

ABSENTEE BID & INTERNET AUCTION SATURDAY • MARCH 30, 2024

HISTORIC AUTOGRAPHS • DOCUMENTS • COLONIAL COINAGE & CURRENCY
GEORGE WASHINGTON • POLITICAL AMERICANA • ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Lot 160: "GENERAL WASHINGTON:
LATE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS"
Artist Unknown, Published by G. Thompson, London

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AUCTIONS, INC.

RAMBLINGS

EARLY AMERICAN IS NOW IN WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA ... GO EAST YOUNG MAN !

After 40 years in Southern California, EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AUCTIONS has relocated. Welcome to our first Major Auction written in Winchester, Virginia. This first auction from Winchester is truly special. The focus is on the early history of Winchester and Virginia from Colonial French & Indian War to the American Revolution, to the Civil War. We are proud to offer over 90 lots consigned by Ambassador and Ex: Secretary of the Navy, J. William Middendorf II, appointed U.S. Secretary of the Navy by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, serving in that role under four presidents. His family heritage extends to the very founding of the Continental Navy. Middendorf's collections include such wide-ranging items such as George Washington's writing desk, a lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair, to a large piece of the Berlin Wall. A significant focus within this current auction is on the Colonial and Revolutionary War American Navy plus items relating to George Washington.



Why Winchester? As a historian I certainly feel more "at home" here. I also thought it best to leave California as the "big one" is decades overdue. My personal desire was to get back East and be situated where the history I catalog occurred. For instance, George Washington holds significant connections to Winchester, Virginia. They date back to his early career at age 17 as a Land Surveyor in this area and his military career. In 1755, during the French and Indian War, George Washington, then a young officer in the Virginia militia, played a significant role in and around Winchester. He was tasked with defending the Virginia frontier against French forces and their Native American allies. Winchester served as a key military outpost during this time, and in 1756, George Washington oversaw the construction of Fort Loudoun in Winchester, the largest fort on the frontier, which Washington often using it as his headquarters. Later in life, Washington and his family occasionally visited Winchester, which extended to during his presidency and retirement. During the Civil War, the town of Winchester traded hands between the North and South more times than any other!



Please enjoy reviewing this extensive offering of great Americana. I wish you the best of success in your bidding participation!

Dana Linett, President

BID BY MAIL

**Early American
History Auctions, Inc.**
1520 Commerce St., #312
Winchester, VA 22601
Absentee Bids must be received
Friday, March 29, 2024

BID BY PHONE

(858) 759-3290
Phone Bids Accepted daily
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Pacific Time up through
Friday, March 29, 2024

BID BY EMAIL

Auctions@EarlyAmerican.com
Emailed Bids are Accepted
24 hours each day up through
Closing at 5:00 P.M. (PST)
Friday, March 29, 2024

Closing LIVE ONLINE • www.EarlyAmerican.com • Saturday, March 30th at 9:00 AM Pacific Time

* Phone & eMail Bidders: Please Mail in your Signed & Dated Original Bid Form, Marked "Phoned" or "eMailed" with the date transmitted, at top.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL COLOR IMAGES: WWW.EARLYAMERICAN.COM

IN MEMORIAM

2023 Proved to be a year of great tragic loss to the American historical collecting community and myself.

Jonathan Mann: On August 15th, 2023, New York City devotee Jonathan Mann died unexpectedly just days after a deranged man viciously attacked him on a bridge for no reason as he was walking home causing injuries that led to his death. Jonathan was just 61 years young and should have enjoyed so many decades ahead. Jonathan was best known to the community of Abraham Lincoln historians and collectors as he had founded “The Railsplitter” organization. An annual journal written for worldwide collectors of Lincoln artifacts and memorabilia. On the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth, Jonathan curated, and built a major exhibit about President Lincoln displayed at Federal Hall in New York City. Though expert in many other diverse areas such as filmmaking and finance, Jonathan immersed himself in historical research, and became an expert on Lincoln. Jonathan’s passing leaves behind an extraordinary legacy as he was truly one of the nation’s top Lincoln experts, to quote another colleague, a “walking encyclopedia” of everything about the 16th President. I often spoke with Jonathan on a wide range of topics. His numerous phone calls always began with his joking about life and society in general. I was surprised to discover after his memorial that Jonathan had amassed one of the finest, most extensive private collections of important Lincoln related collectibles in private hands. What we will all miss is Jonathan the man, his wit and worldly wisdom, in addition to the tragic loss of his great knowledge and expertise. When in New York, I would join Jonathan for a “nosh” to enjoy our comradery and friendship during an always to brief a visit. The loss of Jonathan is deeply felt, yet his memory will be held dear by so many he touched.



