democratic periodicals, including the "Democratic Standard," "Southern Oregon Gazette," the "Oregon State Democrat," "Portland Bulletin," "the Portland News," and others. Since the late 1870s, he worked as a journalist and editor in California and published several articles on the history of the West Coast.

An Oregon landowner and merchant, Benjamin Stark served several terms in Oregon's House of Representatives (1852 and 1860) and fought for the Oregon armed forces during the Rogue River War. In 1861-62, he was a Democratic U.S. Senator from Oregon and participated in the 1864 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

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Jacksonville, Nov. 13th 1860.

Col. Stark:

My dear Sir:

Your favor of Oct. 30th reached me in regular course of mail, but I have deferred a reply to it until present writing for two safe reasons, viz: First, the most pressing campaign and newspaperial duties absorbed almost every moment of my time; second, I had to await transpiring events to induce proper response. Therefore, you will please allege to inexorable engagements and desire to send answer worthy the subject, what else might seem neglect or apathy. And here, let me say, my good Sir, that I am glad a correspondence has opened between us, and it shall not be my fault if it ceases to continue. There is not a soul worth of Corvallis with whom I have exchanged letters or thoughts, politically, since early Spring of this year, and placed as I am at the southernmost extreme of our State, this non-communication has sometimes been damaging in public point of view and irksome personally, although simply the consequence of my



Excerpts from the letter:

"<...> There is not a soul north of Corvallis with whom I have exchanged letters of thoughts, politically, since early spring of this year, and placed as I am at the southernmost extreme of our State, this non-communication has sometimes been damaging in a public point of view and irksome personally, although simply the consequence of my violation. Farrar had been my correspondent at Portland down to the holding of our April State Convention. His failure to build up Multnomah with some flexible strength lost him grace with me, and abruptly I terminated correspondence. <...> I expected him to espouse Douglassism; I had no censure, not even a glimpse of coolness for his most zealous support of the Illinois Senator [talking about Abraham Lincoln]. <...> He was certainly lukewarm after the Salem Democratic slaughter, and so had he a right to be. Soon, however, he was lured or bantered into active campaigning and over the State he tramped and journeyed speechmaking. <...> in the heat of contest, he permitted himself to be warped from fairness and duty, and let his name and tongue to low trickery and contemptible device. He supported Thayer's claims to candidacy before the people <...>."

About the future of Democrats in Oregon: "<...> It is evident that beaten as we are, there is good Democratic element sufficient yet left in Oregon, when united, to overcome whatever organization combats it, provided the election of Lincoln does not seduce or purchase from our ranks too many of <...> those who always change over to the victorian's side merely to be with victors <...> It is needless to review with you, the multitude of important errors which prevailed in past party councils. <...> We were not so much Lecompton or Anti-Lecompton Democrats, Administration or Douglas men, as we were Lane and Anti-Lane, Bush and Anti-Bush. It is this wretched spirit of man-worship and man-hatred which has brought ruin to us, and I say that, now in tribulation and mourning, we may be brought to a resolve never again to fall in similar evil ways <...> As a party, we will really have nothing to perform until '62."

But there is no reason why we should not speedily proceed to gather our forces, ascertain our real losses, know those who still cling to us, and make every preparation calculated to cement anew the old party devotional feeling, and to assure us triumph when we are next called to battle with the Republican enemy."

About Benjamin Stark and his role in the Democratic party of Oregon: "<...> Candidly, I say to you that your action in the Legislative Assembly recently has made you a host of friends in our three great counties of Jackson, Douglas and Josephine. Your election is best proof to me what attitude you occupy in Multnomah, despite the antagonism of a few who seem to think that a man who was in former days an Old Line Whig, can never be as fit for Democratic promotion as men of their own stamp who were not of that party, but were instead Know Nothings and any other political things <...>"

About the attempt to move the state capital from Salem: "There is one subject which should engage our attention, however, before '62. I refer to the vote which is to be had upon the location of the State Capital. <...> Salem will have a large united central strength. We must beat her. Our only safe plan is by submission of all rivals to a Convention and union of action in favor of the designated favorite. By this means well carried out Salem will lose the State House and her influence in Democratic councils, for or against the party. <...> Salem has the prestige. Snatch it from her and she is Sampson shorn of his locks. It is the first issue in order, therefore the first to achieve. Will your county, Clackamas, Wasco, Washington, Columbia, Yamhill, and Clatsop help? Or which of them will not? The South wants us share in candidacy. Geographically, we are [banned?] By common consent, we are not a candidate, but we will unite to take from Salem the honor she has so long worn and so greatly abused <...>."

