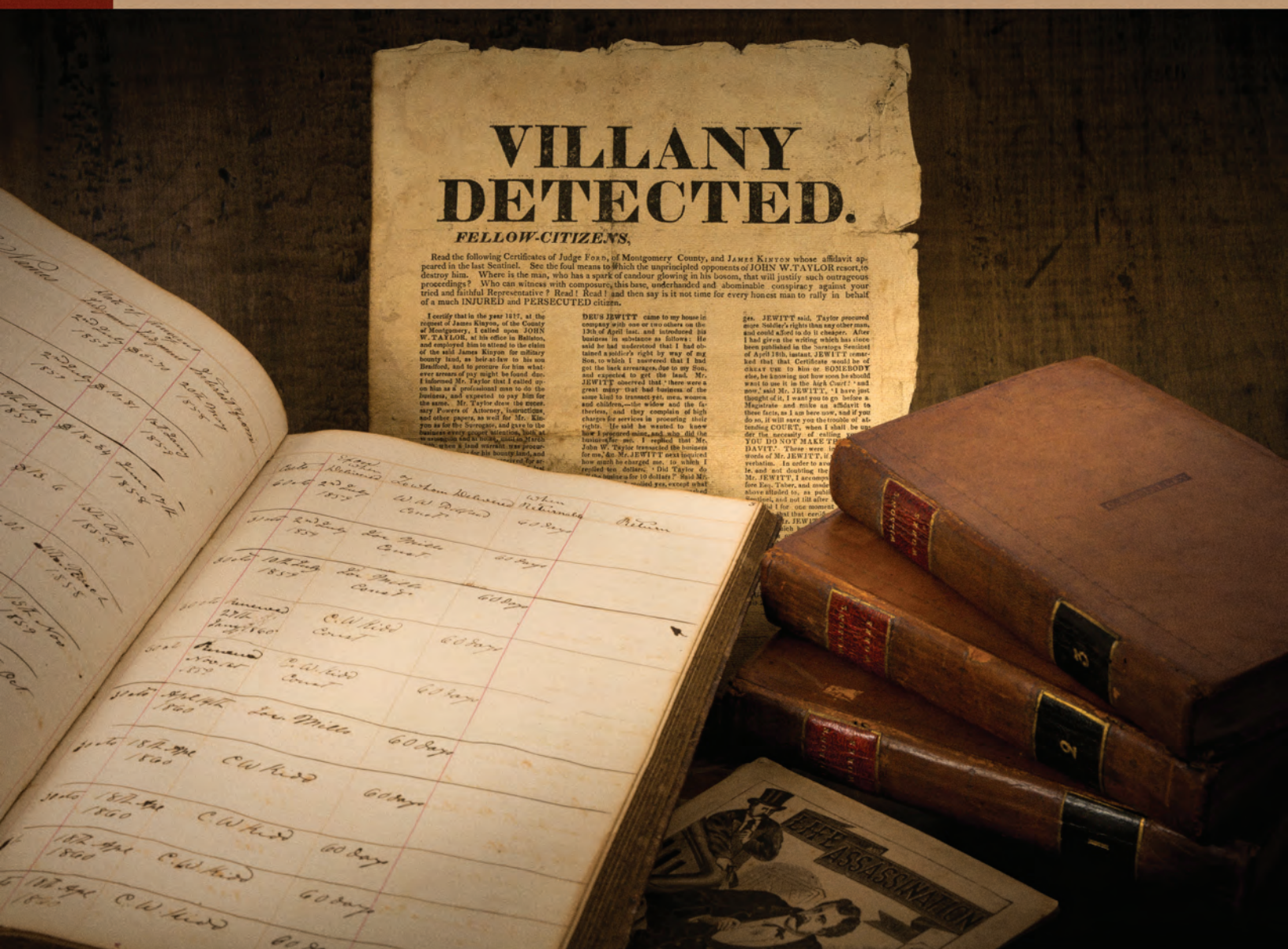


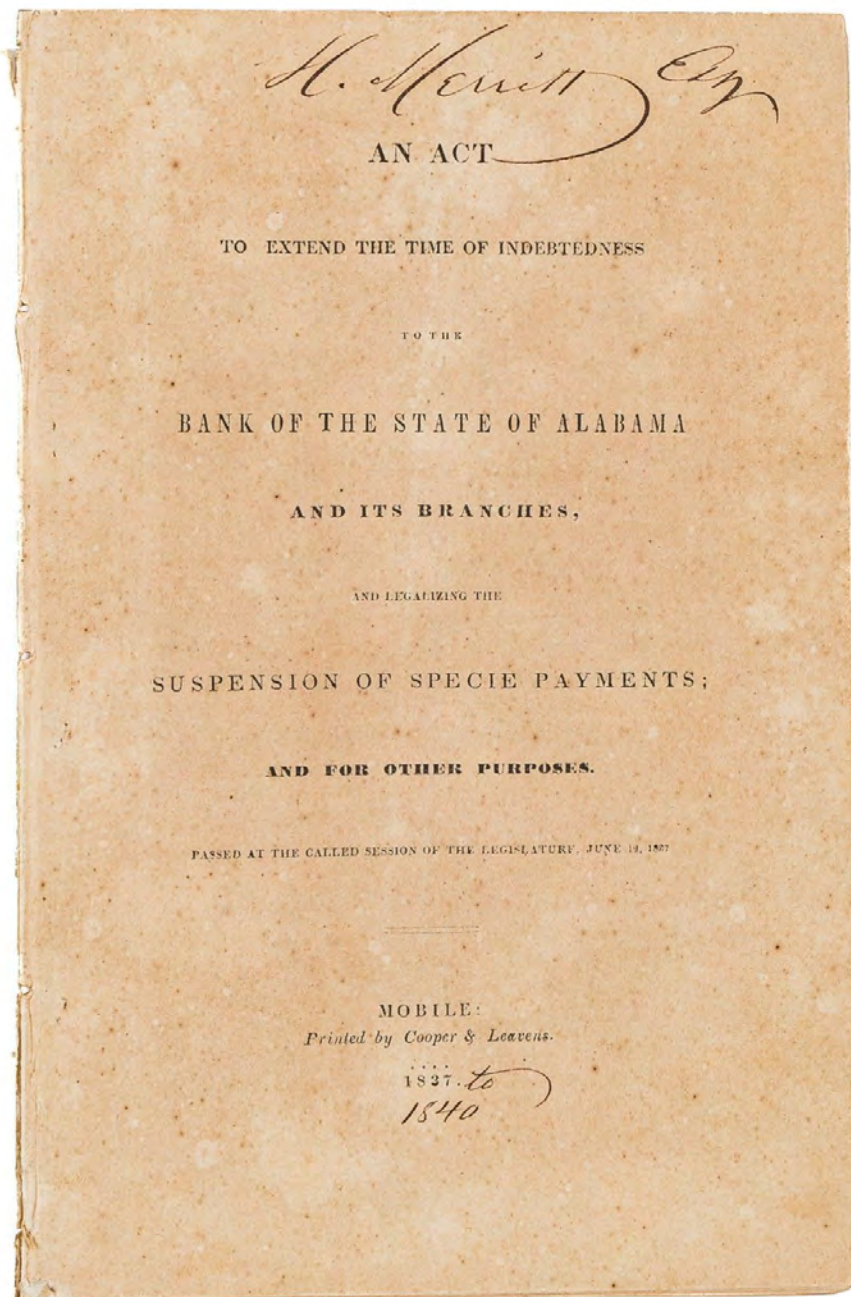
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

AMERICAN LAW 1766-1950

Books, Manuscripts & Ephemera



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**Rare Printing of an Act to Protect the
Bank of Alabama During the Panic of 1837**

**1. [Alabama].
[Panic of 1837].**

An Act to Extend the Time of Indebtedness to the Bank of the State of Alabama and Its Branches, And Legalizing the Suspension of Specie Payments; And for Other Purposes. Passed at the Called Session of the Legislature June 12, 1837. Mobile: Printed by Cooper & Leavens, 1837. 14 pp. Octavo (7-3/4" x 5").

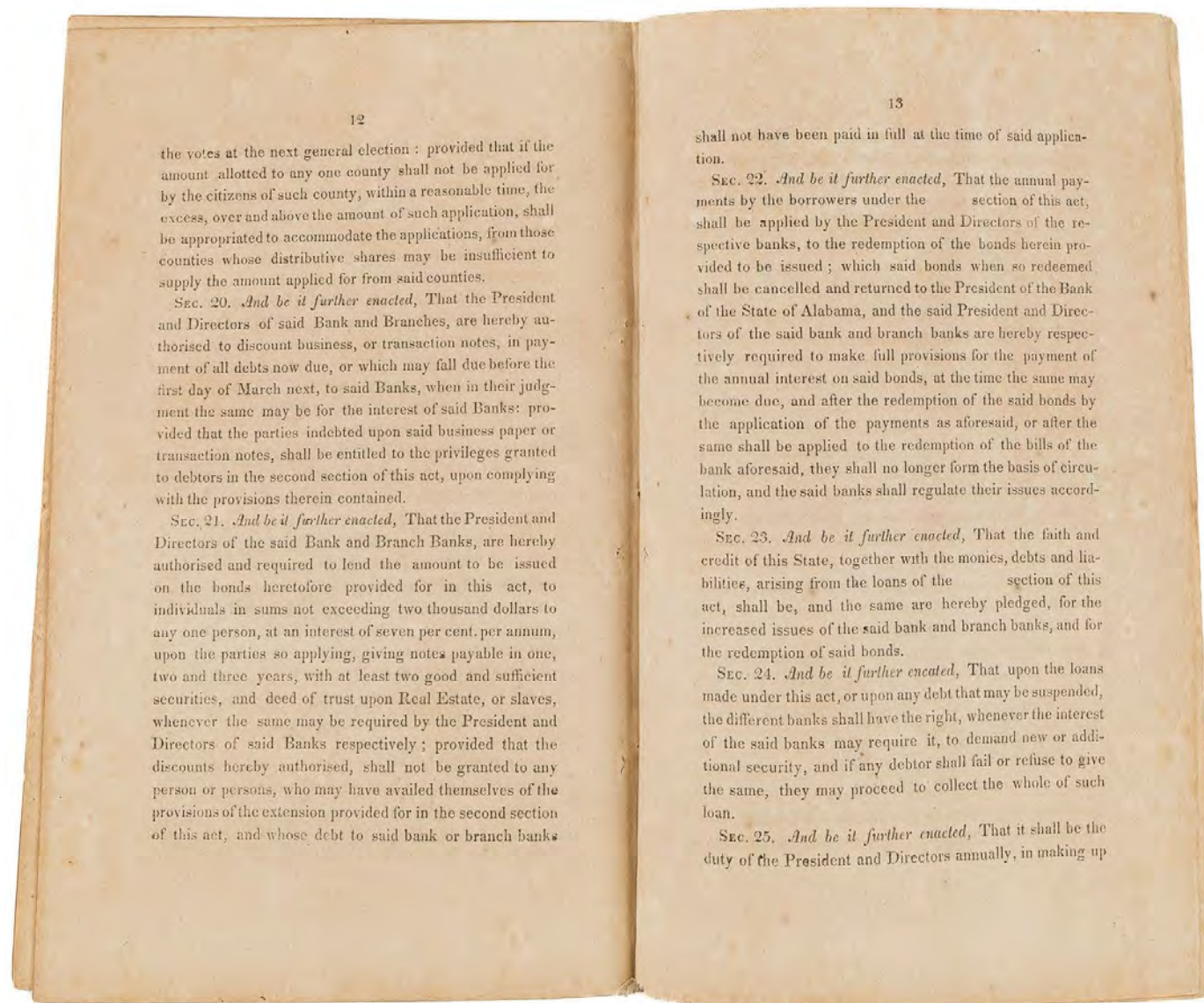
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Light rubbing to spine ends, moderate browning and dampspotting. Early owner signature, "J.C. Merritt Esq" to head of title page, "to 1840" in same hand next to publication date. \$1,500.

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com

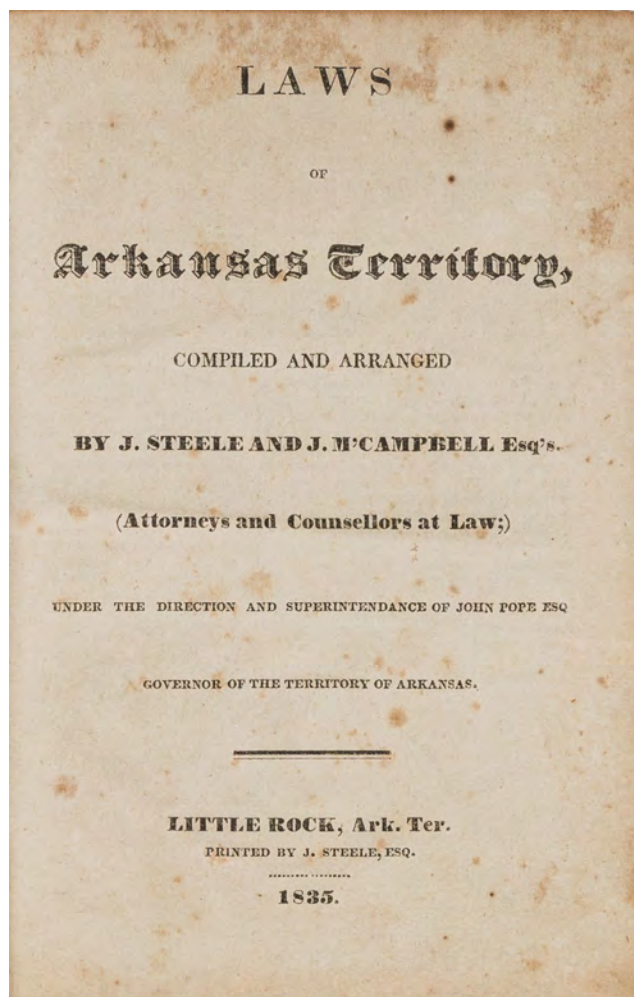
* Only edition. The Panic of 1837 was a major economic depression that lasted into the 1840s. This 1837 act of the Alabama legislature was designed to minimize its effects on the state's bank. It specified terms for loan repayment, with a payment calendar and rates of interest. It also specified how the bank should issue loans and bonds and the amount of specie each bank branch should hold. One provision (No. 21) states that slaves, along with real estate, can be used as security against a loan. The Act was a success; the Bank of Alabama was one of the few banks in the United States to survive the Panic. It was fatally weakened, however, and its banking charter was revoked in 1842.

J.C. Merritt Esq., may well be the banking magnate Joseph Cornelius Merritt (1839-1922) of Chanute, Kansas. He was President of the First National Bank in Chanute, as well as the city's mayor.

OCLC locates 1 copy, at Birmingham-Southern College. This record is obsolete; the college closed in May 2024 and this pamphlet was sold in the auction of its library special collections in August 2024. Not in Cohen.



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**The Final Territorial-Era
Compilation of the Laws of Arkansas**

2. [Arkansas].

Steele, J., Compiler.

M'Campbell, J., Compiler.

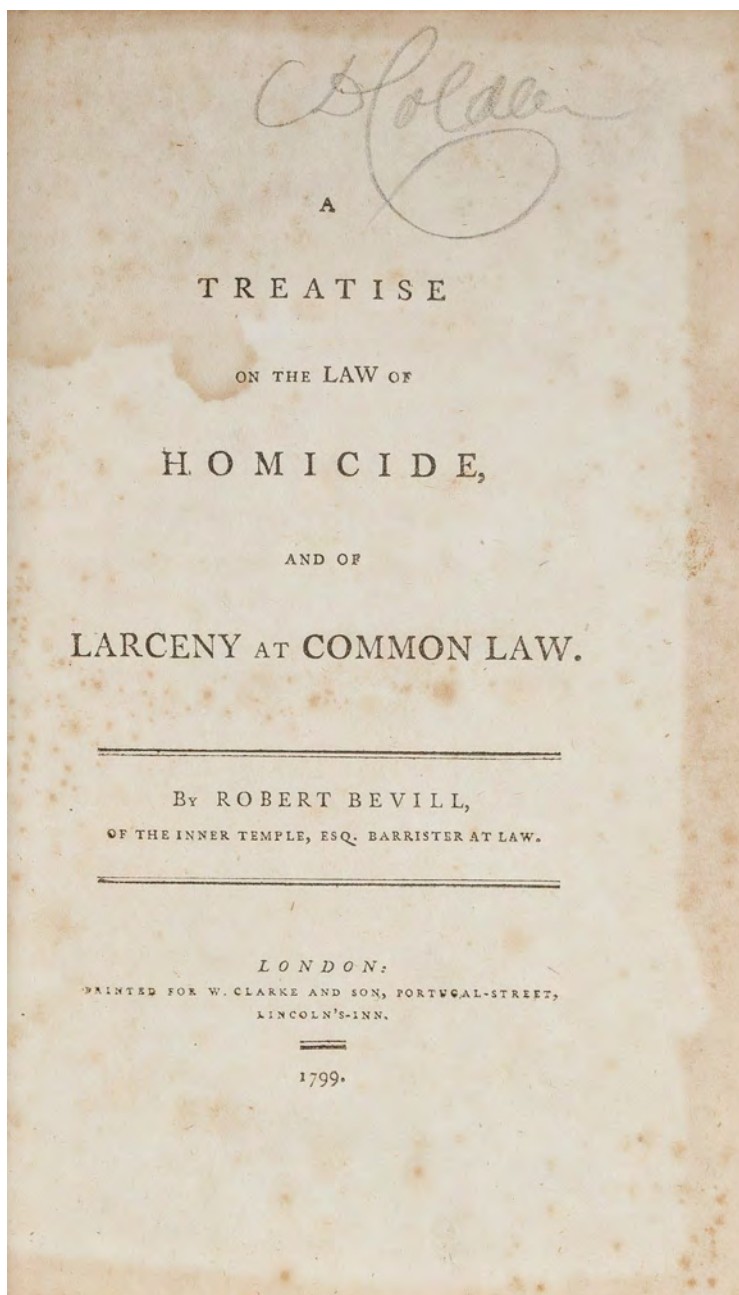
Laws of Arkansas Territory. Little Rock, Ark. Ter.: Printed by J. Steele, 1835. [iv], 562, [12] pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 5").

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, blind tooling to board edges, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine. A few minor scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, somewhat heavier rubbing to backstrip, front hinge cracked. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing, faint dampstaining to margins in a few places. \$1,500.

* Originally part of the Territory of Louisiana, then the Territory of Missouri, Arkansas Territory was established in 1819. It became a state in 1836. The first territorial compilation, a brief 149-page volume that included statutes of Missouri, was published in 1821. Steele and M'Campbell's alphabetically digested compilation was the second and last published during the territorial period. As indicated by such sections as Indians, Slaves, Vice and Immorality, it offers an interesting perspective on Arkansas when it was beginning its transition from a territory to a state. Babbitt, *Hand-List of Legislative Sessions and Session Laws* 16.

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Owned by New York Mayor and Legal Reformer Cadwallader David Colden

3. Bevill, Robert [1770-1824].

A Treatise on the Law of Homicide, And of Larceny at Common Law. London: Printed for W. Clarke and Son, 1799. [xiv], 287 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-3/4"; 22.8 x 14.6 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing and some minor nicks and scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, rear joint cracked. Armorial bookplate of Cadwallader David Colden to front pastedown, annotation in his hand to front free endpaper, Colden's signature in pencil to head of title page. Moderate toning and light foxing to text, faint dampstaining in a few places. A nice copy of a scarce title. \$2,500.

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* First and only edition. Bevill was a barrister of the Inner Temple who sought to synthesize disparate common law rulings into foundational legal principles. Writing in his preface, he notes: "I have collected everything to be found in the books which appeared to be material; and I have endeavoured to extract all the principles by which the law, as to these offenses, is governed..." [iii-iv].

Published at the close of the 18th century, Bevill's work represents an early era of criminal law specialization. At this time, practitioners typically relied on broad, multi-subject encyclopedias like *Blackstone's Commentaries*. This dedicated volume reflects a critical shift toward specialized legal textbooks.

This copy boasts an exceptional transatlantic legal provenance. It belonged to Cadwallader David Colden [1769-1834], a member of a distinguished New York family who served as Mayor of New York City (1818-1821), a U.S. Representative (1821-1823), and a New York State Senator (1825-1827). Beyond his political career, Colden was a prominent elite legal mind, serving as District Attorney for New York County and pioneering early American juvenile justice reforms.

The volume illustrates how early American architects of law relied heavily on contemporary English texts to construct the post-Revolutionary United States legal framework. Colden's manuscript note on the front free endpaper provides a direct window into this conceptual evolution. It reads: "Murder is a killing of malice-/ Malice is where there is a felonious and deliberate intent/ to do bodily harm by probable means." This inscription captures an early American jurist actively defining criminal intent (*mens rea*) using English common law precedents.

English Short-Title Catalogue N14026. Rigg, revised by Wood, "Bevill, Robert", *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (accessed online).



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VILLANY DETECTED.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

Read the following Certificates of Judge FORD, of Montgomery County, and JAMES KINYON whose affidavit appeared in the last Sentinel. See the foul means to which the unprincipled opponents of JOHN W. TAYLOR resort, to destroy him. Where is the man, who has a spark of candour glowing in his bosom, that will justify such outrageous proceedings? Who can witness with composure, this base, underhanded and abominable conspiracy against your tried and faithful Representative? Read! Read! and then say is it not time for every honest man to rally in behalf of a much INJURED and PERSECUTED citizen.

