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JANUARY 2009

NEWSLETTER 390

Greetings and Salutations,

These are the times that try men's souls and some men cope better than others but no one, man or woman, copes as well as my depression-remembering 90 year old mother who abides in a retirement community nearby.

About a year ago Mom started asking me to bring her toilet paper; at first a roll a week. This went on for a month or two then she upped the dosage to two rolls a week and by and by we were up to three rolls a week. About this time I stopped and did some figuring. One lazy cold Saturday morning, when I hadn't had to much to drink the night before and was fresh and sharp, or as sharp as I get in my old age, I fetched an unopened package of toilet paper from the store stock room, the same as I was giving Mom, sat it on my desk and set myself down to study the matter. The brand of toilet paper I was providing Mom is Charmin. It comes in a package of nine rolls with 200 two ply sheets per roll. Each sheet measured 10.8 centimeters by 10.1 centimeters, that being in English, for people such as myself who refuse to think in other than inches, 4.27 inches by 4.0 inches. In summation I am providing my dearly beloved ancient mother with six hundred sheets of double ply toilet paper per week. After some experimentation and calculating, the details of which we won't go into here, I figured that 600 double ply sheets was an ample supply, a totally ample supply, a really ample supply even for an ample old woman, to provide at the least, at the very least 150 uses a week, be it wiping glasses, cleaning the TV screen, dabbing her lipstick, et al; or about twenty times a day. Twenty times a day? Can a 90 year old lady find a use for toilet paper 20 times a day? Without addressing the question head-on, in my furtherest and deepest imagination I figured this might be possible so I went on buying and toting the paper but lo and behold she upped her dosage to four rolls a week and then five and then six and pretty soon I was trudging up her walkway weekly groaning under the weight of fetching nine roll packages and eventually and finally about two months ago Mom asked how big a whole box of toilet paper was. When I replied 36 rolls she suggested I just bring her a whole box to save the time and trouble of breaking up the box into packages and lo and behold I was lugging her one box and less than two weeks later another box and now we are clipping along at a box a week or 36 rolls a week. That's over five rolls a day (5.14285714285 to be exact) or 1028.57142857 double ply sheets a day. That works out to 4391.9999999999999999 inches of toilet paper a day, or 343 feet of toilet paper, 342.85714285 feet to be exact. To couch such an unimaginable figure in more understandable images Mom is absorbing enough toilet paper every day to go the length of a basketball court three times, up and back and up again, even for Ty Lawson the speedy point guard of our, previously, darn it, No.1 ranked Tar Heels basketball team that's a long way, one third the length of a football field, the entire length of a soccer field, give or take a few feet. Put it in whatever terms you want. 343 feet of t.p. is a long line of white, a long enough line that I am concerned.



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Email Addresses

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There just isn't any way to logically explain how the old girl is using that much paper, no way at all. She sure isn't using it for its intended purpose because she isn't losing any weight and she has the carrying capacity of a camel because one day I took the afternoon off and sat in her living room conversing and waiting, watering her out, so to speak, three glasses of ice tea for each of us and I had to be excused three times and she never budged. Something is afoot but what is it? What is she doing with the toilet paper? Wherever it's going, it's not down the toilet, so to speak.

I have thought about the matter and thought some more and let the mystery simmer in my subconscious and by and by little I've come up with a logical explanation that I think answers the question to a T.

Mom is running a thriving black market in the assisted living center selling toilet paper. Hear me out. When you're in assisted living what do you have; you have food prepared and delivered, you have housecleaning taken care of, if anything breaks someone appears and fixes it fast, you put your dirty wash by your door every Wednesday and they go out dirty and come back clean. There are no water or electric bills to pay. The lawn is kept well manicured and trimmed by a legion of well mannered young men. The assisted living fight song might well be "We got all these things but what ain't we got? We ain't got ... TOILET PAPER." Tis true, Mom and her cronies have every creature comfort provided, including communion down the hall on Sunday and hairdos in the next building but they ain't got toilet paper. There is no need to ever leave the premises except to buy toilet paper. The octogenarians hate to drive; those that can't won't take the bus and all refrain from asking kith and kin to tote them places. Mom is filling a pressing and urgent need in her retirement village by selling toilet paper to the residents. Knowing Mom's shrewd knack for business she is probably selling it by the sheet and charging double for sales outside of normal business hours, triple for emergency deliveries, double that after dark and on weekends. No wonder she never needs any money; she is making a killing in the necessary business. Sears no longer puts out a catalogue and there isn't a corn field for miles so she has a lock on the business; the only game in town and with me providing the free paper it's pure profit, no overhead at all. One smart lady, "Mom, I'm glad to know you!"

