

Mid- to Late-  
nineteenth Century  
Life  
Improvements

ZH BOOKS E-1957

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1. (Kerley, James) **Ball's Health Preserving, Coiled Wire Spring Elastic Section Corsets**

\$125.00

Rondout, NY: By the author, n. d. (1880s). Large advertising envelope; 9 1/2 x 6 1/4; light-brown stock, illustrated with a large engraving to recto; minor wear along the flap on top - in very good to near fine condition.

An unusual, custom-designed advertising piece by one of Ball's Corset's distributors, the envelope pictured the said corset with the slogan: "Guarantee! Any Lady purchasing one of Ball's Coiled Spring, Elastic Section Corsets, may return it to us after three weeks' wear if not found perfectly satisfactory in every respect, and the price paid for it will be refunded." Touted as "revolutionary" - Ball's Corset was manufactured and was prominent in the 1870s - 1900 period by the Chicago Corset Co. At the time, the typical corset molded the body through brute force - permanently deforming internal organs by being laced as tightly as humanly possible. In contrast, Ball's was specifically designed for active women engaged in athletic activities (horseback riding, cycling, etc.). It featured a coiled wire-spring system with shirred elastic sections, creating a flexible and more "healthful" corset.



## 2. Foy, Lavinia Madam Foy's Corset Skirt Supporter

\$95.00

Boston: D. B. Saunders & Co., n. d. (1870s). Small broadside; 7 1/4 x 4 1/2; off-white stock, printed in black and illustrated with an engraving; bottom edge trimmed close to text; old repair to verso; in good condition.

An inventor and a savvy businesswoman, Lavinia Foy (1813 - 1906) was a multiple patent holder from the 1860s onward and one of the pioneers of Worcester's corset industry. A member of an exclusive, elite group - she would be one of only twenty-three women in the mid-19th century to be issued patents by the U.S. Patent Office. Moving from New York State to Massachusetts, first to Brookfield and then to Worcester, after the death of her first husband, she "maintained herself by her sewing machine" - making corsets for a living and patenting numerous improvements to the garments. Many considered her the inventor of the first modern corset. By the time of her death she would be a multi-millionaire. Her Skirt Supporter Corset placed the weight of a skirt on the shoulders, instead of on the hips and was allegedly endorsed and recommended by physicians.

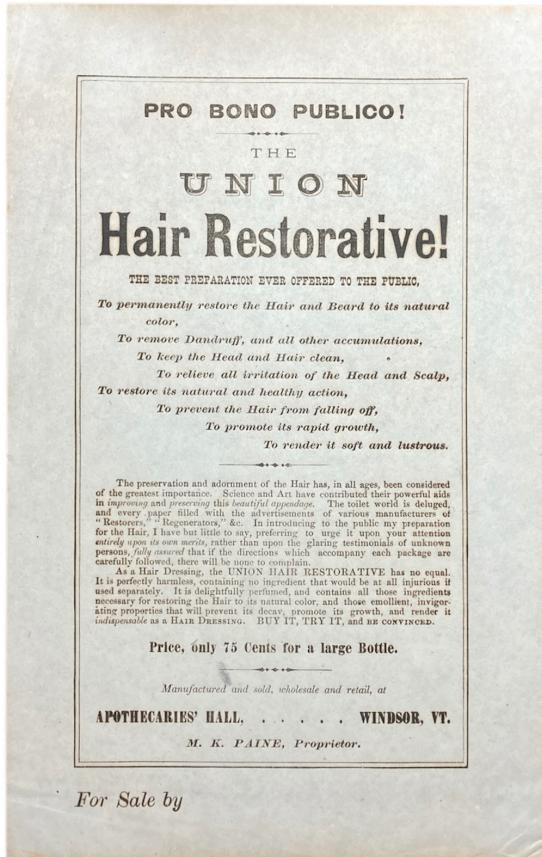


3. Paine, M. K. (Milton Kendall) **Pro Bono Publico! The Union Hair Restorative!**

\$180.00

Windsor, VT: M. K. Paine, 1860. Small broadside, n. d. (1860s); 9 1/2 x 6; off-white stock, printed and ruled in black; mild age-toning, else very minor wear - in very good or better condition.