I certify that in the year 1817, at the request of James Kinyon, of the County of Montgomery, I called upon JOHN W. TAYLOR, at his office in Baltimore, and employed him to attend to the claim of the said James Kinyon for military bounty land, as behest law to his son Bradford, and to procure for him whatever arrears of pay might be found due. I informed Mr. Taylor that I called upon him as a professional man to do the business, and expected to pay him for the same. Mr. Taylor drew the necessary Powers of Attorney, instructions, and other papers, as well for Mr. Kinyon as for the Surrogate, and gave to the business every proper attention, both at Washington and at home, until in March 1820, when a land warrant was procured for 100 acres for his bounty land, and 120 dollars 74 cents was received for arrears of pay. On the 9th day of last June, Mr. Kinyon called with me upon Mr. Taylor, and received the same, whereupon he paid to Mr. Taylor Ten dollars for his professional services in drawing the writings and for his necessary disbursements in attending to the business. Mr. Kinyon expressed to Mr. Taylor his gratitude on the occasion, and we both considered the sum paid, TO BE A SMALL COMPENSATION for the SERVICES RENDERED.—April 19th, 1821.

JAMES FORD.

I, JAMES KINYON, do concur in the above statement made by Judge Ford, and I do certify that the conduct of JOHN W. TAYLOR towards me in the business above mentioned, was liberal and friendly, for which I consider him entitled to my gratitude and thanks. I hereby further certify that:—THAD-

DEUS JEWITT came to my house in company with one or two others on the 17th of April last, and introduced his business in substance as follows: He said he had understood that I had obtained a soldier's right by way of my Son, to which I answered that I had got the back arrangement due to my Son, and expected to get the land. Mr. JEWITT observed that 'there were a great many that had business of the same kind to transact yet men, women and children,—the widow and the fatherless, and they complain of high charges for services in procuring their rights. He said he wanted to know how I prepared mine, and who did the business for me. I replied that Mr. John W. Taylor transacted the business for me, &c. Mr. JEWITT next inquired how much he charged me, to which I replied ten dollars. 'Did Taylor do all the business for 10 dollars?' said Mr. JEWITT. I replied yes, except what I paid to the Surrogate. He remarked that that was of no consequence, as the business must be transacted before the Surrogate, before it went into Mr. Taylor's hands.

Mr. JEWITT next wished me to give him this statement in writing. I replied that he had better go to Enquire Ford, he could inform him better than I could, as he had assisted me in laying the business before Mr. Taylor, and in doing the business with him. But JEWITT said I was the man that the business was done for, and he wanted a writing from me. He said he had done some writing for a man a few days before, and the man thought the charges were too high, and he wanted to know what others charged, so that they should no longer complain of high charges.

Mr. JEWITT said, Taylor procured more Soldier's rights than any other man, and could afford to do it cheaper. After I had given the writing which has since been published in the *Harbinger Sentinel* of April 18th, instant, JEWITT remarked that that Certificate would be of GREAT USE to him or SOMEBODY else, he knowing not how soon he should want to use it in the High Court? and now, said Mr. JEWITT, 'I have just thought of it, I want you to go before a Magistrate and make an affidavit to these facts, as I am here now, and if you do not, it will save you the trouble of attending COURT, when I shall be under the necessity of calling you IF YOU DO NOT MAKE THE AFFIDAVIT.' These were in effect the words of Mr. JEWITT, if not the same verbatim. In order to avoid this trouble, and not doubting the sincerity of Mr. JEWITT, I accompanied him before Ben. Toher, and made the affidavit above alluded to, as published in the *Sentinel*, and not till after all this was done did I for one moment have any suspicion that that certificate was procured by Mr. JEWITT for the BASE purposes which have since been developed by his publication. I have ever considered Mr. Taylor's charge as reasonable and just, and although not so very poor as is represented by the benevolent writer in the *Sentinel*, I have found in Mr. Taylor a man whom I think justly entitled to the appellation of 'the poor man's friend.'

Given under my hand, at Broadbald, this 20th day of April, 1821.

JAMES KINYON

"See the Foul Means to Which the
Unprincipled Opponents of John W. Taylor Resort"

4. [Broadside].
[Kinyon, James].
[Taylor, John W. (1784-1854)].

Villany Detected: Fellow-Citizens, Read the Following Certificates of Judge Ford, Of Montgomery County, And James Kinyon Whose Affidavit Appeared in the Last Sentinel. See the Foul Means to Which the Unprincipled Opponents of John W. Taylor Resort, to Destroy Him....

[New York: S.n., 1821].

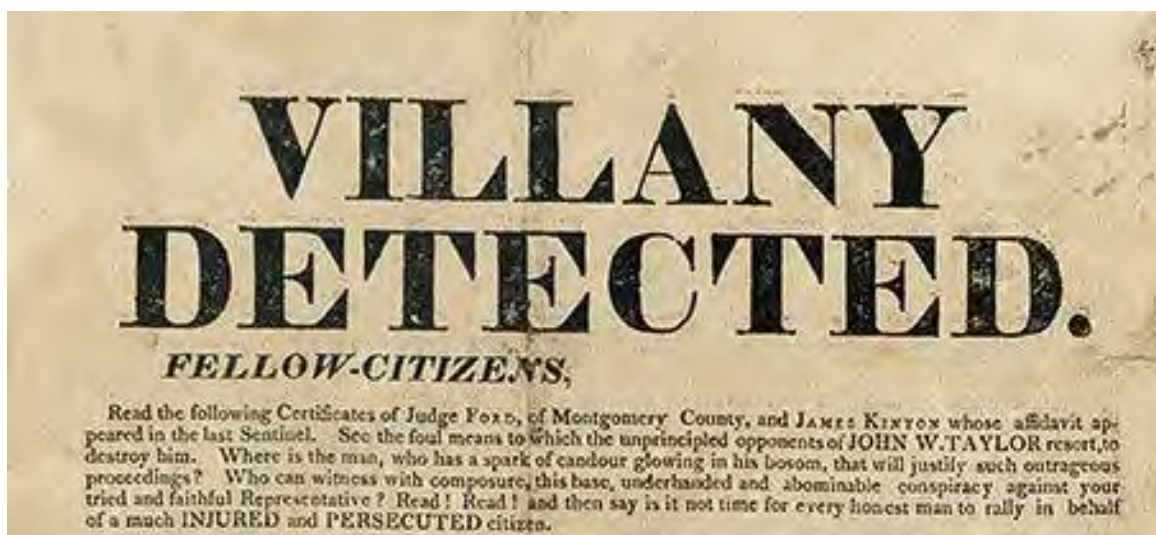
Uncut broadside, 13" x 9-3/4" (33 x 24.7 cm). Text in three columns below headline and one single-column paragraph, untrimmed edges. Moderate soiling, vertical and horizontal fold lines. \$1,250.

* A rare and politically charged New York campaign broadside defending the legal ethics of Congressman John W. Taylor, who represented Saratoga County in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1813 to 1833. The text addresses an accusation originally published in the *Saratoga Sentinel*, wherein local citizen James Kinyon claimed Taylor had overcharged him for legal services regarding a War of 1812 military bounty land claim.

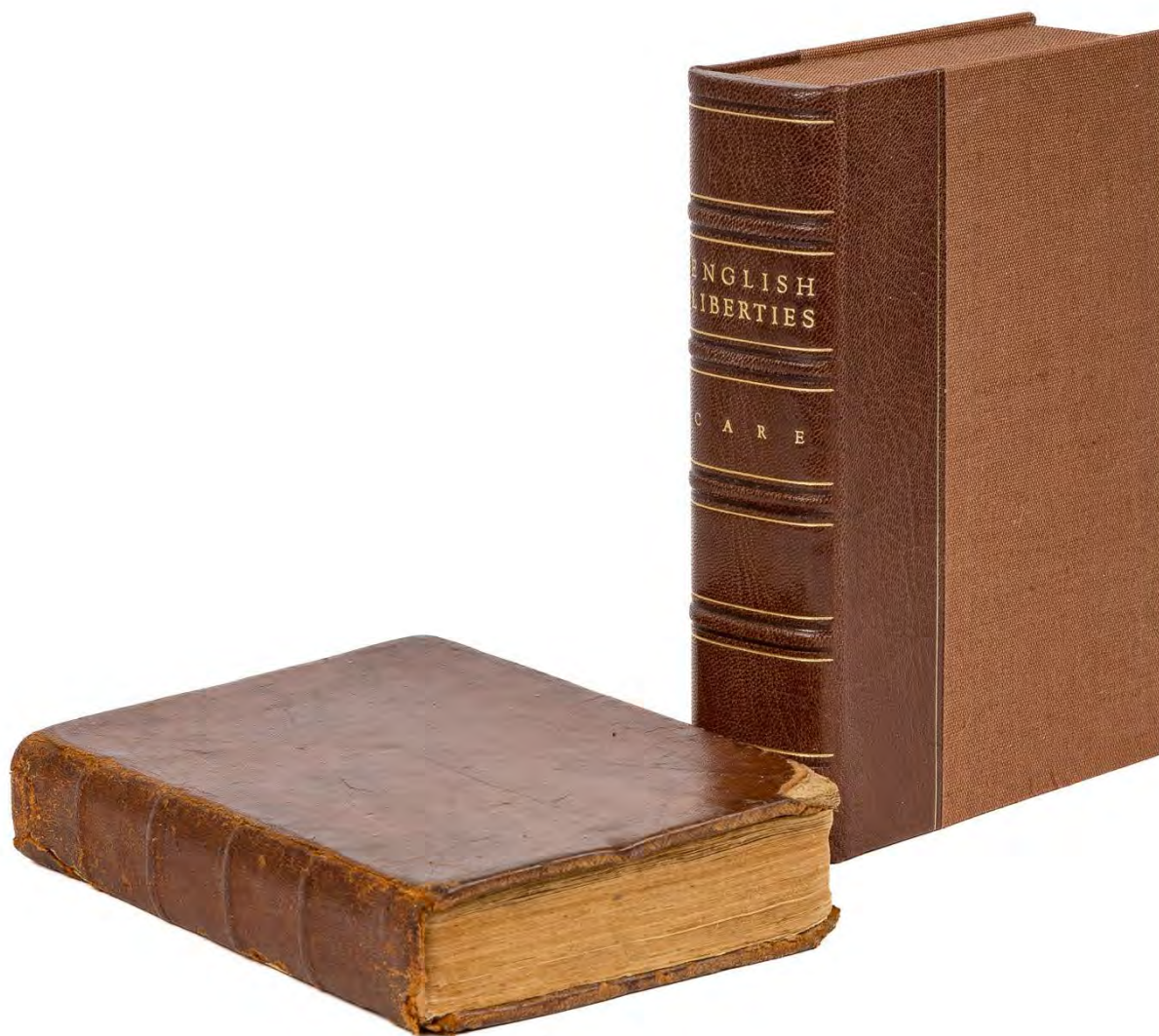
This broadside seeks to vindicate Taylor, featuring a certificate from Judge James Ford of Montgomery County corroborating Taylor's version of the events. It reveals that Kinyon was manipulated into signing the predatory affidavit by one Thaddeus Jewitt, an agent of Taylor's political rivals.

John W. Taylor was a prominent national statesman who served as Speaker of the House from 1820-1821 and again from 1825-1827. He was fiercely targeted by political opponents due to his outspoken opposition to slavery, most notably his leading role in framing the restrictive anti-slavery amendments during the Missouri Crisis. While Southern politicians swore never to forgive his stance, his most immediate threats came from his home state's anti-Clintonian faction (the "Bucktails") and the rising Van Buren Democratic machine. This broadside captures a highly localized, partisan character assassination attempt designed to erode Taylor's base during the critical 1821 election cycle that saw him lose his Speakership.

OCLC locates 1 copy (New-York Historical Society).



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**1774 Providence Edition Owned by a Subscriber Who
Was an Early Massachusetts Judge and Politician**

**5. [Care, Henry (1646-1688)].
N[elson], W[illiam] [b.1653], Editor.**

English Liberties, Or The Free-Born Subject's Inheritance. Providence: Printed and Sold by John Carter, 1774. viii, 350, [6] pp. Includes six-page subscriber list. Octavo (7" x 4-3/4"; 17.8 x 12.1 cm).

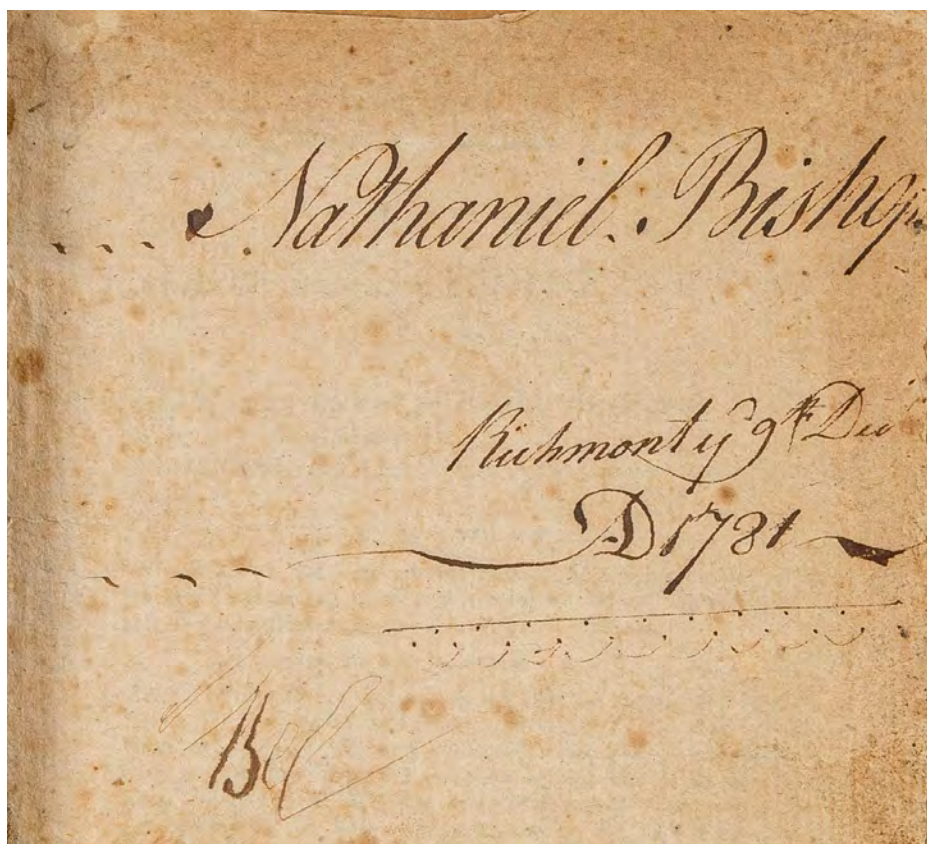
Contemporary sheep, raised bands to spine, blind tooling to board edges. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs and scratches to boards, early ink annotation (faint and illegible) to front board, moderate rubbing to extremities, front joint starting, rear joint cracked, chipping to spine ends, corners bumped and worn, hinges cracked (rear hinge before final text leaf), faint offsetting to preliminaries, small tear and brief annotation ("August 24th: 1796") to front pastedown, owner signature (of Nathaniel Bishop [1757-1826], dated at Richmond [Massachusetts], December 9, 1781) to front free endpaper, which is lightly edgeworn and lacking its lower outside corner. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, printer's flaw to p. 93 with loss to text, light soiling and tiny spark burns to a few leaves. Item housed in custom clamshell box, quarter morocco over cloth with gilt title and gilt-edged raised bands to spine. A good, unsophisticated copy. \$7,500.

* Second American edition. Preceded by the 1721 Boston edition, this Providence edition was published in the same year as the first Continental Congress and the Intolerable Acts (and about a year after the Boston Tea Party). A publisher's note says this edition was "principally designed for America" and contained "extracts from several late celebrated writers on the constitution" (vi). Clearly, the publisher was capitalizing on popular resentment toward the Crown and Parliament.

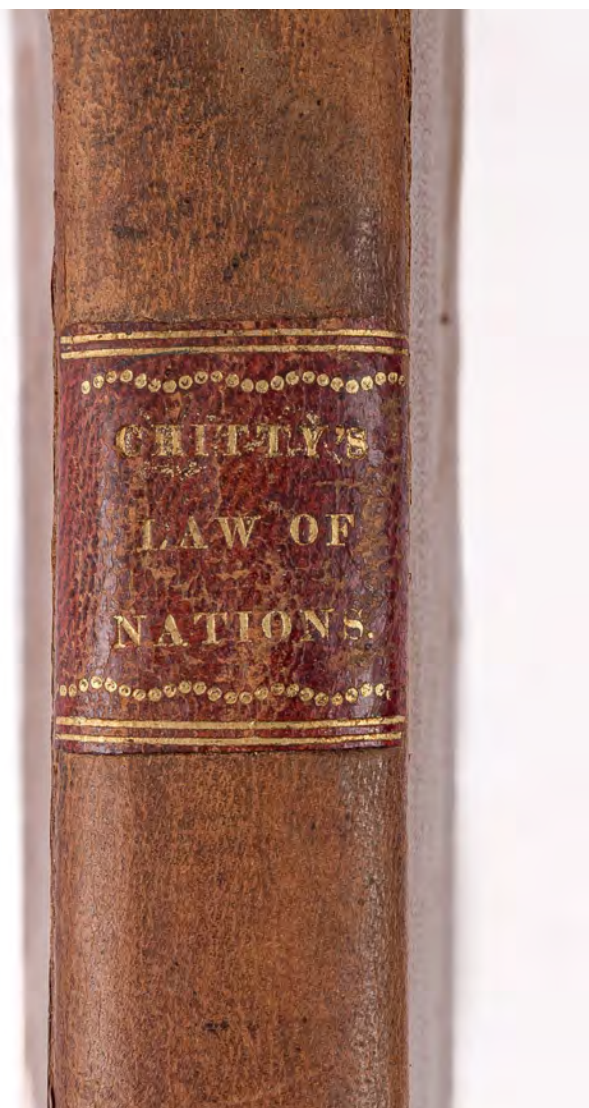
First published in England circa 1680, *English Liberties* reviews, from a Whig perspective, the principles of English law and government. Containing the texts of Magna Carta and other foundational documents of the English Constitution, it emphasizes the role of juries in the preservation of civil rights and prevention of tyranny. *English Liberties* was one of the first legal titles published in the American colonies and had a profound influence on colonial readers, including the founders. It was the primary source for William Penn's *Excellent Privilege of Liberty and Property* (1687), a work that inspired support for the revolution. George Mason used it when drafting Virginia's Declaration of Rights (1776). And Jefferson, who owned two copies, probably referred to it when he wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. Its influence is also evident in the Bill of Rights.

Our copy is inscribed by Nathaniel Bishop, a subscriber from Guilford, Connecticut. His ownership reflects that, in addition to its ideological uses, the work served its stated purpose: a layman's guide and legal manual. Bishop settled in Richmond, Massachusetts in 1777. He inscribed the book during a thirty-year tenure as a register of probate and justice of the peace. He went on to serve as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1795-1811 and then Chief Justice of the Court of Sessions, in addition to service in the Massachusetts state legislature.

Cone & Root, *Record of the Descendants of John Bishop* (1951) 40. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2702, 2703. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 3416.



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**First and Only American edition of Chitty's *A Practical Treatise on the Law of Nations*
Owned by a U.S. Secretary of State**

6. Chitty, Joseph [1776-1841].

A Practical Treatise on the Law of Nations, Relative to the Legal Effect of War on the Commerce of Belligerents and Neutrals; And on Orders in Council and Licences. To Which Are Added, Extracts from Grotius, Bynkershoek, And Vattel: Also, The Letter of Sir William Scott, And of the Duke of Newcastle, &c. Containing Matters Applicable to the Law of Prize.

Boston: Published by Bradford and Read, 1812. xii, 340, [4] pp. Includes four-page publisher list. Octavo (8-1/2"x 5-1/4"; 21.6 x 13.3 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine, blind tooling to board edges. Light rubbing to boards, shallow scuffs to upper outside corner of front board, moderate rubbing to extremities, front joint just starting at head, corners bumped, hinges cracked, front free endpaper detaching. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, occasional faint dampstaining to margins. Early book label, "J.M. Clayton's," to front pastedown, early inkstamps of John M. Clayton to front free endpaper and left margin of p. 40. A good copy in an appealing contemporary binding. \$1,250.

* Published the same year as the sole London edition, this is the first and only American edition of Chitty's major contribution to international law. Published precisely at the onset of the War of 1812, the treatise offers critical contemporary insights into the Anglo-American trade tensions, maritime restrictions, and highly volatile laws of blockade and prize capture that fueled the conflict.

Chitty was one of the most wide-ranging and prolific British legal writers of the nineteenth century; this treatise and his 1813 edition of Beawes's *Lex Mercatoria* represent his major contributions to international law. While Marvin's *Legal Bibliography* notes some contemporary criticism of the work, it highly praises its compilation of Sir William Scott's landmark judgments in prize cases (p. 190).

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7175.



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TIME AND REBELLION.

Written by a soldier in General Grant's army and of veteran notoriety. In 1861 he received a commission as "high private" in the rear ranks of a Hoosier Regiment, and having been so faithful and untiring in his country's cause, the War Department has renewed his commission for another three years.

This unequalled poem was not intended for the public perusal of the whole world, but fearing some "General Order" might have it sent to the War Department, Washington, for future investigation, its author consented to "hand it over" in all its original magnificence:

O Time, with never tireless wing,
Changes o'er man and nations bring!
Years roll on and pass away
Regardless of the future day;
When Time shall be no more!