#31

OREGON ROGUE RIVER WAR

\$ 3 250

Barkwell, M.C., **Surgeon General of Oregon Territory**; Wixom, Henry Walker (1820-1888); Coombs, L.J., Surgeon, **Oregon Mounted Volunteers. Collection of Two Original Autograph Letters Signed and Three Period Copies of Certificates of Service and Discharge, Detailing on the Medical Service and Supplies in the Second Regiment, Oregon Mounted Volunteers during the Rogue River War of 1855-56. Jacksonville & Fort Leland: 8 May, 10, 16, 28 August, 4 September 1856.**

Five original Folio manuscripts, each ca. 30,5x19 cm. Four single leaves and one bifolium with 1, 4, 1, 1, 1 (=8) pp. of text. Brown ink on blueish wove and laid paper; all documents with more or less visible blind-stamped papermaker's monograms in the left upper corners. All documents docketed on verso (the bifolium on verso of the first leaf). Fold marks and minor creases, one document with two minor tears on folds and a small loss on the upper margin not affecting the text, the bifolium with a minor loss on the right lower corner not affecting the text; overall a very good collection of legible documents.

Historically significant collection of original documents, giving insight into the organization of medical service and supplies in the Second Regiment, Oregon Mounted Volunteers in April-August 1856, during the last months of the Rogue River War. The war between the US Army, local militias and volunteers and the Native Americans from the Rogue River Valley area lasted from October 8, 1855 to June 1856, ending with the forceful removal of the native people to the Coast Reservation in southwestern Oregon. The Second Regiment of Oregon Mounted Volunteers was created on the basis of the so-called Northern and Southern volunteer battalions (formed by the proclamation of the Oregon Governor G.L. Curry on October 15, 1855) and was disbanded in July 1856.

The most interesting document is the original letter by one of the regiment's surgeons, Dr. L.J. Coombs, reporting on his travels in April-July 1856 and providing lists of medicines and supplies delivered to the camps of the Southern battalion in the Illinois Valley and the Applegate Creek, and to the hospitals at Fort Vannoy and Camp Meadows. Addressing M.C. Barkwell (then the Surgeon General of the Oregon Territory), Coombs also reports about "stale rations" and "many cases of diarrhea" among the troops in the Illinois Valley camp and lists the medicines and supplies lost during transportation.

The second letter, also addressed to M.C. Barkwell, was written by Henry Wixom, who came to California to mine gold in 1852. In ca. 1854-56, he raised stock in the Rogue River Valley and operated "one of the stations for the Overland trail and stagecoach routes." During the war, he "joined the company to quell the uprising of the Indians" and "asked to be admitted to the surgeon's corps, as he had quite an intimate knowledge of medicine and nursing which he had learned from his father, Dr. Reuben Wixom" (see more about Wixom in: Wixom Family History/ J.H. Wixom, R.S. Widdison. Salt Lake City, 1963, pp. 49-50;

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Head Quarters
Fort Leland May 8th 1856
Gen. Barkwell

Sir
Yours of the 6th inst arrived last evening. The horse & Southat's saddle has been turned over & receipted for. Harry has not yet arrived. The pack mule you had is not here but I understand that Mr. Suches took it to Vannoy's. I have written to have it forwarded here. Your orders shall be promptly attended to. Cam. Lane is improving slowly. Other patients are about the same. Maj. Lashaw is to leave for the Meadows tomorrow.

Your communication from Camp Vannoy I received with those dispatches for Camp Meadows (nothing of special interest) more to write.

Yours &c
Henry Wixom

Your receipt to Dr. Co. is for rigging which was not had with the animals & that is for two horses. Mr. Thuelat refuses to straighten that matter till he sees you.

H.W.

To M.C. Barkwell,
Surgeon General
of Oregon Terr.

Dear Sir,

In obedience to your orders of the 6th April inst. I repaired to the Camp of the Southern Battalion in Illinois Valley on the 7th 1856.

At this time the troops had been comparatively idle for some time & for want of exercise, those who were from any cause predisposed to disease of the digestive organs were attacked by remittent and intermittent fevers. The rations at that time issued to them were very stale which being added to the exceedingly unwholesome manner of its preparation, induced many cases of Diarrhoea.

I desire herein to transmit such statements of facts as I omitted to mention at the time of transactions. On the 10th of April, Lieut Col. Chapman notified me to be in readiness to start for Lower Rogue River by the 15th ult. As no medicines had hitherto been furnished me by the department & as there were no hospital stores or camp equipage in the field, I was under the necessity to repair to Jacksonville for supplies. Duplicates furnished ^{at the} time showed what supplies were gotten from the Hospital, Lieut. Hornfry's departments at that Post.