Milton Kendall Paine (1834 - 1896) was an apothecary, druggist, and quack medicine inventor, as well as a politician - member of the Republican State Committee. Peddling his hair restorative during the Civil War years, he most probably chose to name it "The Union" - appealing to people's sense of patriotism and showing his own. Apparently, having thick and lustrous hair was also important for the betterment of society, as he boldly proclaimed: "Pro Bono Publico!" (Latin for "For the Public Good"), though in his case, unlike in the classic meaning of the phrase - he did charge for his goods.



For Sale by

#### 4. The Excelsior Duster Company "Excelsior" Tissue Paper Duster, Plume and Fly Brush

\$100.00

Boston: The Excelsior Duster Co., 1870. Small broadside; 9 1/2 x 5; off-white stock, illustrated with a wood engraving; tiny pin holes to corners, else minor wear; in very good or better condition.

A curious device, it does not appear to have been wildly-successful, judging by the scarce records in contemporary media, though the manufacturer certainly made it sound like the best invention of the times. The tissue duster was said to have been made of colorful paper - beautiful to look at, far superior to a feather one, not scratching furniture, becoming softer and more pliant with age, and guaranteed to last five years. The company produced lamp shades, plumes for horses, napkins, etc., as well. They also appear to have been fancying themselves interior event decorators for churches, halls, and so on "on short notice" - allegedly, decorating the Inaugural Ball Room at Washington, D.C. among other notable landmarks.

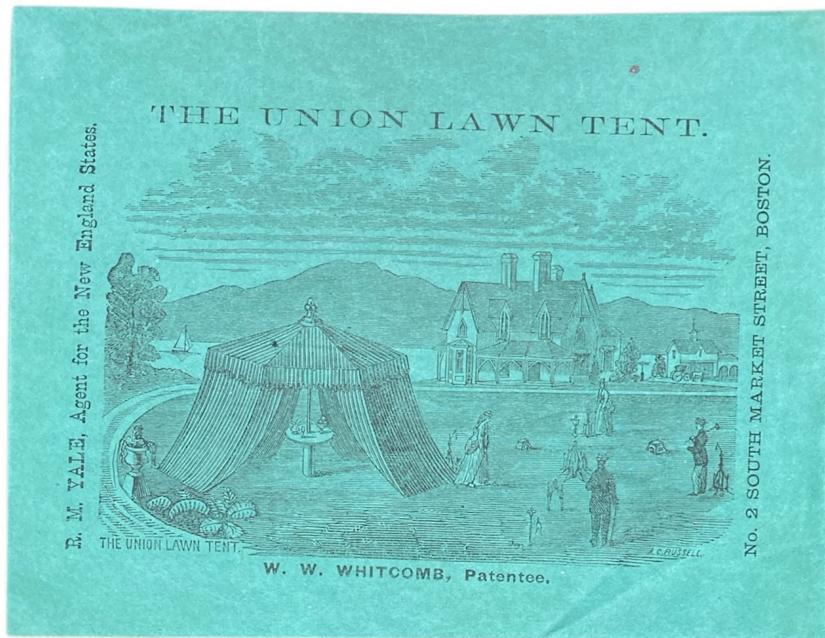


5. *Whitcomb, W. W.; Yale, R. M. The Union Lawn Tent / The Union Clothes Dryer*

\$95.00

Boston: By the authors, 1873. Leaflet, folded to form pp. [4]; 5 3/4 x 4 1/2; illustrated with wood engravings; minor wear and creasing; in very good or better condition.

Patented by one W. W. Whitcomb, the tent and the dryer were sold by Rufus Mitchell Yale (1822 - 1899) was a military officer, prominent Boston businessman, and a preeminent manufacturer of sails, banners, flags, awnings, and tents, and agent for the New England States for the tent and the dryer. The leaflet described the advantages of the two products and their superiority over other similar inventions, including the ability to fold the tent and store it in a 1 x 1 x 6 ft. box for easy transportation. Despite the superlatives, a curious little note at the bottom of pp. 3 announced: "The proprietor wishes to dispose of the right for New England to control Clothes Dryer, and of the other states, both the Tent and the Dryer. Address the Patentee at Boston." Perhaps, the inventions were not quite as magical, as they were portrayed to be...