In eighteen hundred sixty-one
Our national troubles first begun;
And from that day to the present time,
A war we've had that's most sublime!
A million of men to arms have fled,
For "dixie land" or this wee Confed;
To quell rebellion's hellish flash,
That gladly would our nation smash!
Three years now have rolled around,
Since first we met upon the ground,
Our rights and freedom to maintain,
While many a battle have we gained!
At Cairo first our arms we tried,
But there not fully satisfied,
A little further on we'll go,
For victory o'er the Ohio!
Fort Henry was a fendish hole,
Which rebels held in days of old;
But General Grant at once began,
To try his skill, he laid a plan
Which caused the rebels much disgrace,
And ever since we've held the place!
Fort Donelson next came on the list
Of all strong-holds where treason bided;
But ere a month had rolled around
Its mighty walls were battered down!
Now here we had them bagged so slick,
A wisely planned, but Yankee trick;
Which cost them more than they had made,
In building this their first blockade!
Next came Shiloh further on,
Where treason loudly blew her horn;
Where rebel herds by thousands stood,
To stop the Yankees, that they would!
Old Beauregard he led the van
Against our Grant, the very man;
Who met the vandals face to face,
And whipped the whole Confederate race!
Victory crowned our arms once more,
We drove the vandals as before;
While "forward!" cried our Gen'l brave,
Our nation now we're bound to save!
Onward moved our army round,
Till in front of Corinth town—
Here the rebels had fortified,
To stop the Yankees in their pride!
Now, a mighty siege began,
And General Halleck took command.
From right to left and centre too,
Were solid lines of braves in blue!
Now here were Generals Great and Small,
Who swore ere long the place must fall;
And from the flash of bayonets bright,
All signified desire to fight.
Department left was General Pope's,
He seemed to understand the ropes;

And thus to Halleck, Pope did say:
'I'm ready now to lead the way.'
'But Halleck rather thought him dumb,
While all was ready at the tap of drum;
For Halleck was slow about the fight,
He thought he had them bagged all right;
But at the early break of day,
He learned the Rebels had ran away.
He rode up here and then down there,
But to find them he knew not where!
"Now, my men, there's work to do,"
While forward every General flew;
Forward all the lines advanced,
Hedged by Grant and Rosecrans!
Now, General Pope upon the left,
He took the town and the rest,
And then to Booneville he "lit out."
To see what Price was now about! [more,
He captured prisoners forty thousand, or
With guns and cannon and Rebel's store.
Now, General Pope he won a name,
High above his rank or fame,
While on to Richmond he did go,
Which was the last of him you know.
Halleck, too, to Washington went,
There to help the President;
So there he is, at Washington still,
Grinding away with his Yankee mill!
Looka, now, I've not forgot,
Where Rosecrans so bravely fought;
Where Price's men around him fell,
Like traitors in the jaws of hell!
The Hoosier boys now tried their luck,
Backed up by Minnesota's pluck;
And, by the way, Iowa too,
Found that here was work to do!
So here we fought in great uproar,
The Forty-Eighth and Fifth Iowa;
The Fourteenth from Minnesota true,
Fought like devils dressed in blue!
While battery 11th from the Buckeye State,
Shelled the Rebels at an awful rate;
The Forty-Eighth of Hoosier fame,
Here by hundreds they were slain;
They fought as Hoosiers always fight,
For a cause that's just and right!
Missourians, too, with all their tricks,
Both the Eleventh and Twenty-Six,
Fought like demons all did say,
And thus you see we gained the day!
Next again at Corinth town,
Came the Rebels from all around;
But here, you see, we had the boys,
From old Wisconsin and Illinois!
The Fifty-Ninth of Hoosier note,
And all the rest of whom I've wrote—
How like devils we did fight,
Until we put them all to flight;
And on retreat they swiftly sped,
With only half, for the rest were dead!
Now to the waters we did go,
Through rain, and hail, and falling snow;
While General Grant came up again,
And all was ready for a new campaign!
Now down the waters we did glide,
Upon the rivers rolling tide;
While at Port Gibson on the way,
Where hosts of secess all in gray;
But soon we gave them Yankee hail,
And to their heels they took leg bail!
We followed them up to Raymond field,
Where, of course, they had to yield—

Now forward all too Jackson steered,
In solid lines the Rebels appeared;
But here a charge of bayonets grand,
Was too much for the Rebels to stand!
Thus, again, with half our strength,
We gained the point desired at length;
While now for Vicksburg it must fall,
Should it cost the lives of all!
But Champion Hills was on our way,
And there the devil was to pay;
Here the Rebels came out en masse,
And swore the Yanks should never pass!
Now here a battle in wild dismay,
Began again at the break of day;
But ere the setting of the sun,
A mighty victory had we won!
Vicksburg now stood down the rear,
And mighty forts were built up here—
Where all the Rebels they sought to hide,
In a stronghold so fortified!
The Yankees now determined were,
To whale them out we did declare—
So all around a line we drew,
Right under their guns and batteries too!
Both day and night to them we stuck,
Which made them kuss our Yankee pluck;
We stormed their works and drove them
back,
And made them keep the inside track!
Our army now had gained their rear,
Gunboats in front some did appear;
While all within began to sigh,
For General Grant was drawing nigh!
The Yankees, too, came up so near,
It made them tremble, full of fear;
But soon the storm began to roar,
In thundering tones from shore to shore,
While grape and shell, and musket ball,
Caused many a secess then to fall!
High up their truce they now did swing,
While we to order our arms did bring;
In honor a shout of victory shrill,
Ran through the valleys and o'er the hill—
The battle was fought and victory won,
The forts surrendered with every gun;
Horses and mules, and all the stores,
Prisoners, too, by thousands and by scores!
Thus a victory in all complete,
Which caused secession a sore defeat;
A blow that made old Davis feel,
The mighty effects of Yankee steel!
Here, again, our work was done,
While other strongholds must succumb;
So o'er the plains and mountains great,
Again we went at hasty rate;
Now Chattanooga we did gain,
Through cold and heat and falling rain.
And here again we whipped the foe,
Which made them to Atlanta go.
Now here upon this sacred soil,
Many a brave man met his fall—
But his name shall honored be,
And his country ever free.
Many a secess also fell,
While fighting for this tyrant's hell—
A hell of slavery, with Davis for king,
Where human blood would riches bring.
From sixty-one to sixty-four,
All this we've done, and ten times more!
And now old TIME, with tireless wing,
These are the changes you did bring!
HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Jan. 1st, 1864.

7. [Civil War, American].

Time and Rebellion. Huntsville, AL, Jan. 1st, 1864.

14-1/2" x 9" (36.8 x 22.8 cm) broadside. text in three columns of poetic verse, enclosed within a classic decorative woodcut border positioned below the primary headline. Printed on fragile, mid-war paper stock; small edge chips and light tanning along margins, consistent with temporary campaign printing, but text fully intact and legible. \$1,500.

* An apparently unrecorded, privately printed Union campaign broadside issued at Huntsville, Alabama, on New Year's Day 1864, offering a soldier's poetic chronicle of the war's progress and predicting ultimate victory under General Ulysses S. Grant.

In late 1863 and early 1864, Huntsville, Alabama, served as a crucial strategic hub for Union forces following its re-occupation by Federal troops under Brigadier General George Crook and major elements of the Army of the Tennessee. Operating deep within Confederate territory, Indiana ("Hoosier") regiments-including troops attached to Grant's western campaigns-were stationed in and around the town to secure supply lines and maintain Northern control.

This broadside presents a rare, hyper-local artifact of soldier literary culture printed directly in the occupied South. Rather than standard official military orders, it captures the authentic voice, morale, and political outlook of an experienced Union infantryman looking ahead to the war's final phase in early 1864.

Directly beneath the title sits a lengthy, satirical, and fiercely patriotic biographical preamble:

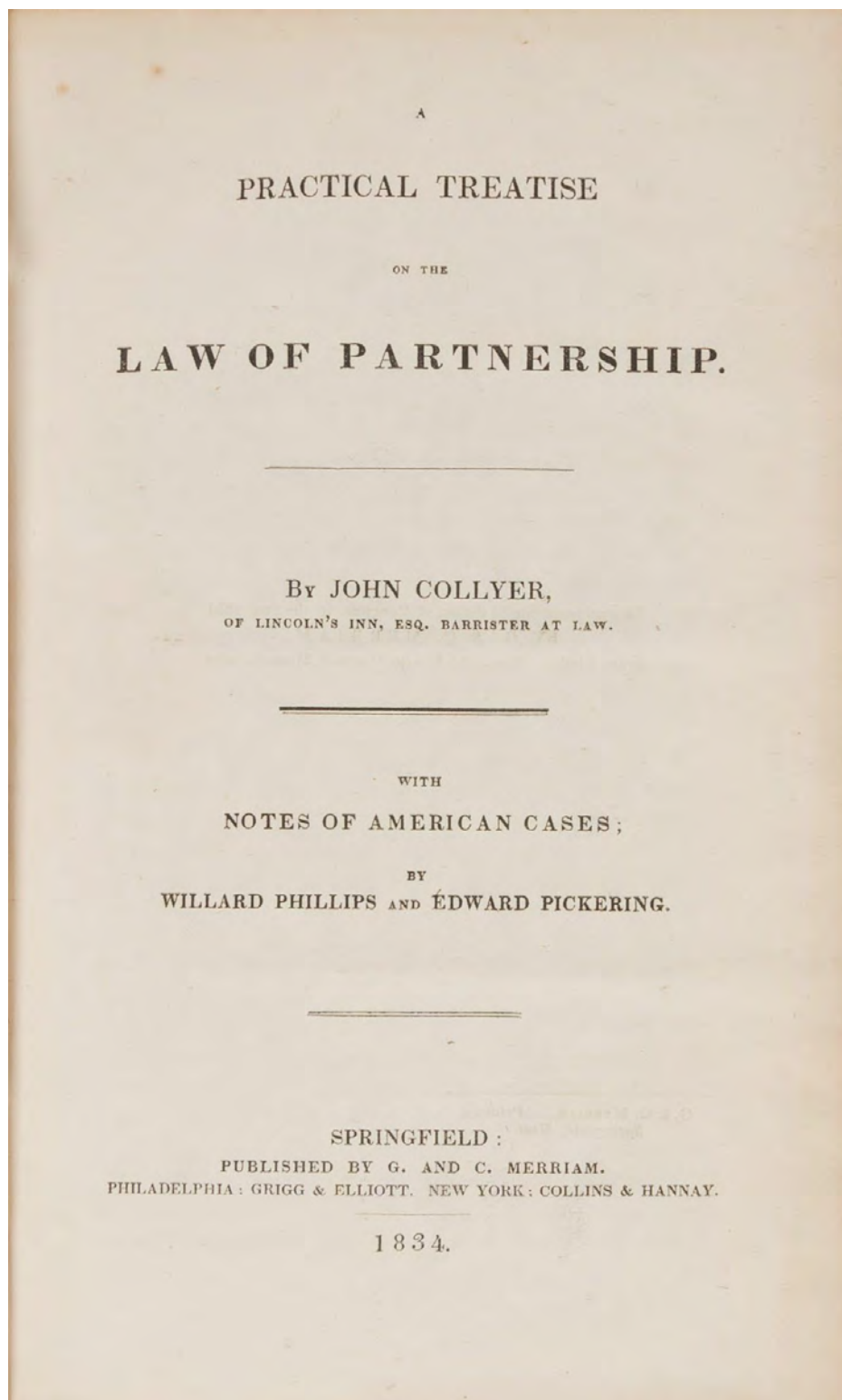
"Written by a soldier in General Grant's army and of veteran notoriety. In 1861 he received a commission as 'high private' in the rear ranks of a Hoosier Regiment, and having been so faithful and unretiring in his country's cause, the War Department has renewed his commission for another three years. This unequaled poem was not intended for the public perusal of the whole world, but fearing some 'General Order' might have it sent to the War Department, Washington, for future investigation, its author consented to 'hand it over' in all its original magnificence."

The author's self-deprecating reference to holding a commission as a "high private" refers to his enlistment in 1861 and his recent re-enlistment ("renewed his commission for another three years") as a veteran volunteer-a vital effort by the Lincoln administration in late 1863/early 1864 to retain battle-hardened troops.

The accompanying three-column poem synthesizes major Union campaigns, key political turning points, and the rise of Ulysses S. Grant. By January 1864, following Grant's decisive victories at Vicksburg and Chattanooga, Northern soldiers increasingly viewed him as the commander capable of ending the rebellion-a sentiment clearly articulated in this verse.

Unrecorded in standard military and regional bibliographies. No institutional copies located in OCLC/WorldCat, Union list bibliographies, or major Civil War broadside collections (such as the American Antiquarian Society, Library of Congress, or Huntington Library). A unique survival of field-printed Union poetry from the Alabama theater.

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The "Best English Treatise on the Subject"
From the library of the Hallowell, Maine historian, Charles Elventon Nash (1838-1904)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com

8. Collyer, John [1801-1870].

Phillips, Willard [1784-1873], Notes.

Pickering, Edward [d.1876], Notes.

A Practical Treatise on the Law of Partnership. With Notes of American Cases; By Willard Phillips and Edward Pickering. Springfield, MA: Published by G. and C. Merriam, 1834. xxxii, 728 [i.e. 544] pp. Octavo (9-1/4" x 6").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. A few minor spots and scuffs to boards, early owner bookplate "Chas. E. Nash/ Private Library" to front free endpaper, light toning to interior, offsetting to margins of endleaves. A well-preserved copy. \$950.

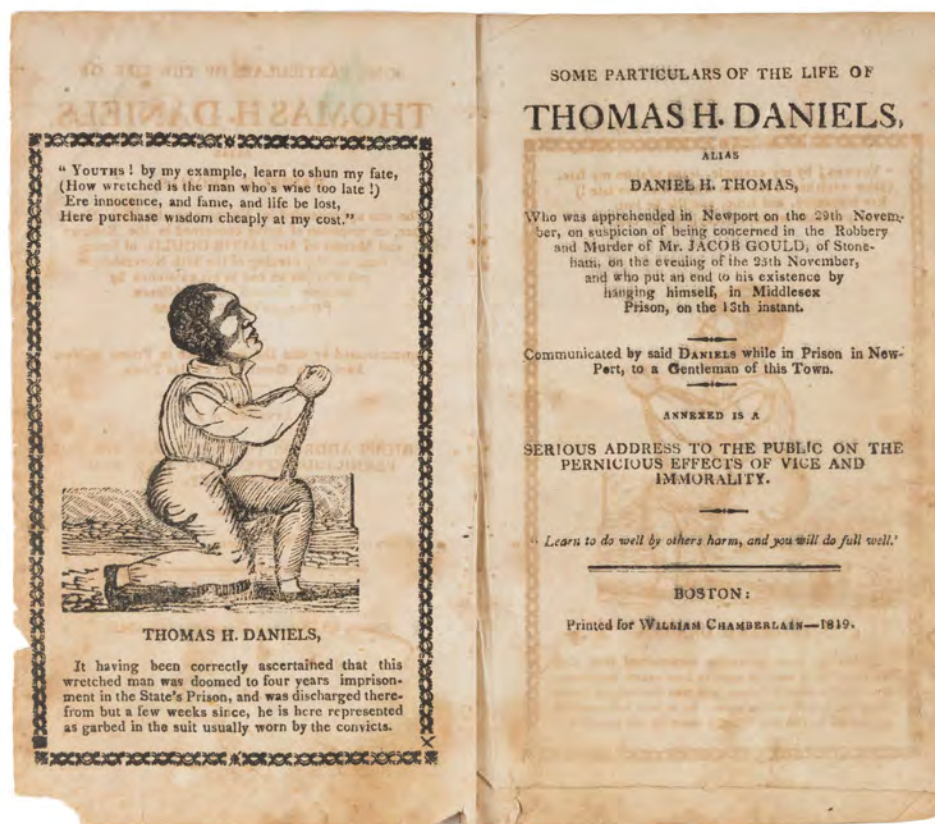
* First American edition, from the first London edition (1832), to which it is star-paged. According to Warren's *Popular and Practical Introduction to Law Studies*, this is the "best English treatise" on the subject. It provides "a full statement of the principal decisions of Lord Eldon, whose subtle and powerful legal intellect pre-eminently distinguished itself in cases of Partnership and Bankruptcy." The final American edition, the fourth, was published in 1853.

From the library of the historian, alderman, and former army officer Charles Elventon Nash (1838-1904) of Hallowell, Maine, who was also the publisher of several local periodicals in Maine, including the Kennebec Journal.

Warren cited in Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 215. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 9306.



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

9. Daniels, Thomas H. [d.1819].

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. Rare. \$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; its last two auction sales were in 1991 and 1910. OCLC locates 10 copies, 1 in a law library (Harvard).

McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 240.

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**The First Justice of the Peace Manual Printed in Tennessee (1810):
A Rare and Vital Artifact of American Frontier Law**

10. Haywood, John (1762-1826), Compiler.

The Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace, In the State of Tennessee. Nashville: Printed and Sold by Thomas G. Bradford, 1810.

First Edition. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2"). [iv], 372, [7] pp. Lacking the four leaves of publisher's advertisements at the rear. Modern period-style tan calf, spine with gilt rules and a red leather lettering piece; hinges mended. Text with light toning and faint damp-spotting. Several production printing faults resulting in torn leaves near the gutter, typical for early frontier imprints. Front pastedown features two later owner inscriptions: J.H. Shankland and Edward T. Danford. Interior otherwise clean and tight. \$1,500.

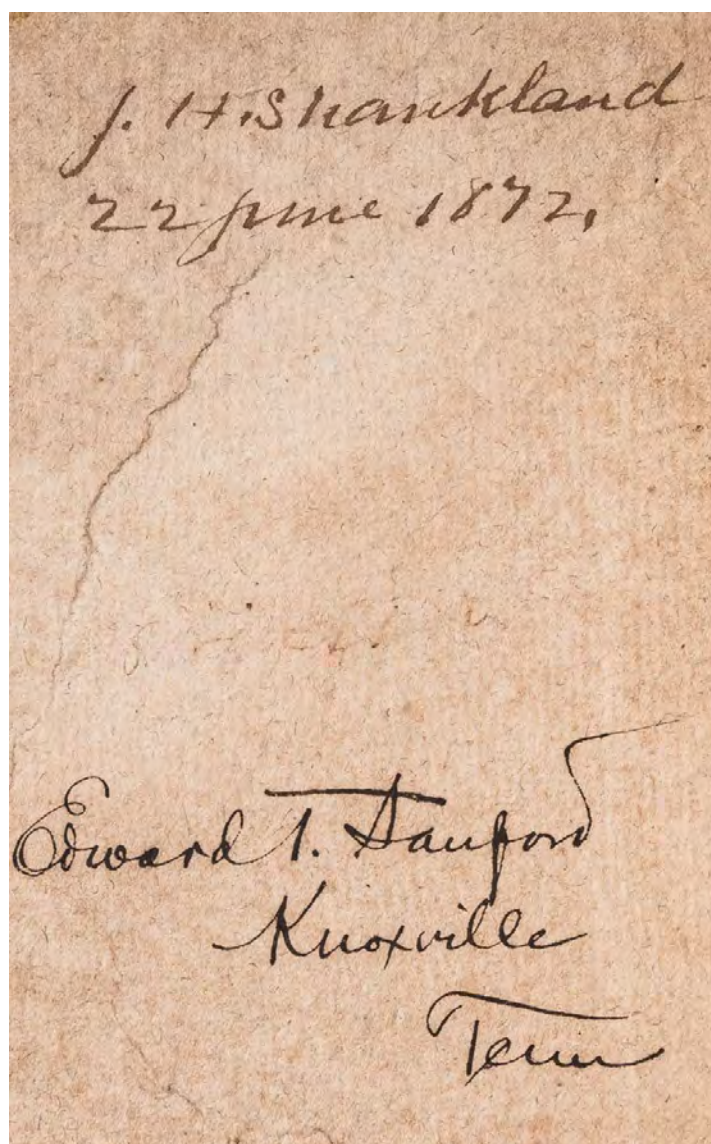
* This work stands as the first justice of the peace manual printed in Tennessee, published just fourteen years after the territory achieved statehood. In early America, county courts and local justices were vital instruments of local government and social organization. As legal historian James Willard Hurst notes, the justice of the peace was "the arch symbol of our emphasis on local autonomy," bringing "justice close to each man's door" in an era of poor and costly communications. Because these local magistrates were typically prominent landholders who lacked formal legal training, manuals like Haywood's were essential tools for translating statutory law to the early American frontier.

The volume also serves as an important artifact of early Western typography. Printed in Nashville by Thomas G. Bradford, one of Tennessee's foundational pioneer printers, the book's primitive paper quality and presswork reflect the material scarcity of the nineteenth-century frontier.