I've thought about investigating the situation further but in truth I'm delighted with her business and certainly don't want it to stop. In addition to being highly prosperous it keeps her busy and fit and if the matter ever comes to light and she is prosecuted under some federal statute outlawing toilet paper sales by residents of federally assisted facilities I want to be able to take the witness stand and swear upon the bible that I never had any knowledge of what was going on, that I was an innocent and witless participant whose only fault was loving and caring for his elderly mother to the extent that he never questioned what she was doing with the hundreds of rolls of toilet paper he provided her.

Speaking of which – it's lunch. I need to make another delivery – catch you later.

"Mom, I'm on the way."

Take care,

Tom

P.S. I'll keep you posted.

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Confederate Veteran	43	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
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North Carolina Troops	16	\$700.00	\$470.00	\$230.00
Papers of the Military Historical Society of Mass.	15	\$600.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865	16	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865	33	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
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Southern Bivouac	6	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
Southern Historical Society Papers	55	\$2,200.00	\$1,450.00	\$750.00
Supplement to the Army Official Records	100	\$5,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,000.00
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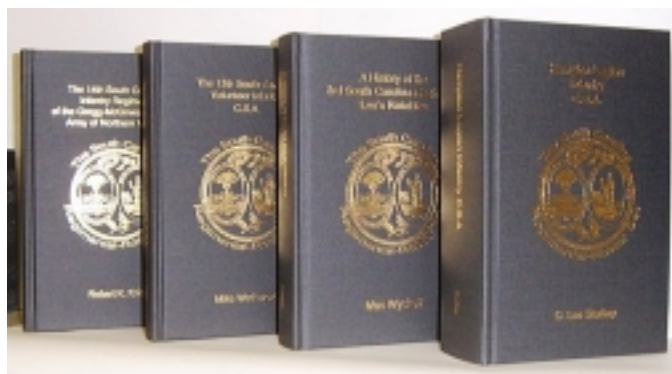
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Available February 1

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This is a Sampling of our out-of-print offerings: For the complete listing request our current Out-of-Print catalog. Available by mail, email, or visit our website.

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6. Brewer, Abraham T. **HISTORY SIXTY-FIRST REGIMENT PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS 1861-1865.** Pittsburgh 1911. 234 pages. Dornbusch I, PA-190. 61st Pennsylvania Infantry. One of Fox's Fighting 300. Full page portraits, roster. Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Marye's Heights, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor. First edition, fine bright copy, the best we've seen. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$400.00
7. Britton, Wiley **THE UNION INDIAN BRIGADE IN THE CIVIL WAR.** Kansas City, MO 1922. 474 pages. Dornbusch I, KS-26. 6th Kansas Cavalry. Frontis is a painting of the last hour of the Battle of Pea Ridge, full page portrait of Britton, 6 portraits and 2 full page maps. "A popularly written history of Indian soldiers and military events during the 1861-1864 campaigns in Missouri and Arkansas." - *Civil War Books*. First edition, interior clean and tight, slight cover soil, spine lettering faded (per usual), illustration of Indian and lettering on front board bright. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$150.00
8. Caesar, Caius Julius **CAESAR'S COMMENTARIES ON THE GALLIC WAR, WITH A VOCABULARY AND NOTES.** Greensboro, NC 1864. 290 pages. C-4034 P&W 7680 (and thanks to P&W wherein we learned Caesar's first name), spine label almost entirely gone, the Confederacy's in it up to its ears and reading Julius, we did have a certain inane appeal. Names of original owners: George Dick (1864) and William S. Dick (1900) written in pencil and ink on front-end page. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$700.00
9. Campbell and Dunn **THE CHILD'S FIRST BOOK.** Richmond 1864. 48 pages. P&W 7682. Limited to 1000 copies. Illustrated with copious crude woodcuts, laid into acid-free folding slipcase, brown cloth, title stamped in gold on spine, spine lettering flecked. We find but one copy on the market and that inferior at \$660. Original brown wraps, minor rubbing or gnawing to upper outer blank margin (I think it's gnawing-it's too neat for rubbing.) The frail brown wraps are well above average. \$500.00
10. Chamberlin, Thomas **HISTORY OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH REGIMENT. Pennsylvania Volunteers, Second Regiment, Bucktail Brigade.** Philadelphia 1895. 277 pages. J. P. Lippincott Co. Dornbusch I, PA-352. 150th Pennsylvania Infantry. Union Bookshelf 188. "A very readable narrative based on several diaries; the best action covers the 1864-1865 campaigns." - *Civil War Books*. Frontis is grouped portraits of the officers, plus 2 full page group portraits. First edition. Slight cover soil otherwise fine, hard to find in any condition. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$450.00
11. Clark, Harvey **MY EXPERIENCES WITH BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION AND 18TH ARMY CORPS.** Gardner 1914. 119 pages. Dornbusch 264 25th Massachusetts Infantry. Fine. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$250.00