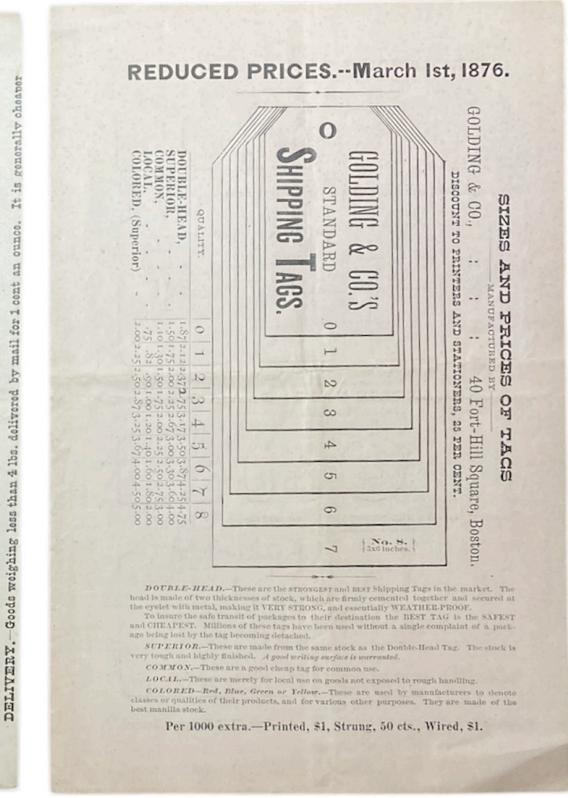


## 6. Golding & Company Price list of Envelopes and Papers

\$125.00

Boston: Golding & Company, 1876. A brochure + a tipped-in leaflet; 9 1/4 x 6; pp. [4] and [2] respectively; off-white stock, illustrated with wood engravings and drawings; a few minor spots to margins and a tiny nick to head of spine of the brochure; overall in very good condition.

Founded in 1869 by William Hughson Golding (1845 - 1916), Golding & Company was a well-known manufacturer of printing presses, printer's tools, and various paper products. The current brochure described and illustrated various sizes shipping tags, writing papers and books, novelties (a transparent card, which, when held to the light - a comic picture could be seen), etc. It also included several engraved pictorial designs for business and address cards.



7. *Coutellier Brothers and Company Ostrich and Fancy Feathers*

\$50.00

Boston: Coutellier Brothers & Co., n. d. (1870s). Small broadside; 6 1/4 x 4 1/2; white stock, printed in black; a few creases and a tiny spot; in very good condition.

While in earlier centuries, namely the 16th, 17th, and 18th, men, especially nobility and military officers, often wore ostrich and other feathers, by the 19th century, the use of extravagant feathers had shifted almost exclusively to women's fashion. They were worn on hats, boas, etc. as a status symbol of wealth and luxury, as at times they were valued at nearly the same price per pound as diamonds and gold. The current broadside advertised the services of Coutellier Brothers, who not only kept a large stock of all shades of feathers, but also offered cleaning, dying, and renovating. They were said to be able to fill orders at shorter notice than any other house in Boston.

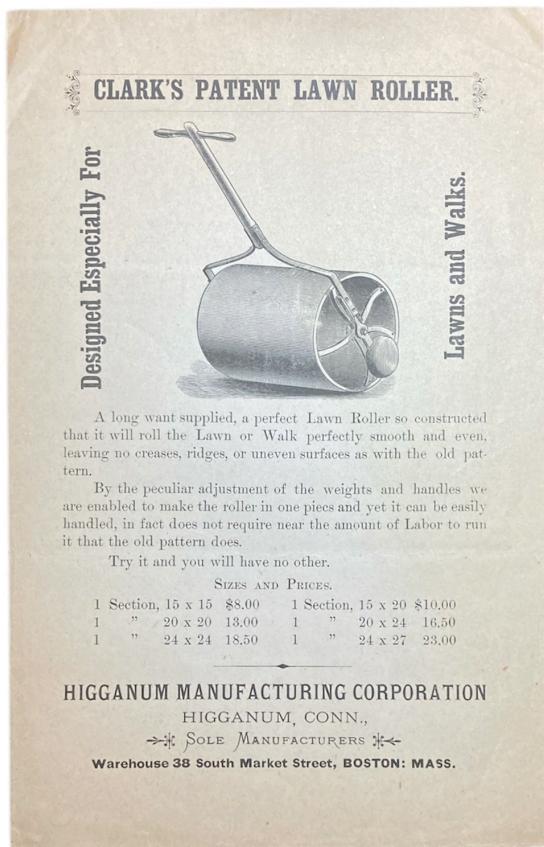


8. Higganum Manufacturing Corporation Clark's Patent Lawn Roller

\$85.00

Higganum, CT: Higganum Manufacturing Corporation, n. d. (1880s). Small broadside; 9 1/4 x 6; off-white stock, printed in black and illustrated with a wood engraving; mild age-toning to margins; small repair to verso of upper left corner; in very good condition.