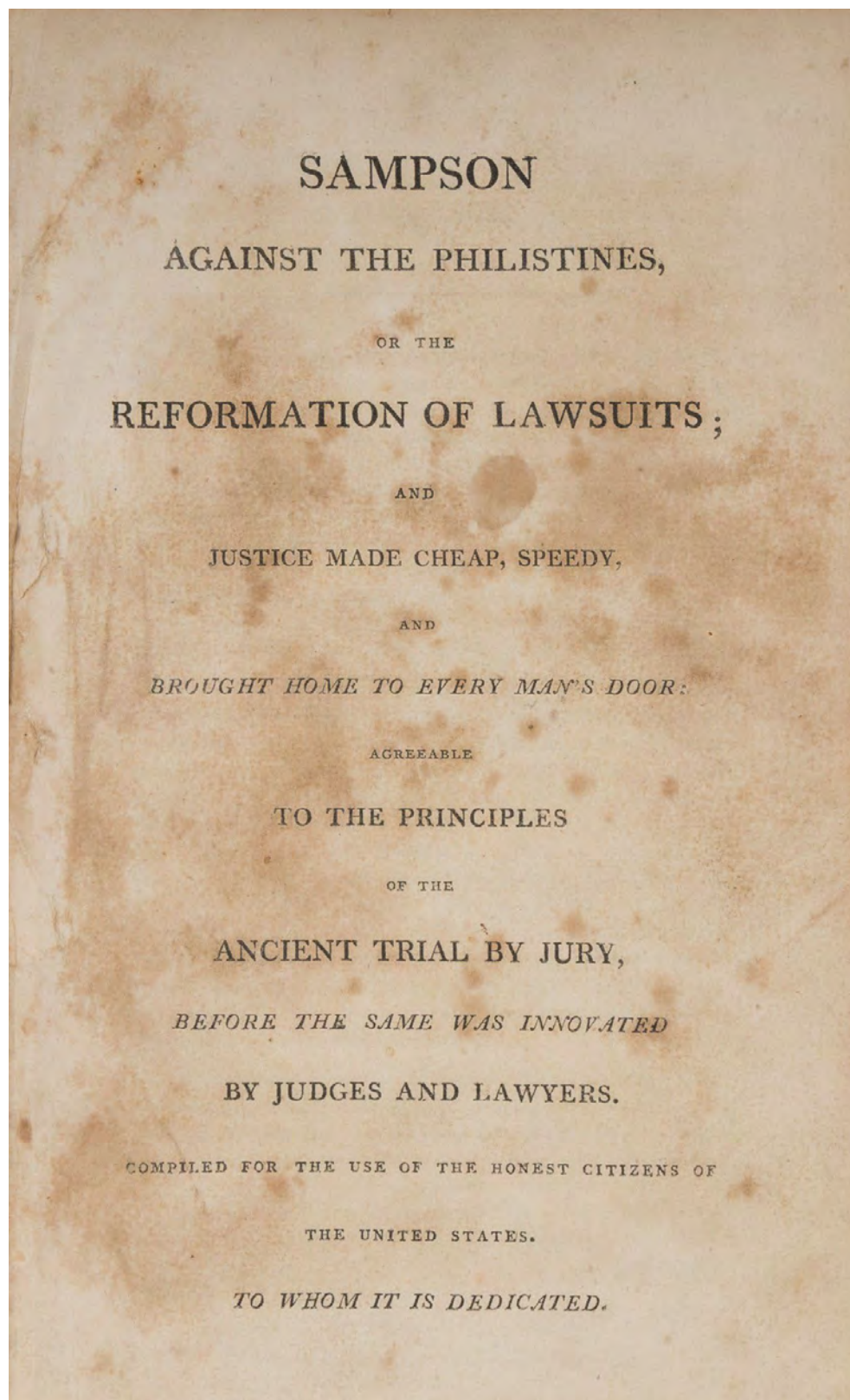
The compiler, John Haywood, was a distinguished jurist from North Carolina who relocated to Tennessee in 1807, later serving on the state's Supreme Court and writing its earliest definitive histories. This copy has a compelling provenance link: owner James Horton Shankland (1846-1923) was a Nashville-born attorney who later moved west to become a prominent founder and early officer of the Los Angeles Bar Association, bridging nineteenth-century Southern law with the expansion of legal institutions in the American West.

All early editions of this title are uncommon in law libraries. OCLC locates only four copies of this first edition in libraries (Harvard, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and Yale).

Cohen 8470; Allen, *Tennessee Imprints*, 162; Hurst, *The Growth of American Law*, p. 148.



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"Justice Made Cheap, Speedy,
And Brought to Every Man's Door"

11. [Higgins, Jesse (b. 1763), Attributed].

Sampson Against the Philistines, Or the Reformation of Lawsuits; And Justice Made Cheap, Speedy, And Brought Home to Every Man's Door: Agreeable to the Principles of the Ancient Trial by Jury, Before the Same was Innovated by Judges and Lawyers. Compiled for the Use of the Honest Citizens of the United States. To Whom It is Dedicated.

[Washington, DC: Printed by W. Duane, 1805]. First edition. v, 98, xxiii (i.e. xxii) pp. Octavo (7-3/4" x 5-3/4").

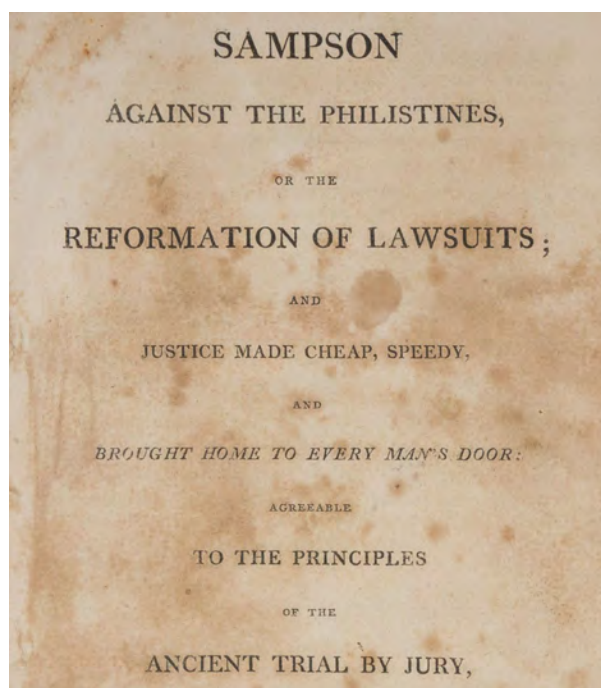
Disbound, moderate toning and light foxing, light soiling and faint staining to title page and verso of final leaf, final two leaves have some loss to text due to trimming. A nice copy of a rare imprint. \$200.

* This foundational tract represents one of the most blistering and influential early 19th-century populist attacks on the American legal profession and the adoption of English common law. Writing under a cloak of anonymity that historically led the text to be misattributed to his publisher William Duane or the radical Irish exile William Sampson, author Jesse Higgins speaks as a frustrated, wealthy Delaware landholder entangled in the opaque mechanics of the chancery courts. Higgins utilizes a stark biblical allegory-casting the honest American citizen as Samson and the entrenched class of lawyers and judges as the predatory Philistines-to argue that the legal system had become an aristocratic conspiracy designed to fleece the common man.

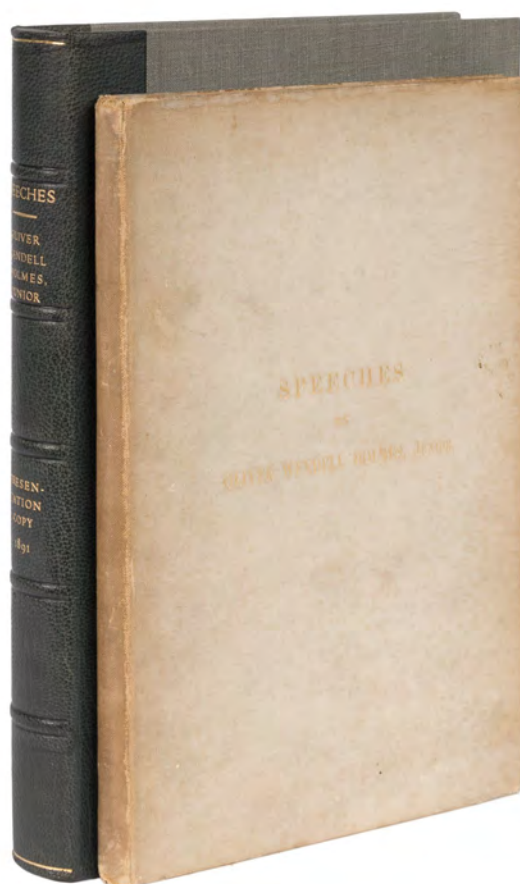
Published at the height of Jeffersonian democratic radicalism, the work champions a return to a pure, localized system of arbitration and simple trial by jury, free from the manipulation of trained attorneys. Higgins argues that justice should be intuitive, inexpensive, and immediate.

A second edition, with less content than the first, was published in Philadelphia in 1805. It was re-issued in Knoxville, TN in 1817 and New York in 1842.

The first edition is rare. OCLC locates 2 copies, both given an 1805 publication date (American Philosophical Society, Penn State University). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 1014.



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**First Edition Presentation Copy of Speeches (1891) in Original Cream Boards
Inscribed to the Mother of Sacco & Vanzetti Defense Counsel Arthur Dehon Hill**

12. Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr. [1841-1935].

Speeches. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1891.

Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/2"). [v], 55 pp. Original cream cloth, front board lettered in gilt, top edge gilt, others deckle. Light soiling and minor discoloration to boards, spine uniformly darkened; light rubbing to extremities with minor wear at spine ends and corners. Clean internally with light uniform toning; faint, localized dampstaining to upper corner of text block not affecting text, minor foxing to a few leaves. A very good copy, housed in a custom green quarter morocco clamshell box over cloth, spine with raised bands and gilt lettering.

First edition, presentation copy, inscribed by the author: "Mrs. Hill / From the Author" on a fragment clipped from the original brown paper shipping envelope and tipped-in to the front free endpaper. The inscription features "Mrs. Hill" in pencil in a large hand over a flourish, and "From the Author" in ink in Holmes's distinct small hand. Accompanied by a folder containing a copy of Mrs. Hill's acknowledgement letter and biographical material. \$1,500.

A choice presentation copy of Justice Holmes's first collection of addresses, printed while he was serving as a Justice on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Dedicated by Holmes to "a few friends who will care to keep them," this initial 1891 edition is widely considered the most elegantly produced printing of his legendary oratory. The delicate cream cloth boards chosen for this small-batch issuance emphasize its intended purpose as an elegant gift for the author's inner circle.

This volume contains all 11 speeches comprising the true first edition, providing an unvarnished window into the early development of Holmes's philosophy. The collected text opens with his famous "Memorial Day" address (May 30, 1884) delivered before the Grand Army of the Republic, and terminates with his moving September 15, 1891 tribute to his late judicial colleague, Associate Justice William Allen (pp. 52-55). The printing of the William Allen address establishes that the book was pushed through the presses in the early autumn of 1891, perfectly aligning with the recipient's letter of thanks.

The Association: The recipient, Mrs. Caroline Kenyon (Dehon) Hill, was the wife of Adams Sherman Hill, the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard. Mrs. Hill warmly acknowledged this gift in a letter to Holmes dated October 21, 1891, thanking him "for intellectual suggestion in the old time & more for your interest in my boy in these days."

That boy, Arthur Dehon Hill [1869-1947], grew up to become a prominent Boston attorney, a Harvard Law professor, and a founding member of Hill & Barlow. He achieved lasting historical significance as the chief defense counsel who took over the final, historic appellate fights for Sacco and Vanzetti in 1927.

A Note on the Inscription: As noted in the Bibliography of American Literature (BAL 8823), copies of this first edition were originally distributed directly from the author sealed in thick paper mailing wrappers. Holmes frequently wrote his inscriptions on these outer envelopes rather than the book leaves. The tipped-in clipping in this copy beautifully documents this intimate, private distribution habit within his elite Boston circle.



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October 2, 1920

Mrs. Brandeis

You have made me
your debtor for a sensation - I hope
if I am called on to describe it
things will be hard. I think the
main trouble for the courts and
for many such - as for the total are
summaries are inadequate and thus
hardly worth an adequate history
of men. Personally too I am for
thinking was so absurd and irrational
as the election declaration and therefore
am not entirely carried away by R.
R.'s passion - but I made her chuckle.
Respectfully
O. W. Holmes

Signed Letter from Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.
To the Wife of His Close Colleague Louis D. Brandeis

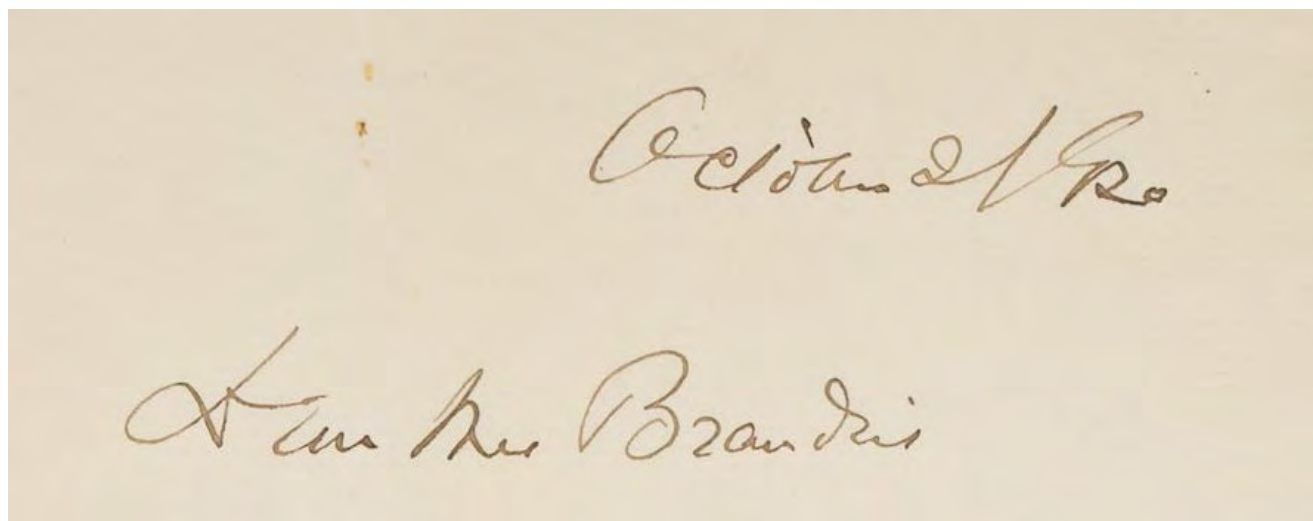
13. Holmes, Oliver Wendell Jr. (1841-1935).

Autograph Letter Signed ("O W Holmes"), to Alice Goldmark Brandeis (Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis). Washington, D.C. [no place stated], October 2, 1920. One page, written on a single folded leaf of note paper, measuring 8" x 5". Minor toning along the original folds, otherwise in excellent, fine condition. \$1,800.

A remarkable, intellectually charged letter from Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. to the wife of his close colleague Louis D. Brandeis, explicitly articulating his philosophical and highly controversial stance on war. Writing in the immediate aftermath of World War I, Holmes reacts to contemporary political sentiment and anti-war literature, notably referencing the pacifist fiction of French Nobel laureate Romain Rolland ("R. R.").

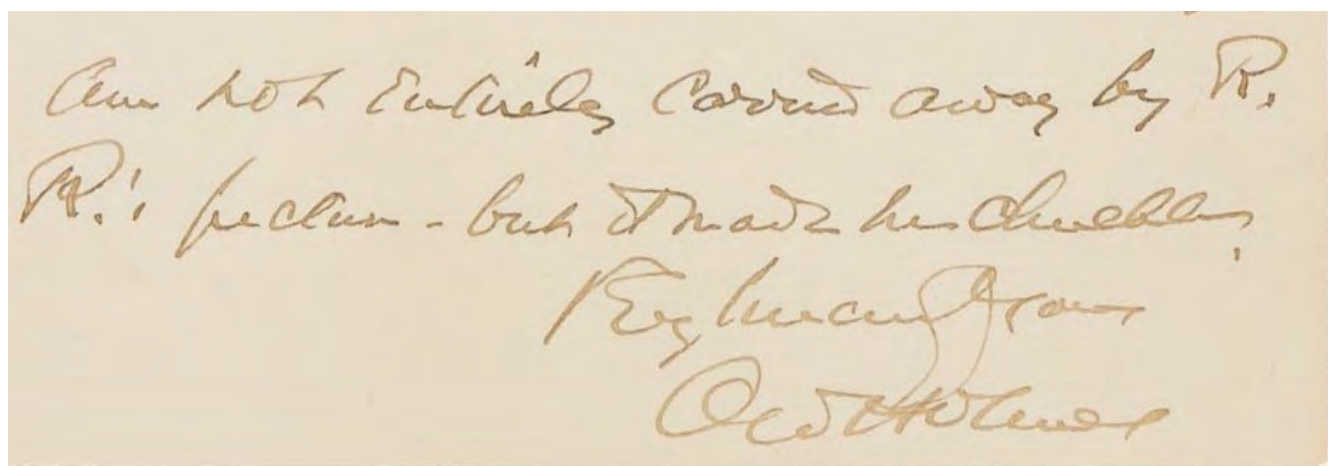
Holmes writes, in full: "Dear Mrs. Brandeis / You have made me / your debtor for a sensation-though / if I were called on to describe it / I might find it hard. I think this / [longing?] would be for the details and / for many such. As for the total are, / summaries an inadequate and this / hardly would be an adequate history / of man. Personally too I am far from / thinking war so absurd and irrational / as the election declares it therefore / am not entirely carried away by R. / R.'s fiction - but it made [his ____?] / Very sincerely yours / O W Holmes."

This letter provides an extraordinary glimpse into Holmes's worldview. Unlike many of his contemporaries who embraced post-WWI's disillusionment, Holmes, a veteran of the Civil War who survived near-fatal wounds at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Ball's Bluff, retains his lifelong conviction that war represents a profound, inescapable element of human destiny. His critique of "R.R.'s fiction" directly addresses Romain Rolland's contemporary pacifist writings, showcasing the intellectual dialogue that occurred behind the scenes of the nation's highest court.



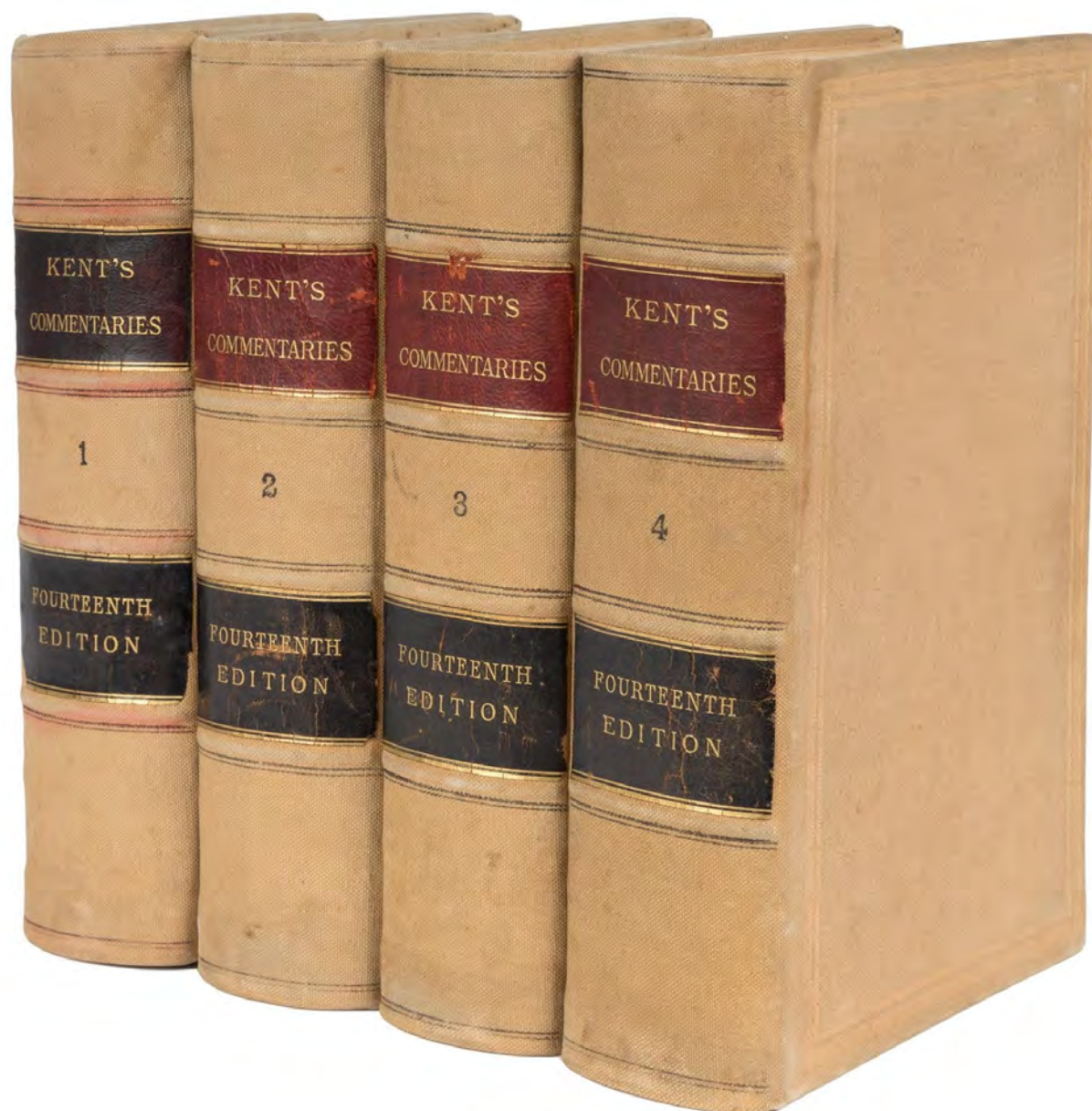
Oct 10/1918

Dear Mrs Brandeis



Am not entirely carried away by R.
R.'s fiction - but it made me chuckle
Very sincerely yours
O W Holmes

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The Definitive Final Edition of Kent's *Commentaries* Edited by Holmes

14. Kent, James [1763-1847].

Gould, John M. [1848-1909], Editor.

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr. [1841-1935], Editor.

Commentaries on American Law. Fourteenth Edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1896.