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12. **CONFEDERATE WAR JOURNAL.** Volume I #1. This journal was published in New York and Lexington, Kentucky from April 1893 to March 1895. It was edited by the able Marcus J. Wright who listed himself as, "Agent of the War Department for the Collection of Confederate Records," I.E. Official Records compiler; associate editor Ben LaBree. The journal was similar to its rival the Confederate Veteran. 8 1/2" X 11" format, many illustrations, first-hand accounts, veteran affairs and humor. The front wraps of each issue portrayed a Confederate worthy. In direct competition with and ultimately eclipsed by the better known Confederate Veteran magazine, the Confederate War Journal enjoyed only a short-lived, two-year run before it was overcome by the Veterans' popularity and became itself "a lost cause." Superb bound edition of all twelve issues of Volume I of this excellent monthly periodical with its uniquely Southern perspective. April 1893 through March 1895. Fine condition including fragile front wraps which are bound in, rear wraps not bound in. Uncommon. \$1,000.00
13. **CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AND ORDINANCES ADOPTED BY Convention . . . 13th Day of Feb., 1864.** Alexandria 1864. 31 pages. Wraps. First edition. This document provided for the establishment of the restored (Union) government of Virginia. Removed, lacks wraps, laid in protective binder. \$100.00
14. Cooke, John Esten **THE LIFE OF STONEWALL JACKSON. By A Virginian.** New York 1866. 305 pages. In Tall Cotton 22. Howes C-734 Cornerstones #11. Confederate Hundred "The appeal of Stonewall Jackson is evident by the number of good biographies of him and equally as many poor ones. The earliest of any importance was John Esten Cooke's, published in Richmond in 1863." – In Tall Cotton. Cooke wrote on May 12, 1863, only a few days after Jackson's death: "I have been incessantly engaged on the 'Life of Stonewall Jackson' having in about a week or ten days, got him through the Battle of Cedar Run. Rarely have I worked so hard." His book was published in August 1863 and its publisher sold 3,000 copies on its first day. It was pirated almost immediately in New York and London and banned by a Federal army order for the Department of Ohio. First edition, I have a picture of Lee Wallace portraying Cooke in a Civil War movie, a most appropriate role for Lee. Laid in a custom folding box, lacks front wrap, interior foxed, insect damage, gnawings and dirt to lower part of first 2 leaves with minor loss of text on one page. Be glad to send a photo. \$750.00
15. Cowles, Luther **HISTORY OF THE FIFTH MASSACHUSETTS BATTERY, ORGANIZED OCT. 3, 1861, Mustered Out June 12, 1865.** 1902. 988 pages. Massive regimental is a tremendous item. The battery was attached the 5th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Cowles writes of action at Yorktown, Mechanicsville, Malvern Hill, Second Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg and more. This battery suffered the greatest percentage of loss in battle of any light battery in volunteer service. Interior clean and tight, small red library stamp on front fly, sticker removed from lower spine leaving a faint, very faint, discoloration, gold stamping bright. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$350.00