The Clark brothers - George Marshall, Thomas Jefferson, and Henry Lee - founded the Higganum Manufacturing Corporation in 1867, manufacturing agricultural machinery. They would be remembered for employing a large expanse of flat land along the Connecticut River to test out their inventions. Their current lawn roller was said to be made of just one piece, with proprietary, "peculiar" adjustment of the weights and handles - making it easy to operate, with a minimum amount of labor.



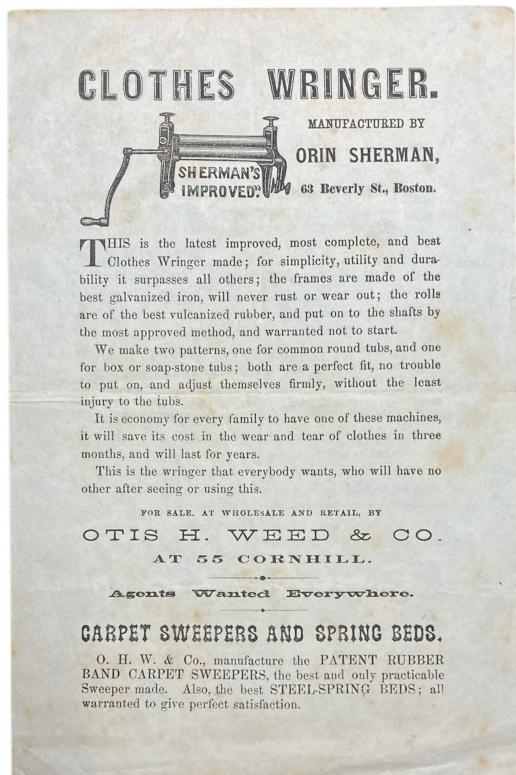
## 9. Sherman, *Orin Sherman's Improved Clothes Wringer*

\$85.00

Boston: By the author, n. d. (1870s). Small broadside; 8 1/4 x 5 1/4; off-white stock, printed in black and illustrated with a wood engraving; a few minor spots and light creasing to corners; in very good condition.

A common, everyday task - washing clothes took much longer time and more effort in the 19th century than it does today. Among the various inventions, designed to ease the process were drying closets, mangling machines, laundry stoves, and wringers. The latter were hand-cranked devices with rollers, through which the clothes were passed and the excess water was squeezed out. The wringers were also advertised as saving soap, because the suds could be "wrung back into the washing compartment" and reused.

The Sherman Clothes Wringer was said to be superior to all other similar devices, as it was made of the best galvanized iron (never rusting and wearing out) and the rolls were manufactured from the best vulcanized rubber (not damaging the clothes, which passed through).



10. *Dingman Soap Company Beware of Imitations (Dingman's Soap)*

\$45.00

(Buffalo, NY): Dingman Soap Co., n. d. (later 19th century). Large advertising sign; 11 x 6; thick card stock - chromolithographed illustration and text in blue to recto; period wholesaler's stamp to verso; minor wear - in very good to near fine condition.

A colorful advertising piece for Dingman's Soap, it featured a beautiful girl with a mandolin and the following rhyme: "Of all the jewels, the diamond pure, / Has proved most fit for youth and beauty; / Of all the soaps, The Dingman, sure, / Has Proved the BEST for household duty." Founded by Archibald Dingman in the late 19th century and headquartered in Buffalo, the company would be remembered not only for its quality soap, but also for its beautiful promotional items (present one included).



11. *Dingman Soap Company The Knack of It! Is Dingman's Soap*

\$30.00

Buffalo, NY: Dingman Soap Co., n. d. (later 19th century). Die-cut advertising fan; 9 3/4 x 8 1/4; thick card stock - chromolithographed illustration to recto, text to verso; minor wear to edges - in very good to near fine condition.

Another beautiful Dingman's Soap piece, it featured a feather duster with peacock feathers and ornate gold handle.