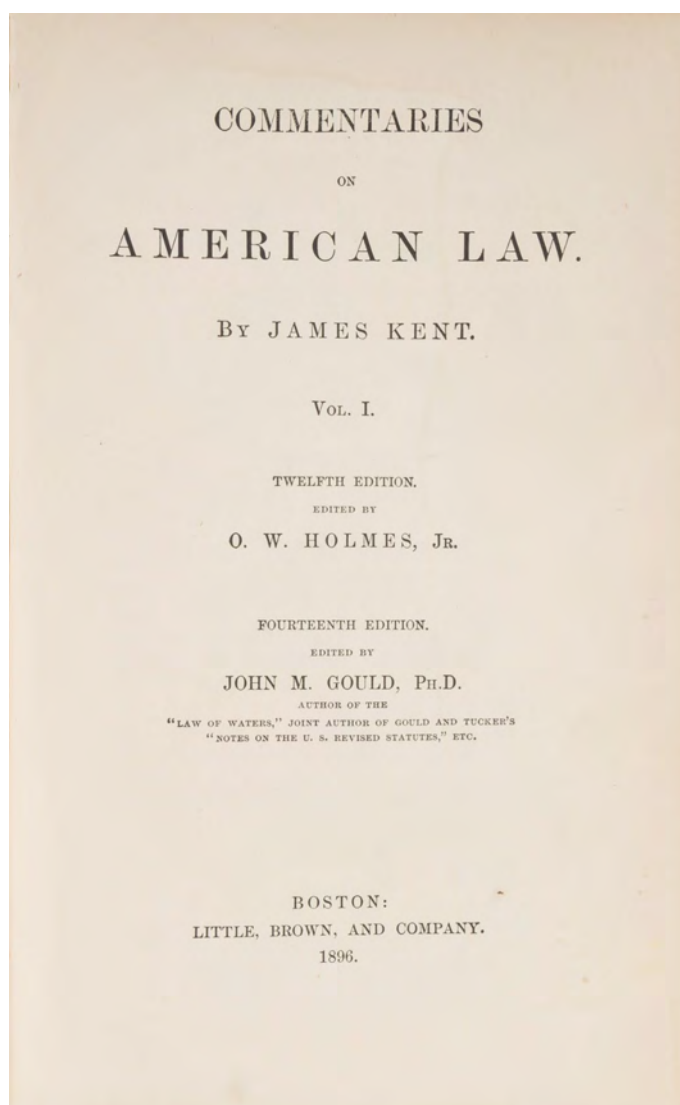
Four volumes. Octavo (9-1/2" x 6"; 24.3 x 15.24 cm). cccvii, 534; x, 715; xlii, 650; xx, 693 pp. Original cloth, blind frames to boards, red and black lettering pieces to spines. Light soiling and shelfwear, a few minor stains to boards, light edgewear and a few nicks to lettering pieces, spine ends bumped. Light toning to interiors, light soiling to a few leaves in each volume, a few cracks to text blocks of Volumes I and II, faint dampstaining to margins of Volume I. A very good set. \$1,500.

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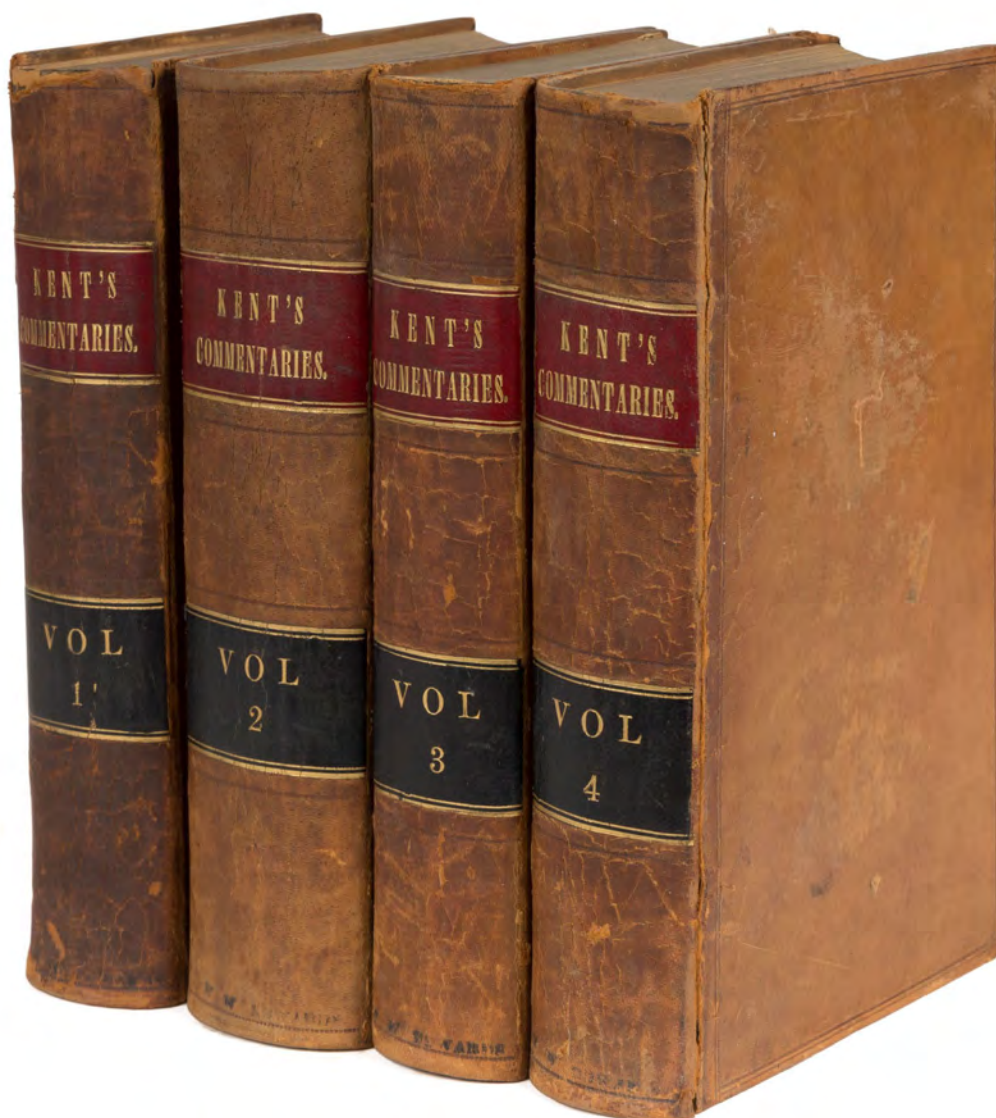
* The fourteenth and final edition of Kent's monumental work. This definitive printing is based on the landmark twelfth edition edited by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., retaining all of his extensive notes alongside new annotations by John M. Gould.

James Kent's *Commentaries* is widely considered the single most important treatise on early American law. Writing in 1847, Marvin ranked it above Blackstone's "Commentaries," observing that it contains "not only a clear statement of the English law, with all the alterations that have taken place since the time of Blackstone, but a full account of the main principles of Equity, also, a review of the modifications engrafted on the English law by the different states of the Union." Published during a transitional era when there was significant post-Revolutionary hostility toward English common law, Kent's text successfully harmonized and naturalized English legal principles for an American framework, deeply shaping the jurisprudence of the young republic.

Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 438. Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 104. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) I:1088.



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**Probably the Single Most
Important Interpretation of American Law**

15. Kent, James [1763-1847].

[Kent, William (1802-1861), Editor].

[Eaton, Dorman Bridgeman (1823-1899), Editor].

Commentaries on American Law. New York: Published by William Kent, 1851. Seventh edition. Four volumes. Star-paged to the second edition (1832). Octavo (9-1/2" x 6").

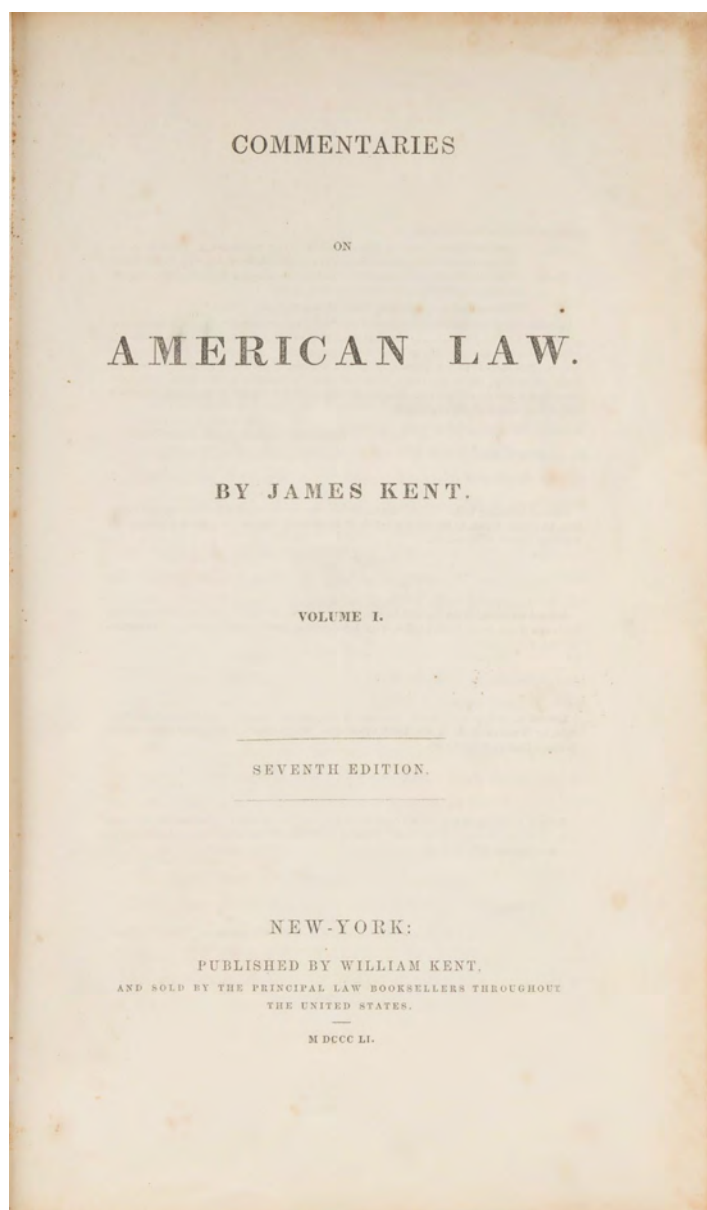
Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, red and black lettering pieces to spines, blind tooling to board edges. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, light gatoring to spines, some chipping to spine heads, hinges cracked, a few boards beginning to separate but secure, owner signature of Dr. George F. Heidemann to front pastedown of each volume. Moderate toning to interiors, light foxing and soiling to a few places, offsetting to margins of preliminaries and final leaves. \$950.

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* A foundational text of American jurisprudence, Kent's *Commentaries* is probably the single most important interpretation of American law. Writing in 1847, Marvin ranked it above Blackstone and observed that it contains "not only a clear statement of the English law, with all the alterations that have taken place since the time of Blackstone, but a full account of the main principles of Equity, also, a review of the modifications engrafted on the English law by the different states of the Union." Marvin's latter observation points to the significance of this landmark work.

Published at a time when there was significant opposition to English law, Kent's *Commentaries* established it in a manner that appealed to the majority of influential American jurists and legislators. Born in Germany, Heidemann [1839-1908] was the first doctor to establish a practice in Elmhurst, Illinois, now a suburb of Chicago.

Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 438. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5404.



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Documents from the
Settlement of a New Hampshire Estate

16. [Manuscript Archive].

[New Hampshire].

[Wallace Family].

[Deeds, Receipts, Estate Inventories and Other Legal Documents]. Londonderry, NH, 1766, 1782-1801.

17 documents, 7 are 12" x 7-1/2" (30.5 x 19 cm) bifolia and single sheets, 1 is a 15" x 12" (38 x 30.5 cm) sheet, others range in size from 7" x 7-1/2" to 2" x 7-1/2" (17.8 x 19; 5.1 x 19 cm). Moderate browning, somewhat lighter in places, foxing, some leaves have dampstaining, creases, tears along fold lines, a few small chips (with no loss to legibility), 2 items mended with cellotape on versos. \$500.

* A cohesive manuscript archive documenting the administration and protracted settlement of the estate of Thomas Wallace, a prosperous agrarian landowner of Londonderry, New Hampshire. The core of the collection centers on the immediate aftermath of Wallace's death in May 1790, comprising detailed estate inventories and contemporary sales receipts that minutely record the domestic economy and property values of a wealthy late-18th-century New England farmer.

The remainder of the archive consists of financial claims and receipts for payments levied against the estate, tracing its administration through its final dissolution in 1801. The earliest document—a 1766 lease—survives here as an essential piece of evidentiary title or a persistent liability presented during the probate process.

Collectively, these documents offer rich primary source material for the study of post-Revolutionary economic life, material culture, and early American probate law in northern New England.

The Account of Robert Wallace and William Wallace Executors to the Estate of Thomas Wallace late of Londonderry Deceased

The said Executors Charge themselves with the Personal Estate of said deceased amounting to the sum of 30-15-3

The Articles sold amounted to three pounds nineteen shillings and three pence more than they were appraised to one Note of hand against

First Gilson Esq^r of — 107 12 0

to one D^r against Tobias Warner 2 8 7

to Cash on hand 0 3 3 1/2

to due Certificates on hand 2 9 3

to the rent of one fifthenth part of the Farm formerly owned by Robert Wallace for the year 1772 0 14 8

to the Balance of Robert Dickey account 0 7 5

to Balance of account from Mack and Patterson Meeting-house Committee 0 9 0

to Interest for articles sold at the Vendue 3 0 2

£ 211 19 4 1/2

The said Executors pray allowance for the following Summs in discharge

1st paid Doctor Thorne 3 0 0

2nd paid James Pinkerton 17 3 2

3rd paid James Pinkerton 6 10 4

4th paid D^r for Interest 0 10 6

5th paid Doctor Thorne for Interest 0 12 6

6th paid John Drindle 7 8 8

7th paid D^r order for Interest 1 11 2

8th paid Master John Pinkerton 0 8 4

9th paid D^r 3 4 3

10th paid John Pinkerton 8 10 6

11th paid Doctor Moore 4 12 6

12th paid Josiah Jones for Taxes for 1782 1 5 8 1/2

13th paid D^r for the Tax of 1770 1 5 3

14th paid Josiah Jones 0 3 8

15th paid Jesse Jones for the Tax of 1788 2 5 11

16th paid to D^r in Certificates 2 9 3

17th paid John Bayle 9 9 3

18th paid James Wallace 11 2 6

19th paid William Gage 0 2 0

20th paid James McLaughlin 0 6 5

21st paid John Watt for Gravestones 1 19 0

22nd paid Thomas Patterson 0 13 6

23rd paid James Hemphill 0 12 0

24th paid Martha & St. Jarland 8 10 4

25th paid Samuel Stiffes 0 15 1

26th paid William Anderson 0 15 0

27th paid David Crosswell 0 11 0

28th paid Henry Campbell 0 12 9

29th paid David Woodburn 1 0 6

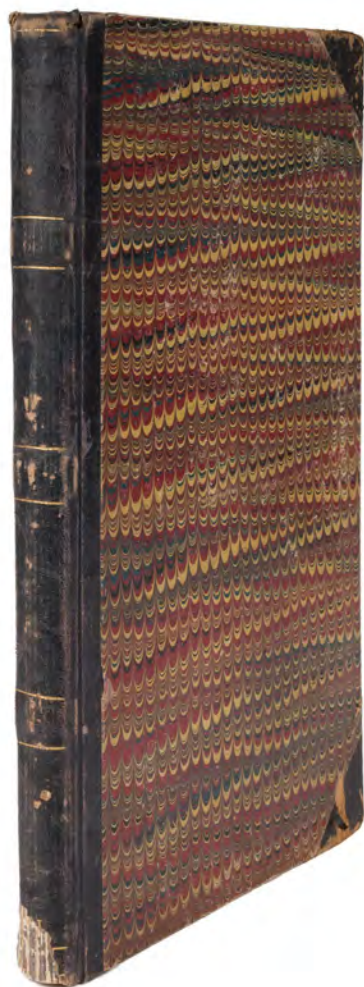
30th paid Ezzard Elbert 0 10 8

31st paid Jonathan Reid 0 2 4

32nd paid David Crosswell 1 7 1

33rd paid Peter Patterson 0 1 0

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**An Exceptional, Highly Detailed Primary Record
Linking Elite Gilded Age Private Practice with Foundational State-building in 19th-century California**

**17. [Manuscript]. [California].
Freeman, Abraham Clark [1843-1911].**

Register of Actions and Proceedings. [Sacramento County, Law Practice Ledger]. Sacramento County, CA, 1877-1880.

Folio (13" x 7-3/4"; 33 x 19.7 cm). 244 pp. Written in a single, highly legible cursive hand. Contemporary three-quarter sheep over marbled boards, gilt rules to spine, marbled edges. Good to very good.

Light rubbing to boards; structural dampstain to rear board. Heavier rubbing to extremities with minor shelfwear to spine ends and corners; chip to foot of spine. Joints starting very slightly at head, hinges tender but holding. Slight offsetting to corners affecting first two leaves. Contemporary handwritten title ("Register of Actions and Proceedings") to front pastedown. Light uniform toning to interior, occasional light foxing, minor superficial spots or stains in a few places. Related ephemera tipped or laid in at several places (detailed below). \$3,500.

* Abraham Clark Freeman (1843-1911) was a towering figure in Western jurisprudence. After arriving in California from Illinois in 1861, he settled in Sacramento and was admitted to the bar in 1864. In 1873, he authored *A Treatise on the Law of Judgments*, which earned immense national acclaim as the first major national legal treatise written and published in California—a work still highly regarded by legal historians today.

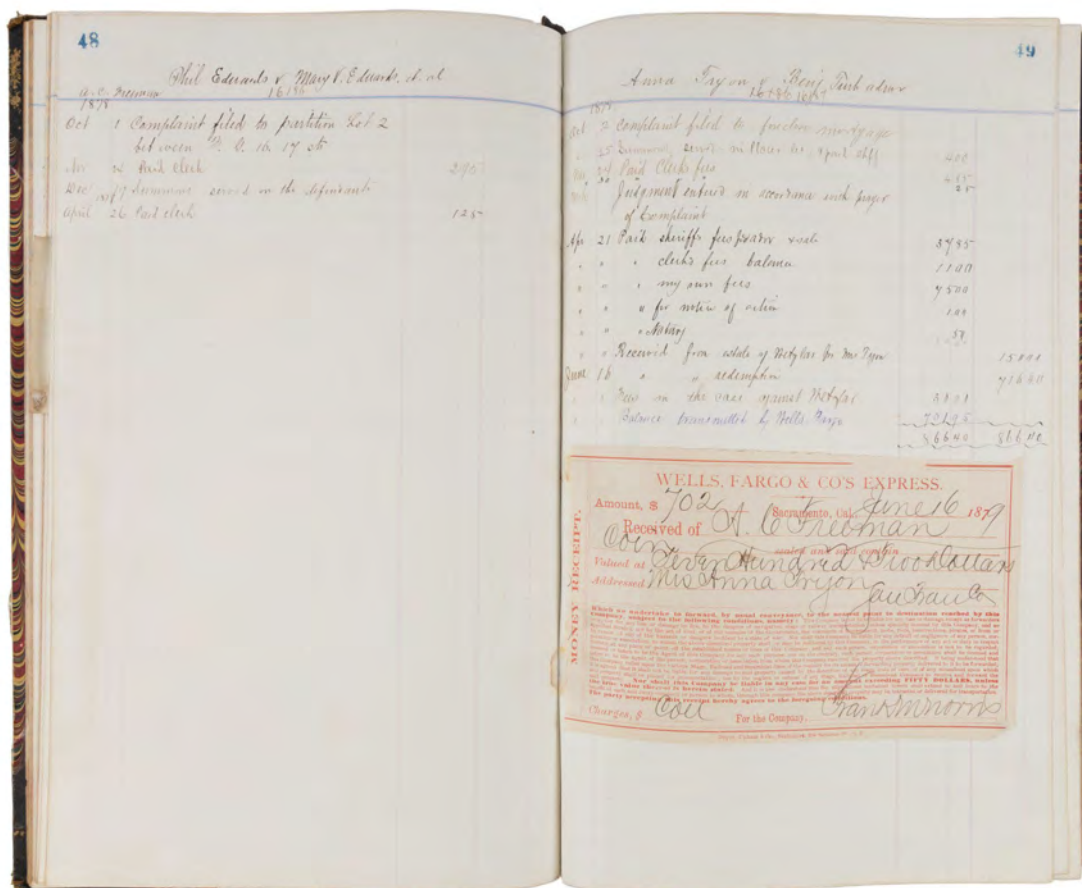
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This private practice ledger captures Freeman's caseload during the monumental window of 1877-1880. This specific timeframe represents the absolute zenith of Freeman's institutional influence on California law. During these exact years, Freeman served as an active delegate to California's highly contentious Constitutional Convention of 1878-1879, which fundamentally rewrote the state's foundation to address labor unrest and corporate monopolies. Immediately following the convention, the Governor appointed Freeman as a State Code Commissioner tasked with proposing amendments to the Civil Codes and adapting the state's entire statutory apparatus to the newly ratified constitution.

