

New Haven Auctions, Branford, Connecticut

# Handwritten Journal Leads New Haven Auction

by Frances McQueeney-Jones Mascolo  
 Photos courtesy New Haven Auctions

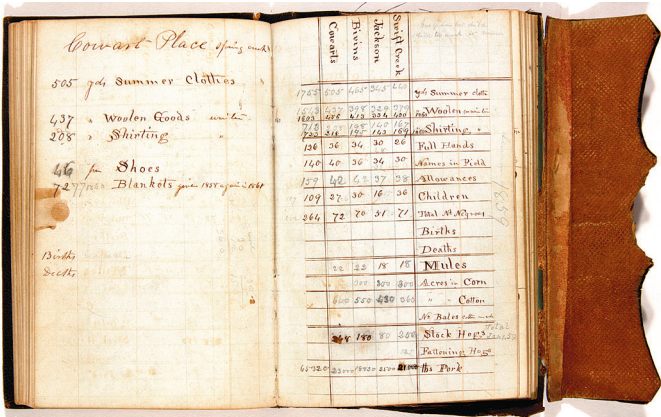
Something for everyone was the order of the two-day autumn Americana sale held October 16 and 17 at New Haven Auctions in Branford, Connecticut. Fred Giampietro gathered enviable antiques from a variety of collections and estates that buyers snapped up easily. While the auction offered limited live bidding, phone and Internet bidding was available and used widely. Most catalog entries included careful condition statements of the lots.

## Enviable antiques from a variety of collections and estates.

The top lot of the sale was a historically important 1859 handwritten journal that followed a group of enslaved people between various plantations in Georgia. Estimated at \$500/1000, it sold for \$33,750 (includes buyer's premium).

Bought by the T.R.R. (Thomas Reade Rootes) Cobb House in Athens, Georgia, the journal was kept by a number of hands, all with relatively decorative handwriting. The journal tracks expenditures, taxes, and other costs for enslaved people and details the production of cotton and wool at a number of plantations in Georgia. It belonged to planter John Basil Lamar (1812-1861), who managed the estates for his brother-in-law Howell Cobb, a lawyer, judge, and president of the Provisional Congress of the Confederacy. Cobb was the elder brother of lawyer and secessionist Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb (1823-1862), who was killed at Fredericksburg. Several names in the journal are people enslaved by Thomas Cobb. Ashleigh Oatts, education coordinator at the T.R.R. Cobb House, told *M.A.D.* that the acquisition of Lamar's journal will markedly widen research into the lives and families of those enslaved people.

For information visit the website ([www.newhavenauctions.com](http://www.newhavenauctions.com)) or call (475) 234-5120.



This 1859 slave journal used for "tracking 264 Negroes" documents expenditures, taxes, and other costs for enslaved people and details the production of wool and cotton at a number of plantations in Georgia, including Swift Creek, Jackson, Bivins, and Cowart Place. Estimated at \$500/1000, the journal sold for \$33,750 and was the top lot of the sale. It was bought by the T.R.R. (Thomas Reade Rootes) Cobb House in Athens, Georgia. Ashleigh Oatts, education coordinator at the T.R.R. Cobb House, said the acquisition of the journal will markedly widen research into the lives and families of those enslaved people.

This chamber barrel organ with an eight-player monkey orchestra automaton, 68 3/4" x 36" x 21", estimated at \$4000/8000, brought \$30,000. It came from the estate of Bernard and Florence Zipkin of Ossining, New York, and is rare. The Zipkins were collectors and dealers who also ran a prop-rental business for film and television projects and operated Mahopac Farm, which included an auction gallery, a country store, a theater, and crafts and flea markets.



The trade sign for Sam Smith's secondhand furniture store sold for \$2500 (est. \$250/500). It dates to around 1910, has had no restoration, and retains the original paint. The frame, 23" x 26 1/4", is period but probably not original.



The country plant stand, 46" tall, rich with angles and curves, brought \$1125 (est. \$150/250). A New England piece, circa 1860, it retains the original untouched blue paint.



Described in catalog notes as "The finest example we have handled," the 10" diameter redware pie plate sold for \$5938 (est. \$1000/1500). Likely made in Connecticut, it dates to the mid-19th century.



This late 19th-century molded copper leaping stag weathervane, 28" x 30", with a cast head and finely formed antlers brought \$16,875 (est. \$6000/10,000).





