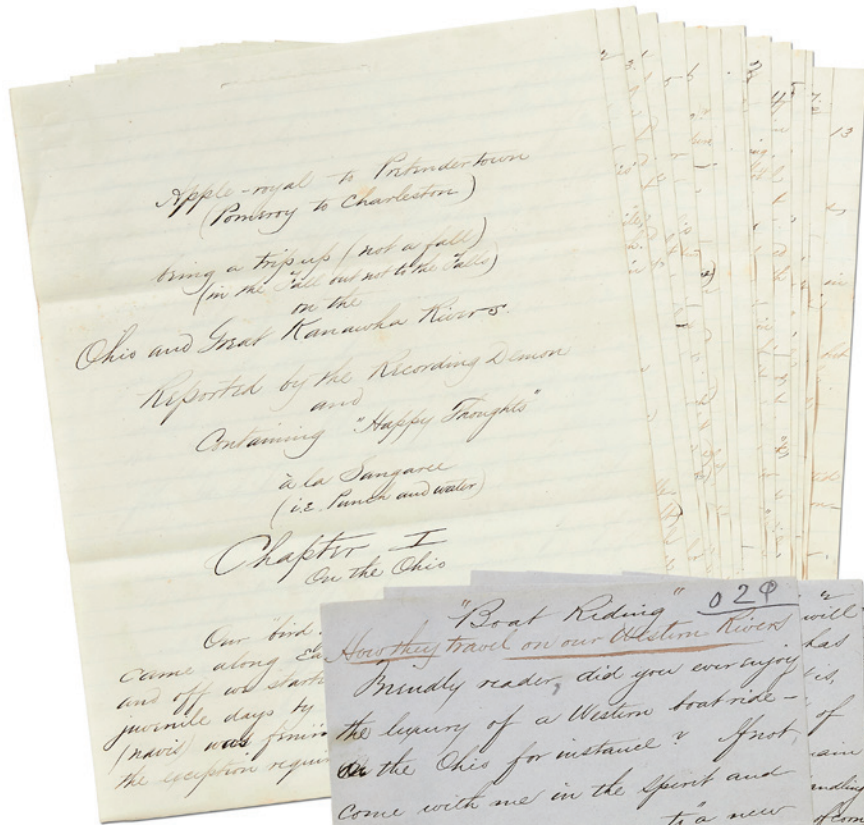


BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

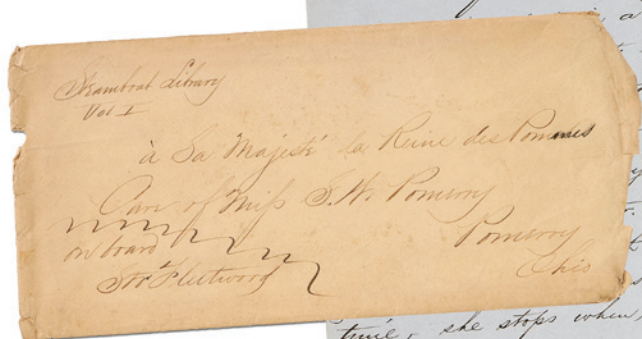
112 Nicholson Rd, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 (856) 456-8008 betweenthecovers.com

William Sturgis

[Two Related Travel Manuscripts, circa 1865]: (MS 1.) *Apple-royal to Pretendertown (Pomeroy to Charleston) being a trip up (not a fall) (in the Fall but not to the Falls) on the Ohio and Great Kanawha Rivers. Reported by the Recording Demon and Containing "Happy Thoughts" à la Sangaree (i.e. Punch and Water). Chapter 1: On the Ohio; Chapter II: On the Kanawha. (MS 2.) Boat Riding: How they travel on our Western Rivers (West Virginia and Ohio: circa 1865)* \$2500



