



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

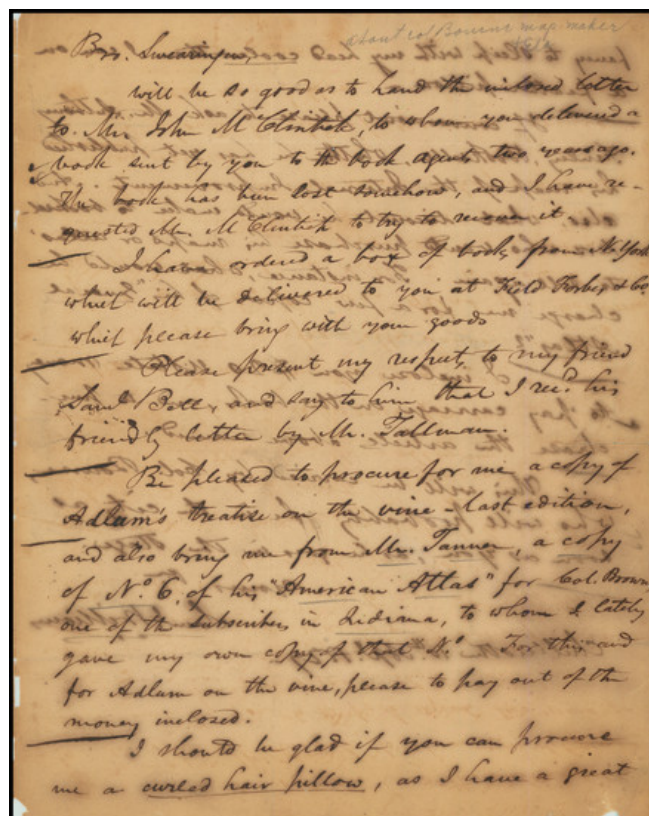
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[Map & Book Trade in Early 19th Century Ohio] April 10, 1829 Letter from Ohio bookseller to Mr. Thomas V. Swearingen of Philadelphia

Stock#: 82915
Map Maker: Williams
Date: 1829
Place: Chillicothe, Ohio
Color: Pen & Ink
Condition: Good
Size: 7.6 x 9.6 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Chief Clerk of the Northwest Territory (and frontier bookseller) Samuel Williams orders books in a letter from the frontier.

A fascinating letter from the western frontier, providing a marvelous image of the many hats worn by prominent Americans of the time period.

The writer, Samuel Williams, is probably best known as one of the early surveyors of Michigan Territory. Williams served in the War of 1812, and thereafter worked for the General Land Office in Washington, D.C., until 1815. From 1815 to 1845, he was chief clerk in the office of the surveyor-general of the Northwest Territory.

The letter mentions Williams' dealings with mapmakers Henry Tanner and Anthony Finley, as well as contacts with famed Ohio mapmaker Alexander Bourne (1786-1849). There is also a Col. Brown of Indiana



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mentioned. This would likely be Colonel Thomas Brown (1780-1840), who lived from 1806 onward in Indian Territory. In the summer of 1819, the surveyor-general appointed him one of the surveyors to survey part of the land recently purchased from the Indians nearly the future Bloomington Indiana, and from 1819 to 1836, he spent a portion of the year doing public survey work.. The last work he did for the government was in Muscatine County, in Iowa Territory.

The text of the letter is as follows:

Bro. Swearingen,

Will be so good as to hand this ??? nd letter to Mr. John McClintock, to whom you delivered a book sent by you to the book agents two years ago. This book has been lost somehow, and I have requested Mr. McClintock to try to recover it.

I have ordered a box of books from N. York which will be delivered to you at Field Forbes & Co. which please bring with your goods.

Please present my respect to my friend Samuel Bell, and say to him that I received his friendly letter by Mr. Tallman.

Be pleased to procure for me a copy of Adlam's treatise on the vine -- last edition, and also bring me from Mr. Tanner a copy of No. 6 of his "American Atlas" for Col. Brown, one of the subscribers in Indiana, to whom I lately gave my own copy of that No. For this and for Adlam on the vine, please to pay out of the money enclosed.

I should be glad if you can procure me a curled hair pillow, as I have a great fancy to sleep with my head cooler than I can on a feather pillow.

If convenient please to ask Mr. Anthony Finley, Bookseller, whether he has yet published his map of the Internal Improvements. And also what discount he would ??? to booksellers who would purchase his maps or atlas' to sell again. For instance, what would he charge me for a few copies of his "General Atlas."?

I include you \$20 U. States money to pay carriage on the books, and to purchase the articles above named.



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*This will be carried by Col. Bourne, who will probably be in the city as soon as you, as he goes
in the stage.*

Yours ?? Saml. Williams

Chillicothe 10th Apr. 1829

On the verso are the following notes, most notably the prices which Anthony Finley was offering for what
appears to be his wall maps of the US, World, Asia and Europe and his General Atlas:

*I have handed Mr. McClintock the letter he tells he ??? have ??? as he has always doneso. Has
no recollection of the book.*

Map U. States --- 8

Map World -- 7

Map Asia -- 6

Map Europe -- 6

General Atlas -- 10

{6 copies of either one 20 per Cent discount cash. -- 12 copies 25 per cent.

On the outside, with the address, is a note "Friday evening 10th Saml. Tells me just now that your family
are all well."

Detailed Condition: