

The Wheeling Rare Book Collection

The Ohio County Public Library recently acquired a donation of rare books from the collection of an anonymous donor. The complete list of titles appears below.

The transfer was made possible by the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation, Wheeling Area Genealogical Society and an anonymous donor. The library would like to thank all involved.

Special thanks go to Jeanne Finstein, whose hard work facilitated the process.

The books are currently housed in the library's Wheeling Room. They may be accessed by appointment. Please inquire at the Reference Desk.

30 UNUSUAL, UNCOMMON OR RARE BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RELATING TO AUTHORSHIP, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING IN WHEELING AND THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY FROM THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY TO THE EARLY TWENTIETH.

Abdill, David. *A New Theory of the Weather...* Wheeling, 1842, printed by J.W. Wharton for the author, a self-taught Wheeling scientist.

Anonymous ["By sundry experienced teachers"]. *The United States' Spelling-Book, with Appropriate Reading Lessons...* Wheeling: Stephenson & Garwood, 1840.

Bowen, Ele. *Rambles in the Path of the Steam-Horse*. Philadelphia: W.M. Bromwell and W.M. White Smith, 1855. This consists of bound facsimiles pages concerning Wheeling from a book promoting the B&O. Includes an image of the Suspension Bridge.

Bowen, J.B. *The Wheeling Directory and Advertiser*, Wheeling: John M. M'Creary, 1839. The first city directory of Wheeling. The Wheeling Room previously had a copy, but it was stolen. This one belonged to Col. Henry B. Hubbard (1816–88), Civil War officer and politician, who has written his name and address ("2123 Eoff St., near the Academy") on the front cover and again on the flyleaf. Rare book dealer's invoice for \$1,356.60 laid in.

Brackenridge, Henry M. *The History of the Late War [that is, the War of 1812] between the United States and Great Britain, containing a Brief Recapitulation of the Events which Led to the Declaration of War, Its Progress and an Account of the Various Brilliant Land and Naval Victories including the Battle of New-Orleans.*" Wheeling: Printed and Published by A. & E. Picket, Booksellers and Stationers, 1831." Original boards re-backed in quarter calf. Brackenridge, who was a diplomat as well as a writer on, among other things, Upper Ohio Valley topics, lived in Pittsburgh. The Pickets, father and son, were famous entrepreneurial publishers who moved from one city to the next as the frontier was pushed westward.

Brackenridge, Henry M. *Voyage to Buenos Ayres, Performed in the Years 1817 and 1818, By Order of the American Government*. "London: Printed for Sir Richard Phillips and Co., Bride-court, Bridge-street. 1820." Rebound in marble boards and quarter calf.

Dow, Lorenzo. *History of Cosmopolite; or The Four Volumes of Lorenzo Dow's Journals Concentrated in One, containing his Experiences and Travels...* Revised and corrected edition. Printed by the Wheeling printer John. B. Wolff for Joshua Martin, Washington, Ohio, 1848. Steel engravings. Bound in original full calf. Dow was the most famous evangelist of his day and this book was at one time said to be second only to the Bible in US sales. Description of Wheeling pp. 636–637.

Hall, Alexander. *Universalism against Itself: An Examination and Refutation of the Principal Arguments Claimed in Support of the Final Holiness and Happiness of All Mankind*. St. Clairsville, Ohio: "Printed for the Author, 1846." Original full calf. Hall planned (but failed) to found a Utopian community near St. Clairsville, in which place he published a religious newspaper that led to a feud with Alexander Campbell.

Howells, W.C. *Recollections of Life in Ohio 1813 to 1840*. Gainesville, FL: Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1963. The story of William Mathers' book *The Rise, Progress, and Downfall of Aristocracy* is told in W.C. Howells' memoir, edited by his famous son the novelist William Dean Howells.

Kenyon, F. *The American Biography, Containing Biographical Sketches of the Officers of the Revolution and of the Principal Statesmen of That Period*. "Wheeling: Printed and Published for F. Kenyon, 1833". Original full calf. Rare, as not listed in Norona's *West Virginia Imprints 1790–1863* or even in Rieger's monumental work *The Upper Ohio Valley: A Bibliography*. Nothing is known of Kenyon, except that a year earlier he published another book in Wheeling entitled *The American Letter-Writer; or, Complete Art of Polite Correspondence*.

Lafferty, Bob. *The New Rubaiyat, as Written and with Sketches by Robert C. (Bob) Lafferty*. New York: The Culture Press, 1928. No. 382 of 2,000 signed and numbered copies in original decorative boards. This is a bizarre new "translation" of *The Rubaiyat of Omar Kiam*. Lafferty was a one-time Wheeling architect, artist, steelworker, homespun philosopher and general crank who later in life went to prison in a Wall Street stock fraud. Uncut pages. Rare book dealer's invoice for \$255.

Lees, Thomas J. *The Poetical Works of Thomas J. Lees, Revised and Improved by the Author*. Wheeling: "Printed by Jas. W. Wharton, 1839." Original full calf. Includes poems on local themes such as "Musings on the Ohio" and "McCulloch's [*sic*] Leap". Lees, the principal of Linsly Institute, was a respected, well known and prolific Wheeling writer. Wilde's *History of Wheeling* (1879) remarks: "Everybody in the city, it may be said, knew Thomas J. Lees."