Rex Stark: On December 14th, Rexford “Rex” Stark of Gardner, Massachusetts passed away after a long fight with cancer. He was only 76 years old. Having moved to the East coast one of my first trips was to visit with Rex and his wife Patti. Rex rarely complained of illness and simply accepted his lot in life. Rex was passionate about his love of the collectibles business and was widely known for decades as one of the top specialists for great Americana. Rex accumulated a wealth of knowledge in many diverse fields and was often called upon for his insight and expertise in authentication and valuation. Rex had thousands of items he dealt with from a few dollars to six figures Rex would travel constantly, attending antiques and specialized collectible shows. He was particularly proud of his American political historical theme ceramics, amassing one of the finest collections in the United States. Rex could be trusted, and his opinion was always straight-forward. I had known Rex since the 1970s during my college days in Boston and much of what I have learned can be credited to Rex, asking his advice and opinion of artifacts. Over the decades and after many visits, business became secondary to simply enjoying each other’s companionship and insights about life, family, and business topics. Rex hated the snow, so whenever Gardner, Massachusetts had blizzard, a phone call would be in order. Rex told me that he would live out his life buying and selling, dealing at shows, and with his clients until he dropped. My last visit with Rex was at his home the week prior to his passing. We enjoyed a nice visit, together with his wife Patti. That evening Rex and I went out to dinner just before my departure, there was no sign that his appetite was lacking. The following week I received a phone call with the news that Rex had unexpectedly passed. The news came as a shock as long-term friendships of that kind are few and cherished. The depth of knowledge and experience of Rex Stark, along with his distinct character and personality will be missed. In the end, Rex did indeed keep up his Americana business right up to the end and rests in peace knowing he lived life his way.



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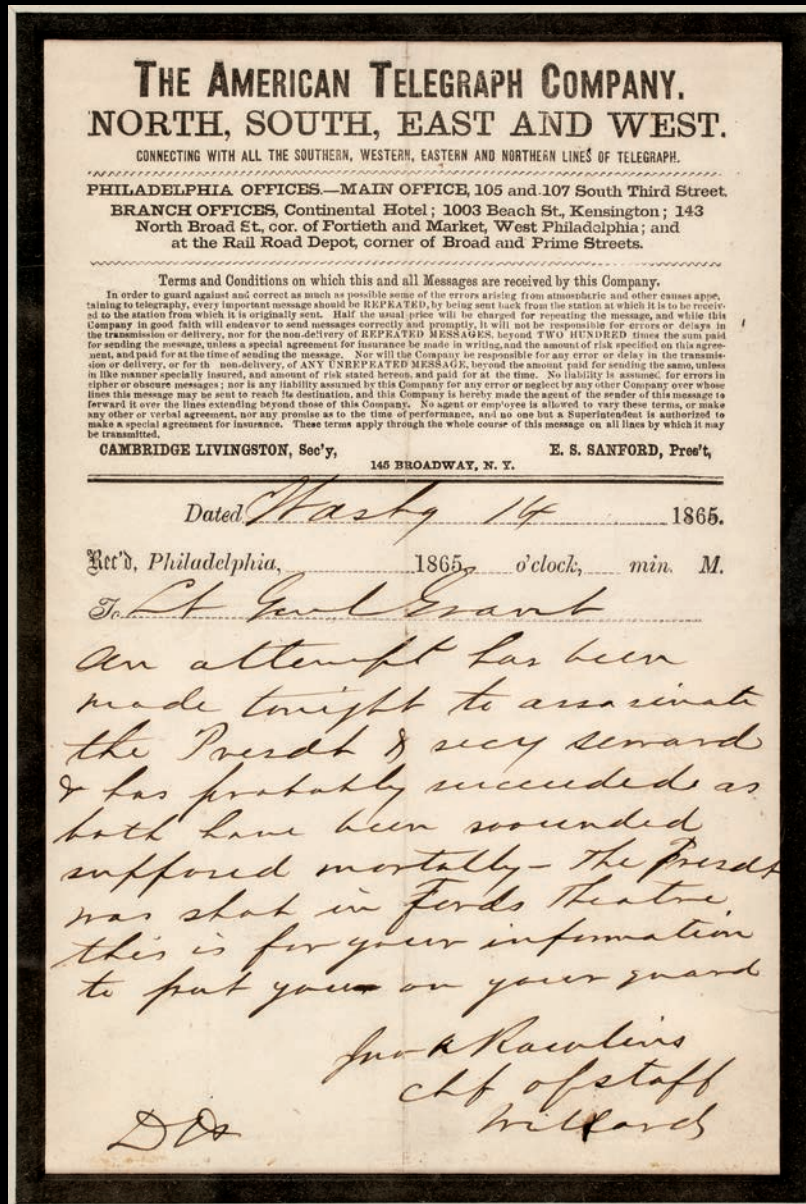
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Lot 207: The ORIGINAL TELEGRAM HANDED To GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT
at the Philadelphia Railroad Station The Night Of APRIL 14th 1865
NOTIFYING HIM Of The ASSASSINATION Of PRESIDENT LINCOLN

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AUCTIONS, INC.