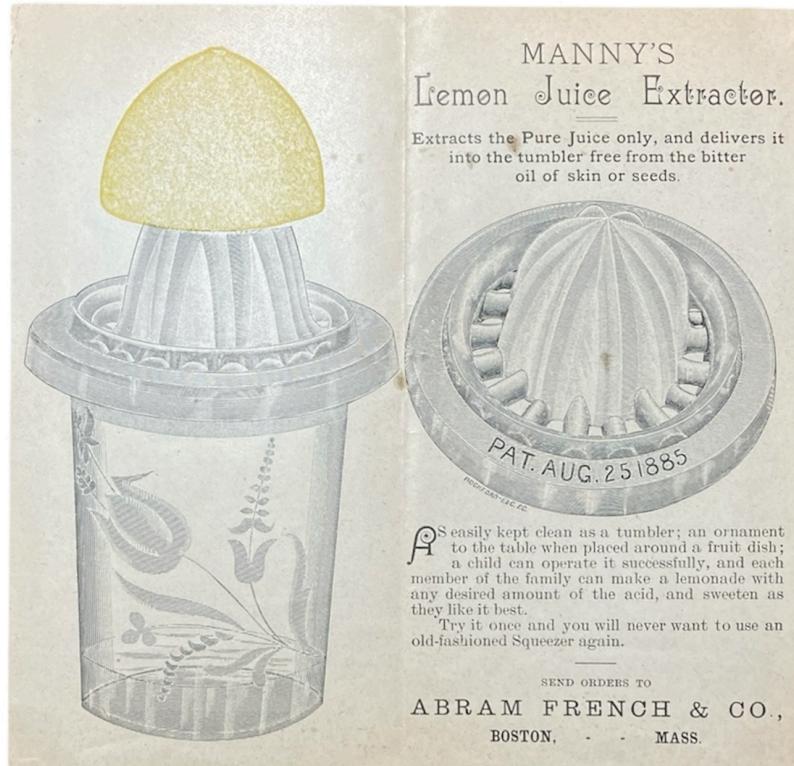


## 12. Abram French and Company Manny's Juice Extractor

\$50.00

Boston: Abram French & Co., 1885. Small broadside; 6 1/4 x 6 1/2; off-white stock, printed in black and illustrated with large woodcuts; a few minor spots; in very good condition.

In the 19th century, juice extractors ranged from simple hand-operated squeezers (like the current one) through wooden screw presses to sophisticated hydraulic presses for commercial use. This particular one was not only functional - "...a child can operate it successfully and each member of the family can make lemonade....," but it was also considered a decorative ornament to the table, as it consisted of a beautiful, decorated, etched-glass tumbler and a sturdy glass "juicer" top.



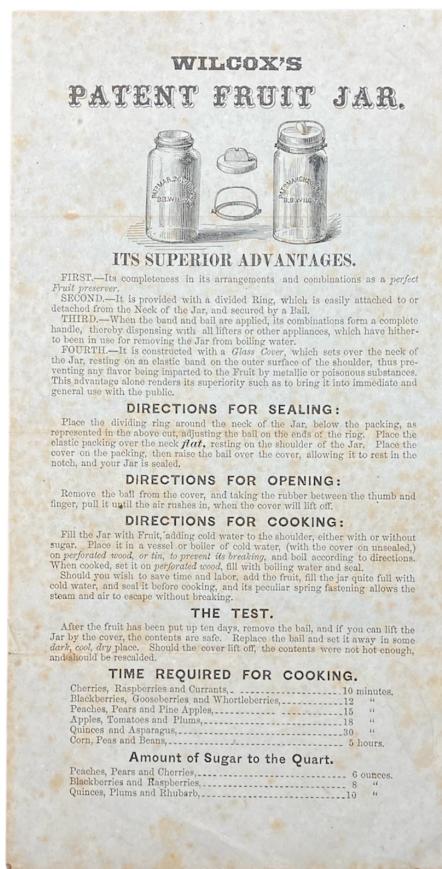
### 13. Wilcox, B. B. (Benjamin) Wilcox's Patent Fruit Jar. Its Superior Advantages

\$150.00

S. 1. (New Haven, CT): s. n., n. d. (late 1860s). Small broadside; 9 1/4 x 4 3/4; white stock, printed in black and illustrated with woodcuts; small scattered spots of foxing; faint horizontal crease lines; in good to very good condition.

Though the invention of the screw-top Mason jar in 1858 would revolutionize home canning, hand-blown jars with brass or iron bands and bails would still remain quite popular. Wilcox's jars were manufactured in beautiful aqua, or more rarely, green colors, with glass lids held down by wire bail attached to two narrow semicircular metal bands around the necks. When attached, the bail also doubled as a handle for safely lifting the jar out of boiling water.

