

DECEMBER 13, 2022

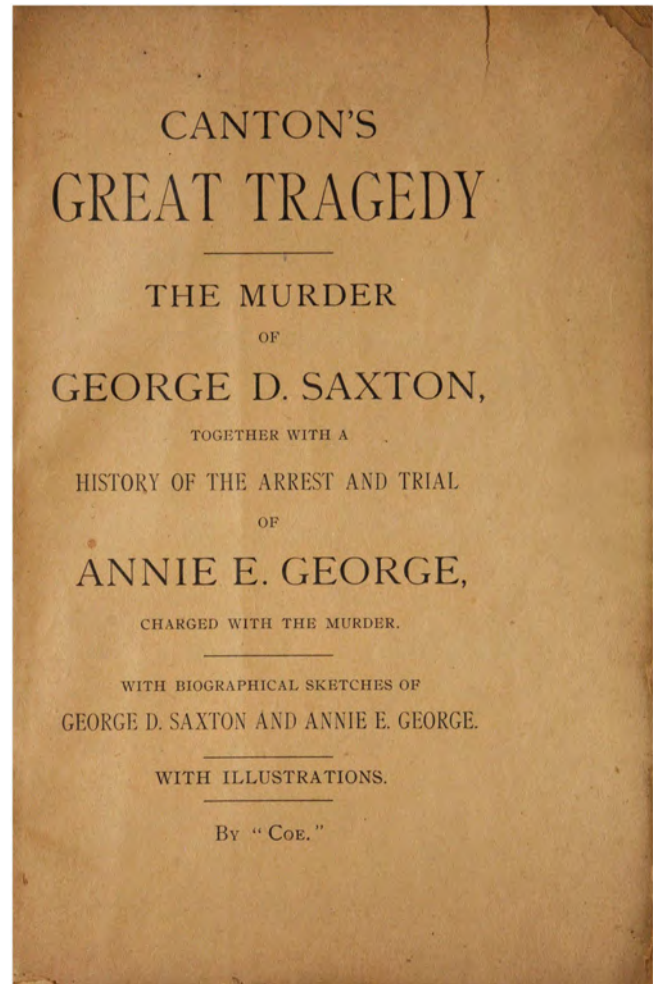
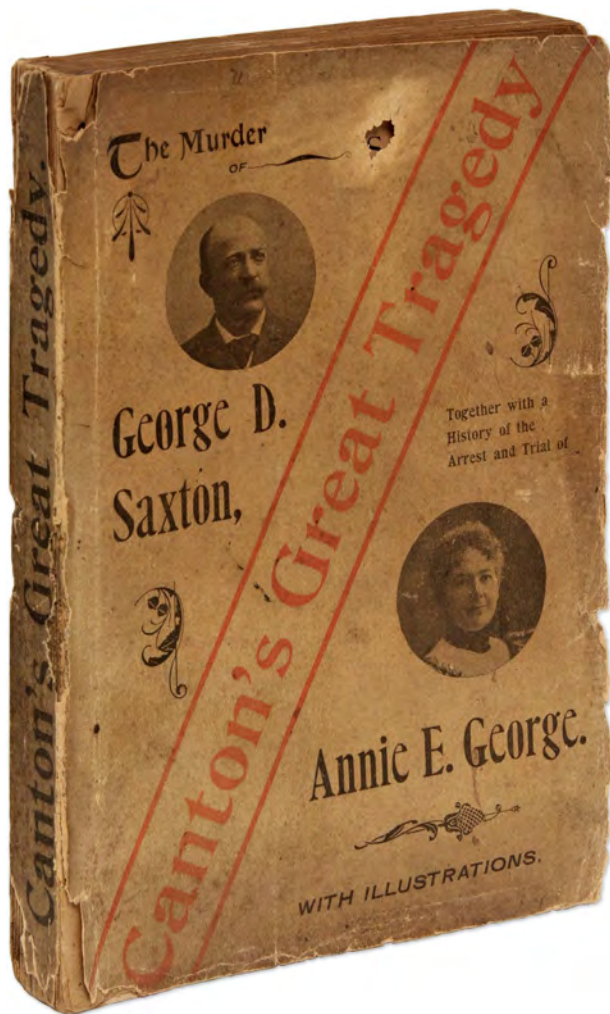
# AMERICAN MURDERS 1780–1901

30 Titles in McDade's *The Annals of Murder*



OF  
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### Murder in Canton, Ohio: McDade 334

1. [Albaugh, Thurlow K. (1868-1937)].

George, Annie, E. [b.1859].

Saxton, George D. [1848-1898].

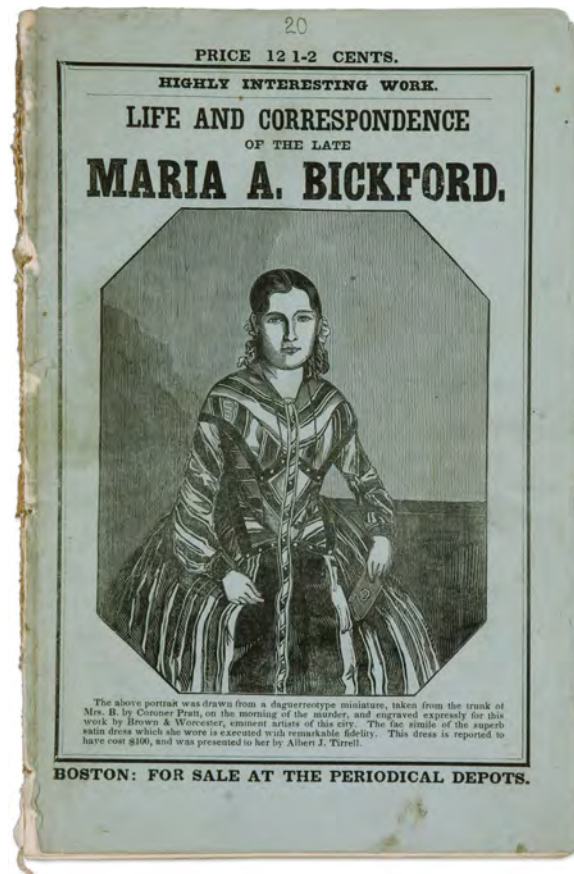
*Canton's Great Tragedy: The Murder of George D. Saxton, Together with a History of the Arrest and Trial of Annie E. George, Charged with the Murder. With Biographical Sketches of George D. Saxton and Annie E. George. With Illustrations.* [Wooster, OH: Press of Clapper Printing Co., 1899]. [iii], 308 pp. 14 leaves of plates. Illustrations. Octavo (7-1/2" x 5-1/4").

Softbound book in pictorial wrappers. Moderate soiling, rubbing to extremities with wear to spine ends and corners, small hole to front wrapper, moderate browning to text, faint dampstaining to fore-edges of a few leaves near rear of text. \$750.

\* Only edition. "Saxton, who was shot on October 7, 1898, was the brother of Mrs. William McKinley, wife of the President. Mrs. George was acquitted" (McDade). The title page ascribes this book to "Coe," which was the pen name of Albaugh K. Thurlow, a notable Ohio theater owner and manager. OCLC locates 15 copies, 6 outside of Ohio, 2 in law libraries (Harvard, University of Minnesota).

McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 334.

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### The First Use of Sleepwalking as a Defense in a Murder Trial

#### 2. [Bickford, James, Compiler].

*The Authentic Life of Mrs. Mary Ann Bickford, Who Was Murdered in the City of Boston, On the 27th of October, 1845. Comprising a Large Number of the Original Letters and Correspondence Never Before Published.* Boston: Published by the Compiler, 1846. 48 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-3/4").

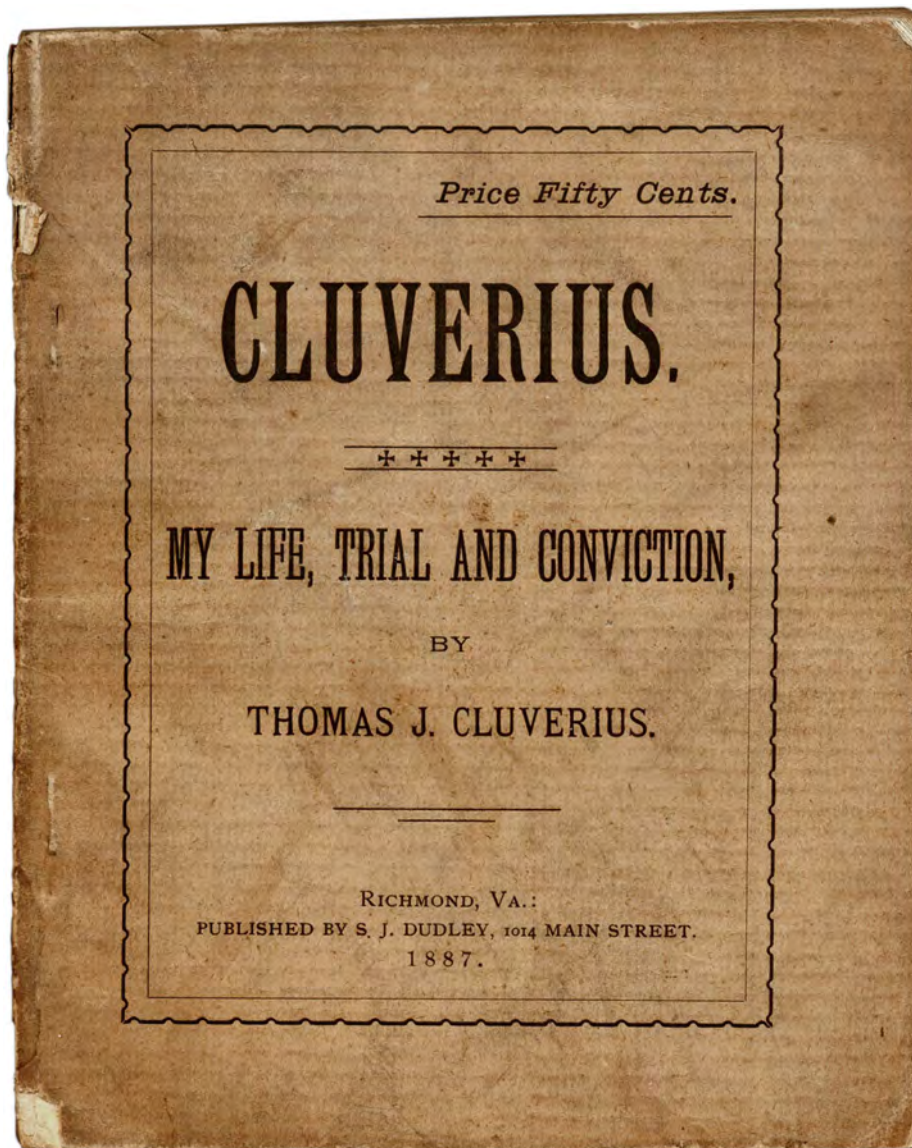
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, original pictorial wrappers retained (and securely affixed to text block). Light soiling and a few smudges and stains to wrappers, "20" in small hand to head of front wrapper, small library bookplate to its verso. Light toning to text, light foxing to a few leaves. \$1,500.

\* Second edition, published the same year as the first. In 1845, Albert Jackson Tirrell [1824-1880] murdered Mary Ann Bickford [1824-1845], with whom he had a relationship, in the brothel where she lived. The case was scandalous and widely publicized, especially after Tirrell's lawyer, Rufus Choate [1799-1859], successfully argued that Tirrell was innocent because he had been sleepwalking during the killing. This was the first time a defense based on sleepwalking was used in a murder trial. The letters collected by her brother in the *Authentic Life* document Mary Ann's relationship with her husband, James Bickford, and her relationship with Tirrell, who is shown to have been abusive and manipulative.

The OCLC listing for the second edition held by the New York Historical Society Library notes that "the color of the cover appears to be the only difference [between the two editions]." OCLC locates 16 copies of both editions, 3 in law libraries, which have the first edition (Harvard, Library of Congress, Yale).

McDade 986 (edition not stated). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 13108.