When on route, on the 15th of April

Three one-page documents are the period copies of certificates of military service of the surgeons employed by the Oregon Mounted Volunteers. The documents copy M.C. Barkwell's signatures and date back to August 1856. Overall an interesting collection of original manuscripts on the history of the medical service in Oregon during the Rogue River War.

A list of documents with excerpts from the text:

1) COOMBS, L.J., M.D. "Surgeon by contract, 2nd Regt. OMV" ALS to M.C. Barkwell, Surgeon General of Oregon Terr. Jacksonville, O.T., August 10th, 1856. 4 pp. Certified on the bottom of the 4th page by William Hoffman, Justice of the Peace, Jackson Co., Oregon Territory.

"Dear Sir, In obedience to your orders of the 6th April inst. I repaired to the Camp of the Southern Battalion in Illinois Valley on the 7th [April] 1856. At the time the troops had been comparatively idle for some time & for want of exercise; these who were from any cause predisposed to disease of the digestive organs were attacked by remittent and intermittent fevers. The rations at that time issued to them were very stale, which being added to the exceedingly unwholesome manner of its preparation induced many cases of diarrhea.

I desire herein to transmit such statements of facts as I omitted to mention at the time of transactions. On the 10th of April, Lieut. Col. Chapman notified me to be in readiness to start for Lower Rogue River by the 15th ult. As no medicines had hitherto been furnished me by the department & as there were no hospital stores or camp equipage in the field, I was under the necessity to repair to Jacksonville for supplies. Duplicates furnished you at the time show what supplies were gotten from the hospital, in Mr. [Hornfry's?] departments at that post.

When on route on the 15th of April to rejoin the S. Battalion, camped north of the mouth of Applegate Creek, which was much swollen at that time by recent rains, & which it was necessary for me to cross, in attempting to swim the stream, my horse became confused and was carried some hundred yards down stream, before reaching the north side. During my horse's struggles in the water the following articles were lost from off him: one pair saddle bags, containing one case no 1 [...] pocket case instruments, 6 surgical needles, one silver male catheter, one pocket case medicines, one pair molar dental forceps, one yard patent lint 100 yards, bandages ½ yd [...] &c.

On march down the river the following articles were lost: packing, one camp kettle, three pint tin cups, one tin lantern, two flexible catheters.

E.D. Byrne, asst. surgeon, received from me the following at Vanoy hospital: 3 bottle mustard, 3 bottles pimento, ½ lb capsicum, 50 lbs sugar, 116 lbs ham. <...>

At Camp Meadows No. 2 I transferred to G. Karadine Elliot, surgeon, the following articles & quantities <...>: [a list of 58 positions, including] ½ doz. boxes pills, 1 lb capsicum, 1 yd patent lint, 2 oz zinci sulph., 1 lb castile soap, 1 lb gum acacia, ½ lb aqua ammonia, 1 case amputation instruments, 25 lbs ham, 20 lbs sugar, 50 lbs rice, 100 lbs flour, 1 large syringe, 3 glass syringes, 1 lb tartaric acid, 2 oz Foulter's solution, 4 oz collodion, 1 oz potassii iod, 3 bottles mustard, 1 large bread pan, 1 wash bowl, & c. <...>

One riding saddle I transferred to surgeon H.W. Stanton, on the 5th day of August, & one riding bridle & saddle blanket have been worn out in service <...>." >>

Duplicate
of discharge
of Doct. W. Stanton
and his certificate
dated June 5th / 56
and Aug 10 / 56
Recorded

Pages 10

2) WIXON, H.W. ALS to "Gen. Barkwell".
Headquarters, Fort Leland, May 8th 1856. 1 p.

"Sir, Yours of the 6th inst. arrived last evening. The horse
Dr. [Douthit?] rode has been turned over & receipted
for Harry has not yet arrived. The pack mule you had
is not here, but I understand that Mr. [Duchez?] took it
to [Fort] Vannoy & I have written to have it forwarded
here. Your orders shall be promptly attended to. Sam.
Lane is improving slowly, other patients are about the
same. Maj. [W.H.] Latshaw is to leave for the Meadows
tomorrow. Your communication from Camp Vannoy I
received with those dispatches from Camp Meadow
<...>."

3) BARKWELL, M.C. "Duplicate of discharge of Doct.
W.W. Stanton and his certificate dated Aug. 10th/56.
Recorded page 10." 1 p.

