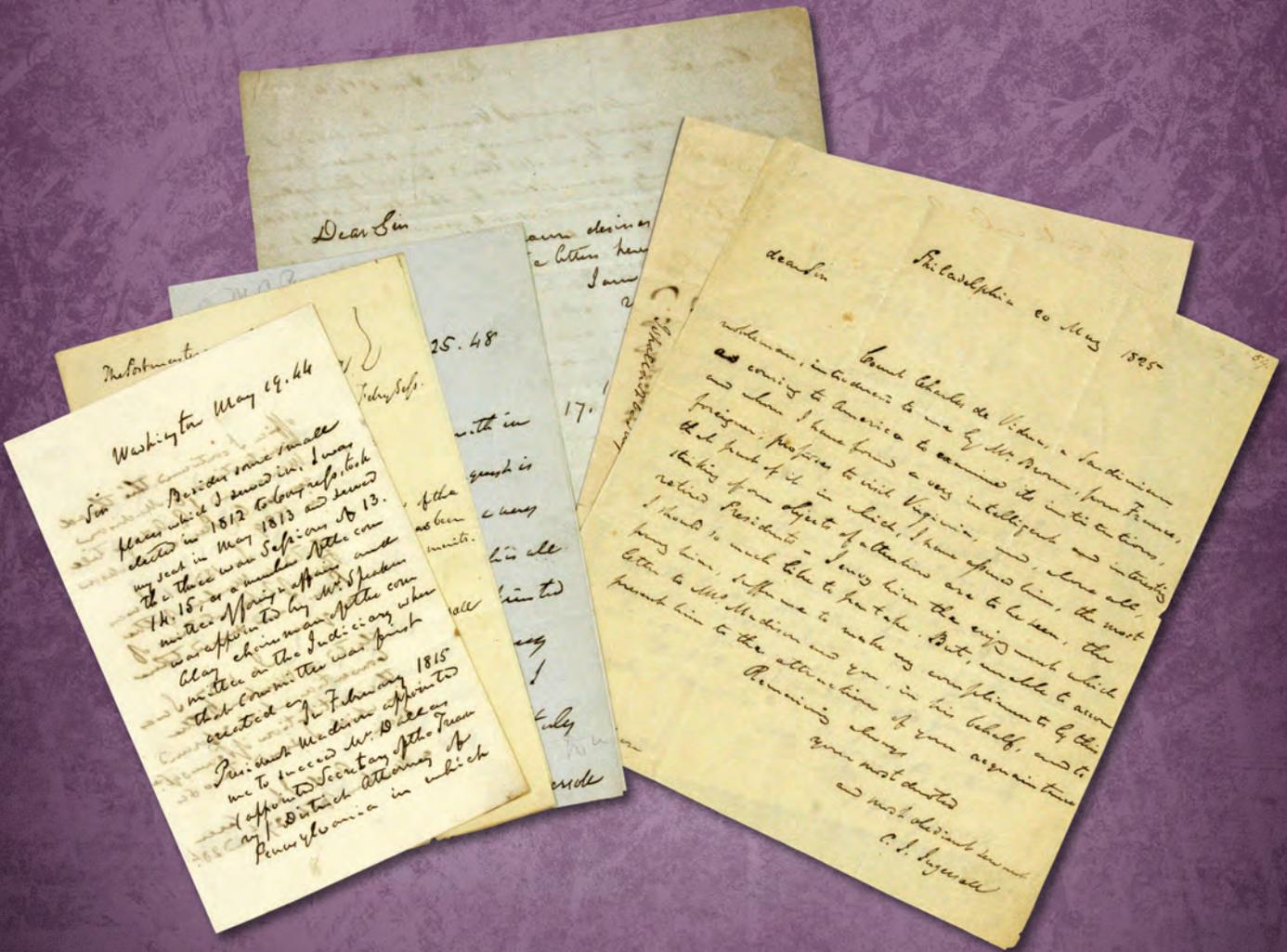
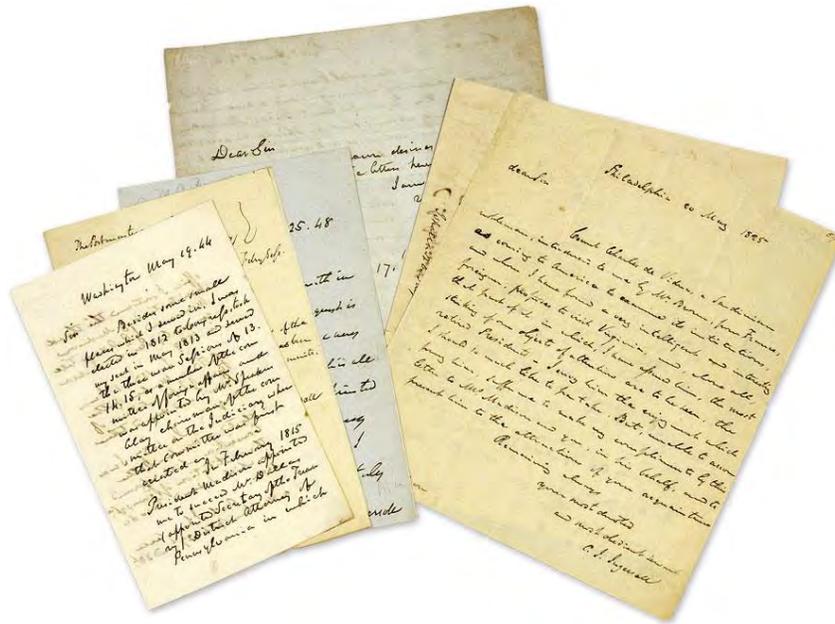

MANUSCRIPTS

30 ITEMS

April 28, 2020



THE
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A Notable Philadelphia Attorney Writes to James Madison and Others

1. [Archive].

Ingersoll, Charles Jared [1782-1862].

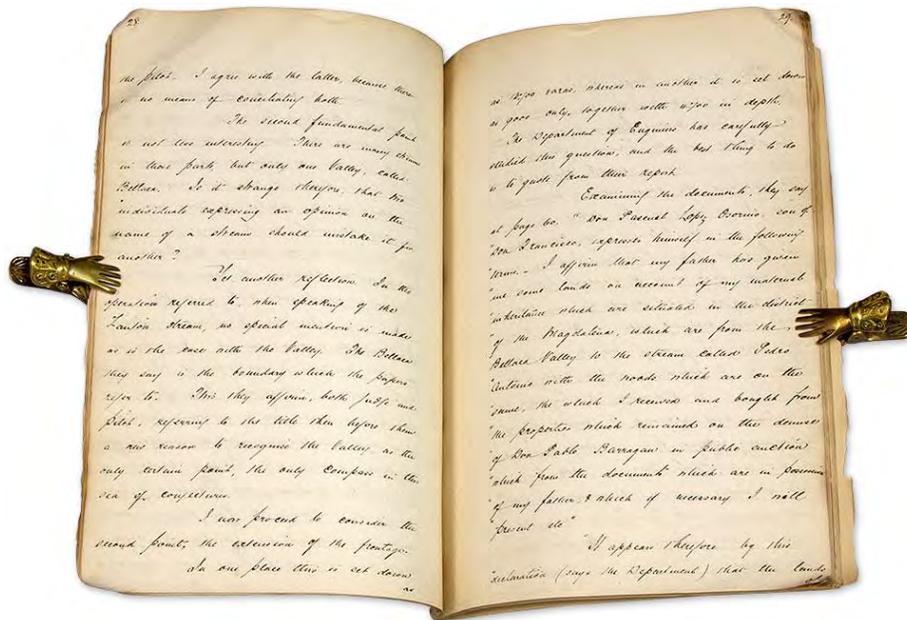
[Madison, James [1751-1836], And Other Recipients].

[*Letters from Ingersoll to James Madison and Others*]. Philadelphia or Washington, D.C. 1825-1848.

6 letters comprising 11 pages, sizes range from 7-1/4" x 3-1/2" to 10" x 8." Manuscript in ink. Light to moderate toning, fold lines, minor wear and soiling. \$950.

* The son of Jared Ingersoll [1749-1822], Continental Congressman and Signer of the U.S. Constitution, Charles Jared Ingersoll was a Philadelphia lawyer and Pennsylvania U.S. District Attorney and Congressman. This small but interesting collection of letters are representative of his equally distinguished legislative and judicial careers. The addressees in our group of letters include former U.S. President James Madison, lawyer and later Mayor of Philadelphia John Morin Scott and John Young Mason, jurist and then U.S. Secretary of the Navy. The letter to Madison introduces a French nobleman visiting America who wishes "to examine its institutions." The letter to Scott concerns *The Postmaster General v. Eldred &c. of Ridgway*, a legal case he was hearing in the Court of the U.S. Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1844, while serving as U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania in the 28th Congress, Ingersoll wrote a letter to Richard E. Stillwell providing a detailed response to a request for a professional memoir. Ingersoll's letter of July 17, 1844 to E.L. Burd of Chestnut Street in Philadelphia accedes with the latter's request for an introduction to the newly appointed U.S. Minister to France, William Rufus King. Burd's reply the next day was written upon the same bifolium and returned to Ingersoll with Burd's "sincere thanks."

In 1847 Samuel Grice of Kensington in Philadelphia, trying to obtain a midshipman warrant in the navy for his nephew, Samuel J. Deacon, wrote Ingersoll for his help. When no immediate action was taken by the Secretary of the Navy, John Young Mason [1799-1859], Deacon himself appealed to Ingersoll via letter on April 17, 1847. In turn, Congressman Ingersoll (without endorsement or comment) forwarded the letter to the Secretary of the Navy that same day to support his case. Writing to an unnamed recipient, Ingersoll's letter of March 25, 1848 sends along an unauthorized Philadelphia imprint concerning his thoughts "on the Mission to Italy" during the Risorgimento of 1848. This letter was written when he was Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs. [Order This Item](#)



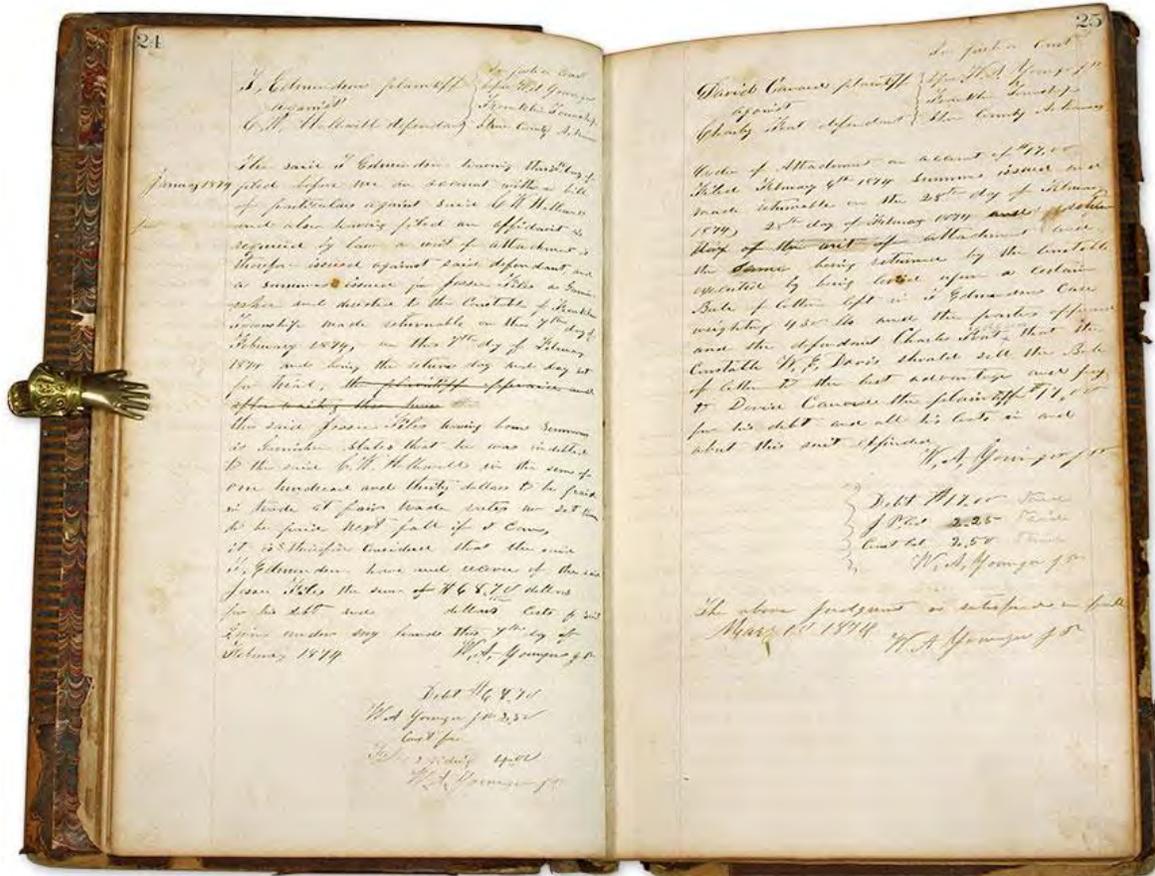
Archive Relating to an 1883-1884 Railway Case in Argentina

2. [Archive].
[Trial].
[Argentina].