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**Cluverius Tells His Story: McDade 193**

**3. Cluverius, Thomas J. [1861-1887].**

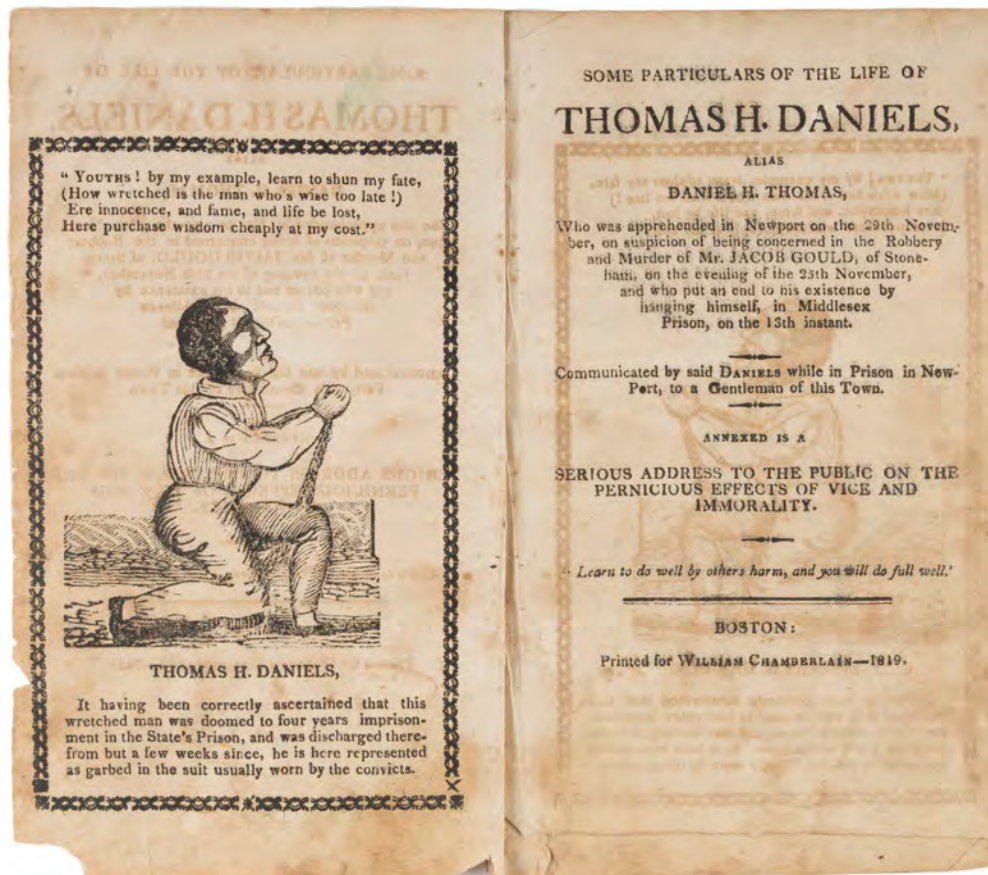
*Cluverius: My Life, Trial and Conviction.* Richmond: Andrews, Baptist & Clemmitt, 1887. 112 pp. Quarto (6" x 5").

Stapled pamphlet in printed wrappers. Moderate soiling, light rubbing to extremities, spine ends abraded, moderate toning to text, minor stains to title page. \$250.

\* First edition. A second edition with an account of the author's execution was published the same year. "Cluverius came from one of the 'better' Virginia families. He had married Lillian Madison, a country girl, but ad kept the marriage a secret from his family and friends. He finally had her come to Richmond, where he murdered her and threw her body into the reservoir. He was quickly traced, tried, and executed.": McDade.

McDade 193.

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#### McDade 240: "How Wretched is the Man Who's Wise 'Too Late'"

#### 4. Daniels, Thomas H.

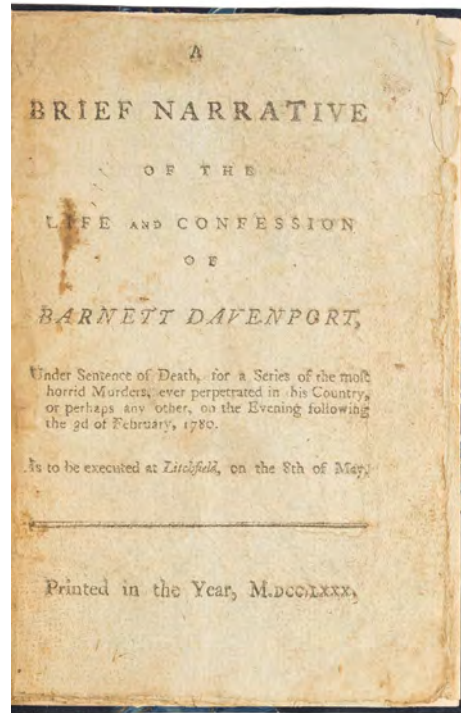
*Some Particulars of the Life of Thomas H. Daniels, Alias Daniel H. Thomas, Who Was Apprehended in Newport on the 29th November on Suspicion of Being Concerned in the Robbery and Murder of Mr. Jacob Gould of Stoneham on the Evening of the 25th November and Who Put an End to His Existence by Hanging Himself in Middlesex Prison on the 13th Instant. Communicated by Said Daniels While in Prison in Newport to a Gentleman of This Town. Annexed is a Serious Address to the Public, On the Pernicious Effects of Vice and Immorality.* Boston: Printed for William Chamberlain, 1819. 24 pp. Woodcut portrait frontispiece. 12mo. (7" x 4").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Light browning and dampspotting, a few minor chips and tears to margins of frontispiece. \$1,850.

\* Only edition. Daniels, who took part in a robbery that ended in murder, had a criminal career that included convictions for horse-theft and counterfeiting. He hanged himself in his cell with a handkerchief. The frontispiece depicts Daniels kneeling in chains in his cell below a stanza of verse, which summarizes the message of the pamphlet: "Youths! by my example, learn to shun my fate, (How wretched is the man who's wise too late!), Ere innocence, and fame, and life be lost, Here purchase wisdom cheaply at my cost." This title is rare in commerce. The last time a copy sold at auction since 1910 was in 1991. OCLC locates 10 copies, 1 in a law library (Harvard).

McDade 240.

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**"A Series of the Most Horrid Murders": McDade 242**

**5. Davenport, Barnett [1760-1780].**

*A Brief Narrative of the Life and Confession of Barnett Davenport, Under Sentence of Death, For a Series of the Most Horrid Murders, Ever Perpetuated in This Country, Or Perhaps Any Other, On the Evening Following the 3d of February, 1780. Is to be Executed at Litchfield, On the 8th of May.* [Litchfield, CT?]: Printed in the Year, 1780. 15, [1] pp. Printed on pale blue-gray paper. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-3/4").

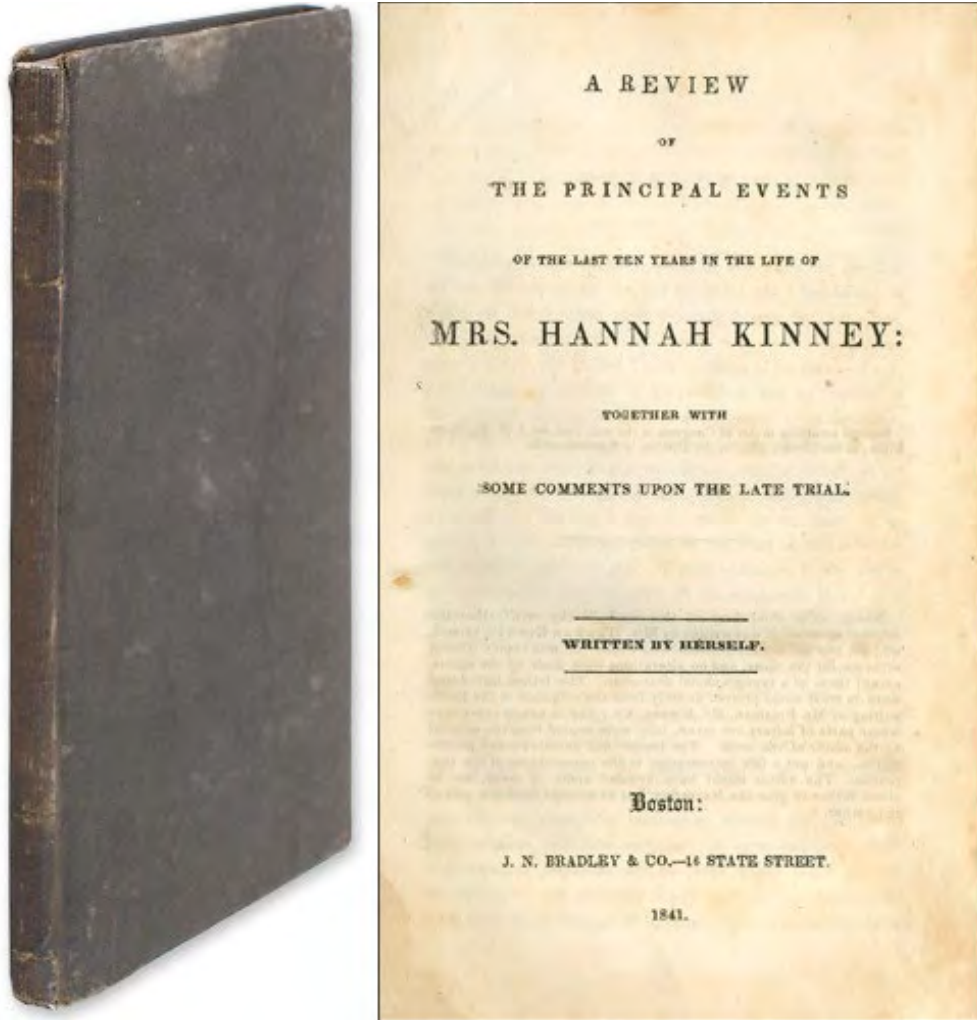
Stab-stitched pamphlet with untrimmed edges bound into c.1900 three-quarter morocco over marbled boards by Stikeman & Co. New York. Gilt title to spine, endpapers added. Negligible light rubbing to extremities, bookplate of Benjamin DeForest Curtiss to front pastedown, library shelf label to rear pastedown, late nineteenth or early twentieth-century bookseller description tipped-in to front endleaf facing title page. Moderate toning, light foxing in places, light soiling to title page and verso of final leaf, faint early owner name "Betsey" to foot of preface (p.3). An appealing copy of a rare account in a handsome binding with an interesting provenance. \$6,500.

\* Only edition. According to the preface, this "narrative [was] penned from the criminal's mouth, though not always in his own words. Some moral reflections are interspersed." Davenport had indulged in criminal activity since he was a boy. His crimes became more elaborate when he became a soldier during the Revolutionary War. After deserting his regiment, Davenport became a household servant of Caleb Mallory. One night, he murdered Mallory, his wife and their grandchild while they were asleep, then robbed and burned their house. This is one of the earliest murders recorded by McDade. It is rare. OCLC locates 9 copies, 2 of them defective, none in law libraries. We located auction records for this title in 1900, 1905 and 1977.

Benjamin DeForest Curtiss [1851-1922], the former owner of our copy, was a distinguished Americana collector who lived in Litchfield, Connecticut.

Evans, *American Bibliography* 16756. McDade 242.

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**Mrs. Kinney Defends Herself: McDade 561**

**6. Kinney, Hannah.**

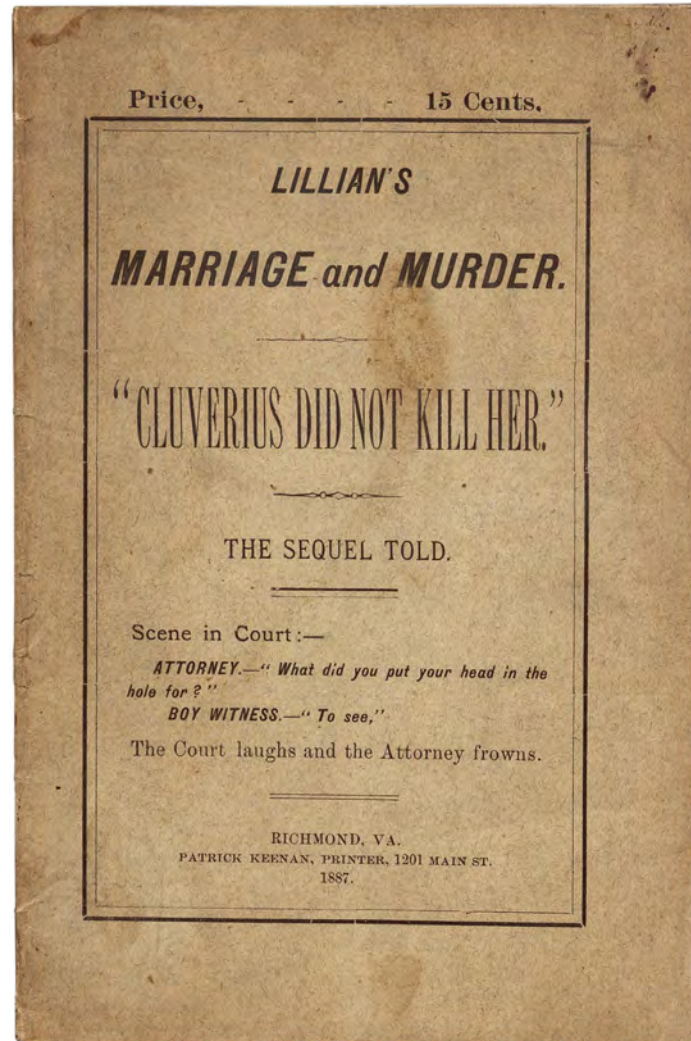
*A Review of the Principal Events of the Last Ten Years in the Life of Hannah Kinney: Together with Some Comments Upon the Late Trial. Written by Herself.* Boston: J.N. Bradley & Co., 1841. 87 pp. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary cloth, rubbing with some wear to extremities, front hinge starting, front free endpaper lacking. Faint dampstaining to foot of text block near gutter, occasional light foxing, internally clean. \$150.