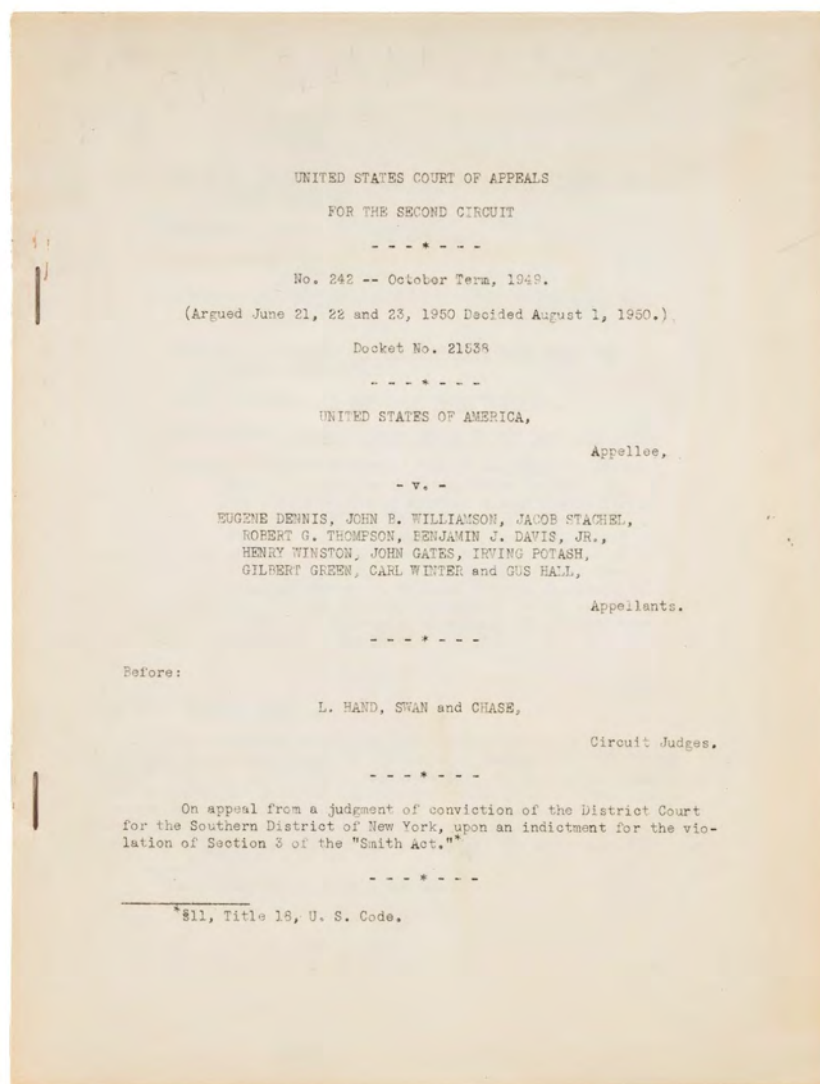
Consequently, this register does not document an ordinary country lawyer; it charts the private litigation of a man actively reshaping the structural laws of the state. The 244 pages of civil actions map the financial and social conflicts of Gilded Age Sacramento, featuring disputes involving two of the state's most iconic and powerful figures: D.O. Mills: The premier banker of the Comstock Lode, co-founder of the Bank of California, and a massive real estate and infrastructure investor; Sam Brannan: California's first millionaire, leader of the Mormon pioneer migration, and a target of relentless litigation late in life due to his volatile business deals and ruinous, public divorce.

The volume is richly contextualized by highly relevant, laid-in primary materials that serve as excellent forensic evidence of the era's economic landscape. Most notable among these is an 1879 Wells Fargo & Co. money order for \$702 executing a foreclosure settlement. Arriving at a time when Wells Fargo operated as the primary secure pipeline for legal capital and express banking across the Pacific slope, this document captures the real-world casualty rate of the late-1870s land and banking collapse. Also present is a contemporary postcard addressed to Freeman from an E.M. Marsham.

An essential, unstudied primary source tracking the intersection of elite commerce, pioneer capitalism, and structural legal reform at a pivotal turning point in California history.



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The Legal Climax of the Red Scare: Original 1950 Court Transcript Affirming the Conviction of Communist Party Leaders in the Prelude to Dennis v. United States

18. [Smith Act Trials]. [Dennis, Eugene, et al.]

Stenographer's Transcript of the Appeal Decision of an Important 1950 Free-Speech Trial that Led to Dennis v. United States.

United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

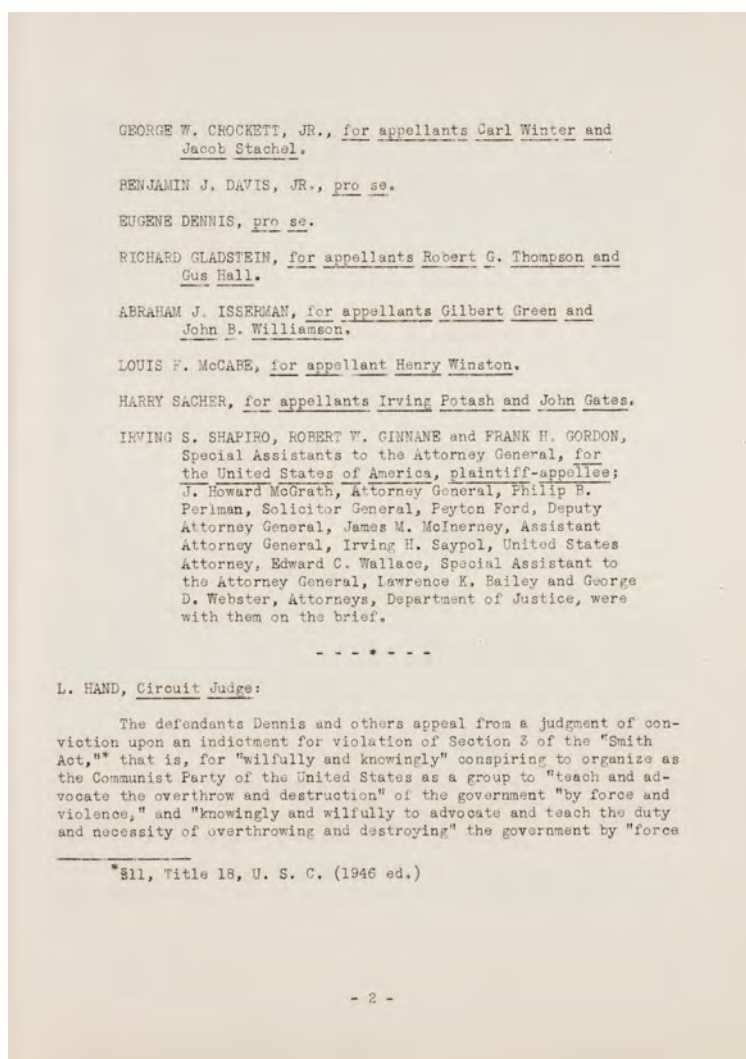
No. 242 - October Term, 1949. (Argued June 21, 22, and 23, 1950 Decided August 1, 1950) Docket No. 21538. United States of America, Appellee, v. Eugene Dennis, John B. Williamson, Jacob Stachel, Robert G. Thompson, Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Henry Winston, John Gates, Irving Potash, Gilbert Green, Carl Winter and Gus Hall. Appellants. Before: L. Hand, Swan, and Chase, Circuit Judges. [New York: Southern District Court Reporters, August 1, 1950.]

Quarto (10-1/2" x 8"). 48 leaves. Typescript (not a carbon copy) on single-sided leaves, stapled. Light toning, minor dust soiling, and faint fading to the outermost leaves. Internally clean, crisp, and free of markings. A well-preserved legal artifact. \$850.

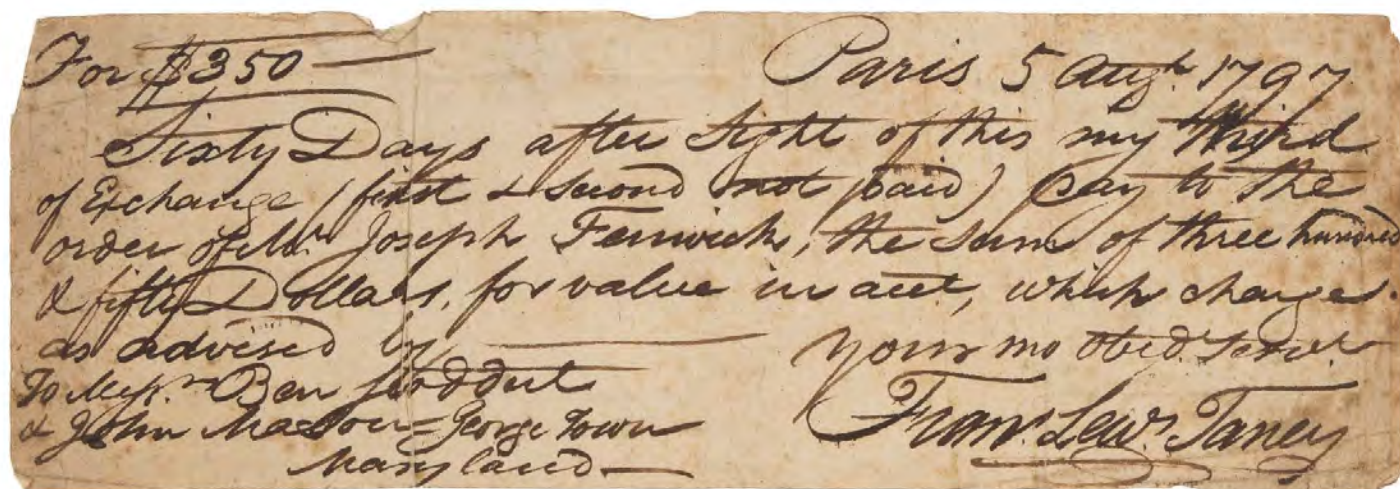
Original court-issued typescript. This document records the historic final decision handed down by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on August 1, 1950, affirming the convictions of Eugene Dennis and ten other high-ranking leaders of the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA). The defendants had been convicted under the Alien Registration Act of 1940 (the Smith Act) for conspiracy to advocate the violent overthrow of the United States government.

* This specific transcript represents the immediate, official production of the Southern District Court Reporters on the exact day the momentous ruling was handed down. Writing for the unanimous court, Judge Learned Hand, traditionally a fierce defender of political free speech, crafted the historic opinion that sustained the lower court's convictions. Hand modified Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes's famous "clear and present danger" test into a more restrictive balancing test: whether the gravity of the evil, discounted by its improbability, justifies such invasion of free speech as is necessary to avoid the danger.

The Second Circuit's ruling served as the direct precursor to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1951 decision in *Dennis v. United States*, a high-water mark of McCarthy-era political repression that was not effectively dismantled until *Yates v. United States* (1957) and *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969). An essential, foundational document detailing the legal architecture of Cold War civil liberties.



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**The Original Bill of Exchange in *Fenwick v. Sears's Administrators* (1803):
A Marshall Court Manuscript from the Term of *Marbury v. Madison***

19. [Manuscript]. Taney, Francis Lewis [1762-1802].

Autograph bill of exchange signed, Paris, 5 August 1797. [Paris, France, 1797].

Manuscript bill of exchange signed by Francis Lewis Taney, single leaf, 3" x 9-1/4" (7.5 x 23 cm), accomplished in ink, docketed on verso, "Joseph Fenwick, Paris 5 Augst. 1797." Diamond-shaped embossed Revolutionary fiscal stamp depicting the allegorical figure of Liberty wearing a Phrygian cap; circular French revenue stamp reading "AU DESSUS DE 1000 F. JUSQ. A 2000 F." Old folds, light soiling and creasing, but the ink remains dark and entirely legible. \$1,500.

An important surviving commercial instrument associated with *Fenwick v. Sears's Administrators*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 259 (1803), an early Supreme Court decision of the Marshall Court arising under the law of negotiable instruments. The case was decided during the February Term 1803, the same term as *Marbury v. Madison*, within the Court's earliest efforts to regularize federal adjudication of commercial disputes.

Francis Lewis Taney, a Maryland tobacco merchant and United States customs agent at Le Havre, had become heavily involved in land speculation and transatlantic commerce during the 1790s. The note itself reflects the commercial dislocations of the period, stating that it represented a third attempt at exchange after two previous bills had gone unpaid. Payment was directed to Benjamin Stoddert, Georgetown merchant and future first Secretary of the Navy, and to John Mason, son of George Mason.

The payee, Joseph Fenwick, United States consul at Bordeaux, assigned the unpaid instrument to Baltimore merchant Benjamin Sears in 1798. Following Sears's death, his administrators brought suit against Fenwick, producing one of the Supreme Court's early decisions concerning the law of negotiable instruments. The case clarified evidentiary requirements governing foreign protests of bills of exchange and addressed the transmission of commercial claims through probate administration during the early years of the District of Columbia.

The present manuscript also appears to preserve a discrepancy with the printed report of the case. The published version in Cranch's Reports describes the sequence of dishonored exchanges differently, referring to the instrument as the second bill and stating that the first and third had been unpaid. The manuscript itself explicitly identifies the instrument as the third exchange, offering a rare opportunity to compare surviving documentary evidence with the printed judicial record of an early Supreme Court commercial case.

The French Revolutionary fiscal markings place the document firmly within the administrative framework of Directory-era France. The embossed blindstamp and circular revenue stamp denoting the applicable tax category for instruments valued "above 1,000 francs up to 2,000 francs" provide tangible evidence of the bureaucratic systems governing commercial paper in late eighteenth-century France, and underscore the transnational legal and financial environment in which American merchants operated.

An uncommon surviving litigated commercial document from the early federal judiciary, illustrating the operation of the law merchant, foreign exchange practice, and probate-based debt litigation in the early Republic.



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Antebellum Virginia Docket Book

20. [Manuscript].
[Virginia].

[*Justice's Docket Book, Amherst County, Virginia, 1850-1859*]. 2 books. [200]; [212] pp. Folio (13-1/2" x 8-1/4" and 12-3/4" x 8"; "; 34.3 x 20.9 and 32.4 x 20.3 cm).

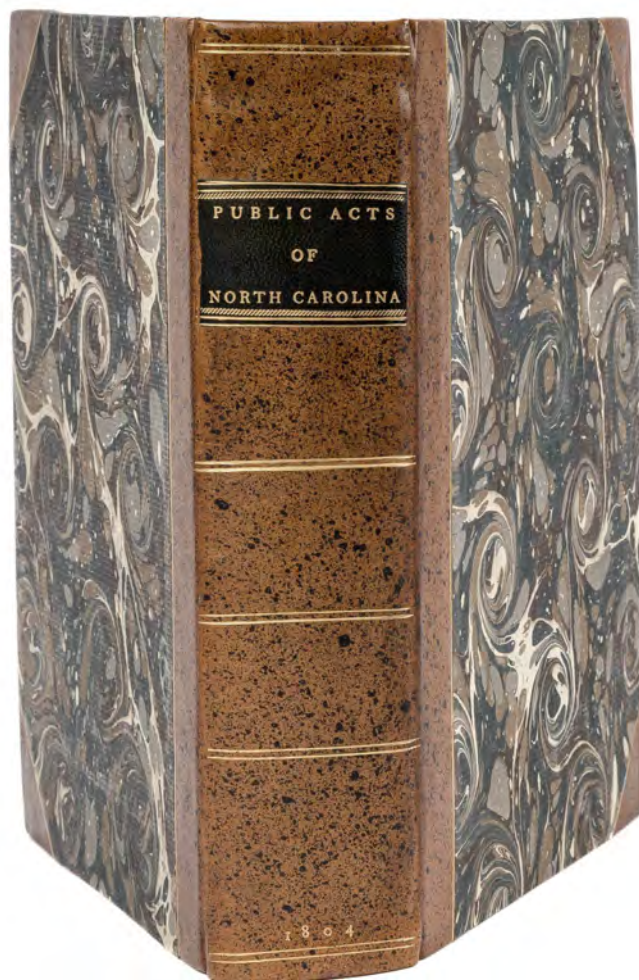
Quarter and three-quarter sheep over marbled boards, one book has lettering piece reading "Justice's Docket." Bindings lightly cocked, moderate rubbing to boards and board edges with light wear to corners, spine of one book abraded, its boards partially detached. Light toning, light foxing in places, staining to leaves at beginning and end of each book. Text in legible hands to approximately 80 pp., a few leaves removed, torn or partially lacking with some loss to content, one book has additional annotations to pastedowns and adjacent endleaves. \$1,850.

* This paired set of manuscript ledgers captures daily legal and economic life in Antebellum Virginia, recording appearances at a Justice's Court in Amherst County. Local family names throughout the text—including Dr. William S. Dillard, a member of a prominent Amherst medical family—firmly anchor the volumes to the county seat of Amherst. (The volumes were acquired directly from a Dillard descendant).

The legal entries are meticulously organized in columns under the following contemporary headings: "Parties Names," "Date of Judgment," "Amount of Judgment," "Interest from Costs," "Exon. [Execution] When Delivered," "To Whom Delivered," "When Returnable," and "Return." While the core legal record spans the turbulent decade of 1850 to 1859, the books remained in the family as a domestic record. The rear of one volume contains local sales transactions dating from 1880 to 1889, alongside a fascinating homegrown recipe for "foxgrape wine" dated 1881.

An excellent primary source for Southern legal history, debt collection practices, and post-war rural ecology.

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North Carolina Public Acts with 1804-1805 Appendix

21. Martin, François-Xavier [1762-1846], Editor.

Iredell, James [1751-1799], Compiler.

The Public Acts of the General Assembly of North-Carolina. Volume I. Containing the Acts from 1715 to 1790; Revised and Published, Under the Authority of the Legislature. Newbern (NC): Martin & Ogden, 1804. [iv], 501, [1] pp.

[Bound with]

Martin, François-Xavier, Compiler.

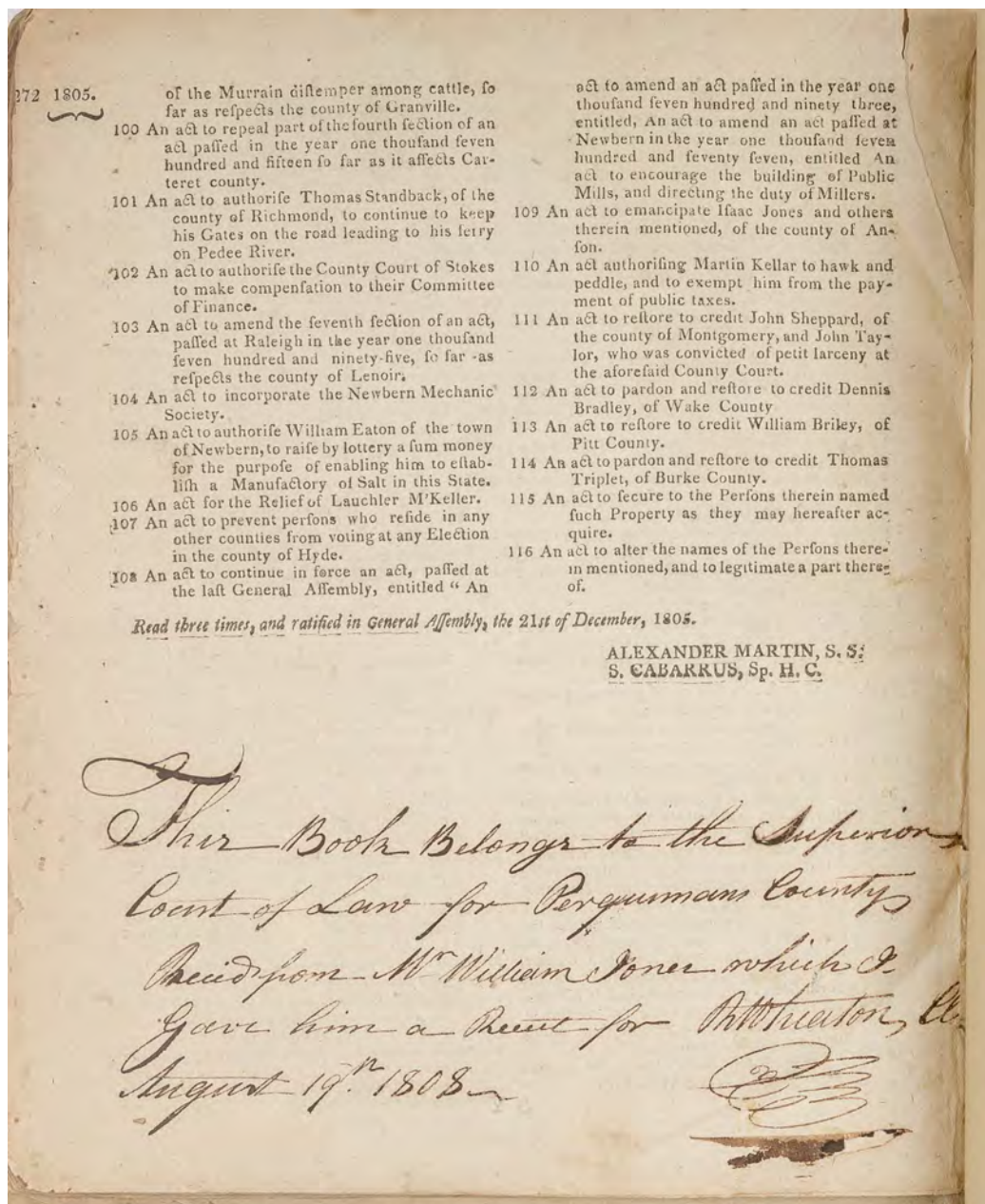
The Public Acts of the General Assembly of North-Carolina. Volume II. Containing the Acts from 1790 to 1803; Revised and Published, Under the Authority of the Legislature. Newbern (NC): Martin & Ogden, 1804. 226, [16], [2]; [227]-272 pp. With a one-page list of books published or distributed by Martin. Pp. [227]-272 is an appendix of acts from 1804 to 1805.

Quarto (9-1/4" x 7-3/4"). Recent period-style speckled calf over marbled boards, gilt rules to boards, lettering piece, gilt fillets and gilt publication date to spine. Light browning to interior, light foxing and spotting in places, all edges trimmed, recent repairs to edges of title page of Volume I, light edgewear to a few leaves at beginning and end of text, minor chipping to fore-edges of several leaves at center of text, original front wrapper of appendix bound in. Annotation in contemporary hand to last page of text, ownership inscription (of the Superior Court of Law for Perquimans County, indicating that the volume was processed by clerk Robert Wheaton, dated August 19, 1808), at bottom of last page of Appendix. A very nice copy with the uncommon appendix. \$2,500.