[Legal Documents Relating to a Railway Right-of-Way Case]. Buenos Aires, 1883-1884. 6 items: 4 notebooks in stiff wrappers, 13" x 9," app. 100 pp. in all, 2 folding maps bound into a folder, 15-3/4" x 28," 12-1/2" x 21-1/2."

Moderate edgewear and soiling, light toning to text, a few minor tears along fold lines of maps, library stamps. \$750.

* Written in English, these documents relate to a right-of-way case brought against the British-owned Buenos Aires & Ensenada Port Railway by a group of affected property owners. The notebooks are marked A, B, C, D. The front cover of Notebook A has a title reading: "MS Documents relative to the Case of Messrs Torres, Martinez, Triarte, Doyhenard & Others against The Ensenada Railway Comp. 1883. (Buenos Aires)." The maps are bound into a folder with a title reading: "Planos de la Ensenada." [Order This Item](#)



Nineteenth-Century Docket Book with Unusually Detailed Entries

3. [Arkansas].

[Justice's Docket Book]. Stone County, Arkansas, 1873-1911. [xxvi], 412 pp. Thumb-tabbed index. Folio (13-3/4" x 8-3/4").

Reversed calf, raised bands to spine, black-stamped panels and calf panels to boards. Rubbed with considerable wear to spine and corners, a few sections lacking from boards, hinges partially cracked. Content in neat hand to approximately 325 pp., 9 related documents laid-in, a few others attached to pages. Moderate toning, occasional staining and edgewear, ink faded in a few places a few leaves excised. An interesting piece. \$1,500.

* Situated in the Ozark Mountains of north-central Arkansas, Stone County was created in 1873 from parts of various neighboring counties. Containing unusually detailed entries, most of them before 1900, this docket is a rich chronicle of the county's earliest legal history. It contains civil and criminal matters including hearings, trials, suits, jury verdicts, judgments, awarding of damages, case continuances and dismissals, orders of attachment, writs of garnishment, orders to sell foreclosed properties, enforcement of liens, disturbing the peace, attempted murder, assault and battery, disorderly conduct and unlawful detainment of property. The entries are in the hands of various justices of the peace including W. A. Younger, J. A. Carman, J. W. Smith, J. L. Pruett, and J. A. Blair. Signatures of those same judicial officers appear throughout volume. Many entries reflect the county's predominantly agricultural economy. Others concern allegations of violence, such as "William J. Goodman [made] an attempt with a knife to take my life" and "William Ball...slapped his wife Lucinda Steel, and cussed and abused her and threatened to kick her out of his yard if she ever set foot inside of it."

[Order This Item](#)



**Early Nineteenth-Century
Manuscript Account Book of Pennsylvania Lawyers**

4. [Barnard, James (1755-1806)].

[Barnard, Isaac D. (1791-1834)].

[Barnard, Thomas D. (1793-1873)].

[*Act. of Money Recd. for the Estate of James Barnard, Esq. Decd. in the Office, Etc.*]

[And]

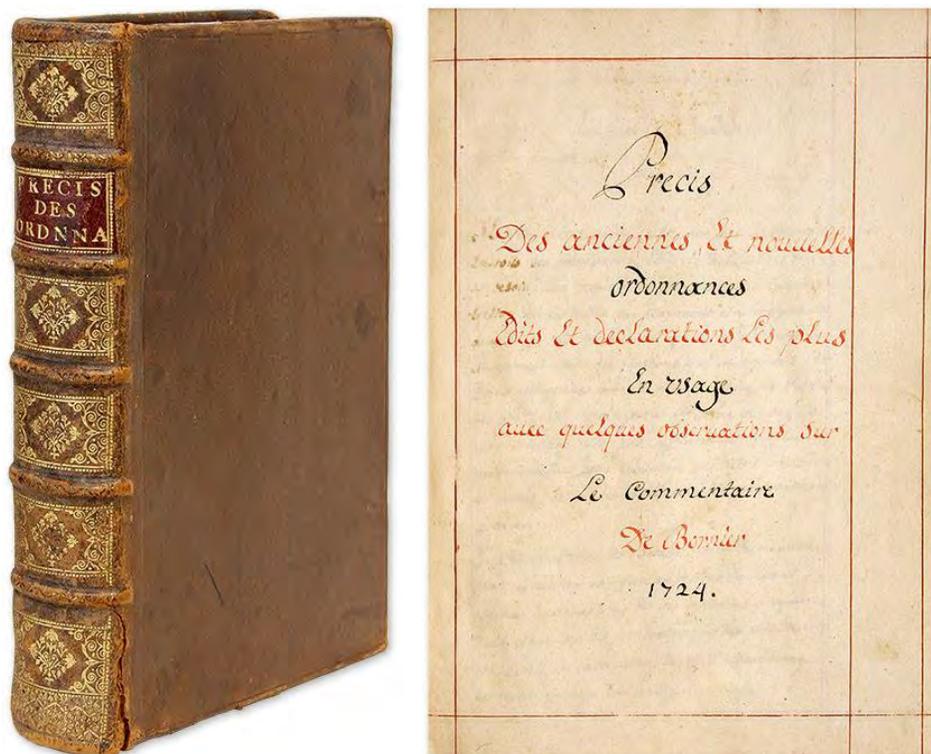
[*Act. of Money Recd. by Isaac D. Barnard Belonging to His Late Father's Estate*]. Chester, PA, February, 26 1806-August 22, 1845. Content in fine hand filling 23 pp. followed by several blank leaves, final six excised. Oblong octavo (8" x 5-1/2").

Stiff marbled sewn wrappers. Moderate rubbing to exterior, some wear to spine and corners, light toning to interior. \$650.

* James Barnard of Chester, Pennsylvania, was married to Susannah Dutton. James served as sheriff, registrar, recorder, prothonotary and clerk of the courts in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The Barnards had eight children. The eldest son, James Day Barnard, a lawyer, died at 25, a few months after his father's death. Upon his father and brother's death, the eldest surviving male Barnard, Isaac, received, or perhaps he personally recorded, his brother's outstanding legal fees and his father's estate assets and accounts recorded in this manuscript notebook. Like his deceased elder brother, Isaac studied law and was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1816, after notable service as a major in the War of 1812. He served terms in the Pennsylvania State Senate and U.S. Senate.

The accounts are notable as the first segment records all of the monies collected for various legal work performed by Isaac's older brother, James, from recording judgments, estate administration, vendue matters, for certificates for naturalization of citizenship, or for fees earned for specific cases (*Gibbons v. Riley*, *Miles v. Adams*, *McElroy v. Hibbard*, etc.). These accounts span 1806-1807 and suggest that the fees within must have been collected posthumously by Isaac for services performed before his brother's death. The notebook's second segment records moneys earned by the father in office, primarily for recording deeds. Again, the chronology suggests a similar scenario as the notebook's first segment. There are also several leaves of entries with much later dates recording monies received by Thomas Barnard. All accounts are clearly legible and amounts of fees charged for all legal services are provided. In all, this record provides a fine image, in microcosm, of legal costs on Pennsylvania during the early nineteenth century.

[Order This Item](#)



Handsome 1724 Manuscript Digest of Royal Decrees Concerning Provence

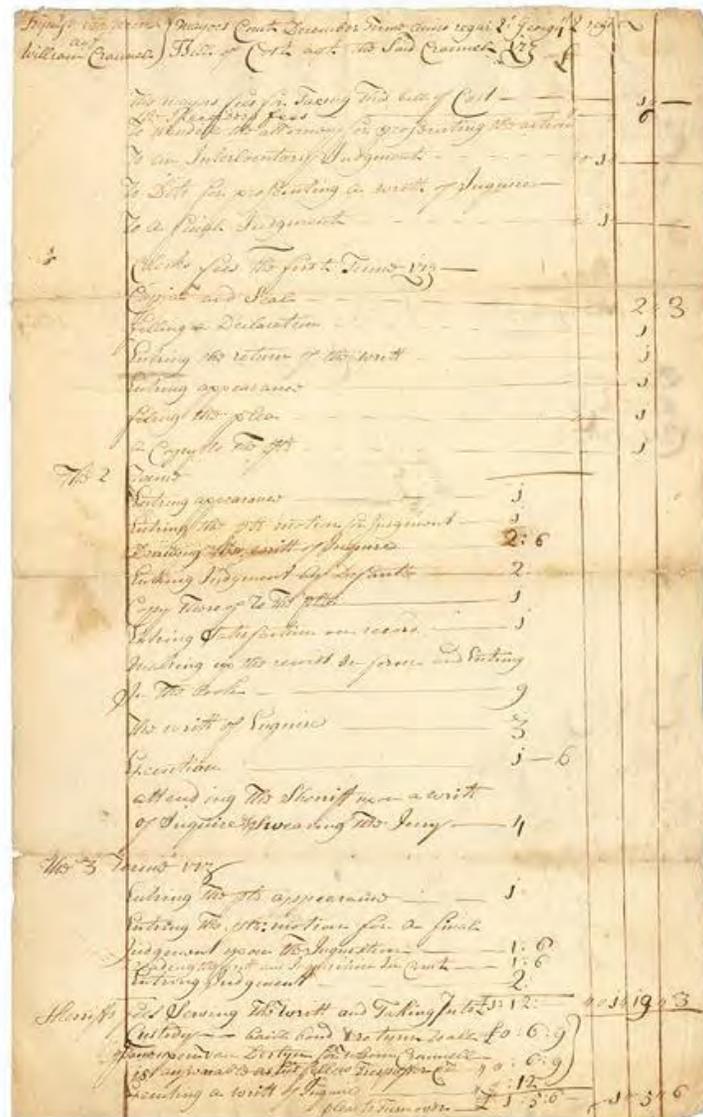
5. [Barrigue de Montvalon, André (1678-1779).

[Bornier, Philippe (1634-1711)].

Précis des Anciennes et Nouvelles Ordonnances, Edits et Declarations les Plus en Usage avec Quelques Observations sur le Commentaire de Bornier. Aix-en-Provence, 1724. [287] ff. Quarto (9" x 6-1/2").

Contemporary calf, gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece reading *Précis des Ordonna*, gilt tooling to board edges, edges of text block rouged, marbled endpapers, ribbon marker. Minor nicks, scuffs, worming and stains to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to corners, front joint starting at foot. Light toning to interior, light soiling to preliminary leaves, minor worming along gutter in a few places, neatly written text in red and black ink within red ruled borders. A notably handsome manuscript. \$2,500.

* Barrigue de Montvalon was a legal advisor to the *Parlement* of Provence. His carefully compiled, handsomely produced manuscript book is a digest of royal decrees (*ordonnances* from 1667 to 1681 relating to Provence that were in force in 1724. The topics are arranged alphabetically, from "Abolition (Letters of)" to "Usury," according to the order of Bornier's *Conferences des Nouvelles Ordonnances de Louis XIV. Roy de France et de Navarre, Avec Celles des Rois Predecesseurs de Sa Majesté, Le Droit Ecrit, & Les Arrêts; Enrichies d'Annotations et Decisions Importantes* (first ed. 1681). It circulated for a number of years in manuscript and was first printed in 1752 (with a second edition in 1766). As stated in the preface, content in red ink refers to Bornier's work. Some of these references are interpretive or critical. The main text is enriched with side-notes and two indexes, each titled *Table*. The side-notes indicate the dates of the *ordonnances*; the first *Table* is an index of topics, the second is a list of *ordonnances* in chronological order. We located a copy dated 1728 at the Bibliothèque de Droit Schuman in Aix-en-Provence (MS87) and copies with later dates at the Bibliothèque Municipale a Vocation Regionale, Nice, none earlier than 1728. A note on the bibliographic record for the Schuman manuscript says it is the first manuscript edition. Ours is four years older and may thus be the true first edition. (We have not located any earlier copies.) See *Dictionnaire Historique des Juristes Français. XIIIe-XXe Siècle* 40. [Order this Item](#)



1728 Receipt for Fees in the Albany Mayor's Court

6. Bleecker, Rutger [1675-1756].

[Crawells, William].

[Receipt for Court Fees, Signed]. Albany, NY, January 9, 1728. Single 13" x 8" leaf.