"Dear Sir, you are hereby honorably discharged from
service in the Second Regiment, Oregon Mounted
Volunteers as surgeon in charge of the Roseburg
Hospital. Verry [sic!] respectfully, M.C. Barkwell,
Surgeon Genl. of Oregon.

I hereby certify that Henry William Stanton has
faithfully discharged the duties of the Roseburg hospital
of the Second Regiment, Oregon Mounted Volunteers
from the first day of June 1856 to the 10th day of August
1856 and is entitled to the highest pay in such service
one at my office in Jacksonville, Sept. 4th, 1856. M.C.
Barkwell, Surgeon Genl. of Oregon."

4) BARKWELL, M.C. "Duplicate of G.K. Elliott's,
discharge and certificate, April 14/56 and Aug. 16/56."
1 p.

"Dear Sir, you are hereby honorably discharged from
the service of Oregon Mounted Volunteers as assistant
surgeon. Verry [sic!] respectfully, M.C. Barkwell, Surgeon
Genl. of Oregon.

I hereby certify that George [Karadine?] Elliott has
faithfully served in the Second Regiment of Oregon
Mounted Volunteers as assistant surgeon from the
17 April 1856 to the 16th day of August 1856 and is
entitled to the highest pay in such service. M.C. Barkwell,
Surgeon Genl. of Oregon."

5) BARKWELL, M.C., Surgeon General of Oregon.
"A. Shoue's Certificate of Service." 1 p.

"This may certify that Adolphus Shoue was appointed
assistant surgeon of the Second Regiment of Oregon
Mounted Volunteers by me on the tenth day of June
1856 and continued in office until the 28th day of August
1856. That he performed the duties of assistant surgeon
as above with ability and strict attention and that he is
entitled to the highest pay in such service. Witness my
had done at my office in Jacksonville, this 28th day of
August 1856. M.C. Barkwell, Surgeon Genl. of Oregon.
Jacksonville, Aug. 28th, 1856. Dear Sir, the volunteer
service being closed, your service will be no longer
required, you are therefore honorably discharged from
further duty. I have the honor of verry [sic!] respectfully
your obedient servant, M.C. Barkwell, Surgeon Genl. of
Oregon."

#32

UTAH
US SECESSION

\$ 850

James, Nathan & Catherine. **Autograph Letter** Signed to Their Son, Mentioning the **United States Secession (1860-1861)** and a **Conflict between Native Americans and Mormons**, Apparently in the Utah Territory. **2 June 1860.**

Octavo (ca. 19x12 cm). 3 pp. Brown ink on laid paper bifolium, blind-stamped monogram in the left upper corner. Fold marks, paper slightly age-toned, otherwise a very good letter.

An interesting early private letter mentioning the United States Secession and conflicts between Native Americans and Mormons in the Utah Territory. Written by a Resident, possibly of Illinois (the letter mentions "Goshen," which could be the town of Goshen, Ill.), the letter is addressed to his son, who possibly lived in the Utah Territory or in the area, which could be impacted by an unfolding conflict between "Indians" and "Mormons." Written with numerous spelling mistakes, the letter offers a personal testimony of the United States Secession, mentioning that a "company" of "Union folks" who arrived in his town will "string them rite of" if anyone "say any thing about sesesion here. <...> Nothing but stars and strips here." Overall an important early source on the history of the United States Secession and the events leading to the American Civil War.

Excerpts from the letter (all spelling is original):

"Dear son and daughter, I take my pen in hand to let you now that we received your leter and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well. We are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you all the same fo ther has [...?] very bad some times so it is heard [hard?] for to get along.

We should like to see you both very much. If there is a going to be war there we expect you will be here before long, at least we heard that there war a going to be. We heard that the Indians and Mormons War in there and they had give the folks three months to leave or fight. We want to no whether it is so or not. There was a Company went from here, there all union folks. Here they ar sent be any other way if they say any thing about sesesion here. If they do they will string them rite of. Nothing but stars and strips here.

Cordelia is down to Goshem[?] to work. She hasn't bin of this good while. We had a leter from Tom and they are all well. Elisa is in Illinois. We had a leter from her and she was well. She is out to work and gets a dolar and a half a weak. John's folks are all well. Mother and bother [brother?] was down there last Sunday and wants to see you so bad. She says I does I will see he now. <...> Wages is a 1 dolar a day in the rail [?] road shop. We had a leter from George and they are all well and a going well. So no more at present. Write as soon as you get this. So good by. Nathan James, Catharine James."