Leighton, William. *The Price of the Past Paid by the Present: A Poem Read at the Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument, in the City of Wheeling, May 1883*. "Wheeling: Printed for Private Circulation, 1883." Original decorative cloth.

Mathers, William. *The Rise, Progress, and Downfall of Aristocracy*. "Wheeling: Published by the Author, Printed by W. Cooper Howells—1831." Original boards with quarter cloth. This is a rare and important work. Mathers was a high-spirited radical, Quaker-inspired, whose book attacks not only aristocracy, as the title makes plain, but also slavery (not a popular opinion in Wheeling in 1831). Rare book dealer's invoice for \$600 laid in. The book is also notable because the author never paid his printing bill to William Cooper Howells, the Welsh-born owner of several unsuccessful Wheeling newspapers and magazines, and who therefore went bankrupt. The story of Mathers' book is told in W.C. Howells' memoir, *Recollections of Life in Ohio 1813 to 1840*, a copy of which, edited by his famous son the novelist William Dean Howells, is included.

Mathers, William. A one-off facsimile (only nine copies of the original are known to exist in the US) of a report Mathers wrote in 1830 about a "meeting of the workingmen in the city of Wheeling, Va., on forming a settlement in the State of Illinois"—probably Wheeling, Illinois, now a suburb of Chicago.

McMechen, James H. *Legends of the Ohio Valley. Thrilling Incidents of Indian Warfare. Truth Stranger than Fiction*. Wheeling: West Virginia Printing Co., 1895.

McMechen, James H. *Five Hundred Choice Maxims and Common Sense Proverbs*. Wheeling: West Virginia Printing Co., 1887.

Rowe, John J. *Pioneering and Money in the Ohio River Valley—From Fort Pitt to the Falls of the Ohio*. New York: The Newcomen Society of England, 1948. Pamphlet. Scarce.

Thompson, George, and Others. *A View of the Holy Land, Its Present Inhabitants, Their Manners and Customs, Polity and Religion...* Wheeling: John B. Wolff, 1850. Original full calf. An error on the title-page (Thompson's first name was Charles.)

Thwaites, Reuben, and Louise Kellogg, eds. *The Revolution on the Upper Ohio, 1775–1777*. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1908. Folding map and photographic plates.

Vincent, Thomas. *Christ's Sudden and Certain Appearance to Judgment, to which is Prefixed a Sketch of the Life of the Author*. Wheeling: "Printed and Published by Davis & McCarty, 1823." Original full calf.

Watts, Isaac, D.D. *The Believer's Golden Chain; Embracing the Substance of Some Dissertations on Christ's Famous Titles*. Wheeling: John B. Wolff, 1849. Original full calf.

Weekes, Refine. *Life of William Penn, and Other Poems, Religious, Historical, and Sentimental*. St Clairsville, Ohio: "Printed for the Publisher, by Horton J. Howard, 1836." Original full calf. A sample of the vast amount of Quaker literature published in Belmont County and adjacent parts of the Eastern Ohio. (Richard Nixon's ancestors, the Milhous family, were part of the Quaker community there.)

[*Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*.] Two full issues of the paper in its Frew and Campbell period. Never was the paper—an enormously wide broadsheet—printed so well, before or later. Issues of February 11, 1876, and July 14, 1876. (The latter contains a dispatch about the Custer massacre.)

[Wheeling bookbinding.] *The London Quarterly Review, Volume LIX-LXI*. New York, 1837. Original marbled boards and quarter calf. A most interesting book because it bears the label "William Ewing, Book Binder, Wheeling" and the pencilled title-page signature of L. J. Fry Esq. The 1839 city directory (see above) lists "Ewing, William, book binder, 152, 2nd story, Main St." and shows "Fry, L. Joseph, judge of the circuit superior court, 20th circuit, 19th district. Residence 77, Monroe street." What this suggests is that, as in far larger centres, ladies and gentlemen subscribed to cosmopolitan magazines and then had a local artisan bind them up into annual volumes (a custom that still survives in Paris and perhaps elsewhere).

[Wheeling directory.] *J. Wiggins & Co.'s Wheeling Directory 1874–5. Also, contains the adjoining towns of Bellaire, Bridgeport, Martin's Ferry, St. Clairsville, Barnesville, Benwood, Moundsville, West Va., and Washington, Pa.* Pittsburgh, 1874. Original cloth. Rare book dealer's invoice for \$255 laid in.

[Wheeling pamphlets], a collection of three bound together in marbled boards and quarter-calf. 1) *An Address to the Literary Societies of Washington College, Washington, Pa., Delivered September 27th, 1848, by John S. Hart, A.M.* Wheeling: John B. Wolff, 1848. 2) *Cumberland Road East of the Ohio*. House of Representatives, January 19, 1836. This is the Congressional debate about the proposed Wheeling suspension bridge and includes a four-panel fold-out steel engraving of Ellet's first proposed design, a very Gothic-looking affair. 3) Facsimile of *An Address on the Life and Character of Henry Clay, Delivered in the 4th Street M.E. Church, July 10th, 1852, by Thos. M. Gally*. Wheeling: *Daily Intelligencer*, 1852. Gally was a Wheeling preacher and prohibitionist.