\* Only edition. When Mr. Kinney died of arsenic poisoning, Mrs. Kinney's suspicious behavior brought her to trial. She was acquitted. According to McDade, there is a related work entitled *A Brief Notice of the Life of Mrs. Hannah Kinney for Twenty Years* by Ward Witham, her first husband, who reports that she never tried to poison him.

McDade 561.

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Cluverius Defended by a Family Friend: McDade 194

7. [Leigh, Phillip].

[Cluverius, Thomas J. (1861-1887), Defendant].

*Lillian Madison's Marriage and Murder: Cluverius Did Not Kill Her. The Sequel Told.* Richmond, VA: Patrick Keenan, Printer, 1887. 29 pp. Octavo (7-3/4" x 5").

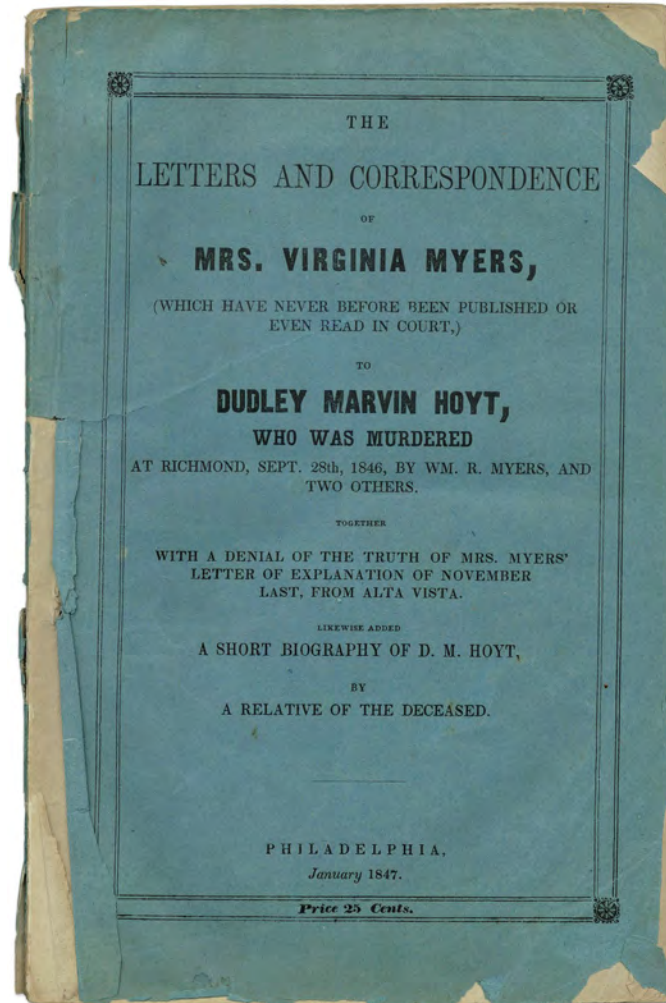
Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Light soiling and faint staining to wrappers, some offsetting to rear wrapper, light edgewear, lower corner lacking from rear free endpaper and wrapper. Light toning to text, a few tiny dampspots to title page. \$350.

\* Only edition. Dedicated to Willie Cluverius, this is a defense by a friend of the Cluverius family. Cluverius had a secret romantic relationship with his cousin, Lillian Madison. "He finally had her come to Richmond, where he murdered her and threw her body into the reservoir. He was quickly traced, tried, and executed" (McDade). OCLC locates two copies (at the New-York Historical Society and the University of Michigan, Clements Library).

McDade 194.

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### A Murder in Richmond: McDade 711

#### 8. Myers, William R., Defendant.

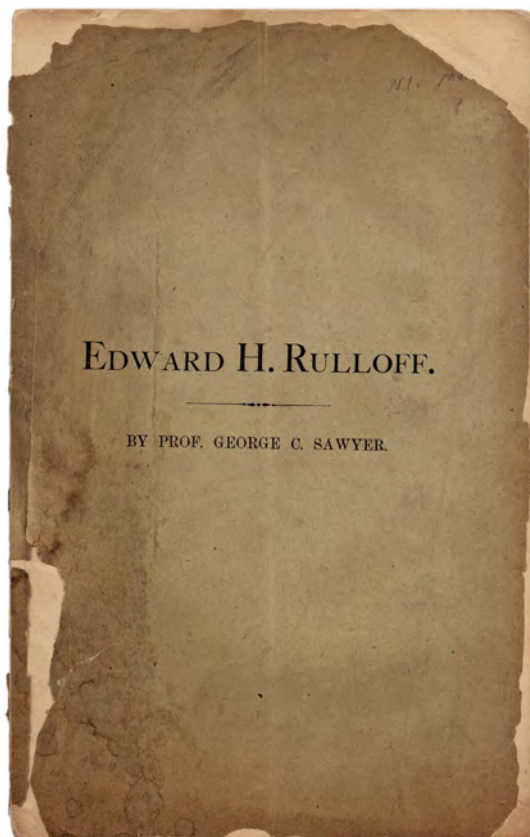
*The Letters and Correspondence of Mrs. Virginia Myers, (Which Have Never Before Been Published or Even Read in Court,) to Dudley Marvin Hoyt, Who was Murdered at Richmond, Sept. 28th, 1846, by Wm. R. Myers, and Two Others. Together with a Denial of the Truth of Mrs. Myers' Letter of Explanation of November Last, From Alta Vista. Likewise Added a Short Biography of D.M. Hoyt, By a Relative of the Deceased.* Philadelphia: S.n., 1847. 63 pp. Main text in parallel columns. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Front wrapper edgeworn, chipped and partially detached, rear wrapper lacking. Light browning to text, light foxing to a few leaves, final leaf lightly edgeworn and partially detached. \$250.

\* Only edition. "Dudley Hoyt had been intimate with Mrs. Myers in a hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Her husband, with his brother and a friend, called on Hoyt and presented him with a paper to sign promising to leave the city never to return. He refused and Myers shot him. All were acquitted" (McDade). OCLC locates 7 copies in law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, Northwestern, University of Cincinnati, University of Richmond, US Supreme Court, Worcester County Law Library).

McDade 711.

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**McDade 841: "One of Those Bizarre  
Criminals Who Defy Easy Classification"**

**9. Sawyer, George C.**

*Edward H. Rulloff*. Offprint from the *American Journal of Insanity*, April, 1872. [Utica, NY: State Lunatic Asylum]. 52 pp. Octavo (9-1/4" x 5-3/4").

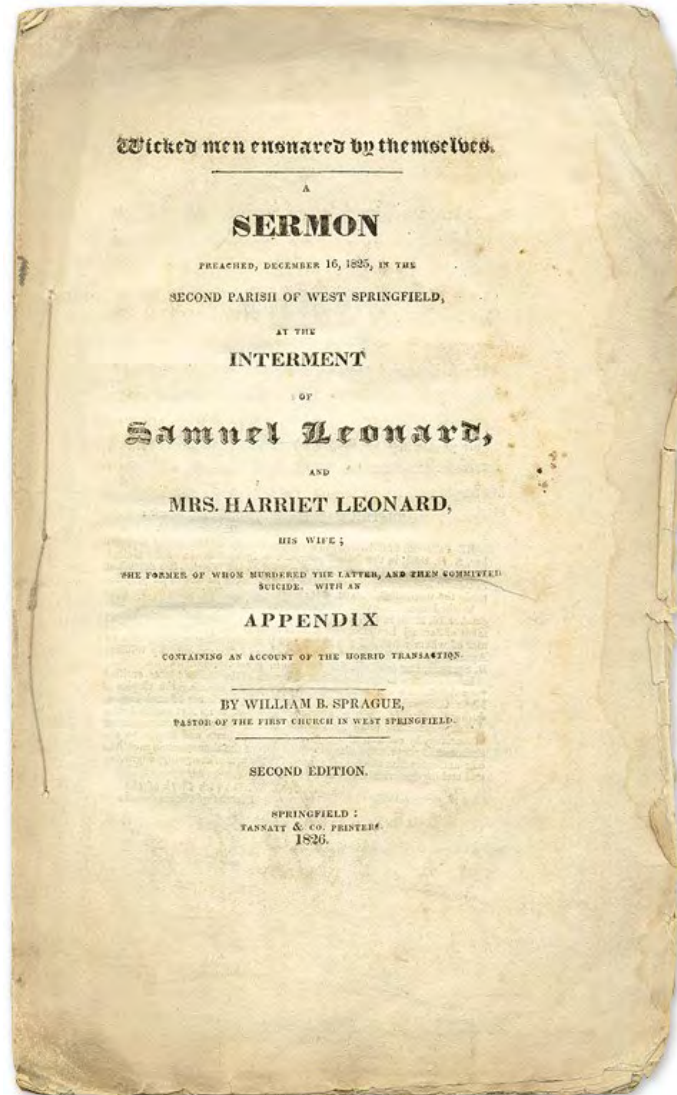
Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Wrappers detached, chipped around edges and lightly soiled, moderate toning to text, faint dampstining to upper corner of the first half of the text block at gutter, light soiling to title and verso of final leaf. \$750.

\* As McDade notes, Rulloff (sometimes spelled Ruloff) was "one of those bizarre criminals who defy easy classification." He began his criminal career in 1856 with the murder of his wife and child. The bodies were never recovered, so he was convicted of a lesser charge and sentenced to jail. Upon release, he was tried again and sentenced to death, but that sentence was reversed on appeal.

While in prison Ruloff taught himself several languages and devised a theory of languages. Under an alias, he toured the lecture circuit as a philologist. Far from reformed, he continued to commit burglaries and other crimes with a pair of associates. In 1870, one of these burglaries ended with the murder of two store clerks. The two associates drowned during their escape, but Ruloff was caught, tried and hanged for murder. His brain was later a subject for scientific study. Sawyer's article offers a psychological study of Ruloff and a detailed account of his career. OCLC locates 9 copies, 1 in a law library (Yale).

McDade 841.

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**Wicked Men Ensnared by Themselves: McDade 601**

**10. Sprague, William Buell [1795-1876].**

*Wicked Men Ensnared by Themselves: A Sermon Preached, December 16, 1825 in the Second Parish of West Springfield, At the Interment of Samuel Leonard, And Mrs. Harriet Leonard, His Wife; The Former of Whom Murdered the Latter, And then Committed Suicide.* Springfield, MA: Tannatt & Co., Printers, 1826. [iii], 4-44 pp. Octavo (9-3/4" x 5-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet, untrimmed edges. Toning, light soiling and faint dampstain to title page, internally clean. \$150.

\* Second edition. "After threatening several times to do so, Leonard killed his wife with an ax and then cut his own throat" (McDade). The sermon says Leonard's Universalist beliefs encouraged his crime because the doctrine of universal salvation tends "to nullify the threatenings of God" (29). An Appendix (pp. 37-44) provides a summary review of the case. This pamphlet had three editions, all published in 1826 with identical paginations and formats.

McDade 601.

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### Jealousy, Accusations of Fraud, and Murder: McDade 919

11. [Stokes, Edward S. (1841-1901)].

[Fisk, James, Jr. (1835-1872)].

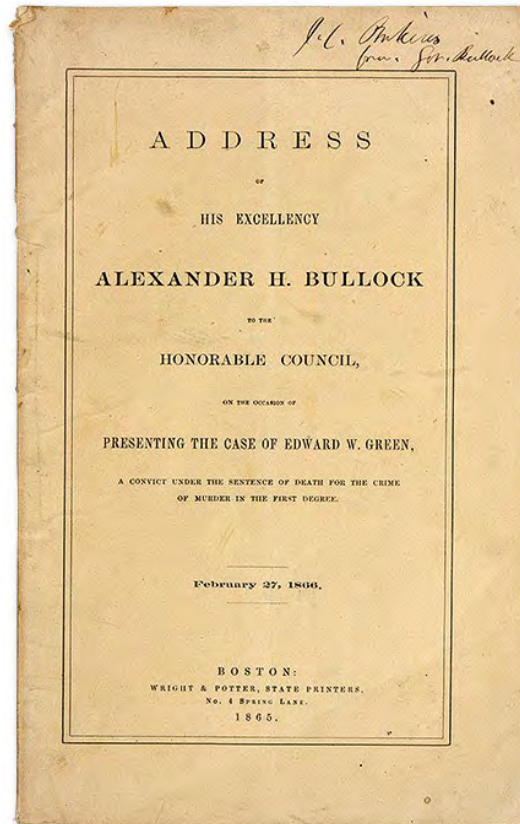
*Life, Adventures, Strange Career, And Assassination of Col. James Fisk, Jr. The Fisk-Stokes Tragedy. All about Miss Mansfield. Those Rich, Rare, And Racy Letters and Many Oddities Now for the First Time Made Public.* Philadelphia: Published by Barclay & Co., [1872]. [ii], [19]-111, [1] pp. 12 full-page engraved woodcuts. Complete. Octavo (9-1/4" x 5-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in pictorial wrappers. Binding slightly cocked, light soiling, rubbing to corners with light wear, spine ends abraded, wrappers just beginning to detach at ends. Moderate toning, light foxing to a few leaves. \$1,500.