June the 2 1860
Dear son and daughter I take
my pen in hand to let you
now that we received your
leter and was glad to hear
from you and to hear that
you was well We are all
well at present and I hope these
few lines will find you all
the same bother has the sesesion
very bad bad some times so it
is heard for to get along We
should like to see you both
very much if there is a going
to be war there we expect
you will be here before
long at least we heard that
there was a going to be
we heard that the indians and
Mormons was a to be in there

#33

WASHINGTON
OLYMPIA

\$ 1250

Tykel, George A.; [Hubbard, Daniel J.] (1828-1890). **Autograph Letter Signed by a Thurston County Pioneer George Tykel to Another Pioneer Daniel J. Hubbard, Discussing Financial and Territorial Conditions of Their Potential Co-Ownership of the Chambers Prairie near Olympia, the Latest News from the Local Society and Olympia Masonic Lodge and Mentioning the Execution of the Nisqually Chief Leschi.** Masonic Hall, Olympia, W.T., 6 and 11 February 1858.

Two separate Folio leaves (ca. 32x20 cm or 12 3/4 x 7 3/4 in) and slightly smaller. 4 pp. Brown ink on blueish watermarked lined laid paper. Foldmarks, several minor tears on folds, but overall a very good letter written in a legible hand.

Interesting, content-rich original letter that provides an insight into life, farming activities and land deals executed by Washington state pioneers. Written by an Olympia resident and Freemason George Tykel, the letter is addressed to Daniel J. Hubbard - a member of the same Masonic lodge (apparently, Olympia No. 1) and a resident of Thurston County since 1852. The letter mostly discusses the conditions of their potential co-ownership of a part of the Chambers Prairie - the territory now occupied by the town of Lacey, east of Olympia. Tykel describes the size of the land lot, the price per acre and the amount of interest he is planning to charge Hubbard. The deal apparently went through but became a subject of a legal dispute. An article in the main Olympia newspaper, "Washington Standard," informed about the public "Sheriff's Sale" of exactly that part of the Chambers Prairie in April, 1861, "in favor of D.J. Hubbard and against George A. Tykel" (Sheriff's Sale// The Washington Standard. 27 April 1861, p.

3). Tykel also shares local news and several mutual acquaintances, notes that he has been attending dancing school and mentions the upcoming execution of Nisqually Chief Leschi (1808-1858), who was hanged at Fort Steilacoom on February 19, 1858, after his defeat in the Yakima Wars (1855-58). Overall an important content-rich original letter by an Olympia pioneer.

George Tykel joined Olympia Lodge in 1856 and was expelled in March 1862. He was deceased by 1902 (Masonic History of the Northwest. San Francisco: The History Publishing Co., 1902, p. 375). Little Tykel Cove on the western shore of the Budd Inlet, north of modern-day Olympia Golf & Country Club, was named after him (Meany. E.S. Origin of Washington Geographic Names. Seattle, 1923, p. 320).

Daniel J. Hubbard was a resident of Thurston county since 1852 (The Washington Standard, 29 March 1889, p. 3). In 1856, he was a non-commissioned officer in the "Pioneer Company," Central Battalion, Second Regiment, W.V.T. (Todd, R., and others. Letters of Governor Isaac I. Stevens, 1856-57// The Pacific Northwest Quarterly, vol. 31, No. 4 (Oct. 1940), p. 414). Some of his letters are now deposited in the Libraries of the University of Washington and the University of Michigan.

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Page 1st

Masonic Hall, Olympia W.T.

Saturday Feb. 6th 1858

Bro. D. J. Hubbard

Dear Sir. Your communication of the 27th Ult. was received last evening, & as the Mail Leaves before noon, I hastily sit down to reply I have your letter before me & will reply to your several Interrogatorys in plain & concise Language that cannot be mistaken nor misconstrued, in relation to our Land Trade or purchase. The offer is still open to you for acceptance or refusal as you see proper. Neither care I a straw which you adopt. Since it's with no motive of Speculation, or anxiety to sell, that I have consented to take you in, as a partner, for should I desire to sell out I could dispose of it on much better terms, but as there is more land than I have any desire to cultivate myself, and at the same time wishing to retain an Interest in the whole. I have in consideration of the partiality I entertain towards you, extended that privilege to you, there being no other person under the Sun, & except my own Brother, with whom I would enter into such an arrangement, of so complicated a nature, but believing confidently, with the knowledge & acquaintance we have had with each other, that we could perfectly agree on all matters of consequence relating to the Interests of Both, & each too being willing to do that which is fair for both, & I shall also require an agreement that neither of us sell, without first giving the other an opportunity to buy, or in other words giving him the refusal thereof.