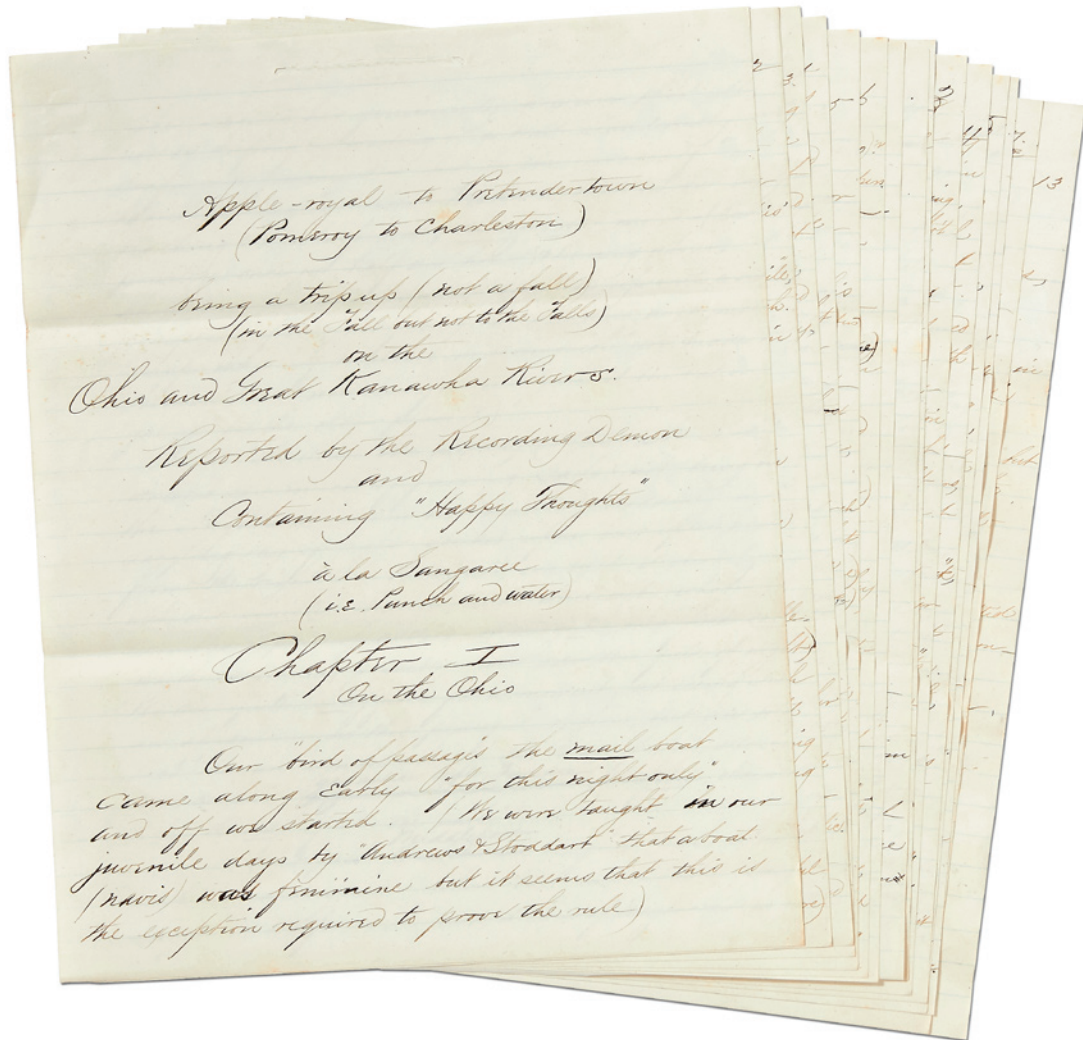
Two two separate travel manuscripts of William Sturgis, written around 1865, giving narrative accounts of (1.) a steamboat trip from Pomeroy, Ohio to Charleston, West Virginia on the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers; and (2.) a more generalized description of steamboat travel on the Ohio River, including his reflections on what makes boating on Western Rivers, like the Ohio, so very different from River travel in the East (i.e., the Hudson River).



Sturgis, a New York native and civil war veteran, first traveled to West Virginia in 1865 on a prospecting "exploring expedition" organized by the West Columbia Coal & Salt Company. He inspected the coal and associated salt mines in and around West Columbia, West Virginia, and returned to area on several times on Company business. He later became a prominent cattle baron in Wyoming in the 1870s, and was instrumental in the settlement of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The first manuscript consists of 15 pages handwritten in ink. Quarto. pp. 1-7 (Chapter I); pp. [1-8] (Chapter II). Two horizontal folds, near fine; with an accompanying envelope: Steamboat Library Vol. 1 / á Sa Majesté la Reine des Pommes / Care of Miss S.W. Pomeroy / Pomeroy, Ohio / on board Str. Fleetwood. Written in poetic verse for the amusement his invalid sister, it is both a humorous, accurate, and detailed account of his nighttime steamboat trip from Pomeroy to Charleston on board the Steamer Fleetwood. He provides detailed descriptions of the boat itself and the landscape while en route, giving special attention to West Virginia's coal and salt mining industries:

“Our ‘bird of passage’ the mail boat came along early ... and off we started ... suddenly a dazzling ray of light strikes upon our optic nerve from the right ... We are quite staggered for a moment, at seeing such an apparition in this peaceful region, but are told that they are symbolical of the blaze of glory, attaching to a certain gigantic salt furnace ... Next past Middleport [Ohio] we glide ... where the inhabitants peaceful sleep ‘their warfare over,’ (and dream of Morgan raids no more). And soon from the left bank rises a shining mass of silvery light ... we are ... told that it is West Columbia, and that the effect we notice, is caused in part by the white buildings, but more by the extreme whiteness of the Salt produced there, which is said to be of such dazzling brilliancy, that it sometimes shines ...”



Sturgis often reflects on the Steamer as possessing feminine characteristics: “She showed her femininity ... not by keeping us waiting ... but by the exercise of ‘the Ladies’ privilege.’ She tried to back in, but ere reaching the wharf boat, changed her mind ... such an inanimate article as a boat, even tho’ ‘she’ walk the waters like a thing of life, is here considered subservient to the lonely public ...” whereas the “Poor unemancipated mortals at the East, are still in abject subjection to boats ... and if they wish to use them, must go to certain designated places at prescribed hours ...”

Upon entering the “broad mouth of the beautiful Kanawha,” he writes: “However thick the ice may be in the Ohio, the Kanawha fed by its warm springs in far off Carolina is never troubled in that way but keeps clear all through the winter ...” For reason unknown to us, he signs his narrative: “Beelzebub Rec.y Demon.”