\* Only edition. "Jim Fisk...was a financial wonder in New York in 1872. Edward Stokes had been associated with him in the oil business, but they had become engaged in a bitter legal battle which originated when Stokes stole Fisk's mistress, Josie Mansfield. In retaliation Fisk had charged Stokes with embezzling oil company funds; Stokes replied with a charge of false imprisonment. Then Mansfield threatened to publish letters from Fisk revealing some of his transactions. On January 5 an injunction was issued restraining the publication of the letters; on the next day Josie Mansfield was exposed to a humiliating cross-examination in police court on her relations with Fisk. Stokes, in a rage, followed Fisk to the Broadway Central Hotel where he shot him on the stairs. After two trials the state could only convict Stokes of third-degree manslaughter" (McDade, annotation to 917). OCLC locates 11 copies, 2 in law libraries (Library of Congress, Yale).

McDade 919.

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**The First Man in America to Rob a Bank at Gunpoint: McDade 382**

**12. [Trial].**

**Bullock, Alexander H. [1816-1882].**

**Green, Edward W. [d.1866], Defendant.**

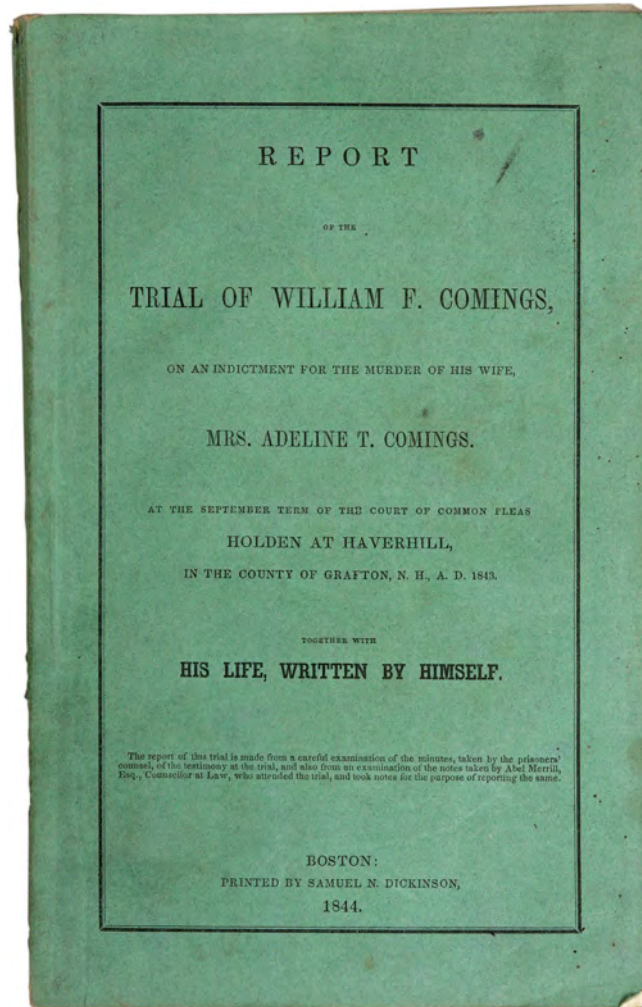
*Address of His Excellency Alexander H. Bullock to the Honorable Council on the Occasion of Presenting the Case of Edward W. Green, A Convict Under the Sentence of Death for the Crime of Murder in the First Degree. February 27, 1866.* Boston, Wright & Potter, State Printers, 1865 [i.e. 1866]. 29 pp. Octavo (9-1/4" x 5-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers, recent repair to lower corner of rear wrapper. Light soiling and a few minor spots, light wear to spine ends, faint vertical crease through center, presentation inscription, "J.C. Jenkins from Gov. Gov. Bullock," to head of front wrapper, light toning to interior, a few spots to title page. \$450.

\* Only edition. According to McDade, Green, the postmaster of Malden, Massachusetts, was the first person to rob an American bank at gunpoint. He was "a 'secretly drinking man' and had been short on his post office accounts. On December 15, 1863, finding the bank manned solely by the seventeen-year-old son of the president, he went back for his gun. Entering the bank, he shot the youth twice through the head and carried off \$5,000. in bills. The crime was very quickly traced to him; his confession disclosed where he had hidden the money, and he was condemned to die" (McDade, annotation to 381). Bullock was the governor of Massachusetts. His *Address* discusses his reasons for signing Green's death warrant. OCLC locates 5 copies in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, Ohio State University, Worcester Trial Court Library, Yale).

McDade 382.

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**He Tried to Make the Murder  
Look Like a Suicide: McDade 208**

**13. [Trial].**

**Comings, William F., Defendant.**

*Report of the Trial of William F. Comings: On an Indictment for the Murder of His Wife, Mrs. Adeline T. Comings. At the September Term of the Court of Common Pleas Holden at Haverhill, In the County of Grafton, N.H., A.D. 1843. Together with His Life, Written by Himself.* Boston: Samuel N. Dickinson, 1844. 158 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

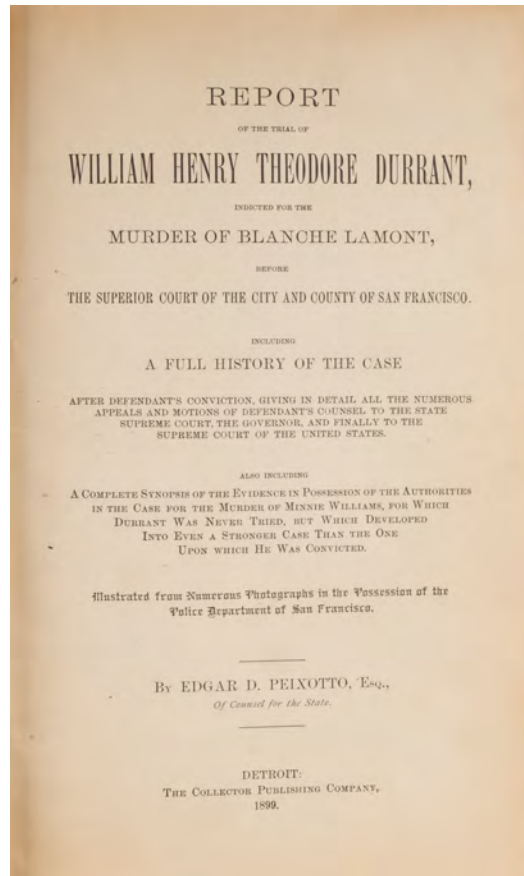
Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Light soiling and a few minor marks to wrappers, light wear to spine ends and corners, rear joint and adjacent signature just starting to detach at foot, some loss to foot of fore-edge of rear half of text block with no loss to text. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, occasional light foxing. \$950.

\* Only edition. "He was convicted of strangling his wife at Bath, N.H., with a handkerchief, and suspending her from a bedpost to make it appear to be suicide" (McDade). OCLC locates 5 copies in law libraries (Library of Congress, New York University, Social Law Library, University of Missouri, Yale).

McDade 208.

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**"A Classic of American Criminal History": McDade 276**

**14. [Trial].**

**Durrant, William Henry Theodore [1871-1898], Defendant.**

**Peixotto, Edgar D., Reporter.**

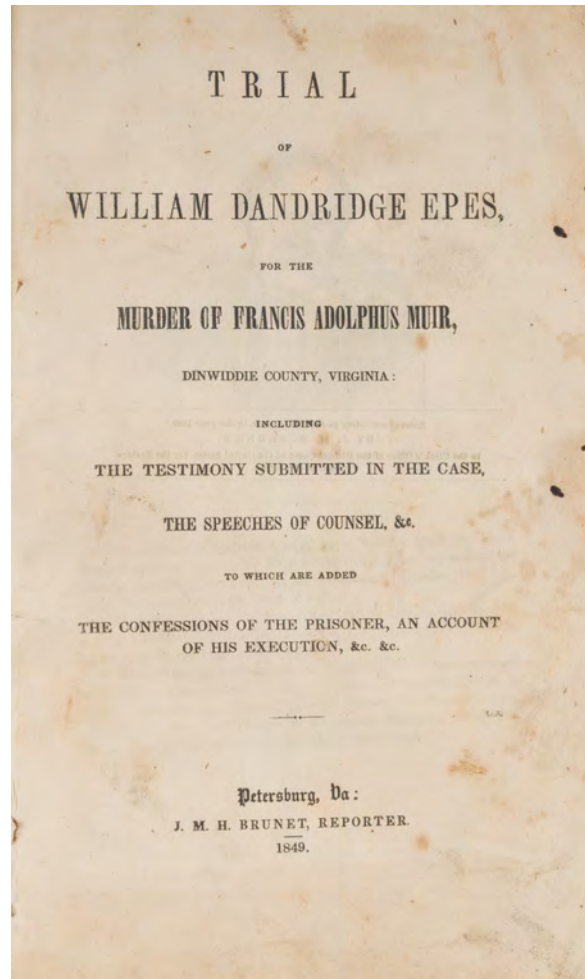
*Report of the Trial of William Henry Theodore Durrant: Indicted for the Murder of Blanche Lamont, Before the Superior Court of the City and County of San Francisco. Including a Full History of the Case After Defendant's Conviction, Giving in Detail All the Numerous Appeals and Motions of Defendant's Counsel to the State Supreme Court, The Governor, And Finally to the Supreme Court of the United States. Also Including a Complete Synopsis of the Evidence in Possession of the Authorities in the Case for the Murder of Minnie Williams, For Which Durrant was Never Tried, But Which Developed into Even a Stronger Case than the One Upon Which He was Convicted. Illustrated from Numerous Photographs in the Possession of the Police Department of San Francisco.* Detroit: The Collector Publishing Co., 1899. vi, 214 pp. 20 plates. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-3/4").

Later cloth, lettering piece and silver fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to interior, slightly heavier in places, clean tear to fore-edge of leaf containing pp. 65 and 66. \$350.

\* Only edition. "Durrant was a twenty-four-year medical student who also served as the assistant superintendent of Sunday school of the Emanuel Baptist Church in San Francisco. By any standard he was a 'good' young man, and the mystery, if there is one in this case, is how, from a seemingly proper life, he could within the space of nine days commit two atrocious murders in his church. (...) The case is a classic of American criminal history": McDade.

McDade 276.

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**An 1849 Murder in Petersburg, VA: McDade 286**

**15. [Trial].**

**Epes, William Dandridge [1806?-1848], Defendant.**

**Brunet, J[ames] M[onroe].H. [d. 1856], Reporter.**

*Trial of William Dandridge Epes, For the Murder of Francis Adolphus Muir, Dinwiddie County, Virginia: Including the Testimony Submitted in the Case, The Speeches of Counsel, &c. To Which are Added the Confessions of the Prisoner, An Account of His Execution, &c. &c.* Petersburg, VA: J.M.H. Brunet, Reporter, 1849. 76 pp. Woodcut portrait of Epes on p.3.

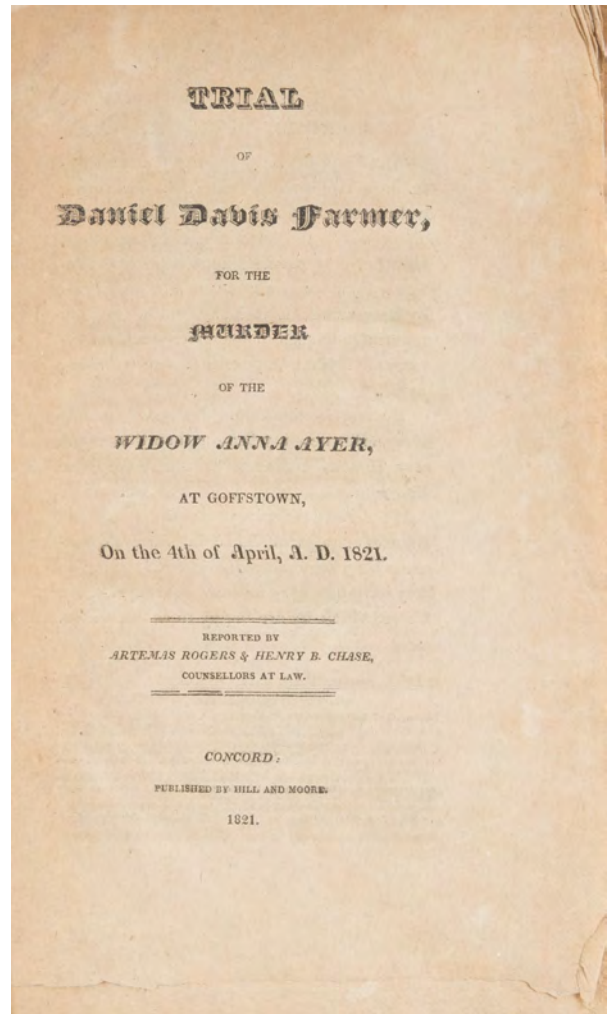
Stab-stitched pamphlet bound into later three-quarter calf over cloth, recently rebacked, gilt title to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to board edges, some wear to corners. Moderate toning to text, light foxing in a few places, light soiling and edgewear to title page, the following leaf and final leaf. \$1,850.