This particular broadside not only described the advantages of the Wilcox jars, as it was customary for such advertising pieces, it also contained directions for sealing, directions for opening, and directions for cooking - with times required for various fruits and vegetables and the amount of sugar necessary for different types of preserves.



#### ITS SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES.

FIRST.—Its completeness in its arrangements and combinations as a *perfect* *Fruit preserver*.

SECOND.—It is provided with a divided Ring, which is easily attached to or detached from the Neck of the Jar, and secures it in its place.

THIRD.—When the hand bail is applied, its combinations form a complete handle, thereby dispensing with all litters or other appliances, which have hitherto been in use for removing the Jar from boiling water.

FOURTH.—It is provided with a *Glass Cover*, which sets over the neck of the Jar, resting on an elastic band, and of the shoulder. Thus preventing any flavor being imparted to the Fruit by metallic or poisonous substances. This advantage alone renders its superiority, such as to bring it into immediate and general use with the public.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR SEALING:

Place the dividing Ring around the neck of the Jar, and the packing, as represented in the above cut, placing the ball on the ends of the ring. Place the elastic packing over the neck *flat*, resting on the shoulder of the Jar. Place the cover on the packing, then raise the ball over the cover, allowing it to rest in the notch, and your Jar is sealed.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING:

Remove the ball from the cover, and taking the rubber between the thumb and finger, pull it until the ball makes in, when the cover will lift off.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR COOKING:

Fill the Jar with fruit, add sugar, and water to the shank of the Jar, with or without sugar. Place it in a vessel or boiler of cold water (with the cover on unsealed) on perforated wood, or tin, to prevent its breaking, and boil according to directions. When covered, set it on perforated wood, fill with boiling water and seal.

Should you have time to labor, add the fruit, fill the jar quite full with cold water, and seal it before cooking, as its peculiar spring fastening allows the steam and air to escape without breaking.

#### THE TEST.

After the fruit has been put up ten days, remove the ball, and if you can lift the Jar by the cover, the contents are safe. Replace the ball and set it away in some dark, cool, dry place. Should the cover lift off, the contents were not hot enough, and should be put up again.

#### TIME REQUIRED FOR COOKING.

Cherries, Raspberries and Currents,	10 minutes.
Blackberries, Gooseberries and Whortleberries,	"
Peaches, Pears and Pine Apples,	15 "
Apples, Tomatoes and Plums,	18 "
Prunes and Apricots,	30 "
Corn, Peas and Beans,	5 hours.

#### Amount of Sugar to the Quart.

Peaches, Pears and Cherries,	6 ounces.
Blackberries and Raspberries,	8 "
Quinces, Plums and Rhubarb,	10 "

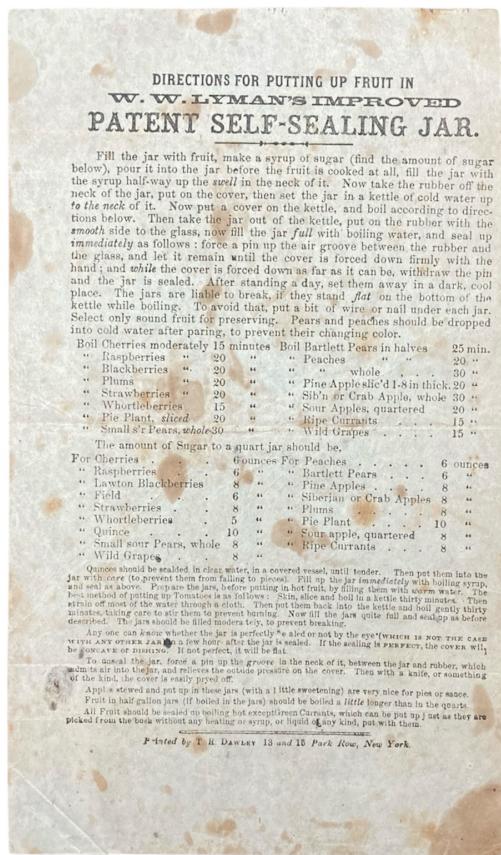
## 14. Lyman, W. W. (William Worcester) Directions for Putting Up Fruit in W. W. Lyman's Improved Patent Self-sealing Jar

\$150.00

New York: T. R. Dawley, n. d. (early 1860s). Small broadside; 9 x 5 1/2; off-white stock printed in black; scattered spots (not affecting readability); right edge unevenly trimmed; in good to very good condition.