Moderate toning and a few light spots, horizontal fold lines, minor edgewear, careful later repairs to tears along fold lines, text in neat hand to recto and verso, docketed on verso. \$350.

* As part of his penalty in a suit lost in the Albany Mayor's Court, William Crawells was compelled to pay the court costs. These included fees for the [preparation](#) and filing of documents, fees for the clerk and other court officers and a tax fee owed the mayor of Albany. Rutger Bleecker was Albany's mayor from 1726 to 1728. The Bleekers were a prominent family in the region. Three members served as Mayors of Albany. Along with Rutger, they were his father, Jan Jansen Bleecker [1641-1732], and his brother Johannes Bleecker, Jr. [1668-1738]. [Order This Item](#)

To the Sheriff of the County of Windham or his Deputy or either of the
Constables of the Town of Lebanon within said County Greeting
By Authority of the State of Connecticut you are hereby Comanded
to take the Good or estate of Abraham Bliss of said County
~~to take~~ now an Absconding Debtor, to the value of ~~the~~
fifty pound Lawfull Money, and for want thereof to take the body
of the said Abraham (if you may be found in your County) and
him safely keep, so that he may be had before the County
Court to be holden at Norwich in and for New London
County on the 11th Sunday of November next. Then & there
to appear unto Joshua Lathrop & Daniel Lathrop Esq. both
of Norwich aforesaid in a Plea of the Case whereupon the
Plaintiff declare & say that the Defend^t. viz. by a certain
writing or note under his hand by him well executed dated
the 20th day of ~~September~~ ^{May} 1781 promised the Plaintiff
by the names of Lathrop & Co. to pay to them (for value
received) ~~the sum of~~ the sum of one hundred & thirty
five Spanish Milled Dollars, and before the first day of
December then next with ~~the~~ Lawfull Interest untill paid
as by said Writing or note ready in Court to be shew'd appear
Now the Plaintiff further say that the Defend^t. has pro-
mise aforesaid not regarding, hath never performed the
same the aforesaid requested and Demanded - which is to
the Damage of the Plaintiff the sum of Fifty pound Law-
full Money and for the Recovery thereof with just Costs
the Plaintiff bring this Suit. You are hereby to cause
a true and attested Copy of this writ with ^{David Turnbull} ~~David Turnbull~~
who is Debtor and Attorney to sd. Bliss, and both sd. Bliss &
aforesaid ~~to be~~ ^{and} Bond sufficient for prosecution
being Given) fail not of this writ with you doing
thereon make due return according to Law,
(Dated at Norwich this 9th day of August A.D. 1785
of Duty pursuant thereto }
Ben^g Huntington Sheriff }
W. W. Spaulding Esq. }
\$5-00 }

1785 Connecticut Court Document
Ordering the Arrest of an Absconding Debtor

7. [Connecticut].

[Writ from the State of Connecticut Ordering the Seizure of Goods of an Absconding Debtor]. [Hartford or New Haven]: August 9, 1785. 2 pp. 13-1/2" x 8" bifolium, docketed on verso.

Horizontal fold lines, a few with minor tears, light edgewear, light browning and minor edgewear, horizontal and vertical fold lines, content in neat, legible hand. \$650.

* Addressed to the sheriff and deputy sheriff of Windham County, "or either of the Constables of the Town of Lebanon," this writ orders the arrest of Abraham Bliss and his deliverance to court in New London. This writ was issued because Bliss had defaulted on the repayment of 135 "Spanish Milled dollars" to Daniel and Joshua Lathrop. It also fines Bliss 50 pounds and directs the writ to be served to his attorney, David Turnbull of Lebanon. [Order This Item](#)



**A Notable Lawyer Discusses
the Dissolution of Partnerships**

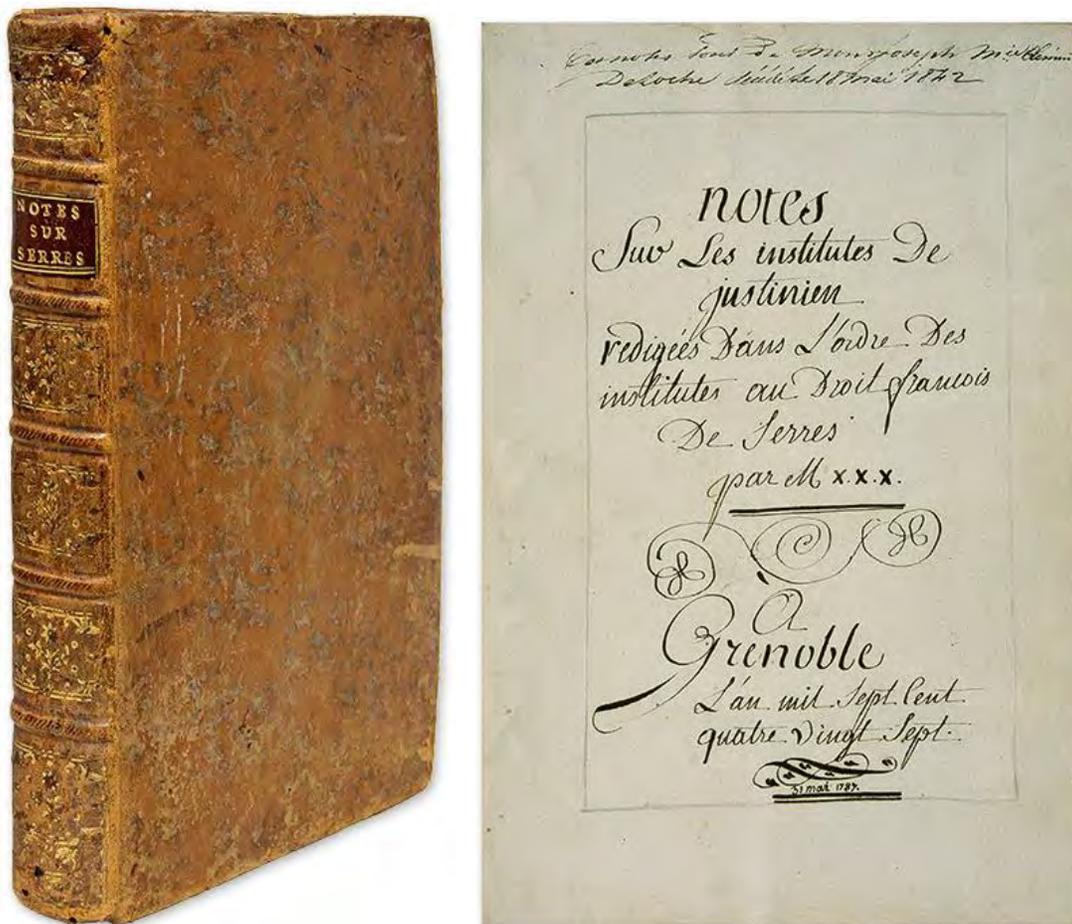
8. Cowles, Henry B. [1798-1873].

[Cowles, Gad (1768-1845)].

[Autograph Letter, Signed, Carmel, NY, December 19, 1833].

Single leaf folded to form 13" x 8" bifolium with integral address leaf, franked on verso of second leaf. Moderate toning, vertical and horizontal fold lines, a minor loss at wax seal with no loss to text. \$450.

* A lengthy letter from a notable lawyer and U.S. Congressman discussing laws on the dissolution of partnerships. Addressed to his uncle, Cowles discusses the legal precedents on notifications in cases of the dissolution of partnerships. He reviews the laws of New York, Connecticut and South Carolina, as well as those of Great Britain. Cowles concludes that "the Courts of South Carolina have in my opinion hit upon the most sensible and rational rule upon this whole subject, and one which is best calculated to do justice to all the parties & preserve the rights of Courts and juries." Cowles was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1798 and moved to Dutchess County, New York in 1809. An 1816 graduate of Union College in Schenectady, he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He served in the New York State Assembly from 1826 to 1828 and in 1829 was elected to one term in Congress as an anti-Jacksonian. In 1834 he moved to New York City and opened a practice that he maintained until the end of his life. [Order This Item](#)



**A Set of Manuscript Notes on an
Eighteenth-Century Textbook on French Law**

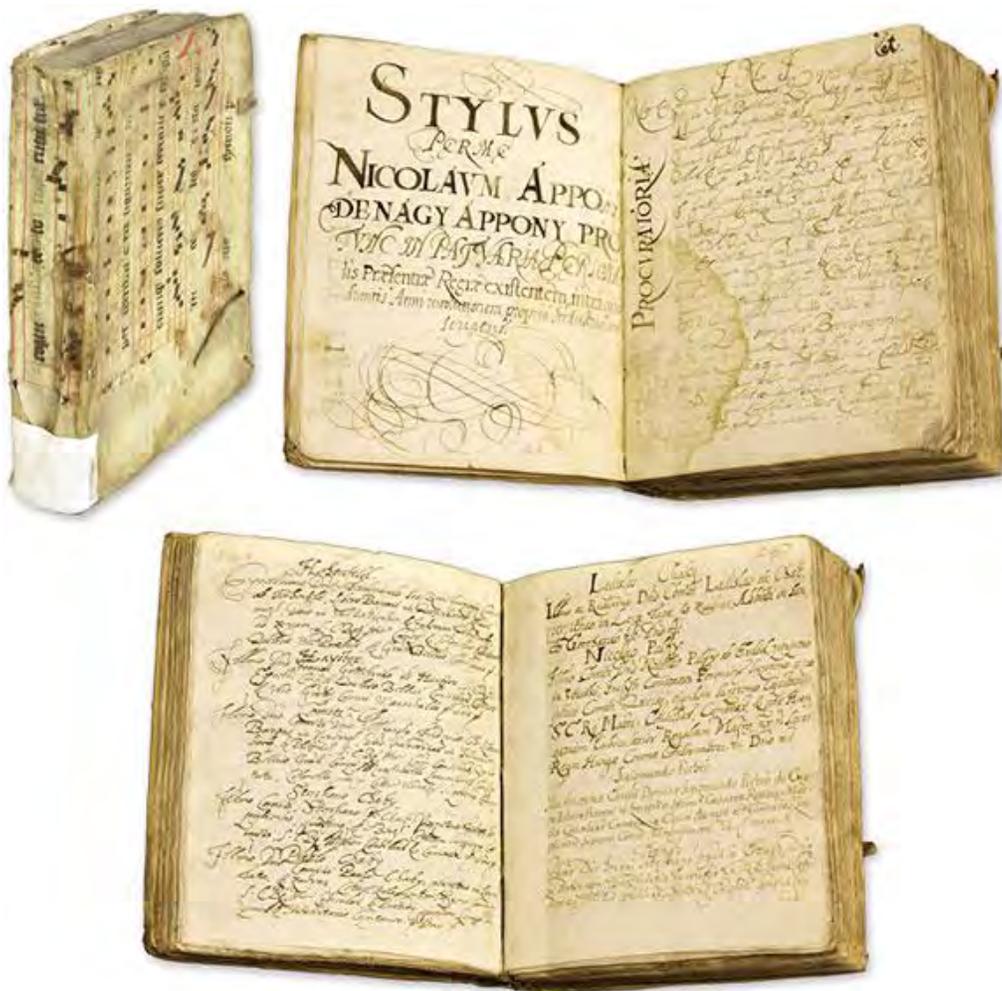
**9. Deloche, Maurice Clement [d.1842].
Serres, Claude [1695-1753].**

Notes sur les Institutes de Justinien Rédigées dans l'Ordre des Institutes au Droit François de Serres par M. XXX. Grenoble, 1787. [viii], 523, [22] pp. Quarto (10-1/4" x 7").

Contemporary mottled calf, gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece reading *Notes Sur Serres*, edges rouged. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, a few minor worm holes to spine ends and rear board, hinges cracked. Light toning, text in neat hand within ruled borders to rectos and versos to all but a few leaves, a few notes in same hand laid in. \$1,950.

* A note in a later hand identifies the author as "Monsieur Mce [Maurice?] Clement Deloche, who died 18 May 1842." Apparently a fair copy, this manuscript is a comprehensive set of notes on each section of *Les Institutions du Droit François: Suivant l'Ordre de Celles de Justinien* (1750, final edition 1778) by Serres. (We were unable to identify which edition.) Each note has a reference to the appropriate section. The manuscript is dated 1787, but it has additional notes from the Revolutionary era: three pages of notes at the beginning of the manuscript dated 1789 and 1793 and notes to the margins of a few leaves dated 1793 and 1794. As indicated by its title, Serres's book is an elementary study of French law organized in the manner of Justinian's *Institutes*, the classic textbook on Roman law from the *Corpus Juris Civilis*.