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77. Taylor, Richard **DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION. Personal Experiences of the Late War.** New York 1879. 274 pages. First Edition. In Tall Cotton #176. Howes T-73. Civil War Books I-166. "Constantly quoted commentary by a distinguished Confederate general and son of Zachary Taylor; particularly good for the author's observations on 'Stonewall' Jackson. Regarded as the finest of Confederate memoirs, Taylor's story covers only the war and immediately postwar periods. – *Civil War Books*. "Regarded as the finest Confederate Memoirs." – Nevins. "His style is brilliant as the gleam of his sword." – *In Tall Cotton*. Fine copy excepting very slight extremity wear. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$300.00
78. Taylor, Richard **DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION. Personal Experiences of the Late War.** New York 1879. 274 pages. First edition. In Tall Cotton #176. Howes T-73. Civil War Books I-166. "Constantly quoted commentary by a distinguished Confederate general and son of Zachary Taylor; particularly good for the author's observations on 'Stonewall' Jackson. Regarded as the finest of Confederate memoirs, Taylor's story covers only the war and immediately postwar periods." – *Civil War Books*. Interior clean and tight, cover lightly soiled and scuffed, gold lettering bright. This copy boldly signed, "J.C. LeHardy. LeHardy was a Sergeant in Olmstead's Georgia Infantry and also an Assistant Surgeon; interesting combination. A copy of Hardy's three page Service Record is included. Protected by a clear acid-free mylar dust jacket. \$200.00

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79. Temple, Neville & Trevor, Edward **TANNHAUSER: Or, The Battle of the Bards. A Poem.** Mobile 1863. 125 pages + ads. A Confederate Imprint. P&W 6313. Tan wraps, the publisher's notice mentions that "the names on the title page are only assumed; the authors in reality are, one a son of Bulwer, Secretary to the English Embassy at Vienna, and the other Julian Fane, the son of Lord Westmoreland"; the poem is in the style of Tennyson. Us'uns were fighting a war on one hand and using precious manpower to print epic poetry on the other hand. However, since the Southern soldier was an avid reader of such the inspiration and spirit derived from the reading was probably of greater benefit than the last recoveries but we still lost. An excellent copy of a larger than usual (5 1/2 X 8 1/2) Confederate literary offering. Interior tight and clean, stiff wraps complete, spine taped in glassine tape that blends in (matches wraps). Laid in archival folding slipcase, name in gold on black spine label. \$200.00
80. **THE CENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK 1802-1902** Washington 1904. 2 Vol. 924 pages. First edition. Frontis is a portrait of Major Sylvanus Thayer, Corps of Engineers, Superintendent U.S.M.A. 1817-1833. Oversize volumes, copiously illustrated with full page portraits, maps, views, photographs, facsimiles, monuments, etc. Gold escutcheon on front boards bright, Colonial Dames bookplate in each volume (tasteful, what would you expect?), Vol. 1 hinges repaired, extremities frayed, minor cover soil, interiors tight and clean, maps and charts fine. Protected by clear acid-free mylar dust jackets. \$200.00
81. **THE SOUTH. A BALTIMORE BROADSIDE.** Baltimore 1861? 1 page. P-6541. Measuring 3 & 3/4" x 7 & 1/2: Rudolph 247. Attractive woodcut illustration at top showing a fellow plowing with two horses while "meh" lady in a hooped skirt and bonnet looks on. Fine copy. Protected by a clear, acid free envelope. \$200.00
82. **THE SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSENGER.** Richmond 1861. Volume 33 #1 July 1861 thru Volume 33 #6 December 1861. Six complete issues, all have the fragile wraps including the multiple rear wraps (except for #6 which lacks the rear wrap). Much war content, bound in one volume, with later title page (has embossed seal) and index added. Leather spine label. The binding has black numbers and an erasure on the spine, stickers on the binding, the 6 issues are fine. Since Virginia seceded April 17, 1861, all of these issues qualify as Confederate Imprints. Fine condition, small stain on outer edge of some pages. \$300.00
83. **THE STATUTES AT LARGE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES...FROM... FEBRUARY 8, 1861, TO FEBRUARY 18, 1862.** Richmond 1864. 411 pages. Wraps. Plus index. All you ever wanted to know about everything regarding Confederate politics, the most interesting parts are the treaties with the Indians which set forth the Indian names with correct pronunciation. Lacks rear wrap, front wrap chipped, signature loose. This copy is protected with an acid-free binder. \$300.00
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