\* "Muir threatened to foreclose [farm] property he had sold to Epes, so Epes shot his creditor and hid his body on the farm. He faked a series of letters to account for Muir's absence, but he pawned his victim's watch and led the police to his door" (McDade). OCLC locates 7 copies in law libraries (Harvard, Jenkins, Library of Congress, University of Missouri, University of Virginia, US Supreme Court, William & Mary).

McDade 286.

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**He Beat Her to Death with a Shovel: McDade 300**

**16. [Trial].**

**Farmer, Daniel Davis [1793-1822], Defendant.**

**Rogers, Artemas, Reporter.**

**Chase, Henry B., Reporter.**

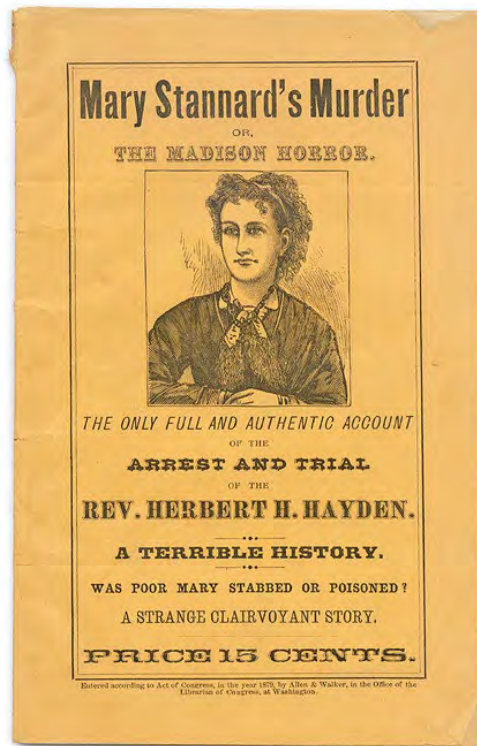
*Trial of Daniel Davis Farmer, For the Murder of the Widow Anna Ayer, At Goffstown, On the 4th of April, A.D. 1821.* Concord [NH]: Published by Hill and Moore, 1821. 72 pp. Octavo (8" x 5-1/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet with untrimmed edges bound into later quarter cloth over marbled boards, black-stamped title to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, free endpapers lacking, light browning to pamphlet. An attractively bound, well-preserved copy. \$350.

\* First and only edition. "Mrs. Ayer had charged Farmer with fathering her child. He beat her to death with a cudgel [sic] and tried to burn her house" (McDade). The report states that the murder weapon was an iron shovel. Farmer was found guilty and executed.

McDade 300.

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**"The Most Mysterious of All the Cases Which  
Have Baptized Connecticut in Blood": McDade 449**

**17. [Trial].**

**[Hayden, Herbert H. (b.1850), Defendant].**

**Stannard, Mary [1856-1878].**

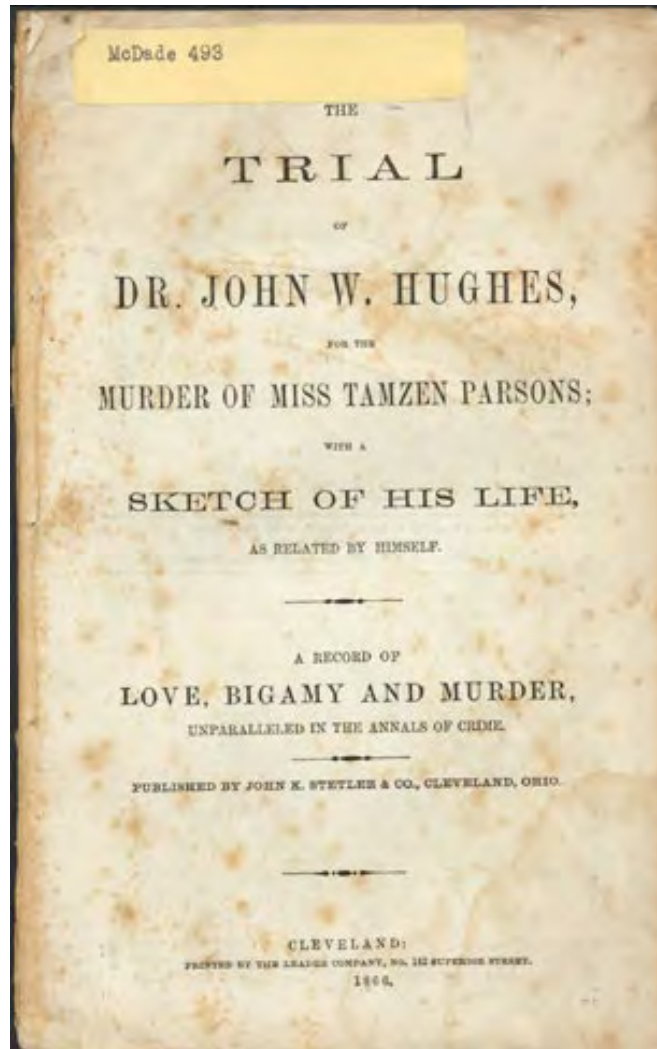
*Poor Mary Stannard! Full and Thrilling Story of the Circumstances Connected with Her Murder. History of the Monstrous Madison Crime. The Most Mysterious of All the Cases Which have Baptized Connecticut in Blood. The Only True and Reliable Account. The Clairvoyant's Wonderful Story.* New Haven: Stafford Print. Co., 1879. 47 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers with a woodcut portrait of Stannard. Faint fold lines, some wear to spine ends, a few small chips to edges, small dampstain to upper corner of front wrapper, some browning to text. A well-preserved copy. \$850.

\* Only edition. "In 1879, the body of Mary Stannard, twenty-two, once the servant of Reverend Herbert H. Hayden, was found in one of Hayden's fields in Madison, Conn. Her throat was cut, her skull was fractured, and there was arsenic in her stomach. Stannard had spoken to several people about her recent pregnancy by Hayden, and explained that he was going to give her something to induce an abortion. She said also that she was planning to meet Hayden in the field to pick berries and discuss their future. Unable to account for himself during the time of the killing, Hayden was arrested after it was discovered that he had purchased an ounce of arsenic "to kill rats" the day of his former servant's death.... At the three-month trial, a clairvoyant testified to the defendant's innocence, the first such incident in an American courtroom. A hung jury resulted in Hayden's release" (Nash). OCLC locates 12 copies, 2 in law libraries (University of Missouri, Yale).

Nash, *Encyclopedia of World Crime* 1493. McDade 449.

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**An "Unparalleled" Record of Love,  
Bigamy and Murder: A Variant Noted in McDade 493**

**18. [Trial].**

**Hughes, Dr. John W., Defendant.**

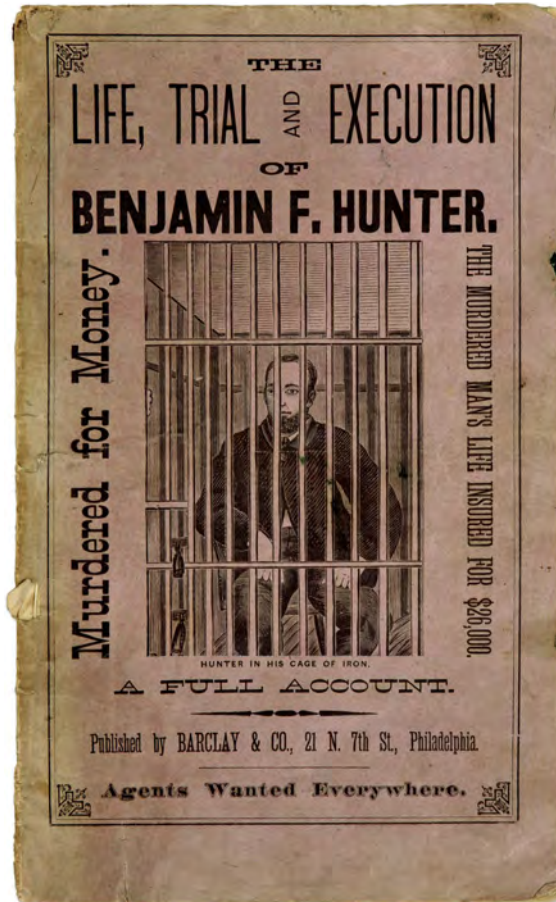
*The Trial of Dr. John W. Hughes, For the Murder of Miss Tamzen Parsons; With a Sketch of His Life, As Related by Himself. A Record of Love, Bigamy and Murder, Unparalleled in the Annals of Crime.* Cleveland: Printed by the Leader Company, 1866. 58 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet with printed back wrapper. Some wear to edges, occasional foxing and faint dampstaining. Small typed label stating--incorrectly--"McDade 493" to head of title page, internally clean. \$500.

\* "Jealous and intoxicated, Hughes, on the streets of Bedford, Ohio, shot the seventeen year old girl he had seduced. At his execution, he spoke for fifteen minutes until the sheriff reminded him "Time is going.' Then he dropped" (McDade). McDade notes the existence of this 58 page printing "which adds a farewell letter."

See McDade 493.

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An Axe-Murder in Camden, NJ: McDade 494

19. [Trial].

**Hunter, Benjamin F. [d. 1879], Defendant.**

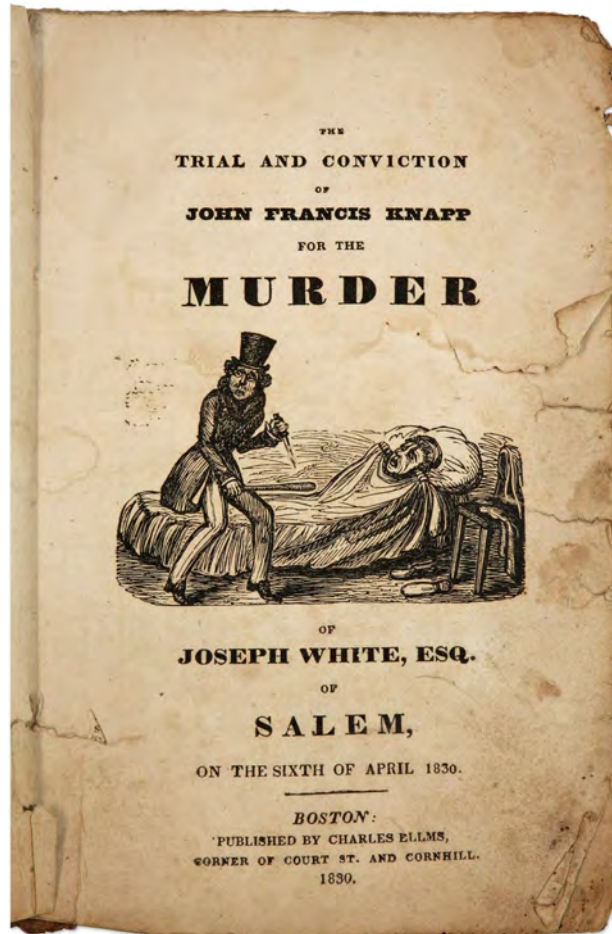
*Hunter-Armstrong Tragedy. The Great Trial. Conviction of Benj. F. Hunter for the Murder of John M. Armstrong.* Philadelphia: Barclay & Company, 1878. [ii], 19-86 pp. Main text in parallel columns. 7 full-page woodcuts. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in pictorial wrappers, cover title reads, in part: *The Life, Trial and Execution of Benjamin F. Hunter.* Light soiling, moderate edgewear and a few chips and tears to edges of wrappers, which are beginning to detach at foot of spine. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining to a few leaves. \$850.

\* First edition, one of five issues. "Hunter had lost \$7,000 when he invested in Armstrong's music-publishing company. Thinking to turn his loss into a profit, he insured Armstrong's life \$25,000. With a hired assistant, Tom Graham, he enticed Armstrong to Camden, New Jersey, and there bashed his head in with an axe which he had carefully marked with the initials of another man to throw suspicion on him. Though he remained unconscious, Armstrong survived, and Hunter, calling at his home, hastened his death by tearing the bandages from his head. Graham confessed and hunter was convicted and hanged, and he was actually hanged by hand" (McDade). Other issues of this pamphlet have different cover titles and paginations. All are scarce. OCLC locates 7 copies of our 86-page issue, 1 in a law library (University of Missouri).

McDade 494.