It seems from your letter that I did not convey to you a clear understanding of the terms, it may be that in my haste I omitted some connecting words, by which I failed to convey the intended Idea, & seldom reading a letter over after it is written

Page 3^d. for an undivided half, of my land on Chambers Prairie
 (with all of its present improvements, consisting of $\$17,370$)
 three hundred & seventeen acres, & eighty seven hundredth acre
 costing you at that time, nearly $\$2,21$ cent an acre for one half interest
 I paid the Land Office for $325\frac{37}{100}$ acres, & then donated $7\frac{1}{2}$
 acres to Church & Seminary purpose, commencing at the
 North west corner, of the North West Quarter, of Section four, running
 Sixty rods South & twenty rods East, Thomas Chambers has
 donated a like tract alongside in his pasture field, the house
 is building on the South end of my tract on that rising ground. I can't
 see how you got it in your head, that it joined Mr. Ruddel, unless
 it was from a remark I subsequently made that I was offered 125 dol,
 for ten acres in that corner, but would not sell it because you & I
 had entered into an arrangement then, & must get your consent to it
 In reply to your enquiry, if you was entitled to any of the proceeds
 of that seven & a half acres I donated to the Seminary, I say yes, just
 as much as I am, that is by the enhancement in value of the
 ballance of lands and already have had several offers for different
 sized tracts adjoining the Seminary & Church, but I decline selling
 short of 20 dollars an acre, & not then without your consent,
 I have since bought of U.E. Hicks his right to this Summers crop
 & will hold the proceeds of this farm for this summer to my own use
 giving you an interest in next fall's crop, & in the Deed I will
 make, will give you equal possession next September, & if you
 choose to come sooner & break up new ground, I have no objection
 & have all you raise, Oats costs me 125 cent a bushel for seed, I have got
 Mr. Ruddel a ploughing. I intend to enclose all of that 80 acres
 north of the township line for the cost of which I expect
 you to pay me your portion, viz. one half, so that we will be
 ready to put in a large crop next fall, flour is in good demand
 at fourteen dol, a barrel, I'm going out on the prairie in a day
 or two to right up the fences that the wind has blown down & put
 in my crop of oats. Mr. Smiths family are yet in town, He is yet
 stopping on Whittys land, when he comes back I will try to join
 fences with him & thus save rails. they will move out when
 school is out, here in town

Excerpts from the letter (the spelling is original):

"Saturday, Feb. 6th 1858. Bro. D.J. Hubbard, <...> I
 have your letter before me & will reply to your several
 interrogatorys in plain and concise language that
 cannot be mistaken nor misconstrued in relation to our
 land trade or purchase. The offer is still open to you for
 acceptance or refusal as you see propper. Neither care
 I a straw which you adopt. Since it's with no motive of
 speculation, or anxiety to sell that I have consented to
 take you in, as a partner, for should I desire to sell out
 I could dispose of it on much better terms, but as there
 is more land than I have any desire to cultivate myself,
 and at the same time wishing to retain an interest in the
 whole, I have in consideration of the partiality I entertain
 towards you, extended that privilege to you, there being
 no other person under the Sun, except my own Brother,
 with whom I would enter into such an arrangement, of so
 complicated a nature <...>

Friday, Feb. 11th 1858. Sir, the Mail passed by before I
 got this letter completed & hastily leaving then I left
 this remaining on the Secretary's Desk & Mr. Ward &
 Jake Myers came up during my absence & tore off a
 portion of my sheet. <...> Jake [Walderie?] <...> has
 loaned to Louisson & Co. $\$1600.00$ & they have got into
 difficulty with Capt. Hunt & Scranton about the steamer
 Constitution which is now tied up to Gidding's wharfe
 & ordered sold. Frankel & Lighter stand a chance of
 looking five or ten thousand dollars. They had borrowed
 some ten or 12 thousand dollars about here. <...>

& now to the terms of our contract <...>, which are,
 namely, Seven hundred dollars ($\$700.00$) to be paid
 on Christmas last Dec. 25th 1857 for an individual half,
 of my land on Chambers Prairie, with all of its present
 improvements, consisting of $317\frac{87}{100}$ acres <...>,
 costing you at that time nearly $\$2,21$ cent an acre for one
 half interest. I paid the Land Office for $325\frac{37}{100}$ acres,
 & then donated $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Church & Seminary purpose,
 commencing at the North west corner, of the North west
 quarter of section four, running sixty rods South & twenty
 rods East. Thomas Chambers has donated a like tract
 alongside in his pasture field. The house is building on the
 South end of my tract on that rising ground. <...>