William Worcester Lyman (1821 - 1891) was a prolific inventor and businessman with numerous patents to his name, most often for various household food devices, including a refrigerating pitcher, fruit can lids (1862), tea pots, and so on. His current, self-sealing jar was made of glass, with a metal press-down cap with a crinkled edge.

It "relied on the physical principle that hot food placed in a jar and then allowed to cool would suck down the lid, provided with an elastic rim inside, thereby sealing the can." The broadside described the entire process of canning, the boil times for various fruits, the amount of sugar necessary, the way to check, if "the sealing is perfect," etc.



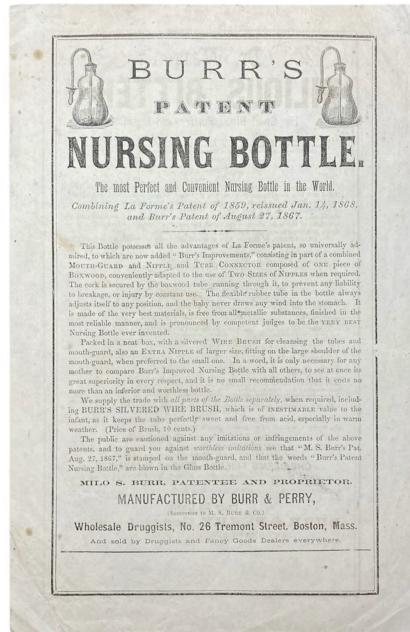
## 15. Burr, Milo S. Burr's Patent Nursing Bottle. The Most Perfect and Convenient Nursing Bottle in the World

\$150.00

Boston: Burr & Perry, n. d. (1860s). Small broadside; 9 1/2 x 6 1/4; white stock, printed in black and illustrated with woodcuts; a few faint creases to corners and minor spots to margins; in very good condition.

In the early 19th century, women who were unable to breastfeed their babies and could not afford a wet nurse turned to means of artificial feeding, which included wood, ceramic, and pewter containers with long, narrow rubber tubes and cork or leather nipples. Though convenient, they were extremely difficult to clean and that fact - coupled with the lack of understanding of germs - turned them into dangerous breeding grounds for bacteria, which in turn led to a high rate of infant illness and death from infections. The latter would, in fact, cause these bottles to be nicknamed "murder bottles". The introduction of glass bottles in the mid-19th century made cleaning of the containers easier, though the problem with sterilizing the tubes and the nipples remained. Burr's glass bottle was touted to be "the very best nursing bottle ever invented" and featured a mouth guard, nipple, and tube connector all made of a single piece of boxwood, which prevented choking and "drawing wind" in the stomach. As an added selling point - it also came equipped with a silvered wire brush for cleansing the bottle's components.

The verso of the broadside also contained an advertisement for Dr. Warren's Bilious Bitters, as Burr & Perry were its general agents and distributors.



16. *The Pinless Clothes Line Company Percival's Patent Pinless Chain Clothes Line. The Only Line Ever Invented to Hold Clothes Without Pins*

\$75.00

(Worcester, MA): The Pinless Clothes Line Co., n. d. (1880s). Small broadside; 10 1/2 x 4 1/2; off-white stock, printed in black and illustrated with a woodcut of two elephants pulling a pair of pants and tearing it off a clothesline; uniform age-toning; top and bottom edges brittle with small chips affecting a few words at the bottom margin (reinforced with archival paper); in fair condition.

"No more use for clothes pins" boldly proclaimed the broadside, issued by the Pinless Clothes Line Company of Worcester, Massachusetts. The pin-less clothes line was patented in the 1880s and was advertised as the only line "that holds clothes without pins." It was made of galvanized steel wire (not rusting and allowing for the line to be left out to the elements, with no need to re-hang it every time). The garments' edges were to be put into small slots in the line and then thrown over it, thus relying on the weight of the clothes to keep them pinned. The driving force behind the invention was most probably a fierce competition with the increasingly-common spring-based clothespins - the latter first appearing in the 1850s and being constantly manufactured and improved into the 1880s. The Pinless Line was sold exclusively through the company's own salesmen, with each one given a specific territory to sell the product.



17. *Frizell, Charles The Fairy Step Ladder*

\$150.00

Boston: Charles Frizell, 1874. Large brochure; 9 x 6 1/2; single sheet, folded, print on pp. 1 and 4 only; illustrated with a large woodcut and a map; a bit of light foxing and several creases; in very good condition.