[Order This Item](#)



**A Famous Salem Murder: McDade 569**

**20. [Trial].**

**Knapp, John Francis, Defendant.**

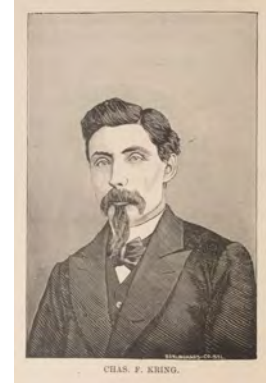
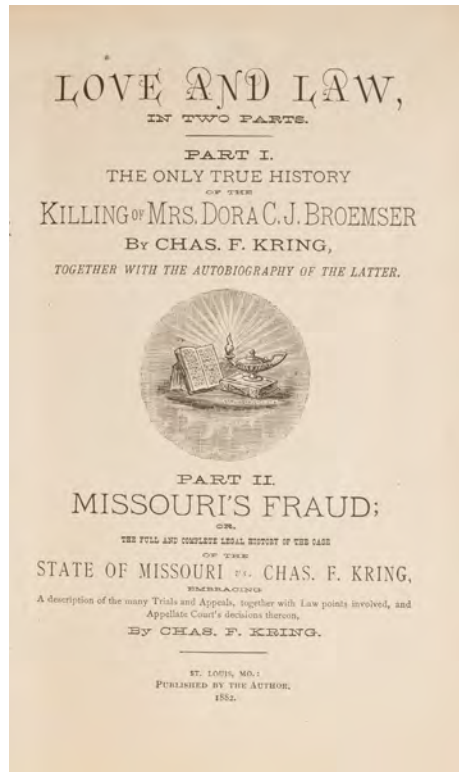
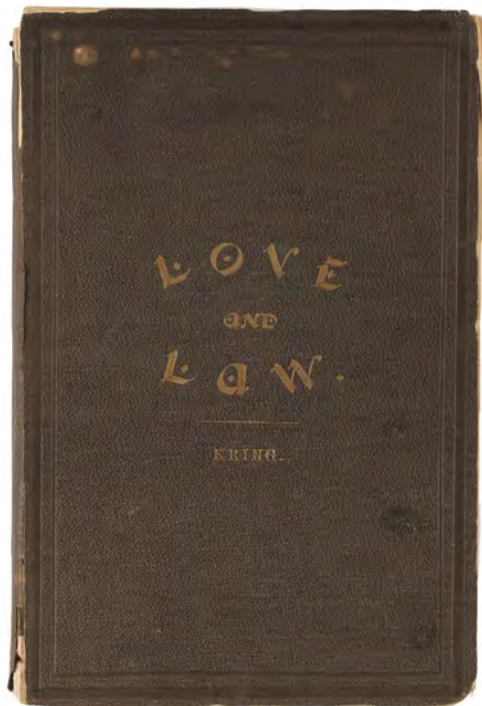
*The Trial and Conviction of John Francis Knapp for the Murder of Joseph White, Esq. of Salem, On the Sixth of April 1830.* Boston: Published by Charles Ellms, 1830. 35, [1] pp. Woodcut frontispiece. Woodcut title vignette of murder. Half-title reads: *Knapp's Second Trial, Conviction, And Sentence.* Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet, wrappers lacking. Light soiling to exterior, moderate toning to text, some chipping, short tears and wear to fore-edges of leaves through p. 19 with no loss to text, faint spotting in a few places, faint dampstaining to a few leaves. A scarce title. \$600.

\* Only edition. The murder of Joseph White, a wealthy retired sea captain, a conspiracy by a relative, Joseph Knapp, who hired his brother John Francis Knapp and the brothers Richard and George Crowninshield, was one of the most famous trials of the 1830s. Joseph Knapp received immunity for turning in the Crowninshields. George Crowninshield had a good alibi that prevented his conviction. Richard Crowninshield escaped justice by hanging himself. John Francis Knapp was tried twice. He was convicted in his second trial and sentenced to death. OCLC locates 9 copies, 2 in law libraries (Library of Congress, Yale).

McDade 569.

[Order This Item](#)



**"One of Those Legal Marathons  
Peculiar to the United States": McDade 576**

**21. [Trial].**

**Kring, Charles F., Defendant.**

**[Kring, Eugene].**

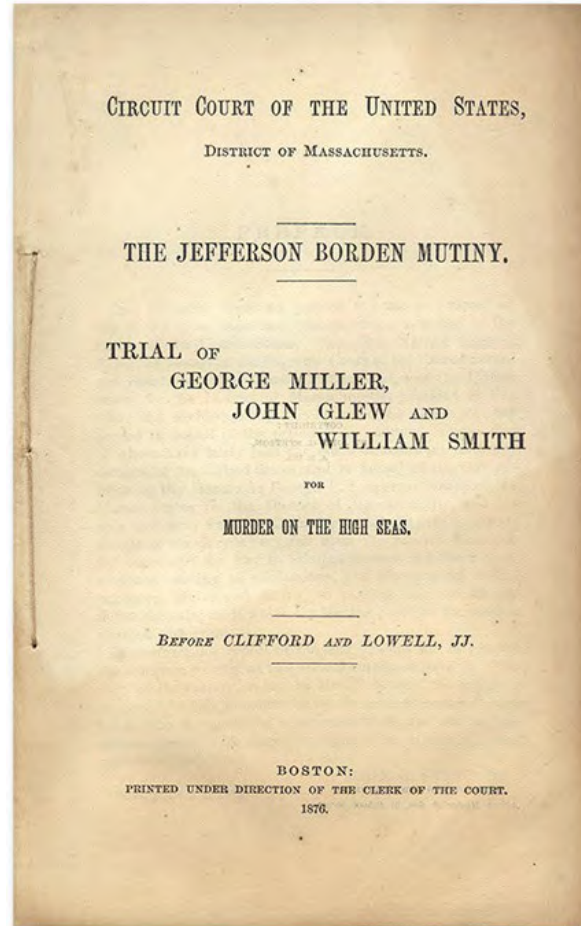
*Love and Law, In Two Parts. Part I. The Only True History of the Killing of Mrs. Dora C. J. Broemser, by Chas. F. Krings: Together with the Autobiography of the Latter: Part II. Missouri's Fraud, Or, The Full and Complete Legal History of the Case of the State of Missouri vs. Chas. F. Krings: Embracing a Description of the Many Trials and Appeals, Together with Law Points Involved and Appellate Court's Decisions Thereon.* St. Louis: Published by the Author, 1882. 200, [6] pp. 2 woodcut frontispieces. 14 woodcut plates. Final 5 pp. are advertisements. Octavo (9" x 6").

Original flexible cloth, blind frame and gilt title to front cover, which is detached. Light rubbing and a few spots to covers, heavier rubbing to extremities with wear to spine ends, early owner bookplate (T.J. Silvius) to front pastedown, early owner signature (of Silvius) to front free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing to a few leaves, fold lines and small chips to upper outside corners of preliminaries and first four leaves of main text. \$950.

\* Only edition. "Kring's case is one of those legal marathons peculiar to the United States. Infatuated with but rejected by Mrs. Broemser, he shot her on January 4, 1875. The death sentence in trial number 1 was reversed. Trials number 2 and 3 were mistrials. At trial number 4 Krings pled guilty to second-degree murder, but, after receiving a twenty-five-year sentence, he got that reversed. At trial number 5 he received his second death sentence, which the United States Supreme Court reversed in October, 1882, by a five-to-four vote" (McDade). OCLC locates 3 copies in law libraries (Columbia, Harvard, St. John's University).

McDade 576.

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**Mutiny and Murder on the High Seas: McDade 679**

22. [Trial].

**Miller, George [d. 1876], Defendant.**

**Glew, John, Defendant.**

**Smith, William [d. 1876], Defendant.**

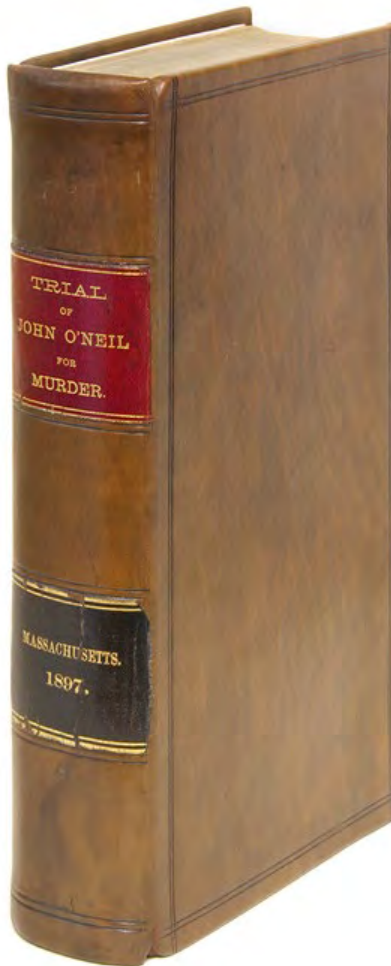
*The Jefferson Borden Mutiny: Trial of George Miller, John Glew, And William Smith for Murder on the High Seas: Before Clifford & Lowell, JJ.* Boston: Printed Under the Direction of the Clerk of the Court, 1876. 141 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet, printed wrappers, which are detached with moderate edgewear, fading and light soiling, spine perished, text block secure. Moderate toning to text, faint offsetting to title page, light foxing to a few leaves, heavier offsetting to verso of final leaf, a blank. \$350.

\* Only edition. "The *Jefferson Borden* was bound for London from New Orleans. Corydon Trask Patterson was the mate, and in the course of a mutiny, he was hit with an iron bar and thrown overboard. The mutiny was suppressed, and at this trial Glew was acquitted and Miller and Smith were condemned" (McDade). This official account includes the indictment, arraignment, pleas, assignment of counsel to prisoners, empaneling of the jury, evidence, charge to the jury, verdict, remarks of the Court on passing sentence and the sentences.

McDade 679.

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**Murder, Rape and Necrophilia on a  
Country Lane in Massachusetts: McDade 722**

**23. [Trial].**

**O'Neil, John [1873?-1908], Defendant.**

*The Official Report of the Trial of John O'Neil for the Murder of Hattie Evelyn McCloud, In the Superior Court of Massachusetts. From Notes of the Official Stenographers. Published by the Attorney-General, Under Chapter 214 of Acts of 1886.* Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1901. [iv], 730 pp. Color map. Octavo (9" x 5-3/4").

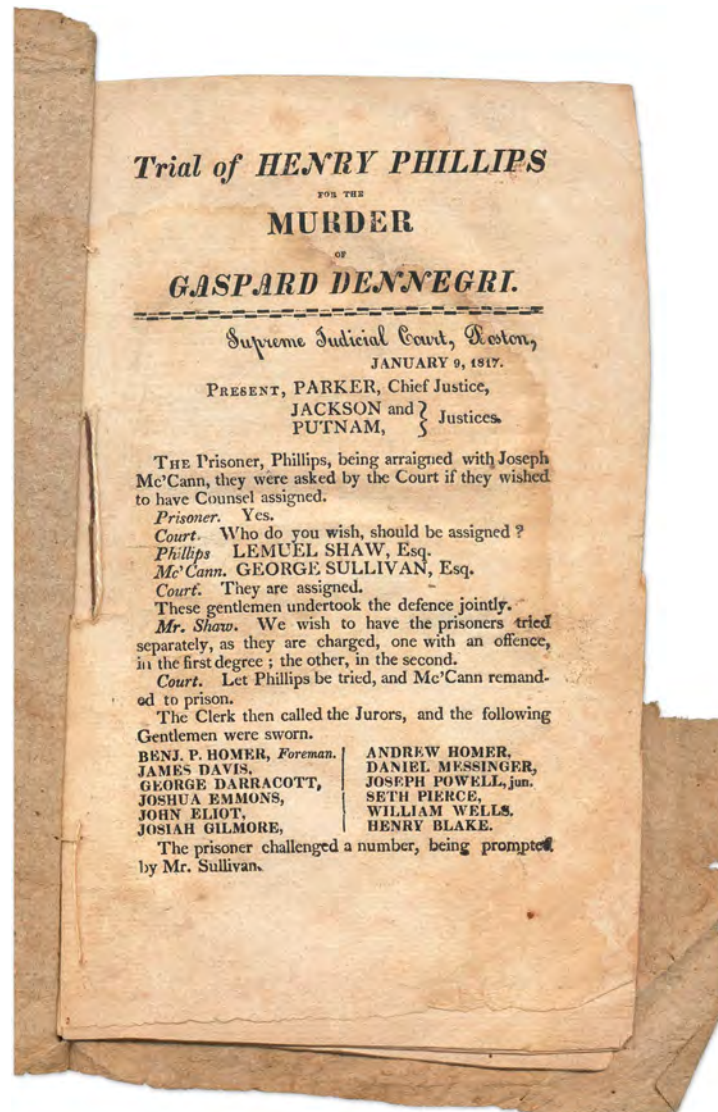
Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets and original lettering pieces to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to text, negligible edgewear to preliminaries. \$500.