[Order This Item](#)



**Seventeenth-Century Hungarian Manuscript
Compiled by a Law Student Preparing for His Final Examination**

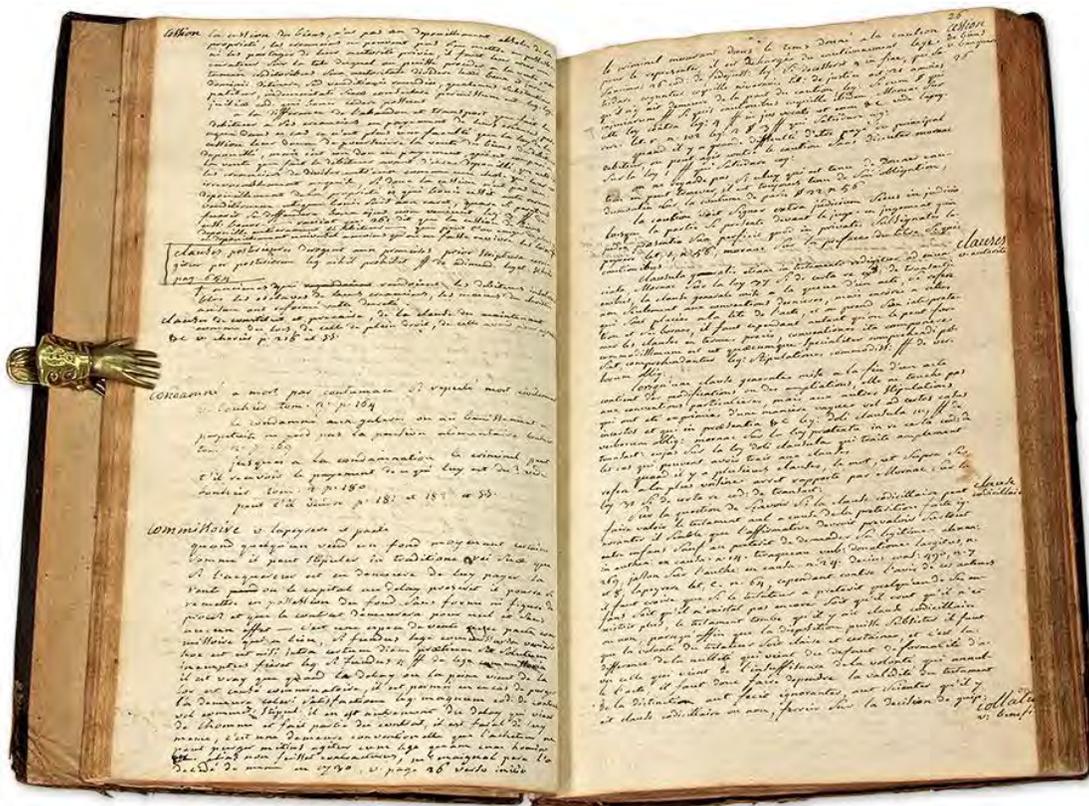
10. De Nagy, Nicholaum Appony, Compiler.

Pia Mentins Exeruetia. [Probably Hungary, c. 1670]. 479 pp. Quarto (8" x 6-1/4").

Contemporary vellum (cut from an antiphonal), fragments of thong ties. Some soiling and edgewear, boards slightly bowed, crack to center of spine near foot, vellum beginning to crack through rear pastedown, front hinge starting, rear hinge partially cracked. Light toning to interior, early inscriptions and signature to front pastedown, text in Latin, written in a fine secretarial hand. \$2,000.

* Probably compiled in Hungary, this is a reference work for Hungarian law students during the *patvaria* (or *patvaristak*), a two-year training period for that preceded final examinations and admission to practice. It has a number of additional annotations to the endleaves and text. The pastedown is inscribed with an early owner's name, "Ioannes," above the Latin motto "*Sors Bona Nil Aliud*" (Good Luck, Nothing Else). The rear pastedown has the motto, "*dat Galenus opes, dat Justinianus honores, solum Aristoteles cogitur ire pedes,*" which is based on the quote by Robert Burton [1577-1640]: "Galen gives wealth, Justinian honors, but Moses must go on foot with a beggar's wallet." Our scribe, who seems to have been familiar with Burton, substitutes Aristotle for Moses. Nicholaas Appony de Nagy was a member of a noble Hungarian family.

[Order This Item](#)



Eighteenth-Century French Manuscript Law Dictionary

11. [France].

[*Dictionary of Law Terms*]. Paris?, c.1775. 208 ff. Folio (12" x 8").

Contemporary speckled calf, gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece reading *Collection*. Moderate rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with some wear to board edges and spine ends, joints starting at ends, hinges cracked. Moderate toning, minor stains in a few places, light soiling and some edgewear to preliminary leaves. Text to rectos and versos of most leaves in neat, miniscule hand, early owner inscriptions to front pastedown, a leaf of notes laid in. \$5,000.

* Carefully organized and prefaced with a table of contents, this manuscript law dictionary has around 600 entries (covering the entire alphabet). Several of these are quite lengthy and feature references to legal treatises and laws. The latest reference is dated 1775. With its careful arrangement and neat text, it appears to be a fair copy with later corrections and additions. Most of these are in the same hand, but some are in different hands. For the most part, the additions are on versos. The text is in French with occasional passages in Latin. We have not been able to determine the name of compiler, but two inscriptions suggest this manuscript was compiled in Paris. The front pastedown has a mostly illegible, stuck-through owner inscription. Its hand is similar to some of the additions to the text. Below, in the same hand is another owner inscription of a "Mr. Tenier Olivier procureur au parlement" with the address Rue du Cloître-Saint-Benoît, a street near the Sorbonne. Below, in the same hand, is the name "Mr. Beroux" residing at Rue des Deux Ponts, a street near Notre Dame. There is also a later owner signature "Moutardieu" at the head of the first index leaf. An inscription in Moutardieu's hand on the front pastedown shows he gave the manuscript to a "Monsieur Desalles" at the "café de la Rochebrune rue St-Honoré a Paris. [Order This Item](#)



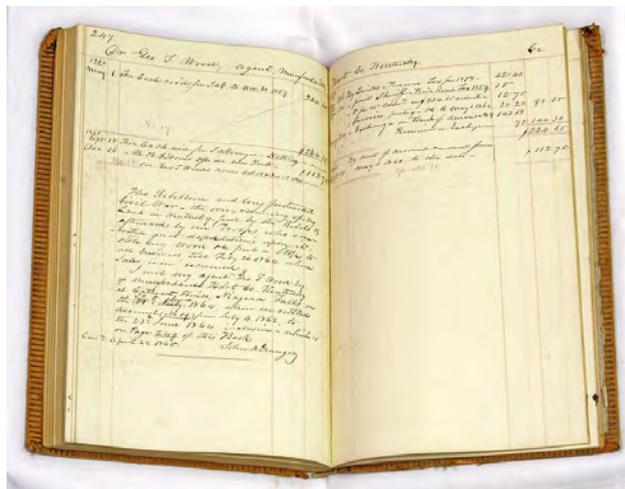
Handsome French Manuscript on Procedure from 1821

12. [France].

Procédure. Rennes, France, 1821. 100 pp. Quarto (8" x 6-1/2").

Contemporary limp vellum with flap, tie lacking. Light soiling and a few minor stains and tiny holes, spine ends bumped, vellum beginning to crack through pastedowns, which have some worming. Light toning to text, some soiling to title page, burn-through from a few letters of title (due to acidic ink). Text in small elegant hand to rectos and versos of 41 leaves, most beginnings and ends of most sections have calligraphic decorations. Handsome. \$750.

* Carefully organized and written with fine penmanship, this is a fair copy of lecture notes on procedure. It is arranged in three books with chapters (titles) and furnished with side-notes. The final six leaves, in the same hand, are a collection of poems (on non-legal subjects). [Order This Item](#)



Ledger Detailing the Sale of Lands from "Granger's Great Tract" in Kentucky

13. [Granger (Grainger), John A. (1795-1870)].

List of Kentucky Land and Sales, January 22, 1845. [New York?, 1845-1868]. 280 pp. 3 manuscript slips laid in. Folio (12-1/4" x 7-3/4").

Reversed calf, black-stamped fillets and frames to boards, hand-lettered title to front board, raised bands and lettering piece (reading "Journal") to spine. Some staining to boards and spine, moderate rubbing to extremities with wear to corners, some chipping to spine ends, rear hinge starting at ends. Light toning, content in neat hand to roughly 90 pp., mostly dating from 1845-1850, interspersed with additional blank pages and a few later unrelated entries with later dates through 1868. \$1,250.

* One of Kentucky's largest landowners, Gideon Grainger (or Granger), a New Yorker, held 64,000 acres in the region around Bardstown and Glasgow, an area nicknamed "Granger's Great Tract." Divided into three sections, this ledger records the sale of his lands by Gideon's heirs. It has a detailed accounting of the "List of Lands belonging to the Heirs of Gideon Granger, remaining unsold in Hardin, Hart & Larue Co's. Kentucky" totaling some 35,078 acres. An accompanying notation reads: "All the above Land in Kentucky belongs to John A. Granger and was Deeded to him on the 22nd January 1845 by Mindwell P. Granger & Francis Granger Executors & Trustees of the Estate of Gideon Granger, deceased, which Deed is duly recorded in Hardin, Hart & Larue Counties, Ky. and is in the hands of Geo. T. Wood Esq. my agent at Munfordville, Hart Co., Ky." John A. Granger. The second section of ledger is titled: "List of Squatters in John A. Granger's land all but two seen and visited by him in May 1844 & April 1845." Each squatter is listed by name and respective parcel with various notations such as "Old Road on the east Line - boundary disputed," "On the Nashville Turnpike," "Superior Land," "On the Litchfield Road," etc. A number of squatters purchased land, transactions likely prompted by Granger's site visits. The third section contains a "List of Land sold by George T. Wood, agent for Gen. John A. Granger," comprising numerous names and various notations. Fourth and final section is titled: "George T. Wood, agent at Munfordville Ky. in a/c with John A. Granger." This section contains extensive lists and some elaborate notations pertaining to the sale of land with names and prices, taxes, surveyor expenses, leases and deeds, etc. John A. Granger, the compiler of this ledger, was a New York militia leader and major general of the 22nd division of infantry. In the back of book he writes: "The Rebellion and long protracted Civil War - the over-running of my land in Kentucky - just by the Rebels & afterwards by our troops who committed great depredations upon it - stole my wood and put a stop to all business til Feby 26, 1864 when sales were resumed. I met my agent Geo. T. Wood Esq. of Munfordville at Cataract House, Niagara Falls on the 30th June 1864, when we settled account (No. 19) from July 4, 1862 to 23rd June 1864..." A fascinating document, it offers insights into patterns of land ownership and conveyance and the history of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region. [Order This Item](#)

3
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa,
Sept. 28th 1891.

Dear Sir:

I received by due course of mail your letter of 29th ult. enclosing thirteen two-cent postage stamps, and requesting a copy of Photograph of myself, - and the names of the American members of the Commission that settled the Alabama Claims.

I am at length able to send you photograph as requested. The artists charge is fifty cents per copy.

The American members of what was known as "The High Joint Commission," who formulated "The Treaty of Washington," - the first eleven articles of which made provision for the settlement by arbitration of the so called "Alabama Claims," were Hamilton Fish, Robert C. Schenk, Samuel Nelson, Ebenezer Rockwell Hoar, and George H. Williams.

The board of arbitration provided for by this treaty was composed of five members, appointed respectively, one each,

3

its distribution to the personal claimants, who had suffered there, was authorized by Congress by the instrumentality of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, composed of five judges; viz. Hezekiah G. Wells, Martin Peterson, Kenneth Rayner, Wm. A. Foster and John Baldwin; who distributed a large part thereof, when the court expired by statutory limitation. It was revived in 1882, being then composed of three judges; viz. Hezekiah G. Wells, James Harlan and Asa French. Judge Wells having died, the Court was subsequently composed of James Harlan, Asa French and Andrew S. Brager; and prior to their final adjournment, which occurred Dec. 31st 1885, the whole of the residue of this sum, principal and interest, was distributed as provided by law.

With great respect,
yours truly,
Jas. Harlan.