An advertisement for Charles Frizell's ladders and more specifically for the Fairy Step-ladder, presumably named so for being strong and durable, but also light and suitable for home use. Frizell also described his other ladders, heavy strong ones for masons and carpenters, ladder hooks, etc. Perhaps a bit unusual was the addition of a small map of a square block in Boston, where Charles' business was situated.

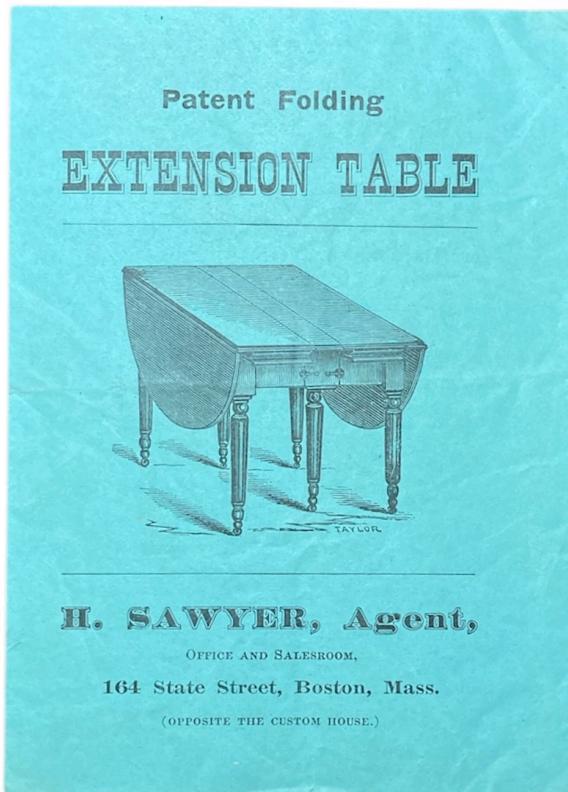


18. *Sawyer, H. Patent Folding Extension Table*

\$75.00

Boston: H. Sawyer, n. d. (1870s). Small brochure; 5 x 3 3/4; single sheet, folded, pp. [4]; illustrated with woodcuts; light creasing, else minor wear; in very good or better condition.

A beautiful advertising piece, it was arguably rather aimed at the lady of the house and her needs to entertain larger groups, extolling the advantages of extension tables, where the leaves were hinged, "thus avoiding the tedious method of taking them out and stowing away." Both the leaves and the support arms were foldable, saving space and preventing injuries from sticking-out parts.



19. *Rose, Nelson* Willimantic Spool Cotton Thread Salesman Business Card and Card Holder

\$35.00

Willimantic, CT: Willimantic Spool Cotton Company, ( 1860s). Card holder with a single business card; holder - 2 x 3 1/2; two card stock sheets hinged with a textured strip of cloth; lithographed and decorated in red, black, and gilt; salesman's name in manuscript penciled to verso; small loss of cloth to upper right corner and a small spot to back panel; in very good condition; business card - salmon-colored stock with the name of the agent in ornate font; faint finger smudge to verso - in very good or better condition.

A lavishly-appointed business card and holder of an exclusive sales agent, it represented the Willimantic Spool Cotton Company (originally Willimantic Linen Company), which was established in 1854 and would become a leading US thread manufacturer in the second half 19th century. Before the company's founding, thread available on small spools was generally black or white, with color thread sold only in bulk skeins. The Willimantic Company would pioneer spooled cotton thread in a wide variety of colors right from the beginning of their thread production.



20. *Hernly & Irwin Lawyer Bill, a Thoroughbred Spanish Jack Will Make the Season of 1884...*

\$50.00

Leaflet; 6 x 3 1/2; pink stock, printed and ruled with a decorative border in black; chipping and small loss of paper to edges (not affecting text); creasing and age-toning; in fair to good condition.

An advertisement for horse-breeding services in rural Indiana, it described Lawyer Bill, a thoroughbred, his ancestry, his appearance, and the conditions and breeding fees. In the 19th century horse breeding was essential for animal power in agriculture and transportation. Quite often, as shown here, an "insurance" fee was required - a stud fee only due upon the birth of a live, healthy foal, which was able to stand and nurse from its mother. If the mare lost the colt "from negligence" of the owner, the insurance money would be forfeited.