\* Only edition. O'Neil, an unemployed machinist with a drinking problem, strangled Mrs. McCloud, then raped her corpse, on a country lane near Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, on January 8, 1897. Convicted later than year, O'Neil was executed on January 7, 1898.

McDade 722.

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### Fatally Struck by a Loggerhead: McDade 746

#### 24. [Trial]. Phillips, Henry.

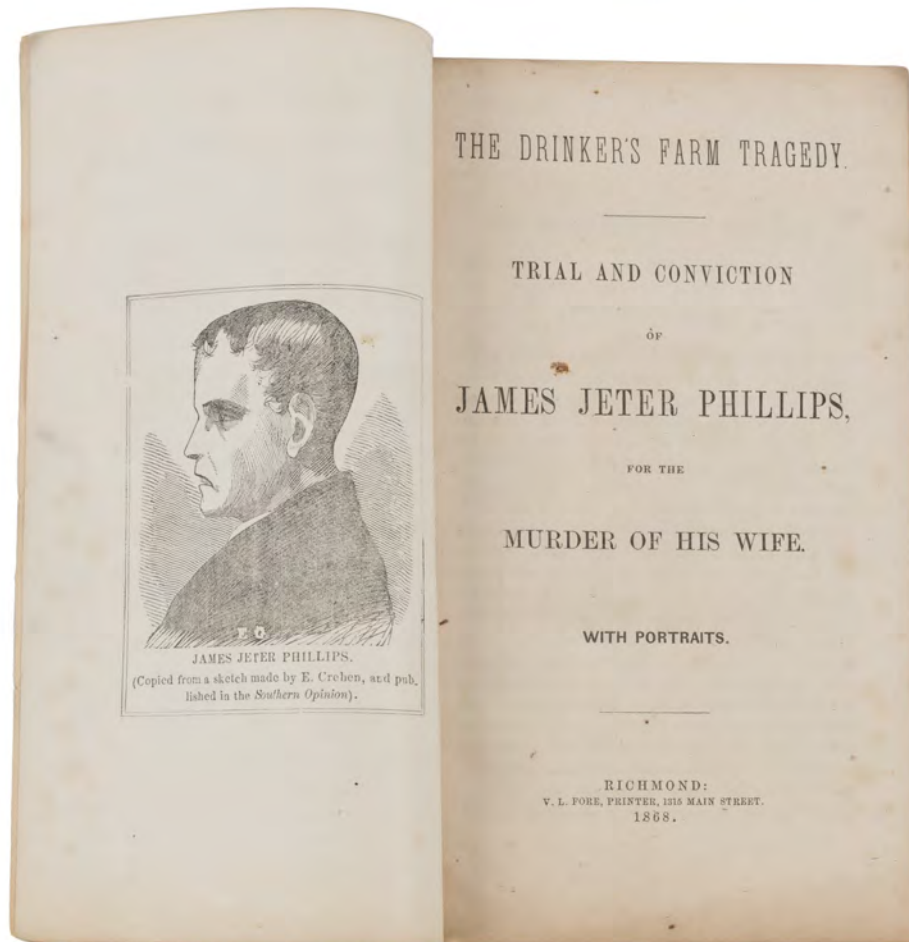
*Trial of Henry Phillips for the Murder of Gaspard Dennegri* [sic]. *Supreme Judicial Court, Boston, January 9, 1817.* [(Boston): Printed by Thomas G. Bangs, (1817)]. 24 pp. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in plain wrappers. Chipping and a few tears to edges, upper section lacking from rear wrapper. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, faint dampstaining in a few places. \$1,250.

\* Only edition. "Denegri was struck on the head by a loggerhead during a minor disturbance at a tavern. Today the circumstances would at the most be considered manslaughter, but Poor Phillips was found guilty of murder and hanged" (McDade). OCLC locates 9 copies, 2 in law libraries (Library of Congress, Social Law).

McDade 746.

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### A Scarce Account: McDade 747

#### 25. [Trial].

#### Phillips, James Jeter, Defendant.

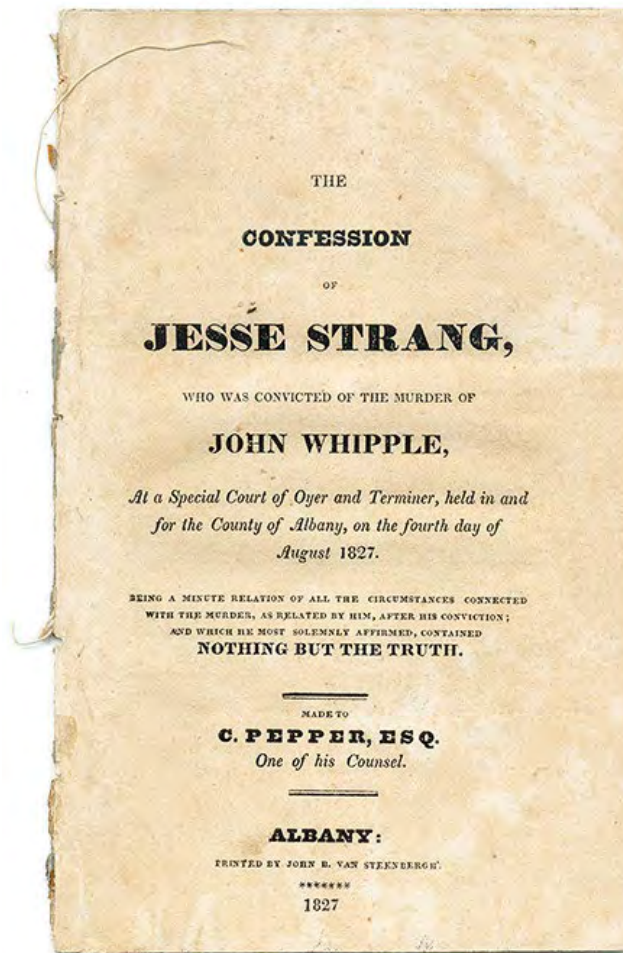
*The Drinker's Farm Tragedy. Trial and Conviction of James Jeter Phillips, For the Murder of His Wife. With Portraits.* Richmond: Published by J. Wall Turner, V.L. Fore, Printer), 1868. 96 pp. 2 full-page woodcut portraits (of Phillips and his wife, Mrs. Mary Emma Phillips). Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Original printed wrappers, with advertisements for various Richmond businesses rear and inside front covers. Some soiling, spotting and rubbing with wear to spine ends. Light toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing to a few leaves. \$650.

\* Only edition. "Phillips, a scion of a 'good' Virginia family, twenty-four years old, murdered his wife Emily, who was ten years older, on a Henrico County, Virginia, roadside near Drinker's farm. He shot her with a small pistol, and her body was unidentified for three months" (McDade). OCLC locates 4 copies in North American law libraries (Duke, Harvard, University of Virginia, Yale).

McDade 747.

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"Black, Unhallowed, Uncaused Crime": McDade 934

26. [Trial].

**Strang, Jesse, Defendant.**

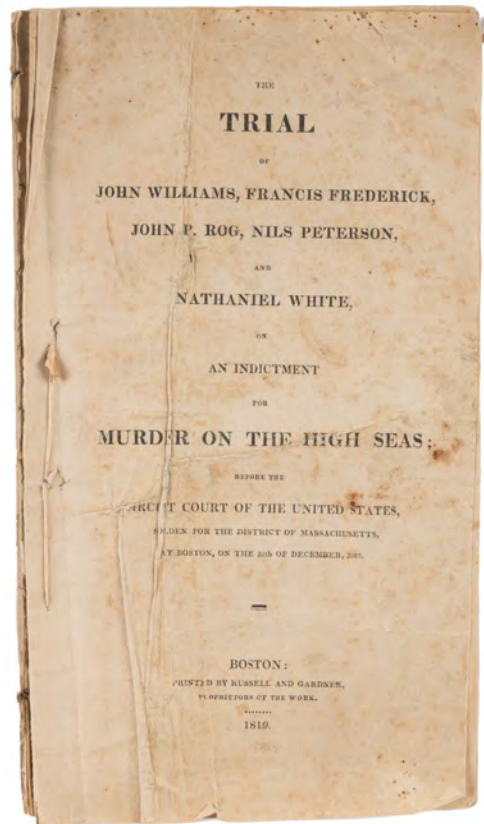
*The Confession of Jesse Strang, Who Was Convicted of the Murder of John Whipple, At a Special Court of Oyer and Terminer, Held in and for the County of Albany, On the Fourth Day of August 1827. Being a Minute Relation of All the Circumstances Connected with the Murder, As Related by Him, After His Conviction; And Which he Most Solemnly Affirmed, Contained Nothing but the Truth. Made to C. Pepper, Esq. One of His Counsel.* Albany: Printed by John B. van Steenberg, 1827. 35 pp. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning, light foxing to a few leaves, light browning to title page. A nice copy, \$250.

\* Only edition. Jesse Strang (living under the alias Joseph Orton) was involved in an affair with Elsie Whipple. Strang shot Elsie's husband, John Whipple, after several unsuccessful attempts by the lovers to poison him. Strang was convicted and executed. Elsie was tried individually and acquitted. This pamphlet includes a poem, "To Mrs Whipple," accusing her of "black, unhallowed, uncaused crime."

McDade 934.

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**An Interesting Mutiny, Murder, and Piracy Trial, Joseph Story Presided: McDade 1103**

**27. [Trial].**

**Williams, John, Primary Defendant.**

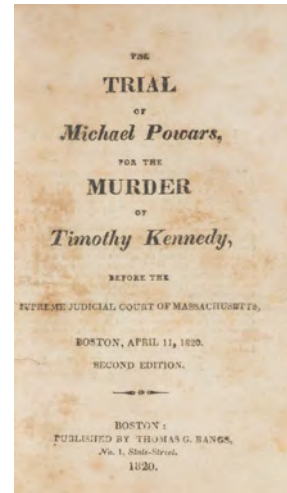
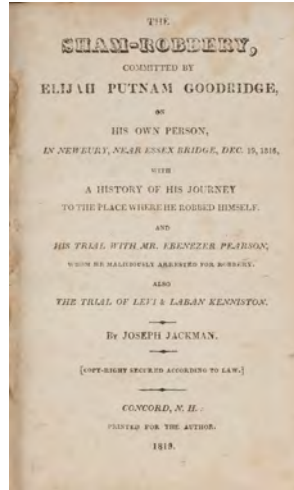
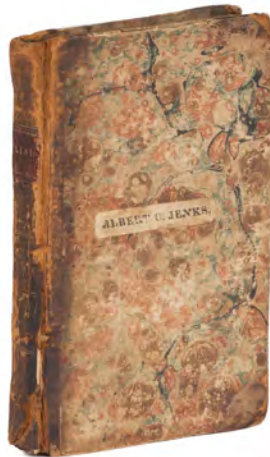
*The Trial of John Williams, Francis Frederick, John P. Rog, Nils Peterson and Nathaniel White, On an Indictment for Murder on the High Seas: Before the Circuit Court of the United States, Holden for the District of Massachusetts, At Boston, On the 29th of December, 1818.* Boston: Printed by Russell and Gardner, 1819. 92 pp. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet, untrimmed edges. Moderate edgewear, moderate toning and light foxing to text, title page wrinkled. Interesting listing of 17 names, presumably the crew, at the bottom of the last page. \$1,500.

\* Only edition of an original account of American piracy. The defendants were accused of mutiny aboard the schooner "Plattsburgh," off the Georgia coast in 1816, and of the murder of the supercargo, Thomas Bayard during the mutiny. It was a bloody scene, rehearsed in great detail in the 92 pages of this pamphlet. There was \$40,000. aboard, so the mutiny was piratically motivated. The villains split up the money, sailed to Denmark and were arrested in Copenhagen where the mate, a hostage of sorts, blew the whistle on them. The case was heard before Joseph Story in his capacity as the Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Massachusetts. The jury found all except Nathaniel White guilty of murder and piracy, and they were hung in January 1820. It made quite a splash in its day, and several sensational narratives besides this one were published.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 13248. McDade 1103.

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### Daniel Webster for the Defense

#### 28. [Trials].

##### Jackman, Joseph.

##### Goodridge, Elijah Putnam [1787-1851], Defendant.

*The Sham-Robbery, Committed by Elijah Putnam Goodridge on His Own Person, In Newbury Near Essex Bridge, Dec. 19, 1816: With a History of His Journey to the Place Where he Robbed Himself: and His Trial with Mr. Ebenezer Pearson, Whom he Maliciously Arrested for Robbery: Also the Trial of Levi & Laban Kenniston.* Concord, NH: Printed for the Author, 1819. 151, [1] pp.

##### [Bound with]

##### Powers, Michael [1769-1820], Defendant.

*The Trial of Michael Powars [sic], for the Murder of Timothy Kennedy, Before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, Boston, April 11, 1820.* Boston: Published by Thomas G. Bangs, 1820. 35 pp.