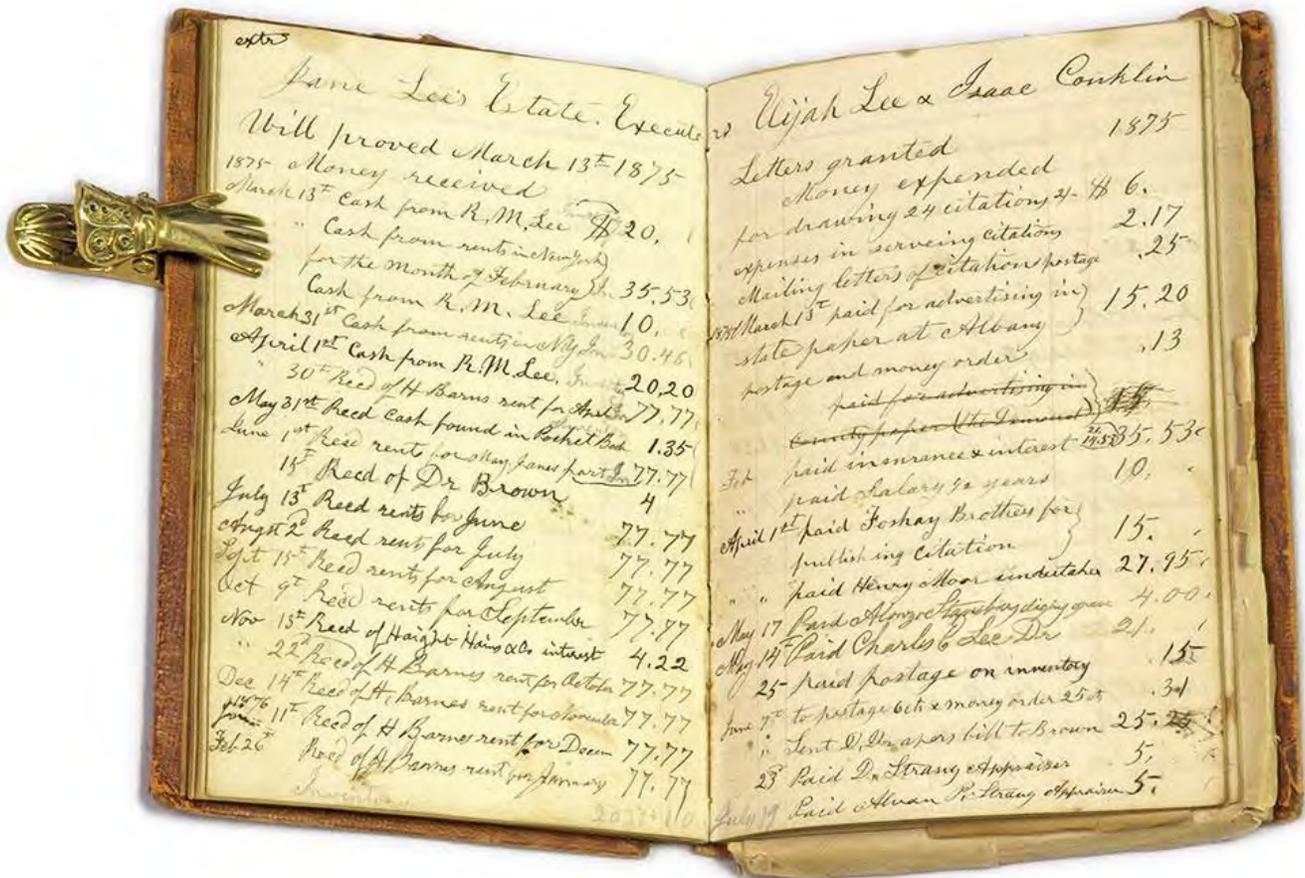
Judge Harlan Reflects on His Role in Arbitrating the Alabama Claims and on the Drafting of the Treaty of Washington

14. Harlan, James [1820-1899].

[Autograph Letter, Signed, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, September 28, 1891].

Single leaf folded to from 9-3/4" x 7-3/4" bifolium, no transmittal envelope. Two fold lines, one vertical and one horizontal, light browning. Content in neat hand to rectos and versos of three pages. \$650.

* Harlan was the presiding judge for the Court of Commissioners, which heard cases related to the Alabama Claims. After the Civil War, the United States made claims against Great Britain for damages inflicted upon U.S. vessels by the Confederate "commerce raiders" *Alabama*, *Florida*, *Shenandoah* and other cruisers fitted out by British shipbuilders. This matter was settled by an international body of commissioners that met in Geneva in 1871-1872. The work of this group, which concluded with the Treaty of Washington, marked a watershed in international law by establishing a template for the peaceful settlement of conflicts through arbitration. The letter is addressed to an unknown recipient who seems to have been researching the history of the commission. Harlan writes, "The American members of what was known as The High Joint Commission who formulated The Treaty of Washington - the first eleven articles of which made provision for the settlement by arbitration of the so called 'Alabama Claims'- were Hamilton Fish, Robert C. Schenk, Samuel Nelson, Ebenezer Rockwell Hoar, and George H. Williams. The board of arbitration provided for by this treaty was composed of five members, appointed respectively, one each, by the President of the United States, the Queen of Great Britain, the King of Italy, the President of the Swiss Confederation, and the Emperor of Brazil..". He lists the names of the participants, who were known as The Geneva Commission. "They awarded the United States the gross sum of \$15,500,000, in full satisfaction of all claims for damages done to the commerce of the people of the United States by the cruiser Alabama and other inculpated Confederate Cruisers on the high seas, during the war of the rebellion. This money.. was invested.. in interest bearing U.S. bonds, and so remained until 1874, when its distribution to the personal claimants who had suffered these losses was authorized by Congress by the instrumentality of The Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, composed of five judges..". He lists them. When the Court expired "by statutory limitation, it was revived in 1882, being then composed of three judges' viz. Hezekiah G. Wells, James Harlan and Asa French..". By Dec. 31, 1885 these judges completed the distribution and the Court was finally adjourned. A fine summary of an important Civil War reparations matter by one of the participants. [Order This Item](#)



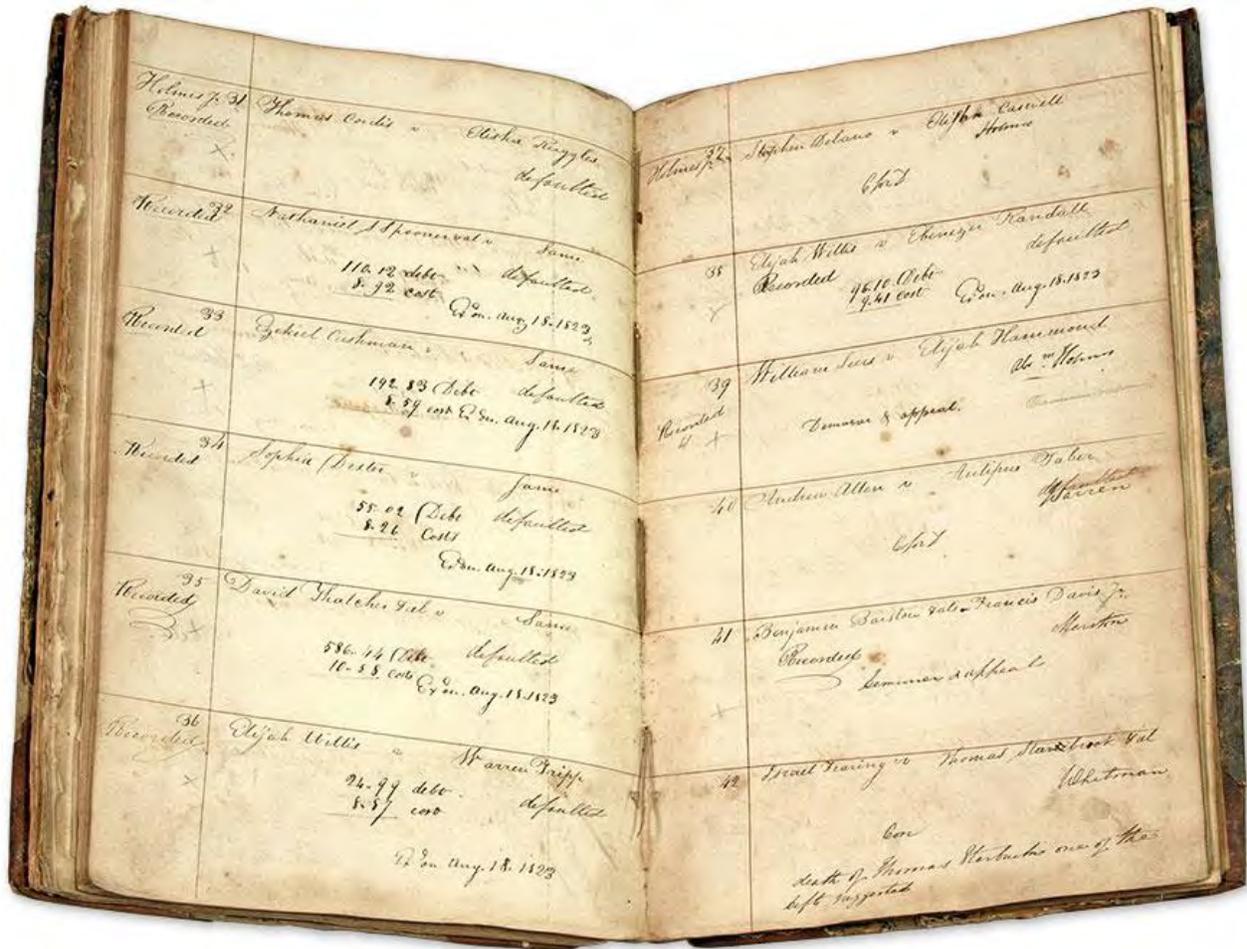
Details the Management of an Eminent Westchester, New York Lawyer-Businessman's Estate

15. [Lee, Elijah (1824-1902)].

Account Book as Executor of the Estate of Thomas Rathbone Lee [Cover Title]. [Somers, New York, 1860-1889; 1917-1920]. [150] pp. 5 leaves tipped or pinned in. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-3/4").

Calf, blind fillets to boards. Moderate rubbing to boards, spine backstrip perished, a few cracks to text block, final gathering detached, some edgewear to tipped-in and laid-in leaves. Small owner stamp of Elijah Lee to front pastedown and verso of front free endpaper, note in later hand identifying the nature of this manuscript to its recto. Light toning, content in neat hand. \$500.

* This manuscript details the administration of properties owned by the estate of the eminent Westchester County lawyer Thomas Rathbone Lee [1800-1860] of Somers, New York. The entries span a period of 60 years. The entries to 1889 were written Lee's half-brother Elijah Lee. The other entries, in unknown hands, deal with the estates of other members of this prominent family. Thomas Lee was a lawyer with a businessman with many interests. His clients included members of several prominent Westchester families, such as Purdys and Wrights. In addition to his extensive property holding, he had several business interests, such as the ownership of the Croton House hotel in Croton Falls. *History of Westchester County, New York* (1886) II: 534. [Order This Item](#)



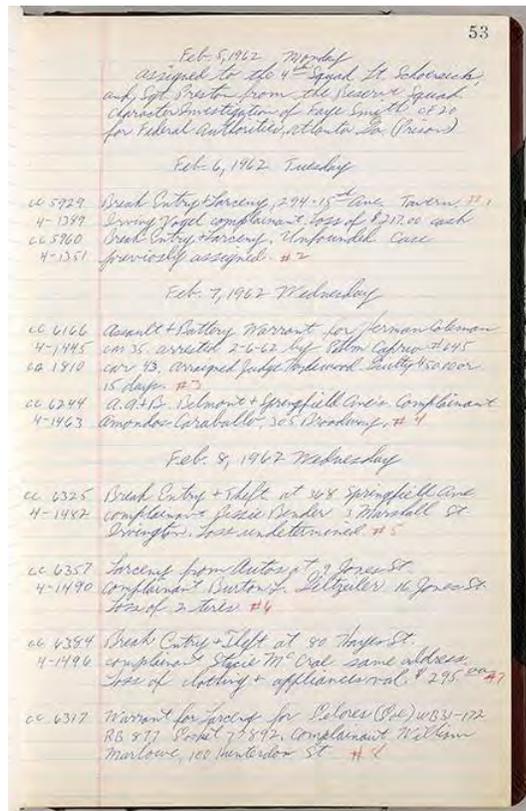
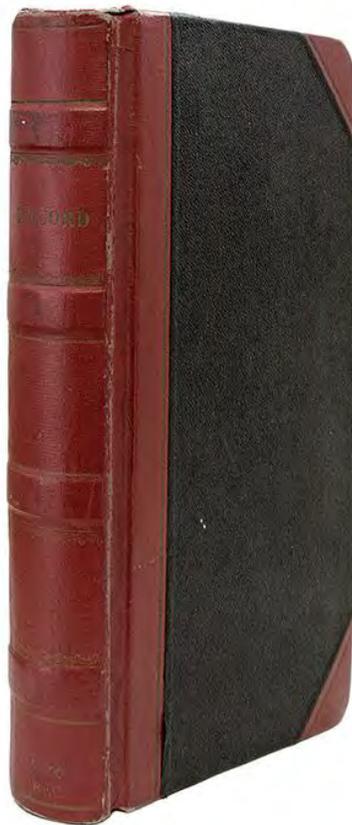
1823 Docket Book from Plymouth, Massachusetts

16. [Massachusetts].