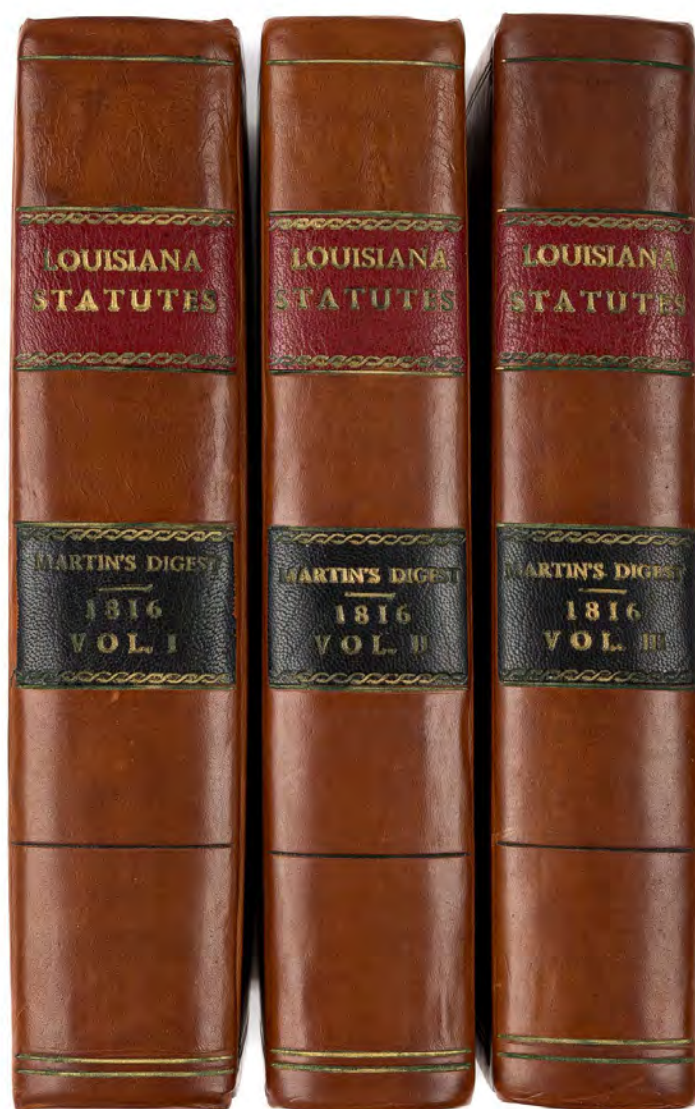
* Only edition. Martin's revision of James Iredell's compilation of the laws of North Carolina from 1715 to 1790, with Martin's own compilation of the laws from 1790 to 1803. With side-notes, index and the texts of the North Carolina Constitution (1776), the Articles of Confederation (1781), the Treaty of Paris (1783), the U.S. Constitution (1787), and documents relating to its ratification by North Carolina.

An important figure in the legal history of the South, Martin was a French-born lawyer, judge, author, translator, printer and historian. His career began in North Carolina. He later moved to the Louisiana Territory, where he played a central role in the reorganization of the legal system. Appointed attorney general when Louisiana became a state, he is considered the father of Louisiana jurisprudence.

Babbitt, *Hand-List of Legislative Sessions and Session Laws* 385.



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A Landmark in the Legal History of the Louisiana Purchase

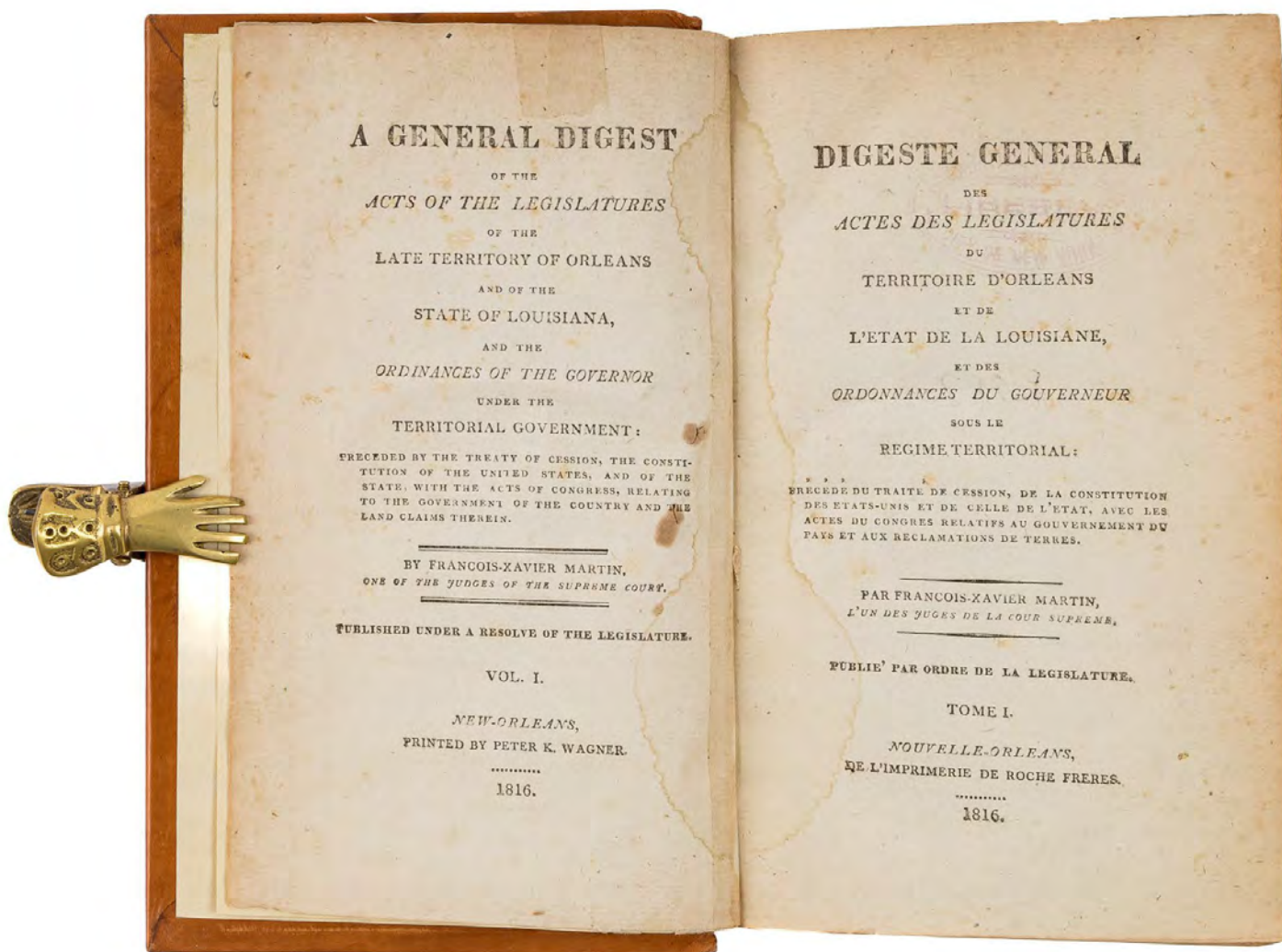
22. Martin, Francois-Xavier [1762-1846].

A General Digest of the Acts of the Legislatures of the Late Territory of Orleans and of the State of Louisiana, And the Ordinances of the Governor Under the Territorial Government: Preceded by the Treaty of Cession, The Constitution of the United States, And of the State, With the Acts of Congress, Relating to the Government of the Country and the Land Claims Therein. Published Under a Resolve of the Legislature. New Orleans: Printed by Peter K. Wagner, 1816. Three volumes. 742; 696; 290, 295-513, [3], 107 pp. Volume III lacking pp. 291-294, which are supplied in facsimile. English and French translation on facing pages. Added title page in French reading: *Digeste General des Actes des Legislatures du Territoire d'Orleans et de l'Etat de la Louisiane...* Folding table in Volume I. Four pages of contemporary manuscript notes bound to rear of Volume II. Octavo (8" x 5").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, lettering pieces and gilt fillets to spine. Moderate toning, somewhat heavier near margins, light browning in places, light foxing to text. Faint dampstaining in places, worming to middle leaves of the bottom edge of Volume II with minor loss to margin (text not affected), a bit of edgewear to folding leaf, internally clean. Ex-library. Faint stamps to title pages, hand-lettered inventory numbers to versos. A handsome set. \$2,500.

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* First edition. One of the great landmarks in Louisiana's history, this was the first post-territorial digest of the Louisiana legislature. It contains the treaty ceding the Territory of Louisiana to the United States and, on pp. 601-691 of Volume I, the infamous *Code Noir* of 1685, which ordered the expulsion of the Jews from French colonies, banned non-Catholic practices there and provided a system for the regulation of slavery. Martin was an important figure in the legal history of the south. A French-born lawyer, judge, author, translator, printer and historian, he began his career in North Carolina. He later moved to the Louisiana territory, where he played the leading role in the reorganization of its legal system. Appointed attorney-general when Louisiana became a state, he is considered the father of Louisiana jurisprudence. The manuscript pages at the end of Volume II are an index. Jumonville, *Bibliography of New Orleans Imprints* 281, 282, 283. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5663.



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Jealousy, Fraud, Accusations and Murder:
The 1872 Assassination of "Jubilee Jim" Fisk

23. [Murder].

[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]. First and Only Edition. [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. \$1,250.

* This sensational nineteenth-century sensationalized pamphlet details the infamous Gilded Age murder of "Jubilee Jim" Fisk, a notorious financial speculator and robber baron who, along with Jay Gould, controlled the Erie Railroad.

The narrative exposes the intricate love triangle and financial feud involving Fisk, his associate Edward S. Stokes, and Fisk's mistress, Helen Josephine "Josie" Mansfield. Following a series of escalating legal battles over embezzlement and false imprisonment, Mansfield threatened to publish extortionate letters revealing Fisk's illicit corporate transactions. After a humiliating courtroom cross-examination regarding her personal life on January 6, 1872, an enraged Stokes tracked Fisk to New York's Broadway Central Hotel and shot him on the grand staircase.

Following three high-profile trials, Stokes was ultimately convicted of third-degree manslaughter. This work serves as an important primary artifact of Gilded Age public interest in white-collar corruption, tabloid journalism, and the volatile business culture of 1870s New York.

OCLC locates 11 copies, 2 in law libraries (Library of Congress, Yale). McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 919.



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Unrecorded 1836 Broadside of the Laws and Regulations of Albany's Public Market Houses

24. [New York]. [Albany]. [Market Laws].

A Law in Addition to a Law, Entitled "Of the Public Market Houses." Passed February 1, 1836. The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Albany, in Common Council Convened, do Ordain as Follows:... Erastus Corning, Mayor.

Albany, [New York]: Printed by E. B. Child, No. 6 South Pearl-Street, 1836.

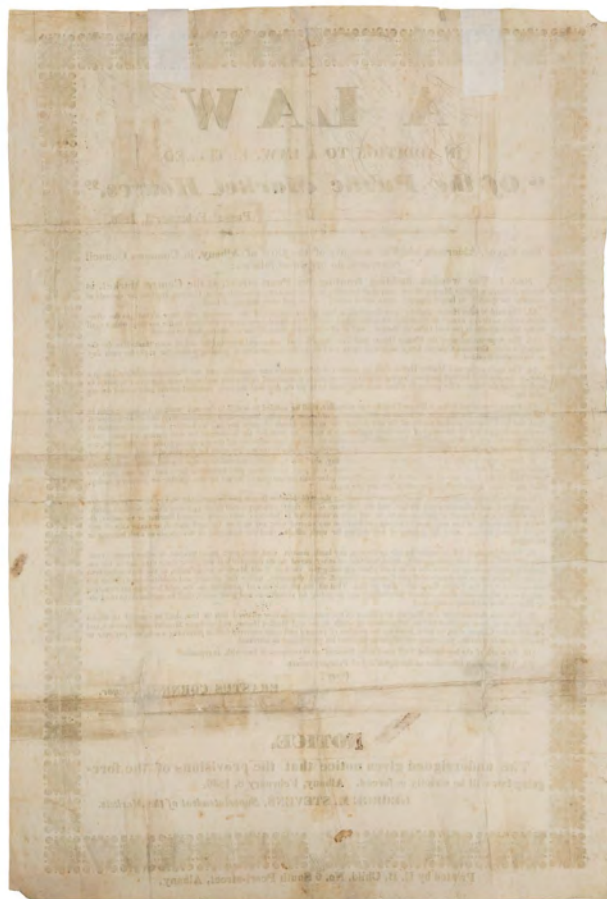
Single-sheet broadside. 17-1/2" x 12-3/4". Text in a single column divided into eleven numbered sections, enclosed within a wide, decorative typographical border. Mounted and matted. Light toning, minor vertical and horizontal fold lines. A few expert archival repairs to the verso with no loss to text. Slight ink fading to five lines, yet text remains entirely legible. A very good, well-preserved copy of an unrecorded local municipal survival. \$1,500.

* An apparently unrecorded municipal broadside detailing the stringent public health and economic regulations established for the Centre Market in Albany, New York. Passed during a period of rapid infrastructure growth in the city, this law outlines eleven comprehensive sections regulating the handling, inspection, and sale of meat, poultry, and other foodstuffs. The regulations meticulously cover daily hours of operation, the allocation and leasing of individual stalls, licensing fees, vendor behavior, and the formal salary and duties of the market's superintendent. Section ten formally repeals all conflicting prior ordinances, and section eleven mandates that the new codes take effect on February 8, 1836.

This broadside stands as a vital artifact documenting early American urban public health history, capturing the exact moment municipal governments transitioned from loose agrarian trading to highly structured public sanitation to combat foodborne illness and spoilage in dense city centers. Furthermore, the document bears the printed signature of Albany Mayor Erastus Corning (serving 1834-1837), the prominent iron magnate who later founded the New York Central Railroad and established one of New York's longest-lasting political dynasties.

The printer, Edmund B. Child, was an active local publisher known for Child's Albany Directory. He operated his workshop at the corner of South Pearl and State Street, placing his press directly adjacent to the bustling municipal market center and highlighting the hyper-local nature of 19th-century civic printing contracts.

No copies listed on OCLC.



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**First American Edition of
Phillipps's Foundation Treatise on Evidence**

**25. Phillipps, S[amuel] March [1780-1862].
[Dunlap, John A.(1793?-1858?)], Editor, Notes.**

A Treatise on the Law of Evidence.... With Notes and References to American Authorities. To Which is Added, The theory of Presumptive Proof, &c. New York: Published by Gould, Banks, & Gould, And by Gould & Co., Albany, 1816. xliii, 520, 106 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2"; 22.8 x 13.9 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing to boards, faint early owner name (W.S. Ely) to head of front board, moderate rubbing to extremities with a bit of wear to spine ends and corners, front joint partially cracked, early owner bookplate (Abraham T. Rose) to front pastedown. Moderate toning and foxing to interior, faint dampstaining in places, early annotations to rear endleaves. A sound, very good copy. \$750.

* First American edition, star-paged to the second London edition (1815). This edition includes the supplementary treatise, Phillipps' *Theory of Presumptive Proof; or, An Inquiry into the Nature of Circumstantial Evidence*.

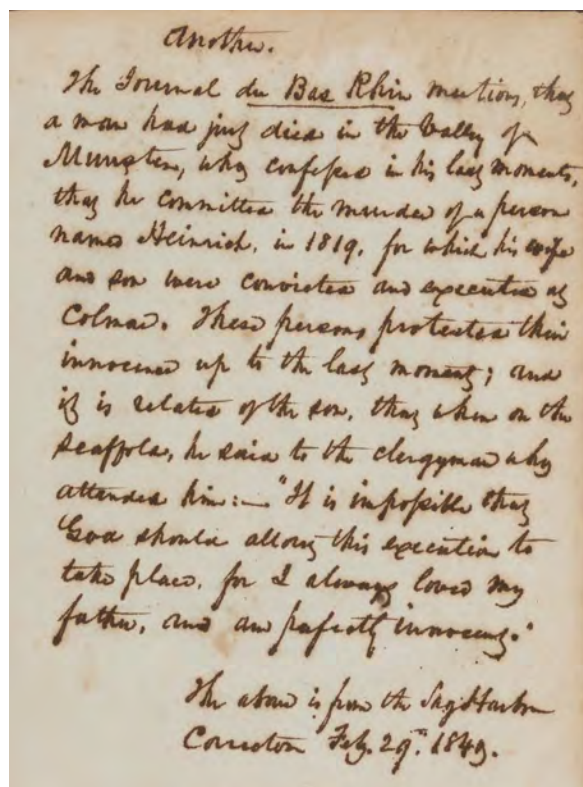
This is widely regarded as the first modern, systematic textbook on evidence law. Prior to Samuel March Phillipps, legal rules regarding evidence were scattered across disparate bench manuals, courtroom summaries, and unindexed case reporters. Phillipps organized the field into a rational legal framework, emphasizing underlying principles rather than an exhaustive list of precedents.

First published in London in 1814, the treatise went through ten English editions and numerous American printings, serving as the standard authority in Anglo-American courts for over half a century. Among its notable lasting contributions, Philipps popularized the legal presumption of death-the rule that a missing person unheard from for seven years is presumed dead-which was rapidly integrated into early 19th-century American statutory and common law.

This first American edition was published simultaneously in New York and Albany by the legal publishing firm Gould & Banks. Editor John A. Dunlap appended *The Theory of Presumptive Proof*, a critical examination of circumstantial evidence and capital punishment cases that proved indispensable to early American trial lawyers evaluating high-stakes criminal defenses.

This copy belonged to Abraham T. Rose (1792-1857) of Bridgehampton, New York, whose bookplate sits on the front pastedown. Rose was a leading member of the Suffolk County bar, serving as a delegate to the 1846 New York Constitutional Convention, a Presidential Elector, and First Judge of the Suffolk County Court (1847-1855).

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5100.



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Reeve's Law of Baron and Femme (1816, First Edition)
Owned and Annotated by Attorney and Social Activist Thomas S. Grimké

26. Reeve, Tapping [1744-1823].

The Law of Baron and Femme; Of Parent and Child; Of Guardian and Ward; Of Master and Servant; And of the Powers of Courts of Chancery. With an Essay on the Terms, Heir, Heirs, And Heirs of the Body.

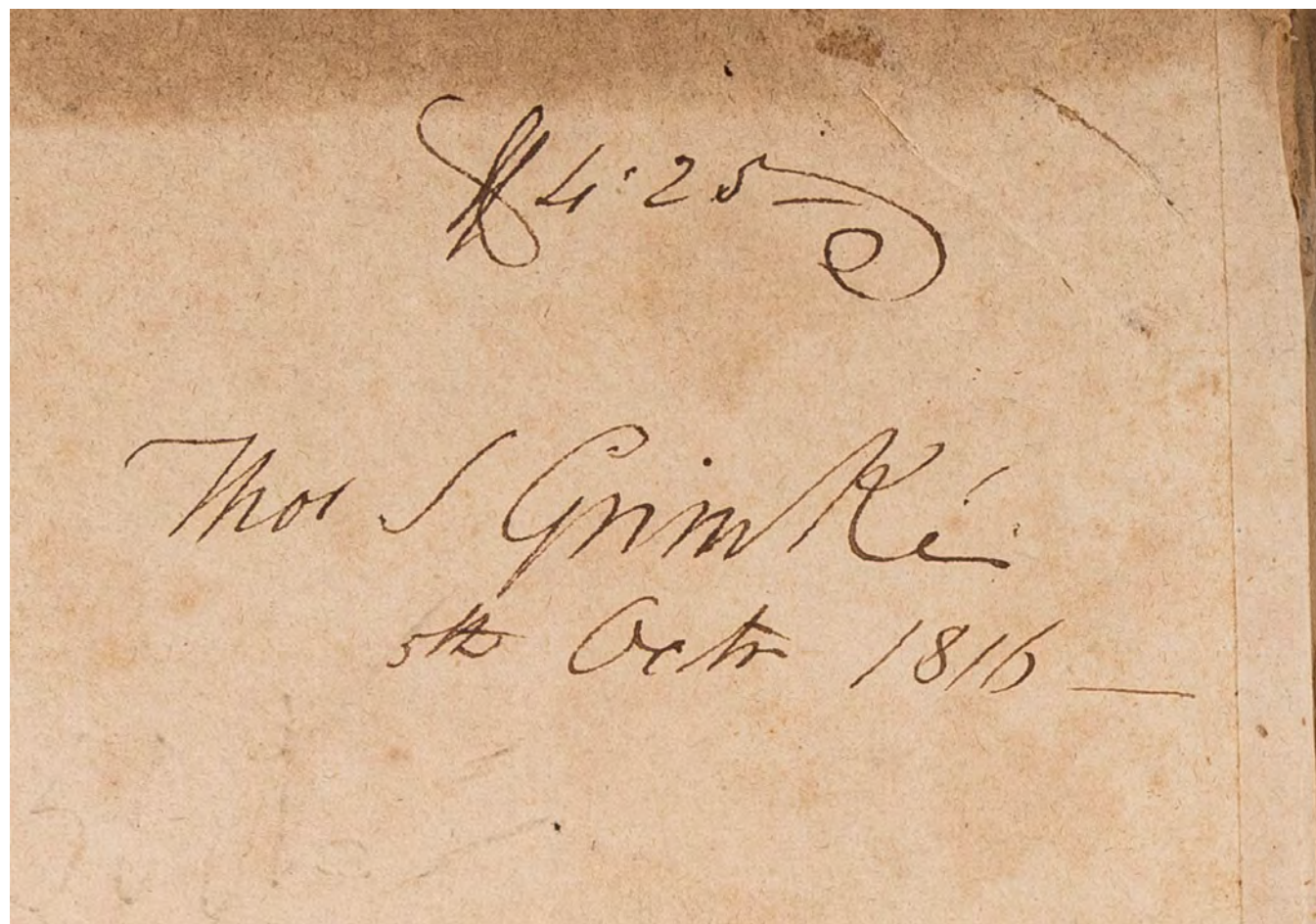
New Haven: Printed by Oliver Steele, 1816. First edition. [iv], 494, [12] pp. With a final errata leaf. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5"; 21.8 x 13 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, rebaced in calf with gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers retained, hinges mended. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, which are slightly bowed, light rubbing to board edges, corners bumped. Browning and foxing to interior, somewhat lighter or heavier in places. Owner signature of Thomas S. Grimké, dated October 5, 1816 and noting price paid, to front pastedown, 77 annotations and markings in the same hand to text. A good copy with an interesting provenance. \$1,500.