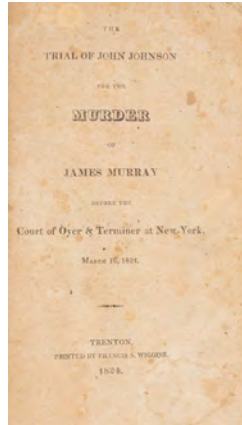
12mo (6-1/2" x 4-1/4"). Contemporary three-quarter sheep over marbled boards, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, early owner label (Albert C. Jenks) to front board. Moderate rubbing to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with wear to spine ends and corners, front board beginning to separate but secure, rear hinge cracked, armorial bookplate of Asa P. French (pasted over an earlier bookplate) to front pastedown, description of this item clipped from a bookseller catalogue tipped-in to front free endpaper. Light browning and foxing to interior. \$950.

\* *Sham-Robbery*: only edition; *Trial*: Second and final edition, published in the same year as the first. This volume collects accounts of two trials in which Daniel Webster served as a defense attorney. Jackman's *Sham-Robbery* is a detailed account, by one of the accused, of one of the trials connected with this Massachusetts case, one of the most famous cases of its day. The respected and well-connected Major Goodridge's accusation of robbery against the witless, low-life Kenniston brothers was supported by popular sentiment, until Webster began his defence, which meticulously unraveled the Major's story and led to an acquittal. The trial was a landmark in Webster's legal career, and his final address to the jury, first printed here, is considered a classic example of his oratorical skill.

The Powers case involved a fatal encounter in Boston. As McDade notes: "Even the great Daniel Webster could not save Powers, who was condemned for killing Kennedy with a broadax and burying him in the cellar. He was provoked because Kennedy would not pay for the passage money which Powers had advanced to bring him to this country." French [1860-1935], the former owner of this volume, was the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts from 1906 to 1914. He was lived most of his life in Massachusetts.

*Sham-Robbery*: Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 14017; *Trial*: McDade 768.

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### Three Rare Murder Trials: McDade 527, 534 & 191

#### 29. [Trials].

##### Johnson, John, Defendant.

*The Trial of John Johnson for the Murder of James Murray before the Oyer & Terminer at New-York, March 16, 1824.* Trenton: Printed by Francis S. Wiggins, 1824. 24 pp.

##### [Bound with]

##### Johnson, Richard, Defendant.

*Trial of Richard Johnson for the Murder of Mrs. Ursula Newman, Held in the Court of Oyer and Terminer on the 10th of March, 1829.* New-York: Printed and Published by J. M'Clelland, 285 Water-street, [1829]. 24 pp. Woodcut illustration on title page.

##### [And]

##### Clough, Joel, Defendant.

*Trial, Sentence, Confession and Execution of Joel Clough, Who was Executed on the 26th July, For the Wilful Murder of Mrs. Mary Hamilton, At Bordentown, N. Jersey, On the 6th of April, 1833. Also an Account of his Escape from Prison a Few Days Previous to his Execution.* New-York: Printed and Sold Wholesale and Retail by Christian Brown, [1829]. 24 pp. [ONLY]. Woodcut illustrations to recto and verso of title page. Lacking last two leaves (pp. 25-27).

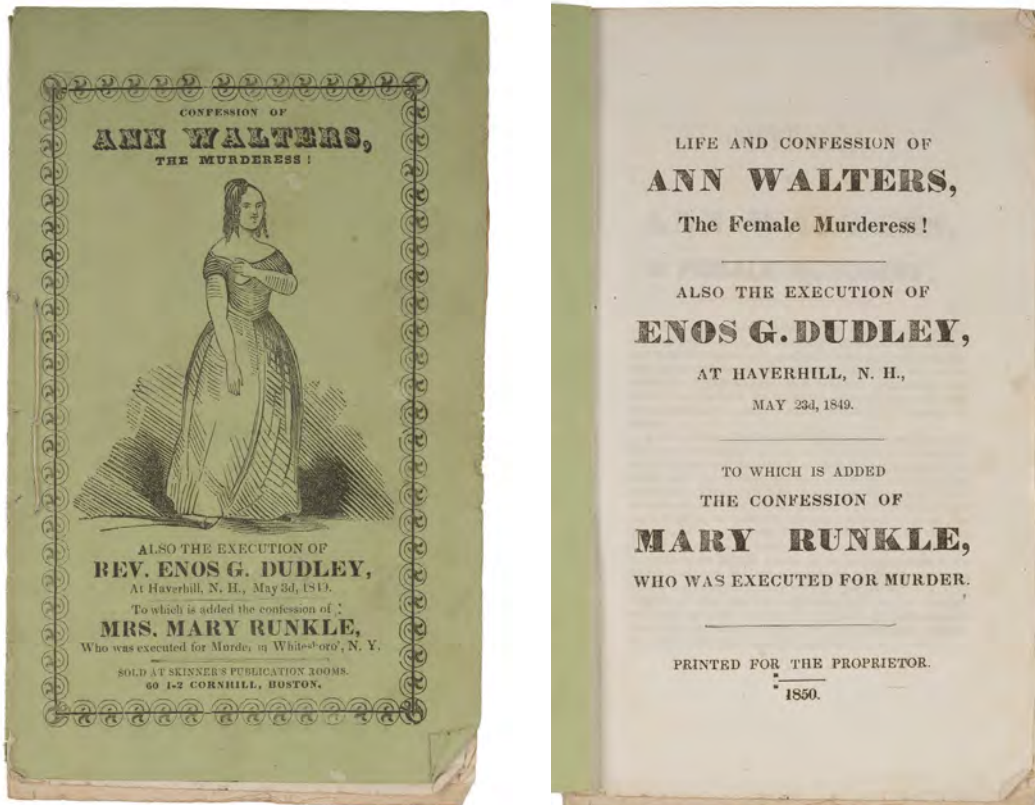
Octavo (7" x 4-1/4"). Stab-stitched pamphlets bound in contemporary quarter sheep over marbled boards. Light rubbing to boards, somewhat heavier rubbing to extremities, front board separating at ends but secure, rear joint cracked, spine ends abraded, corners bumped and somewhat worn, rear hinge starting at ends. Moderate toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing, faint dampstains to a few leaves, clean tear to fore-edge of last leaf of first item affecting text without loss to legibility, minor loss to text (but not legibility) at fore-edge of pp. 19-20 of second item due to printer error, tears to title page of third item, which has an illegible contemporary annotation (ownership signature?) at its head. \$1,500.

\* Only editions. John Johnson murdered his roommate, Francis Murray, in his bed with a hatchet. The motive was apparently money. Richard Johnson "had been living with Mrs. Newman for several years" and "had urged her to marry him" (McDade). When she refused to marry him or even acknowledge him as the father of her child, he shot her. Joel Clough "was infatuated with Mrs. Hamilton, a widow who did not return his affection. In a fit of frustration he stabbed her to death" (McDade).

All of these items are rare. The Richard Johnson trial appears to be an unrecorded variant; the American Antiquarian Society copy (recorded in McDade) is 12 pages and an additional copy located at Harvard Law School is 16 pages. OCLC locates 2 copies of the first item (New York Historical Society, Duke University), 2 of the second, neither of which are the 24-page variant, and 3 of the third (American Antiquarian Society, Yale Law School, Social Law).

McDade 527, 534, 191.

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"The Female Murderess!": Driven by the Culture of Slavery

30. [Walters, Ann Smith (1812-1844)].

[Dudley, Enos G. (d.1849)].

[Runkle, Mary].

*Life and Confession of Ann Walters, The Female Murderess! Also the Execution of Enos G. Dudley, At Haverhill, N.H., May 23d, 1849. To Which is Added the Confession of Mary Runkle, Who Was Executed for Murder.* [Boston]: Printed for the Proprietor, 1850. 32 pp. Two full-page woodcut illustrations. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

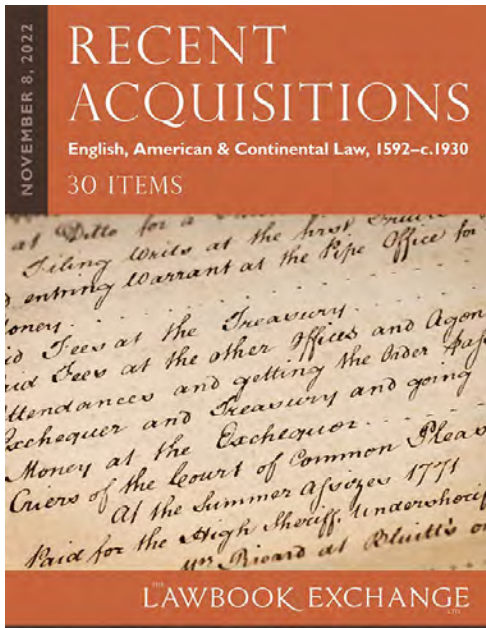
Stab-stitched pamphlet in green printed wrappers, large woodcut image of Walters to front, untrimmed edges. Light soiling to exterior, moderate edgewear. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in a few places. \$950.

\* Although OCLC records an "Ann Walters (1812-1844)," McDade believes her story is a work of fiction that incorporates details of a dozen different murders. He also doubts the veracity of the Runkle case. Walters ran a tavern on the Delaware-Maryland border, where she liked to murder traveling slave traders and steal their slaves, money and other valuables. (Her murder of a slave-trader is depicted in one of the woodcuts.) Her depravity is blamed in part on the morally corrosive effects of slavery: "Although born in a free country where slavery is abhorred [Canada], she soon imbibed a taste for the traffic in slaves, as our readers may easily perceive that her location was in a slave state where morality is not very exalted, as such a course could not have been carried on in a free state so long, without meeting the eye of detection." Walters began her career by killing her child and husband, she then became the leader of a criminal gang. OCLC locates 4 copies in law libraries (Harvard, Social Law, University of Missouri, Yale).

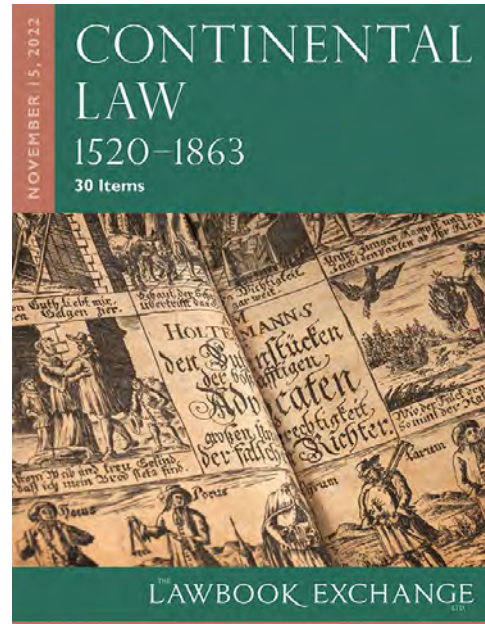
McDade 1036.

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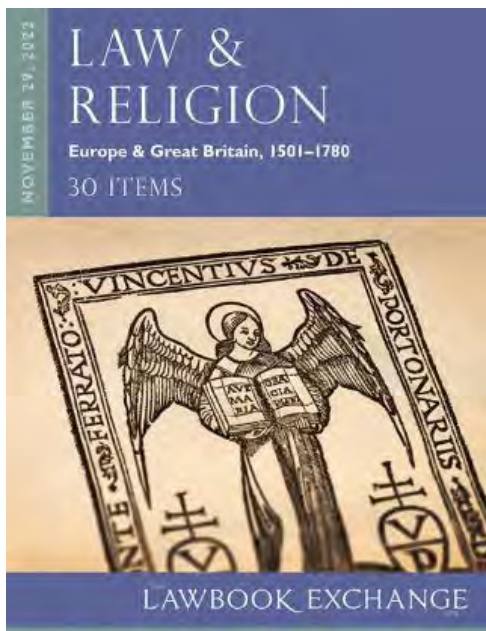
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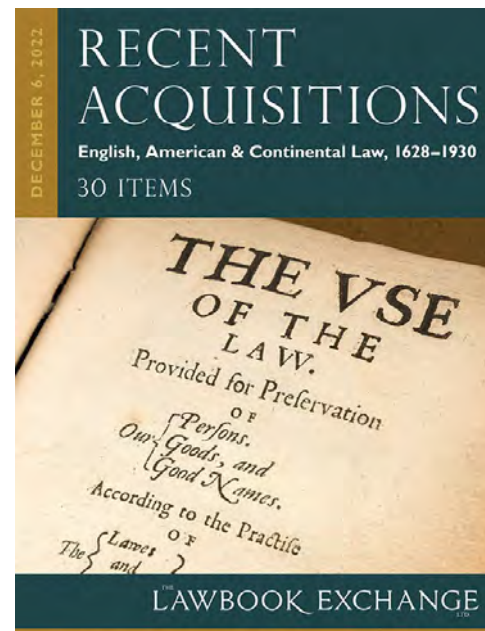
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