[Docket Book, Court of Common Pleas, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1823]. [26], [110] pp. Includes 3 thumb-tabbed indexes. Folio (13-1/2" x 8-1/2").

Three-quarter calf over marbled boards, lettering piece reading "Dockets/ 1823" to spine. Worn, about 45% of marbled paper lacking from boards, lower half of backstrip perished, hinges cracked, several signatures loose and lightly edgeworn. Moderate toning, occasional faint dampstaining and light soiling, entries in bold and legible hand. \$750.

* The presiding judge of this court was John Mason Williams [1780-1869], one of the original four justices appointed to the Court of Common Pleas and its second chief justice. A resident of Taunton, Judge Williams served as justice of the Plymouth Court of Common Pleas until 1839 "when he was appointed to be chief justice, and continued to serve in that capacity until 1844, when he resigned. Judge Williams met the requirements of the statute in every respect. He was a man of abundant learning in the law and of the highest character, of unimpeachable integrity and purity, of great dignity of demeanor, and of unfailing courtesy of manner" (Emery). The three indexes in this docket book correspond to the three court terms in 1823. Several well-known Massachusetts family names appear in this docket, such as Ames, Cushing, Norton, Shaw, Sprague and Washburn. Emery, *History of Taunton, Massachusetts from its Settlement to the Present Time* (1893) 553. [Order This Item](#)



Daily Record of a Police Officer in Newark, New Jersey in the Early 1960s

17. [Newark, New Jersey].

[*Personal Logbook of a Newark, New Jersey Police Officer*]. [Newark, NJ]?, February 5, 1962-September 21, 1965. 500 pp. Thumb-tabbbed index. Folio (13-3/4" x 8-1/2").

Three-quarter cloth over contrasting pebbled cloth, raised bands and faded gilt ornaments and title (Record) to spine. Some rubbing to extremities with light wear to spine ends and corners, heavier wear to fore-edges of boards. Text in neat hand to rectos and versos of all 500 pages. \$650.

* This privately compiled record allows us to trace the daily work life of a police officer in Newark, New Jersey in the years immediately preceding the riots of 1967. At this time Newark was coping with deindustrialization, migration of the white middle class to the suburbs and an influx of poor African Americans, who were confronted with housing and job discrimination. At the same time the composition of the city's government and police force was predominantly white. Compiled with great care, it is both a log book and diary. Here is a list of typical entries: "Responded to Police Headquarters on a call from Lt. O'Leary of the night bureau. From there with Det. Thran to N.Y.C. to pick up prisoner," "Assigned to the New York Police Academy for school", "On duty with Det. Roller Lt. Pichel working desk [in author's absence]," "Assigned in uniform at 5:30am for detail at Newark Airport," "Attending seminar at Rutgers New Brunswick," "Returned to duty in the 1st squad from prosecutor's office" and "Home for working Saturday." He had a few interesting assignments. He was part of a "Special Detail guarding President Kennedy at Columbus Day Parade" and was part of a detail to "guard Sen. Humphrey" when he visited the city. However, most of the entries chronicle crimes, apprehensions, arrests and responses to complaints. Many of these are cases of vandalism, petty theft, low-level violence and other "quality of life" issues that afflict cities in decline. [Order This Item](#)



Early Docket Book from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania

18. [Pennsylvania].

[Commissioners of Mifflin County].

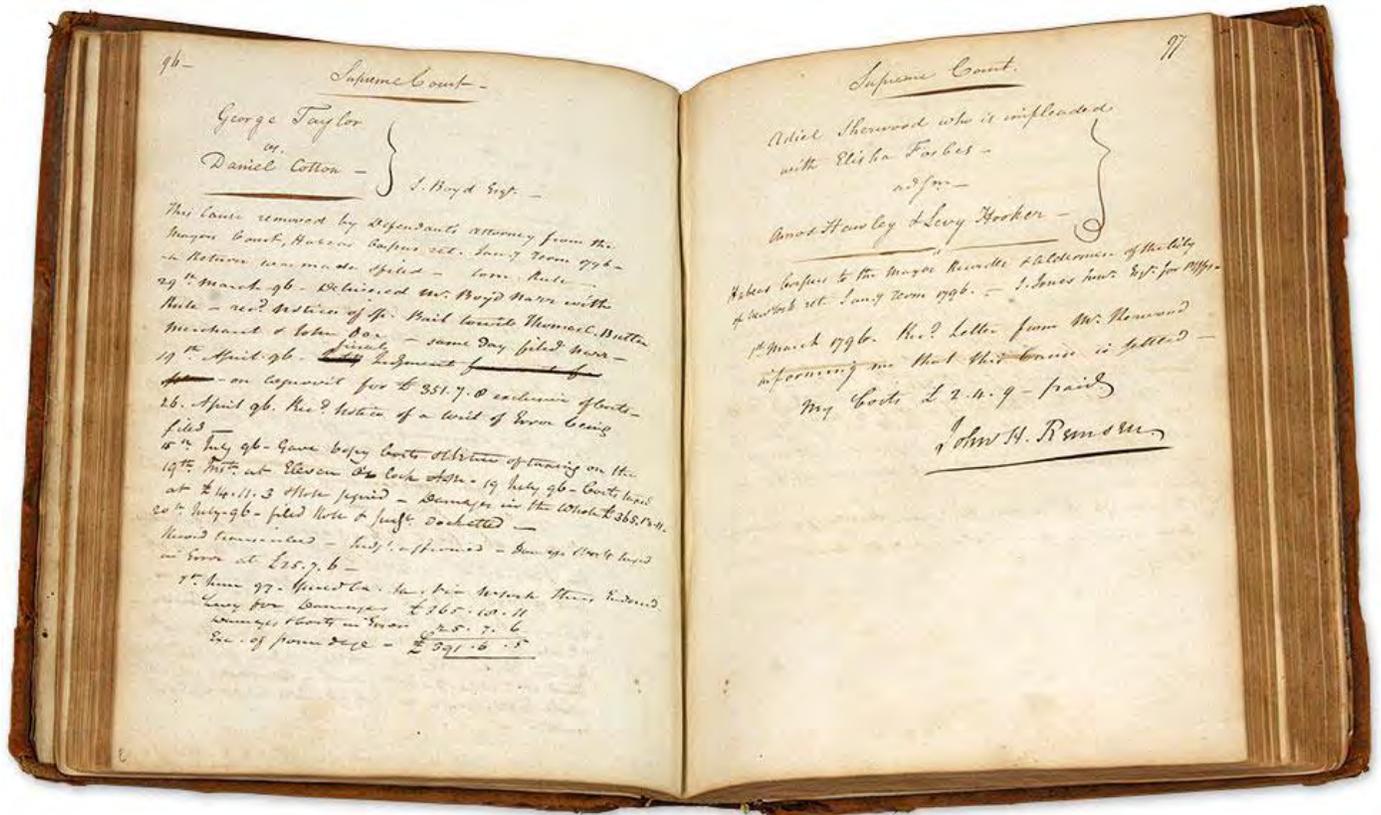
[Docket Book, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, 1812-1839]. [300] pp. Oblong folio (15-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Three quarter sheep over marbled boards. Light rubbing to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners. Light toning, faint dampstaining, a few partial cracks to text block, text in small neat hand to rectos and versos of 66 pages, later annotations in pencil to endleaves and a few other places. \$500.

* Apparently a retrospective record, this ledger records court appearance records for Mifflin County, Pennsylvania from 1812 to 1839.

This is an early docket book; the county was founded in 1789. The content is related exclusively to cases heard in this central Pennsylvania county, with hundreds of individual names and various institutions, such as the Turnpike Road Company, United States Bank, Juniata Bank and Lewistown Presbyterian Church. The entries include an "indictment for the murder of her child," an "indictment for larceny," and an "indictment for scaring defendants [who were] not guilty."

[Order This Item](#)



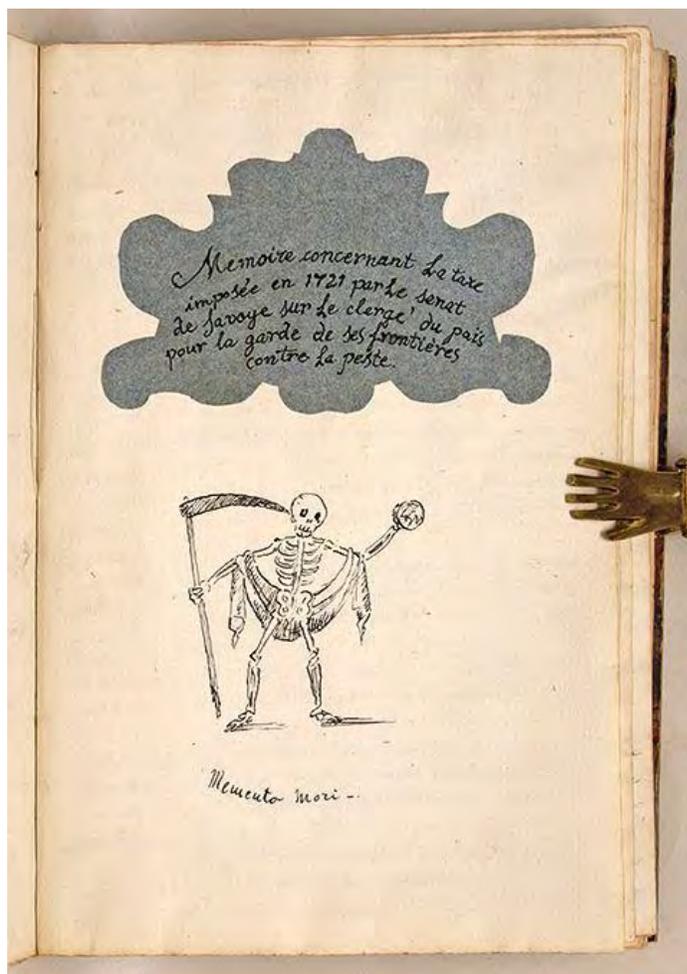
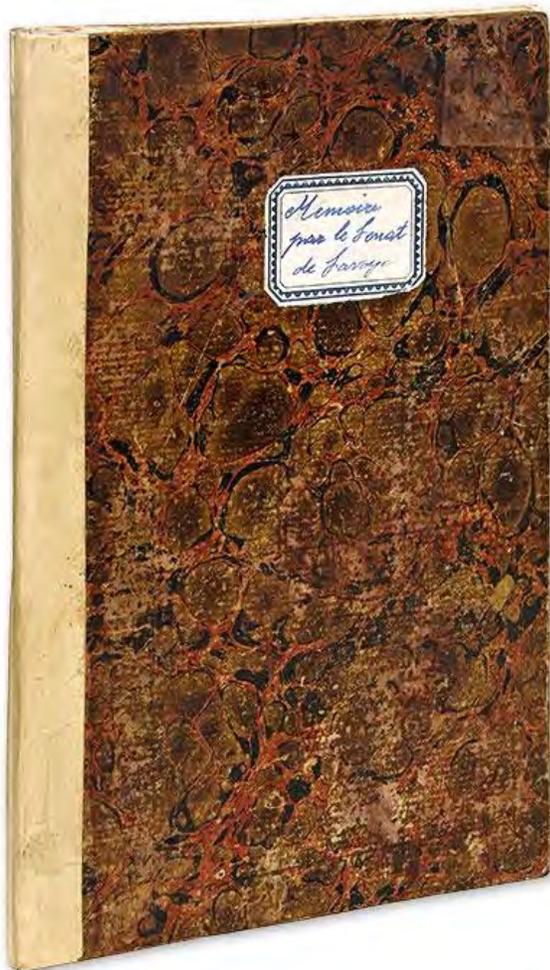
Late Eighteenth-Century Account
Book of a Notable New York Attorney

19. Remsen, John H. [c.1770-1798].

[Account Book]. New York, 1795-1798. [xxiii], 326 pp. Quarto (9-1/2" x 7-1/2").

Reverse calf, blind fillets and panels to boards, rebaced retaining parts of existing spine, raised bands, blind ornaments and lettering piece (reading "Register") to spine, marbled endpapers. Moderate rubbing with wear to extremities, a few stains and slash marks to boards, hinges cracked, front free endpaper and preliminary leaves loose, one leaf and parts of two others removed. Moderate toning to interior, text in neat hand to rectos and versos of most leaves, a few early manuscript jottings to front endleaf, small library stamp and marks to its verso. \$7,500.