I have since bought of U.E. Hicks his right to this
 summer's crop & will hold the proceeds of the farm for
 this summer to my own use giving you an interest in next
 fall's crop, & in the Deed I will make, will give you equal
 possession next September, & if you choose to come
 sooner & break up new ground, I have no objection &
 have all you raise, oats cost me 125 cents a bushel for
 seed. I have got Mr. Ruddel a ploughing. I intend to
 enclose all of that 80 acres north of the township line
 for the cost of which I expect you to pay be your portion,
 viz. one half, so that we will be ready to put in a large
 crop next fall. Flour is in good demand at fourteen dol.
 a barrel. I'm going out on the prairie in a day or two, to
 right up the fences that the wind has blown down & put
 in my crop of oats. <...>

I suppose you understand me now, viz. Seven hundred
 dollars for an undivided half of $317\frac{87}{100}$ acres of
 land on Chambers Prairie, for which I must charge you
 interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent a month, from the 25th
 of December 1857 untill the money is paid. 143 dollars I
 have received & together with the draft of five hundred
 you say you have sent & the balance Ward & Hays have
 received in wheat from John Bernly will nearly pay it up.

Today is very blustering & snow falling. We have not had
 any cold weather this winter. I have been attending a
 dancing school, but am not a good dancer yet, Ensign
 is teacher & Shead is fiddler, about thirty schollars
 (gents), not quite so many ladies. We have had a great
 time here this winter conferring the Degree of Knights
 of Constantine. Mrs. & Miss Cornelia Smith took the
 Degrees of Kindred & Mason's Daughter, also Mrs.
 Wallace last week. There a number of strangers here in
 our lodge you have never seen. <...> The Ocean Mail
 Steamer now comes up to Mr. Brown's wharfe. She is
 hourly expected in. Leshi will be hung here, in a week,
 the 18th. Mr. Elroy has bought a 100 acres of Mr. Hale's
 Front for $\$3,000$ dollars. Ooley Eckler was killed at
 Miller's steam saw mill by a log rolling over him. His
 brother Jo has bought 100 acres of the Obriant Claim
 back of Whitworths for $\$700,00$. <...>

#34

WASHINGTON TERRITORY
YAKAMA

\$ 950

Milroy, Robert Huston (1816-1890), Gen., Indian Agent for the Yakama Agency. **Historically Interesting Original Autograph Manuscript Letter Written by an Indian Agent Robert H. Milroy at Fort Simcoe during His Second Year of Service in Yakama, and Addressed to His Son Bruce Milroy in Olympia, Mentioning the Best Possible Route to Yakama and Talking About the "Hartsuck Note" Held Against Him by His Former Colleague in Puyallup. Fort Simcoe (Yakama), 2 March 1883.**

2 pp. Quarto (ca. 24,5x19,5 cm or 9 3/4 x 7 3/4 in). Black ink on lined wove paper with the printed letterhead of "United States Indian Service," the Agency, address, and date completed in manuscript as "Yakama," "Fort Simcoe," "Mch, 2, (188)3." Fold marks, very mildly age-toned, small damp smears affecting two words (legible), but overall a very good interesting Yakama letter.

A historically interesting original autograph manuscript letter penned by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Indian Agent for the Yakama Agency, Gen. Robert H. Milroy (Ca. 1814-1890). "Gen. Robert H. Milroy was born in Indiana in 1814. He was educated a lawyer, but served as a volunteer in the Mexican war. When the Civil War began he offered his services as a volunteer. He commanded a brigade of Indiana troops in West Virginia and in the Shenandoah valley." (The Coshocton Tribune. 10 May 1886. P. 3). After the war, Milroy was a trustee of the Wabash and Erie Canal Company and, from 1872 to 1875, served as the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Washington Territory and an Indian agent for the following ten years.

Dated March 2, 1883, the letter was written at Fort Simcoe during Robert's second year of service in Yakama and only a few months before he found himself "out of business...and in debt."

Fort Simcoe was a United States Army fort erected in Yakama in 1856 to maintain an uneasy peace between the local Indian tribes and the settlers. In 1859, a year after the US victory in the war against the Yakama Indians, the fort was turned over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Facilities at Fort Simcoe were transformed into a boarding school, where Indian Agents and the BIA attempted to assimilate Yakama children into American culture.

Written on a paper with the Agency's official letterhead, the letter is addressed to Robert's son, a future judge and one of the pioneer attorneys of Yakama, Bruce Milroy (ca. 1858-1935). In the letter, apparently sent to Olympia (Washington Territory), the author mentions another one of his sons, a judge and the founder of the first law firm in Yakama, Walt Milroy (1857-1935). The author plans Walt's theoretical travel itinerary in case he wishes to visit his "Pa" and suggests taking the quickest and most popular route from Olympia, traveling by rail to the Fort of Dalles, and then covering the remaining distance of over 100 miles by stage to Yakama City.