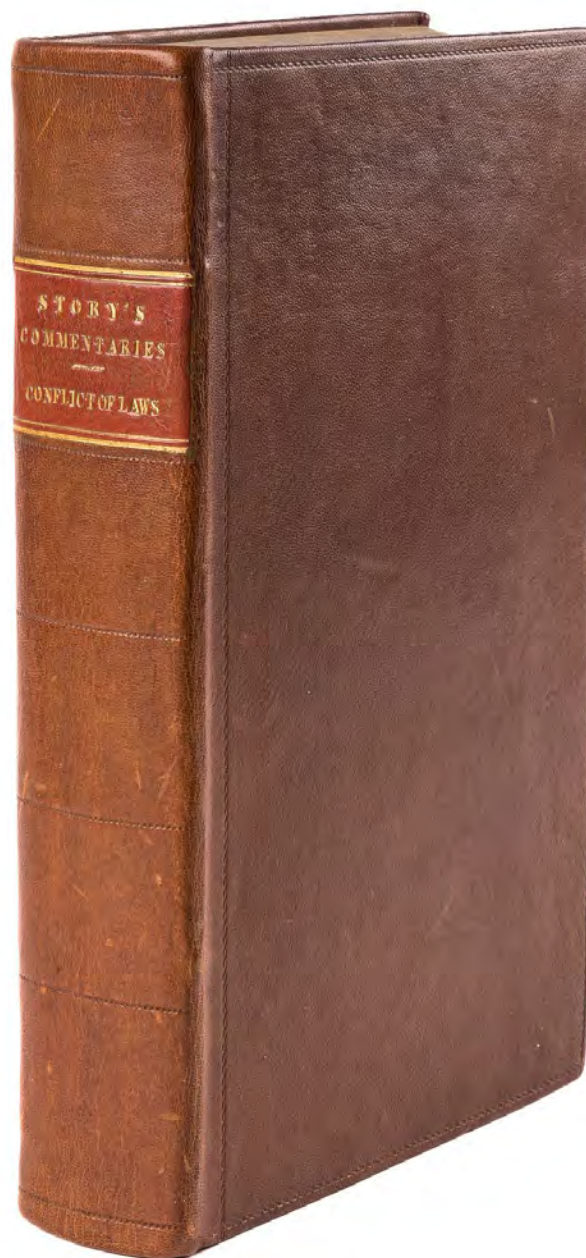
* First edition of the first American treatise dedicated exclusively to domestic relations and family law. Reeve's landmark text functions as a progressive restatement of Blackstone's *Commentaries* (Book I, Chapters XIV-XVII), famously challenging entrenched English common; law doctrines. Most notably, Reeve rejects the traditional parameters of *coverture*; the Blackstonian doctrine that a woman's legal existence is entirely suspended or subsumed by her husband upon marriage. Operating as a prescriptive, reform-minded text, *Baron and Femme* explicitly argued for the liberalization of domestic law, asserting that married women should possess the legal right to execute wills and control property-positions that directly contradicted contemporary statutory law and jurisprudence in Connecticut and numerous other states.

This specific copy boasts an extraordinary association. It was purchased in its year of publication by Thomas Smith Grimké [1786-1834], a prominent Charleston attorney, South Carolina politician, and visionary social activist. Notably, he was the son of jurist John Faucheraud Grimké and the brother of the foundational abolitionists and early American feminists, Sarah and Angelina Grimké. Admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1809, Grimké built a formidable legal practice. His extensive annotations (77 in total) demonstrate a meticulous, page-by-page study of Reeve's text. Grimké's notes capture an elite Southern legal mind grappling with New England's emerging legal liberalism, highlighting the friction between traditional property structures and early human rights reform.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4745.



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**First Edition of One of Story's Most Important
Treatises in a Notably Handsome Period-Style Binding**

27. Story, Joseph [1779-1845].

Commentaries on the Conflict of Laws, Foreign and Domestic, In Regard to Contracts, Rights, And Remedies, And Especially in Regard to Marriages, Divorces, Wills, Successions, And Judgments.

Boston: Hilliard, Gray and Company, 1834. First edition. xxv, [1], 557 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2"; 21.6 x 14 cm).

Period-style calf, blind rules to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine, original endpapers retained. Moderate toning to text, somewhat darker or browned in places, light foxing, faint, gradually diminishing dampstaining to margins of several leaves at beginning and end of text. A notably handsome copy. \$1,500.

* First Edition of Joseph Story's *Conflict of Laws*, universally recognized as the foundational, systematic English-language treatise on private international law. It stands as one of Story's greatest and most globally influential legal works.

Before its publication, the rules governing jurisdictions, foreign contracts, and international marriages were a fragmented patchwork of civil law maxims and sparse common law precedents. Story synthesized these disparate European and Anglo-American traditions into a cohesive, magisterial framework.

Its transatlantic impact was immediate and monumental. Legal historian Charles Warren notes: "It is not too much to say that its publication constituted an epoch in the law; for it became at once the standard and almost the sole authority... [it] received the honor of being practically the first American law book to be cited as authority in English courts." Similarly, bibliographer John Gage Marvin quotes a contemporary English jurist who remarked that "no work on international jurisprudence merited, nor received, greater praise from the jurists of Europe. It impressed English lawyers with the highest respect for [Story's] extensive learning." This work fundamentally shaped the development of private international law in both the United States and Great Britain, cementing Story's reputation as a jurist of global stature.

Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 471. Warren, *A History of the American Bar* 545. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2723. Woxland & Ogden, *Landmarks in American Legal Publishing* 25.



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A Portrait of the U.S. Supreme Court Justices in 1882

28. [Supreme Court, United States].

Bell, C[harles] M[ilton] [1848-1893], Photographer.

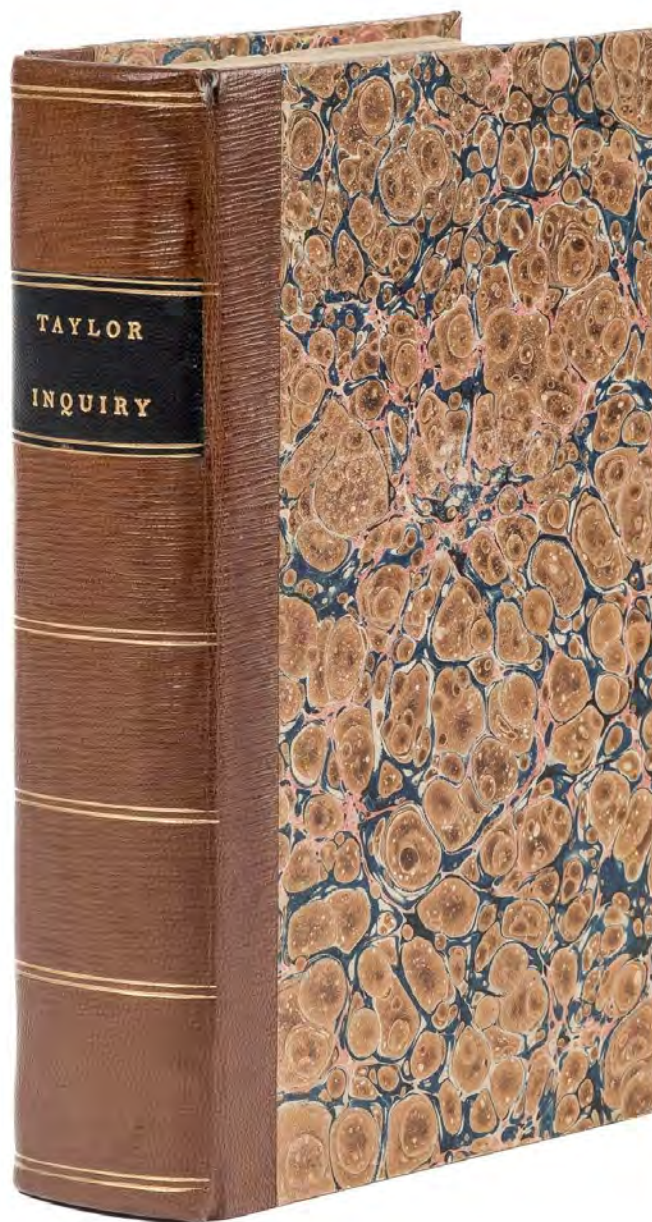
[*Group Portrait of the Waite Court (1874-1888)*]. Washington, DC: C.M. Bell, 1882.

15" x 20-1/2" (38 x 52 cm) albumen silver print mounted on illustration board with border and printed caption, tipped onto 27-1/2" x 24" (70 x 61 cm) matte. Light toning and soiling to board, a few tiny spots to image, some chipping to edges, upper corners lacking (not visible behind matte), clean crack near upper-right corner above image. \$1,000.

* This was the fourth portrait taken of the Court. (The first was in 1867.) Morrison Waite was chief justice from 1874 to 1888. The associate justices pictured here are Samuel Blatchford [1820-1893], Joseph P. Bradley [1813-1892], Stephen J. Field [1816-1899], Horace Gray [1828-1902], John Marshall Harlan [1833-1911], Stanley Mathews [1824-1889], Samuel F. Miller [1816-1890] and William Burnham Woods [1824-1887]. The youngest member of a family of photographers based in Washington, DC, Charles Milton Bell [1848-1893] was one of the Capitol's leading portrait photographers during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

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**A Foundational Text of Jeffersonian Democracy:
The First Edition of Taylor's Masterwork**

29. Taylor, John, Of Caroline [1753-1824].

An Inquiry into the Principles and Policy of the Government of the United States. Comprising Nine Sections, Under the Following Heads: I. Aristocracy; II. The Principles of the Policy of the United States, And of the English Policy; III. The Evil Moral Principles of the Government of the United States; IV. Funding; V. Banking; VI. The Good Moral Principles of the Government of the United States; VII. Authority; VIII. The Mode of Infusing Aristocracy into the Policy of the United States; IX. The Legal Policy of the United States. Fredericksburg, [VA]: Green and Cady, 1814. viii, 656, [1] pp. Octavo (8" x 5"; 20.3 x 12.7 cm).

Expertly bound in period-style quarter morocco over marbled boards, gilt fillets and calf lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Light browning to interior, unobtrusive light foxing and light dampspotting in places. A handsome copy. \$1,850.

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* First and only edition. This work stands as the definitive Jeffersonian response to John Adams's *Defence of the Constitutions*. Taylor fiercely rejects the "natural aristocracy" of paper and patronage, arguing instead for decentralized government and shorter executive terms.

As Charles Beard noted in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, this work "deserves to rank among the two or three really historic contributions to political science which have been produced in the United States." It remains the primary source for understanding the intellectual roots of Southern states' rights and antebellum political theory.

A reply to John Adams's *Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*, this book rejects the concept of "a natural aristocracy" of "paper and patronage" and a powerful federal government based on a system of debt and taxes. Also opposed to the extent of power awarded to the executive office, it calls for shorter terms for the president and all elected officers. It was a deeply influential work among antebellum Southern proponents of states' rights and decentralized government. A later assessment by Charles Beard in the *Dictionary of American Biography* says it "deserves to rank among the two or three really historic contributions to political science which have been produced in the United States."

Dictionary of American Biography IX:331. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 94491. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5823.



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The First Systematic American Legal Treatise: The 1804 First Edition of James Wilson's Works, in Contemporary Sheep with Notable Trans-Border Jurisprudential Provenance

30. Wilson, James (1742-1798). Wilson, Bird (1777-1859), Editor.

The Works of the Honourable James Wilson, LL. D. Published Under the Direction of Bird Wilson, Esquire. Philadelphia: At the Lorenzo Press, 1804. Three volumes. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5"; 21 x 12.7 cm). xvi, 467; vi, 497; iv, 439 pp. With a copperplate engraved portrait frontispiece of James Wilson by Abraham Edwin with original tissue guard in Volume I. Contemporary sheep, spines with blind fillets and contrasting red and black morocco gilt lettering pieces. Front boards of all volumes bear the small embossed ownership stamp of Federal Judge "D.A. Smalley" to centers; Smalley's signature also present on title pages. Front pastedowns with the ownership signature of Canadian jurist "T.C. Aylwin," dated 1856.

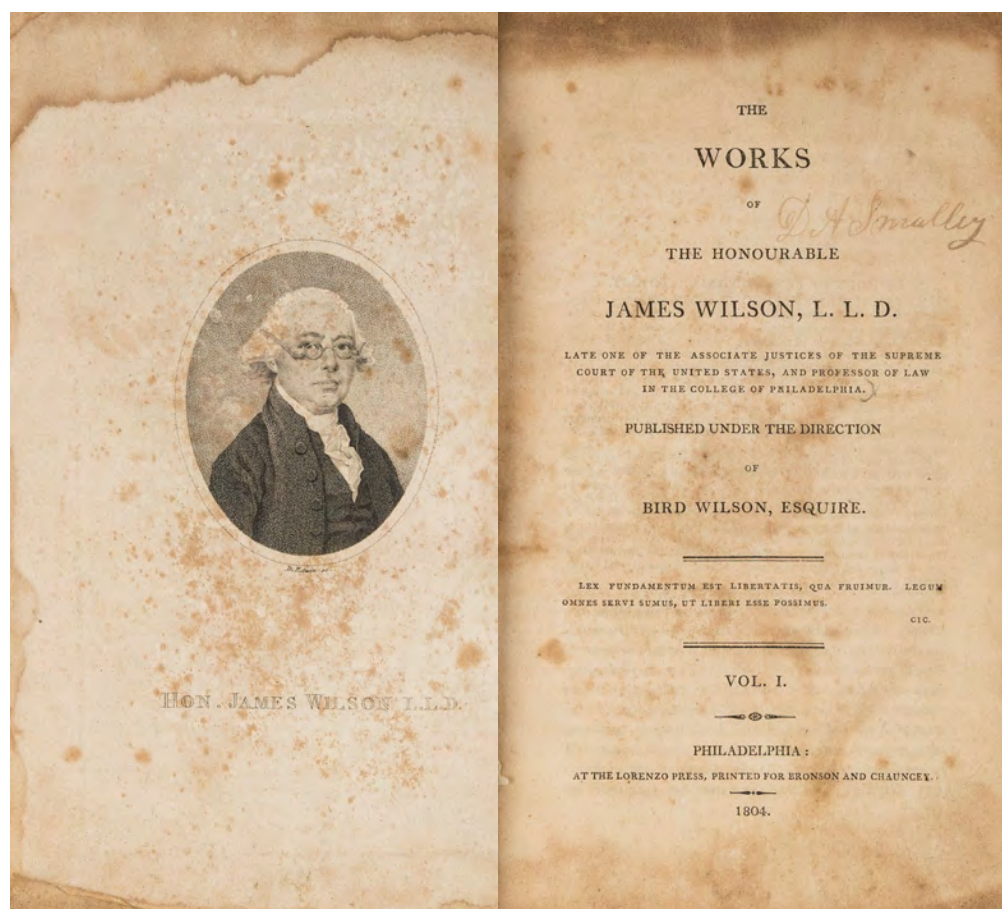
Light rubbing, minor scuffs, and faint staining to boards; minor foxing and dampstaining to frontispiece, with some offsetting to title page. Text block exhibits moderate toning, light foxing, and minor offsetting throughout. Volume II with light dampstaining to top corners of most leaves; Volume III with minor wear and toning along the edges of pp. 67-70. A highly desirable, completely unrestored set in its original contemporary binding, boasting a remarkable trans-border legal provenance. \$9,500.

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* First edition of the first systematic legal treatise published in the United States. While regional practice manuals and state-specific summaries appeared in the late 18th century, Wilson's Works represents the first national, comprehensive jurisprudence text. Writing explicitly to become "America's Blackstone," Wilson rejected a piecemeal approach to local statutes, instead publishing a grand, top-down philosophical synthesis that systematically connected natural law, the law of nations, and the new Federal Constitution directly into the American common law tradition. James Wilson (1742-1798) occupies a singular position in the American founding as one of only six individuals to sign both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. As a primary architect of the Constitution, a mastermind of the three-fifths compromise, and an inaugural Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Wilson's legal philosophy fundamentally shaped American governance. Compiled posthumously by his son, Bird Wilson, this collection is anchored by Wilson's historic 1790-1791 lectures at the College of Philadelphia. Attended by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton, these lectures provide the earliest authoritative commentaries on the federal Constitution, defending popular sovereignty-the concept that political power resides in the people, not the government.

This set possesses a unique trans-border legal provenance, connecting two prominent mid-19th-century North American jurists. It was owned by Thomas Cushing Aylwin (1806-1871), a Canadian judge, political reformer, and Solicitor General for Lower Canada; his 1856 signature places this set in his library during the critical constitutional debates leading up to Canadian Confederation. The volumes were also owned by David Allen Smalley (1809-1877), U.S. Federal Judge for Vermont and DNC Chairman (1856-1860). Appointed by President Buchanan in 1857, Smalley famously ruled on high-stakes constitutional questions regarding treason and civil liberties during the American Civil War.

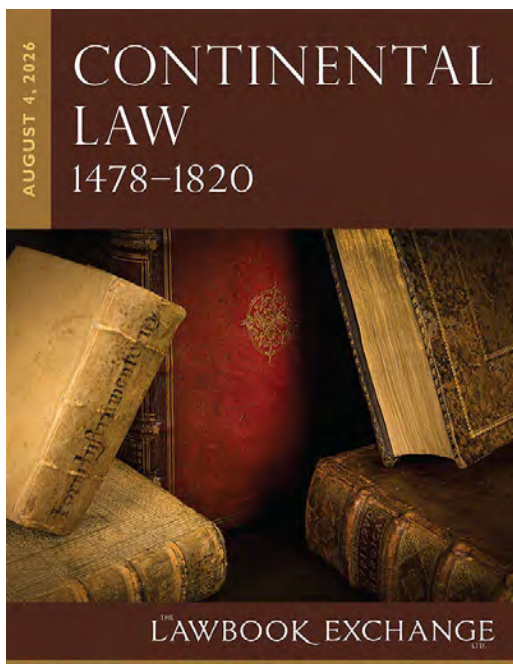
Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2309. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 104632.



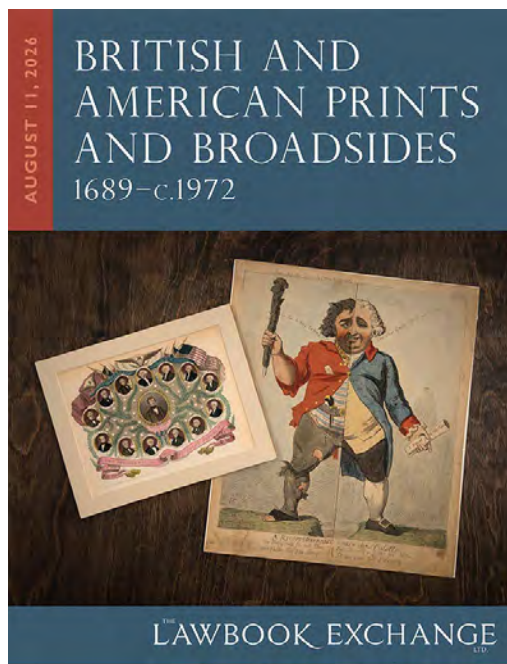
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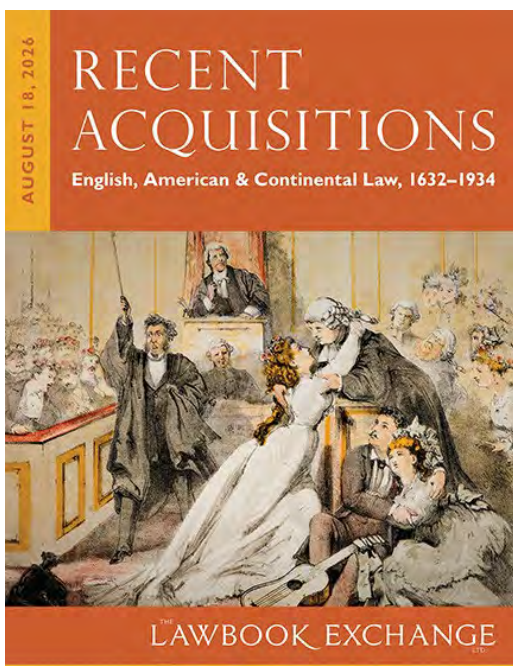
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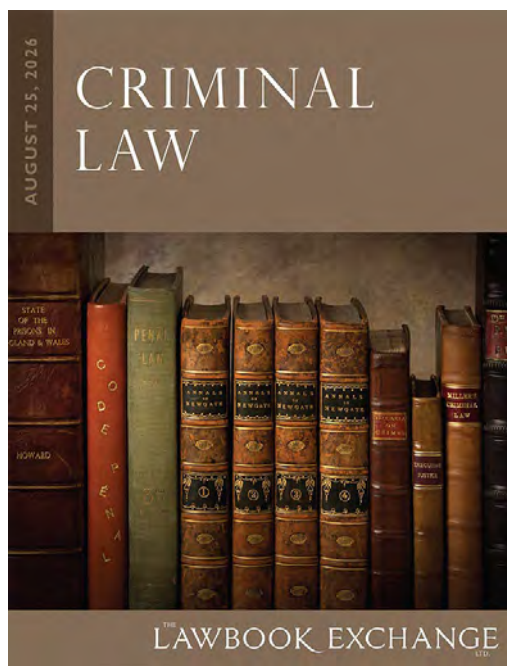
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