* With a thumb-tabbed index of cases. John H. Remsen was a New York lawyer and notary public who served as private secretary to New York governor John Jay. This volume records work done and fees charged by Remsen on hundreds of cases in the Mayor's Court, the Federal District Court, and the New York Supreme Court. Most of these cases were initiated from September 1795 to September 1796. Among the more noteworthy cases, Remsen represented the Bank of the United States in a protracted suit against Loyalist publisher James Rivington (pp. 169 and 170). He also represented a group led by John Jay and George Clinton. [Order This Item](#)



With Interesting Commentary About Law and Society

20. [Savoy, France].

Memoire Concernant la Taxe Imposée en 1721 par le Senat de Savoye sur le Clergè du Pais pour la Garde de les Frontieres Contre la Peste. [France: 18th Century]. 28 pp. Folio (8-3/4" x 5-3/4").

Contemporary quarter vellum over marbled boards, small later (?) paper title panel reading "Memoire par le Senat de Savoye" to front board. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with minor wear to spine ends and corners, crack near center of text block, all leaves secure. Manuscript *memento mori* vignette of a skeleton holding a scythe and skull to title page. Text in small neat hand, light toning to text. \$3,000.

* This erudite, detailed fair-copy manuscript of some 10,000 words presents an interesting discussion, often critical, of the relationship between secular and ecclesiastical law and the nature of power in relation to the clergy of 18th century Savoy. This is explored in the context of a recent tax to protect the frontiers against plague. Broadly conceived, the author of this study also provides considerable general commentary on the function of law in society. [Order This Item](#)



Diary of a Prominent Yonkers, New York, Lawyer, Judge and Politician

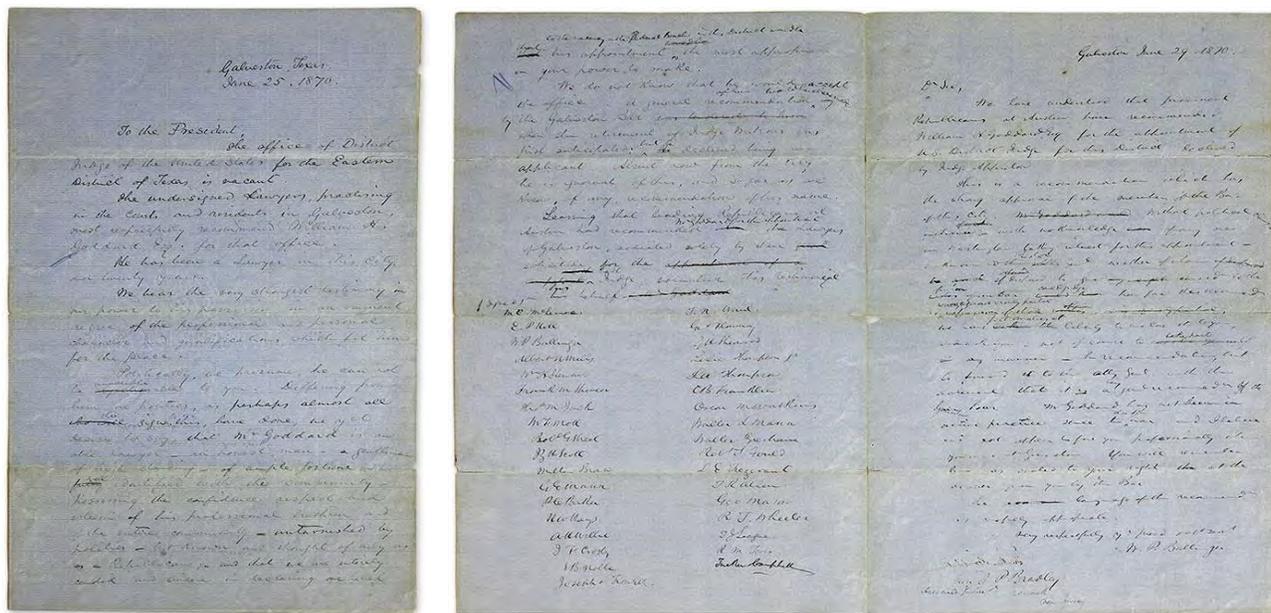
21. Scrugham, William Warburton [1820-1867].

[*Diary of William Warburton Scrugham*]. [Yonkers, NY, February 1, 1844--March 31, 1845]. 19, [120] pp. 12mo. (6-1/4" x 3-3/4").

Quarter sheep over marbled boards, printed paper title panel to front board (reading *Diary for 1844*. Published by Jansen & Bell, 158 Nassau-Street, New York). Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with wear to spine ends and corners, spine abraded, a few cracks to text block. Light toning to text, some leaves have light foxing, a few have faint dampstains. "Scrugham 1844" to front free endpaper, rectos and versos of most leaves filled in small neat hand. \$1,500.

* Scrugham studied at Columbia College and read law in the office of Samuel E. Lyon, in White Plains, New York, around 1836. When he was accepted to the County Board at White Plains as the supervisor for Yonkers, he was the youngest member, but he was popular and eventually became chairman. He continued to represent Yonkers for several years. In 1848 he was elected District Attorney of the county and in 1849 appointed lieutenant colonel of the 17th Regiment of State Militia, and the following year he was promoted to colonel. He infused new life into the regiment and was soon put in command of the Brigade as a Brigadier General. In 1849 he was nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, and upon taking his seat on the court, resigned his commission. In politics he was always a Democrat, but sided with the "Free Soilers" in 1848. A businessman and civic leader, he was the founder, Director and Secretary of the Yonkers Gas Light Company, an original trustee of the Yonkers Savings Bank, a director of the First National Bank of Yonkers, a director of the Yonkers and New York Fire Insurance Company, a trustee of the Yonkers Cemetery Association, one of the vestrymen of St. John's Church and a Mason.

The majority of entries in his diary concern his work as an attorney. They cover the time period after he left the office of Samuel E. Lyon in White Plains and set up his own practice. Scrugham's entries concern cases, searching out property records, writing up leases, wills and codicils and meetings with clients. Scrugham mentions several meetings with Lyon. The diary also includes an almost separate manuscript account of two transatlantic crossings. He left for Liverpool, England, on August 6th, 1844, arriving there on the 2nd of September. He visited some local sites but headed to London, where he explored the city until the middle of October. He then traveled to France, visiting Paris. After Paris and stops at other cities, he sailed back to America on November 18th, after spending over three months in Europe. He returned to America in early January, 1845. He describes his sailing voyages in great detail (gale winds, masts breaking, waves washing over the decks, ship is blown off course, becalmed, etc.) as well as the various places he visited and the people he either met, or called upon. The entries for the last couple of months (January-March 1845) resume descriptions of his daily life and law practice. [Order This Item](#)



A Group of Galveston Lawyers Attempt to Put One of their Colleagues on the Federal Bench

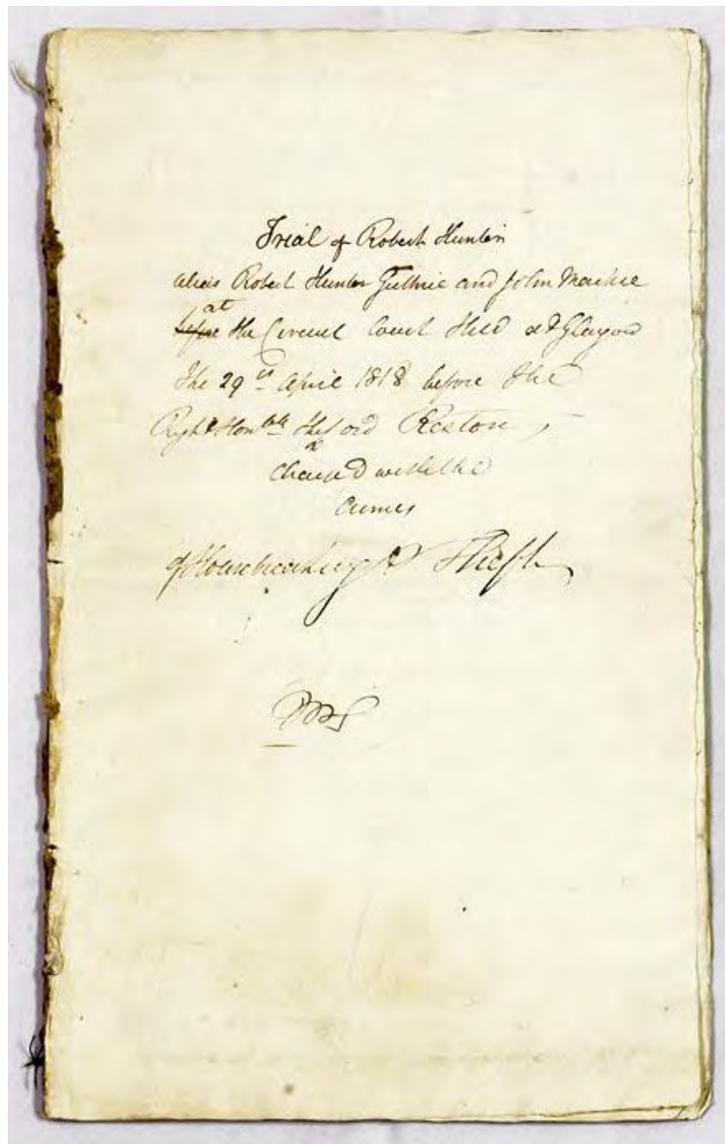
**23. [Galveston, Texas].
[Goddard, William H.].**

[Manuscript Letters from Members of the Galveston Bar Recommending William H. Goddard for a Judgeship]. Galveston, TX, June 25 [and] June 29, 1870. 4 pp. 13-1/2" x 8-1/4."

Lightly lined blue-paper bifolium, light edgewear, horizontal old lines, a few with clean tears. \$500.

* This manuscript records the background machinations of 35 Galveston lawyers to secure the nomination of William H. Goddard, a colleague, to the post of district judge for the Eastern District of Texas. The first two pages of the manuscript are a working draft for the testimonial and approbation of Goddard's nomination. It was probably written by William Pitt Ballinger [1825-1888], a prominent lawyer and citizen of Galveston. It says that Goddard had practiced law in their community for more than 20 years and declare: "Politically, we presume he can not be unacceptable [the word "objectionable" is struck] to you. Differing from him in politics, as perhaps almost all [the words "who will" has been struck] sign to this, have done, we yet desire to say that Mr. Goddard is an able lawyer - an honest man - a gentleman of high standing - of ample fortune - well [the word "fully" struck] identified with his community - possessing the confidence, respect, and esteem of his professional brethren and of the entire community - untarnished by politics - but known and thought of only as a Republican - and that we are entirely candid and sincere in declaring our belief that his appointment to the vacancy on the Federal Bench with.....most appropriate in your power to make."

The third page of the manuscript is a one-page letter from Ballinger, a retained copy with corrections in manuscript, of the final draft of a letter to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Joseph P. Bradley [1813-1892]. It reads, in part: "We have understood that prominent Republicans at Austin have recommended William H. Goddard, Esq. for the appointment of US District Judge for this district declined by Judge Appleton. This is a recommendation which has the strong approval of the members of the Bar of this City.... Mr. Goddard has not been in active practice since the close of the war and I believe did not appear before you professionally when you were at Galveston. You will remember him as seated to your right side at the dinner given you by the Bar." taken together, these manuscripts illuminate the efforts of a group of lawyers to promote one of their colleagues to the Federal bench. [Order This Item](#)



Who Stole My Cheese?

24. [Trial].

[Glasgow, Scotland].

Trial of Robert Hunter, Alias Robert Hunter Guthrie and John Mackie [Running Title]. [Glasgow: April 29, 1818]. 18 ff. Last leaf partially blank, docketed on verso. Folio (12-1/2" x 7.5").

Disbound, light soiling and edgewear, three horizontal fold lines, lower portion of final leaf lacking with no loss to text. Content in neat hand throughout. \$1,500.

* A curious collection of court documents involving a pair of men who were stealing and fencing stolen wheels of cheese from a warehouse. Sensing that the police were closing in on them, they fled, one is tempted to say "like mice," but were eventually apprehended. These documents appear to have been given to someone who organized them, added annotations, including the title on the first leaf, and had them bound into a volume. [Order This Item](#)



Account Book of a Distinguished Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Jurist

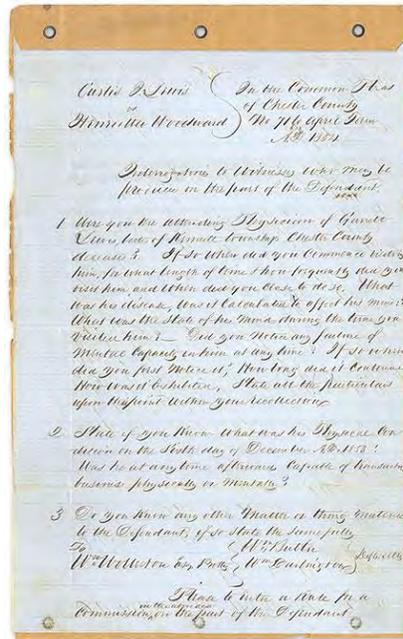
25. Vredenburg, Peter [1805-1873].