Five Windsor hoop-back chairs, beautifully matched and simply elegant, sold for \$3250 (est. \$1000/2000). Attributed to Abraham Shove (1781-1846) of Berkley, Massachusetts, they retain the original green paint and the original brown seats painted to simulate leather. Provenance includes Bill Samaha, Pam Boynton, and the collection of a Concord, Massachusetts, historical organization.

This New England dry sink in white paint over mustard paint with square nail construction is appealing for its simple lines and absence of any restoration. Estimated at \$250/500, it realized \$1500. Provenance includes Michael and Lucinda Seward.



This New England Windsor stool, circa 1815, has well-splayed legs and a medial stretcher and is branded "M Lane." In original condition, it is painted black and sold for \$688 (est. \$150/250).



This mid-19th-century primitive Hudson River view, 16 3/4" x 22 3/4" (sight size), includes a view of West Point and marine traffic below. Estimated at \$500/1000, it sold for \$3500.



Painted vividly, this circa 1900 checkerboard brought \$2000 (est. \$200/400). In original paint on a braced wood panel, it measures 22 1/2" x 16 5/8".



The Hamburg rooster is a very fine-looking fellow, as is this Cushing & White molded copper weathervane in his likeness, circa 1880, 28" x 27 1/2", that sold for \$11,875 against the \$3000/5000 estimate.



Attributed to New York carver Thomas Brooks, this 33 1/2" tall countertop cigar-store Indian, circa 1870, brought \$20,000 (est. \$15,000/30,000).



With a 94" wingspan, this architectural eagle, circa 1870, can truly be described as monumental. Of molded zinc with a gold-painted surface, the bird brought \$13,750 against the \$3000/6000 estimate.



These early redware tart plates likely from Pennsylvania date from around 1850. They measure 3 5/8" and 3 1/2" and realized \$2500 (est. \$200/400).

This molded copper horse and sulky weathervane, circa 1890, is thought to have been made by J.W. Fiske & Company, New York City. In fine original condition with minor imperfections, it realized \$12,500 (est. \$5000/10,000).







The drawers of this New England apothecary chest from the second quarter of the 19th century are arranged in an interesting symmetry. Most bear handsome inscriptions that indicate the contents, although some have been overwritten in the same script. The chest retains the original paint, is dovetailed, and is in original condition, and it never has had a backboard. It realized \$3750 (est. \$500/1000).



Carver Mark McNair (b. 1950) of Craddockville, Virginia, created this sinuous long-billed curlew. It is signed with an incised "McNair." Estimated at \$500/1000, the 22½" long bird brought \$1375.



The portrait of a cheerful boy, his dog, and a kite, oil on canvas, 17¼" x 13" (sight size), brought \$5313 (est. \$400/800).



John Prentiss Benson (1865-1947) trained and practiced as an architect but in 1922 turned to painting full time. His half-round oil on canvas scene of whales in the Arctic, 42" x 78", is unframed but in good condition. It is signed and inscribed "To Sue Freshman / 1932." Estimated at \$500/1000, it sold for \$3125. Benson was the younger brother of artist Frank Weston Benson (1862-1951).



The New England folk-art whaling painting, 31" x 41¼" (sight size), likely in the original frame, dates from around 1870. The painting depicts two finely drawn whale ships, a couple of whales, and whalers. Estimated at \$1000/2000, it realized \$13,750.



This 19th-century landscape by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot (1796-1875) trounced its \$5000/10,000 estimate when it realized \$25,000. The signed oil on canvas, 21⅜" x 17⅞" (sight size), demonstrates no restoration.



This 21⅝" x 15¼" old master drawing of a man, estimated at \$200/400, sold for \$11,875. It retains the label of a Westport, Connecticut, framer.

This 19th-century needlework and stumpwork picture, 18⅞" x 15½" (sight size), of a house and lush foliage is in good condition and sold for \$12,500 (est. \$500/1000). An unsigned typewritten note attached to the back states that the picture was made by Isabelle Woolman, daughter of John Woolman, a Quaker who settled in New Jersey, and had been purchased from the family in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, by Philadelphia dealer Robert Carlen.



Described in the catalog as museum quality, this cupboard is. The 35" x 25½" hanging cupboard with robust columns, an architectural cornice, and HL hinges, in original blue and white paint, circa 1760, and in original condition, brought \$18,750 (\$5000/10,000).