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United States Indian Service,

Yakama Agency,

Fort Simcoe Mch. 2^d, 1883.

Dear Son Bruce.

Enclosed herewith I send a draft for \$150.⁰⁰ for rent of agency buildings during 3^d q^r/82 - your Mother has endorsed it so that it can be paid to any person who presents it. I want the acct. of this check credited on the Hartsuck note. If Walt is in Olympia I wish him to attend to it as he will be passing Puyallup on his way to it from Seattle. I suppose Hartsuck is still at Puyallup. If he is, it would be well to write to him that you want to make a payment on his note against me - as he may have left it in Olympia. But a rec^d. from him for the \$150. will be good tho it would be best to have it endorsed on the note.

But Walt will know how to fix the matter. Write me the amt. due on said note when this is paid. Write as soon as you get this that I may know you have read it. We are both in good health. Tell Walt to come ^{over} here during his vacation. He can come by R.R. to Dalles. Then by stage to Yakima City, from where a mail horse comes here 3 times per week - Monday - Wednesday & Friday - This is mail day. We have not heard from you or Val for several weeks. Wish you would write oftentimes. I have delayed closing this letter in hopes of receiving a letter from you or the other boys but none has come - & am sadly disappointed. Wish you & Val would write often. In love
 Yours Pa. Truly
 R.H. Milroy

According to the July 29th, 1884 edition of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Walter apparently did visit his father a few months after he received this letter: "Rev. J. R. Thompson and Walter Milroy of Olympia... have just returned from a trip across the mountains. They were in the Yakima country, and say that the ride is a rough one, but conducive of one's weakened constitution. They drove a band of twenty horses across with them." Milroy also thoroughly instructs the addressee of the letter, Bruce, on how to use the enclosed draft of \$150 (from "rent of agency buildings") to pay a note held against him by his former colleague Mark Hartsuck (1825-1898). The two apparently met during Milroy's previous position as an Indian Agent in the Nisqually Agency (1872-1882), where Mark worked as a boarding-school teacher. After providing detailed guidelines on the "Hartsuck note," the author asks Bruce to immediately notify him once he receives the letter and to report to him the amount due "when this is paid." Near the close of the letter, "sadly disappointed" Robert complains that he hasn't heard from Bruce, or yet another of his sons, Val (the future postmaster of Olympia), and urges them to write more often.

In 1885, two years after this letter was written, Robert Milroy was removed from the position of the Indian Agent at Fort Simcoe due to the election of a new U.S. President from a different political party. A few months after his removal, Milroy wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Indian affairs: "I believe I have laid up some treasures in Heaven, but know I have laid up none on earth while in the service, as I leave it as poor as when I came into it... I quit the service without regret but with some annoyance on one point - that is, the manner of leaving it, being thrust out through the suspended door constructed by Congress for President's to thrust out discovered rascals and incompetents from Government offices." (The Washington Standard. 30 Apr 1886. P. 4).

Following his retirement, General Milroy moved to Olympia together with his wife and was soon diagnosed with chronic inflammation of the ligaments around the hip joint. Milroy died from heart failure in Olympia on May 29, 1890.

Overall, a historically interesting letter written by the Indian agent Robert H. Milroy, mentioning the best possible route from Olympia to Yakama and talking about the "Hartsuck note" held against him by his former colleague in Puyallup.

The text of the letter (original spelling preserved):
 "Enclosed herewith I send a draft for \$150 for rent of agency buildings during 3 qua/ 1882. Your mother has endorsed it so that it can be paid to any person who presents it. I want the rest of this check credited on the Hartsuck note. If Walt is in Olympia, I wish him to attend to it as he will be passing Puyallup on his way to and from Seattle. I suppose Hartsuck is still at Puyallup. If he is, it would be well to write to him that you want to make payment on his note against me as he may have left it in Olympia. But check from him for the 150\$ will be good though it would be best to have it endorsed with note.

But Walt will know how to fix this matter. Write me the amount due on said note when this is paid. Write as soon as you get this that I may know you have read it. We are both in good health. Tell Walt to come over here during his vacation. He can come by R. R. (railroad) to the Dalles. Then by stage to Yakima city from there. Mail track comes here 3 times per week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday. This is mail day. We have not heard from you or Val for several weeks. Wish you would write oftentimes. I have delayed closing this letter in hopes of receiving a letter from you or the other boys, but none has come. I am sadly disappointed. Wish you + Val would write often."