[*Account Book*]. Freehold, NJ, 1829-1839. 231, [13] pp. Oblong octavo (5-1/4" x 8-1/2").

Reversed calf, black-stamped frames to boards. Light rubbing and some scuffs and scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges with wear to corners, front board detached, spine perished. Owner signature to front pastedown and following leaf. Moderate toning to interior, first three leaves detached and edgeworn with very minor loss to content, diminishing edgewear to following five leaves, a few manuscript items laid-in. \$1,250.

* With an index. This ledger, which opens with the statement "Opened Office Apl 21 1829," records the early years of the career of a man who would become a prominent New Jersey lawyer, prosecutor and, later, an associate justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, a post he held from 1854 to 1868. (He was also the father of William H. Vredenburg, judge on New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals, and Peter Vredenburg Jr. (actually III), a lawyer and distinguished Major during the American Civil War. Camp Vredenburg, which is located near Freehold, is named after him.) The entries record fees collected for legal services. Several prominent local names are listed among the parties, such as Laird and Vandevanter. Taken together, they offer a good idea of the legal activity in an important New Jersey town.

[Order This Item](#)



**1854 Interrogatory Concerning the
Mental Fitness of the Decedent in an Inheritance Case**

27. [Wills].

Lewis, Garrett.

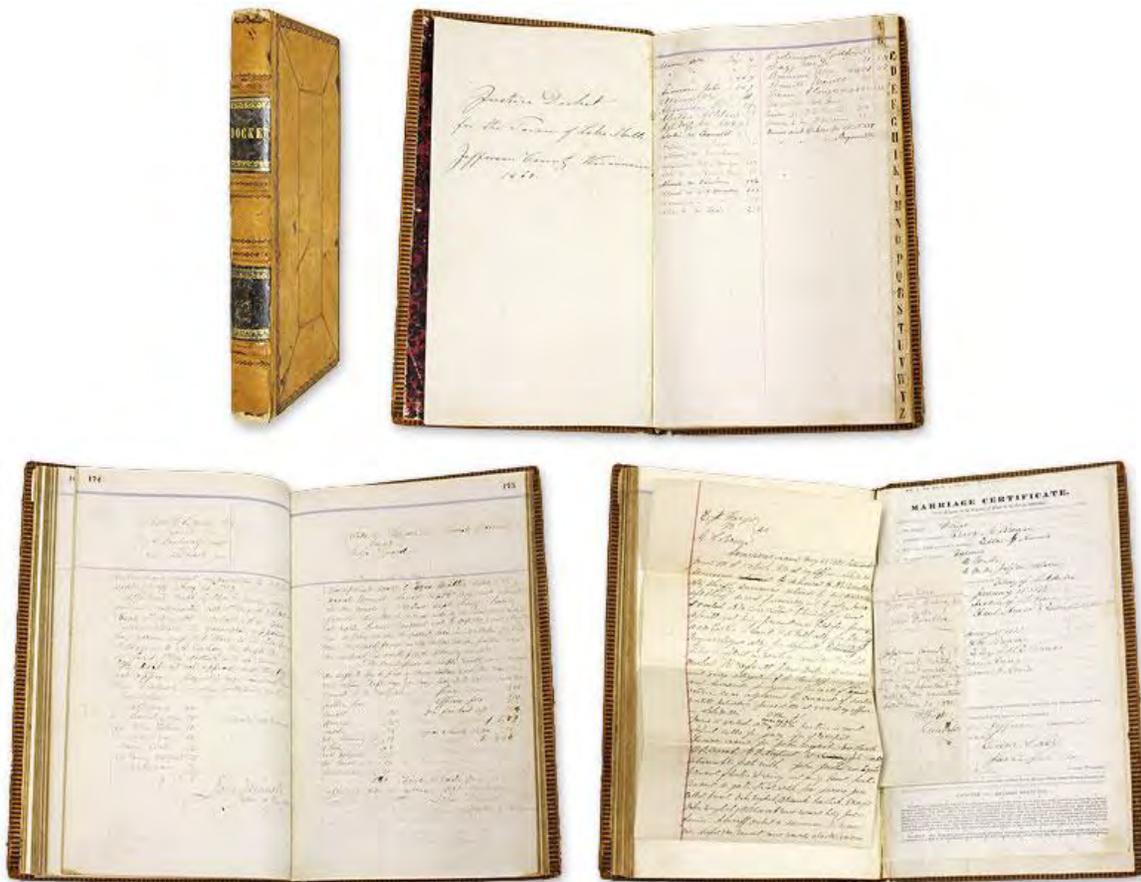
Skinner, Dr. W.C.

[1854 *Legal Interrogatory of a North Carolina Medical Doctor W.C. Skinner Concerning the Illness, Mental Fitness and Death of Garrett Lewis of Chester County, Pennsylvania*]. [West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1854]. [4] ff. Folio (12" x 8").

Four leaves of lined blue paper, with outer wrapper affixed with grommets along top edge, content to rectos and versos of first two leaves, and recto of third leaf, embossed seal of Court of Common Pleas of Chester County to third leaf. Faint horizontal fold lines, moderate edgewear to wrapper, scattered foxing. A well-preserved item. \$350.

* Legal interrogatory of North Carolina physician Dr. W.C. Skinner concerning the December 1853 death of his patient, Garrett Lewis of Chester County, Pennsylvania, from consumption. The document reveals a complicated and problematic relationship between a physician and his patient including his patient's financial affairs. Dr. Skinner's answers to the lawyer's questions and the facts he supplied were in aid of the lawsuit *Curtis F. Lewis vs. Henrietta Woodward*. This complicated case appears to concern the deceased's will and the state of his mind when he executed it—a will witnessed by Dr. Skinner.

The 1854 interrogatory is directed to county prothonotary, William Wollerton. The manuscript appears to be an official copy; it is sealed by the Court of Common Pleas and is attested to by Prothonotary Wollerton as being "From the Record." The interrogatory comprises three multi-part questions posed by the defendant's attorneys, William Butler and William Darlington. It focuses on the deceased's state of mind on December 6, 1853, presumably the date of his will. The third question reveals, troublingly, that Dr. Skinner witnessed the deceased's will. As to the will, Skinner declares: "I believe he knew he was signing his will, but he was incapable of comprehending and provision of said will. In a word I believe he was in such a condition as to readily & unresistingly sign any paper that might have been presented to him." An interesting legal document describing a complicated professional relationship between a physician and his patient, outlining the physician's involvement in his patient's financial and estate affairs. [Order This Item](#)



1868 Justice's Docket from Rural Wisconsin

28. [Wisconsin].

Justice Docket for the Town of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, 1868 (Manuscript title on first leaf). [Lake Hills, WI, 1868-1888]. [xxvi], 318 pp., a few blanks at rear. Folio (13-1/2" x 8-1/4").

Sheep, black-stamped panels to boards, raised bands and lettering pieces to spines, cloth reinforced hinges, marbled endpapers, thumb-tabbed index at front. Some rubbing to extremities with light wear to spine ends and corners. Five documents, some partially printed, laid or tipped-in. Light toning to interior, text in neat hand to rectos and versos of most leaves. A well-preserved item. \$750.

* This detailed docket book covering all manner of civil and criminal cases was compiled by seven successive justices of the peace in the Town of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wisconsin from 1868 to 1888. It records legal processes, judgments, and the associated service fees for approximately 250 civil and criminal cases. Among the civil proceedings were cases of breach of contract, recovery of debt, replevin, and bastardy. Criminal cases included trespass, larceny, vagrancy, arson, burglary, the use of abusive language and the violation of blue laws. Other criminal cases involved assault and battery, attempted rape and other forms of bodily violence. The docket book is arranged chronologically and documents each step of the judicial process. The docket names the parties involved and usually includes the names of their attorneys, if any. Receipts for the payments of judgments are noted as well. Further, the justices consistently itemized the court fees and those of the constables and marshals associated with each case. [A more detailed description is available on request.] [Order This Item](#)

Washington City Dec. 16. 1825.

Your esteemed favor of the 11th has just reached me having as I presume been retarded on its passage, in consequence of the stopping of the steam boat by the ice between Frankfort and Baltimore on Tuesday last - the weather here on Tuesday and Wednesday was exceedingly cold, but has since moderated and is now quite pleasant - I am happy to find that you are pleased with the President's Message, it is commended by all, except the Richmond engine, as a valuable state paper, its style, as well as its matter are such as are calculated to do honor to the American President, and will excite an interest whenever the Message is read - The various subjects recommended by it, have been referred and will no doubt receive the strict attention of the several committees - I have the honor to be one of the select committee on the subject of the monument to Genl. Washington, we have had one meeting, and I have no doubt will report favorably, but I have no idea that any bill or any report will pass: we have too many blue stocking ~~members~~ members who are willing to endorse the General any where rather than in marble - I agree with you in thinking the mission to Panama will be attended with important consequences, not only to the different republics which will be there represented, but to the world; it will give a conviction - amic to the South American Republics, and show an attitude so friendly to them, and so ~~not~~ formidable to the holy alliance as to cause them to reflect seriously, at least before they take any hostile measures, in favor of the beloved Ferdinand against them - in short there is no calculating at this point the influence it may have on the civilized world - Mr. John C. Calhoun and Mr. Anderson are spoken of as the persons likely to compose the mission on this part of the United States - if so, we shall be well represented - That the United States are increasing in wealth,

**Interesting Letter by a Distinguished
Nineteenth-Century Pennsylvania Lawyer-Politician**

29. Wolf, George [1777-1840].

[Autograph Letter, Signed, Washington, DC, December 16, 1825].

Single 9-3/4" x 8" leaf. Four fold lines, two vertical and two horizontal, light brownning. Content in small neat hand to recto and verso, fragments of paper (from an album) along left-hand margin. \$750.

* A lawyer and Jeffersonian, later Jacksonian politician, Wolf was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1814, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1824 to 1829 and the governor of Pennsylvania from 1829 to 1835. Appointed by President Jackson, served as the first comptroller of the Treasury, a post he held until 1838. He is best known as the governor who oversaw the establishment of Pennsylvania's public school system. Addressed to a John Cooper, an associate judge in Pennsylvania, this letter was written when Wolf was a U.S. Representative. Rich with "inside" information, it touches on several interesting topics: his work as a member of the "select committee on the subject of the monument to Geo. Washington," the annual message of President Adams, a mission to Panama, the prosperity of the United States and the impeachment of Robert Porter, a judge in Northampton, Pennsylvania. Letters by Wolf in the market are rare. We could locate only two auction records, the last at Henkels in 1907 (Lot 354, 3 Letters).

[Order This Item](#)



**Signed Oath of Office of an Important
New York Jurist, Patriot and Anti-Federalist**

30. [Yates, Robert (1738-1801)].

[*Signed Oath of Office as Chief Justice of the State of New York*]. [Albany], October 9, 1790.

18-3/8" x 8-1/4" vellum document, inscribed in neat clerical hand, signed and dated by Yates and twelve other judges and the state attorney general.

Light soiling, horizontal fold lines, light edgewear with a few minor chips. \$2,500.

* Beneath the copy of the Chief Justice's oath, signed and dated by Yates, is the oath of office as a Judge of the Court of New York State, which is signed by ten judges. Beneath that oath is one for Commissioners for taking Affidavits, signed by two officers, and, on the verso, the oath of office of Attorney General of the State of New York, signed by Morgan Lewis.

Robert Yates, a Revolutionary patriot and jurist, was admitted to the bar at Albany in 1760. During the Revolution, he represented Albany in four provincial congresses and served on the committee of safety. He was one of three New York representatives to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, but he left the convention with his colleague John Lansing when they felt the delegates were overstepping their mandate to revise the Articles of Confederation. Their withdrawal left Federalist Alexander Hamilton as New York's sole delegate.

In 1790, Yates was appointed the Chief Justice of New York, a post memorialized in the present document and which he held until 1798, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 60. The ten judges who signed below their own oath of office (substantially in the same form as Yates's) feature a number New York State luminaries, including delegates to the Continental Congress, members of the state legislature, and delegates to the New York Constitutional Convention: Samuel Jones, Leonard Gansevoort, Stephen Rensselaer, John Williams, Peter Schuyler, Peter Lefferts, David Gelston, David Pye, Thomas Tillotson and Philip Van Cortlandt. [Order This Item](#)