

of five different titles in July 1865, enclosed \$1.20, and added "Please send me a list of all your ballads, lithographs, envelopes & other publications about the war." Hardwick's reply, scribbled on the verso of McAllister's letter, said that he was changing his business and would sell him 1000 assorted songs for \$15 (nearly \$200 in today's currency).

Among the correspondents that John A. McAllister handled on behalf of the McAllister optical shop was Samuel M'Cullough (1803-1873), a school teacher acquaintance from his years in Kentucky and who, like McAllister, had been involved in the manufacture of mustard there. M'Cullough wrote on behalf of William H. Miller, crippled slave who had been left behind when his master moved to New Orleans. M'Cullough described Miller as a 23-year-old three-foot-tall autodidact, adding that, "His head is deformed with its magnificent intellectual developments of the inner brain; and I may say with truth, that he is a miracle of intelligence & intellect." After running through Miller's resume, M'Cullough asked if it would be possible that "some of your intelligent & wealthy men send him out a telescope" or at least a set of lenses so that Miller could build his own. M'Cullough wrote his letter on the second page of Miller's letter to him, in which Miller mentions that he has read the 10th edition of McAllister & Brother's catalog, and specifies which lenses would be of use to him so that he might be able to study the objects treated in astronomical works. M'Cullough also sent up a letter from A.S. Griggs, who requested through him an optical order from the McAllisters.

Occasionally, a correspondent would enclose a collection item which has remained with its cover letter. One example is an 1856 note from Edward Everett (1794-1865) to an unknown recipient, which was given to McAllister by lawyer John William Wallace (1815-1884), a Philadelphian then working in the Supreme Court at Washington. Also in Wallace's file is a copy of a letter that Everett wrote to the Massachusetts anti-slavery senator Charles Sumner (1811-1874) in June 1856, a few weeks after Sumner was caned in the Senate chamber by South Carolina representative Preston Brooks. Benson Lossing gave a letter written to him by Union General Lew Wallace (1827-1905), as requested of him by McAllister in a July 17, 1864, letter to Lossing (Lossing Papers (Coll. 1807), Historical Society of Pennsylvania). The most unusual example, because its literary leaning makes it an anomaly in this collection, is a manuscript by Edgar Allan Poe, sent to McAllister by "T.F.S." in 1858. Written from New York on June 18, 1844, and addressed to the publishers Bowen & Gossler at their paper, *The Columbia Spy*, in Columbia PA, Poe's three-page essay begins with his thoughts on the landscape of the city and then in succession, his thoughts on Broadway, the Mary Rogers murder, Nathaniel Willis, and the forthcoming season of gift books. The donor "T.F.S." is otherwise unidentified, but clues in his cover letter (written from a mining town near Phoenixville, in Chester County, PA, by someone who is clearly a close friend) suggests that he is Thomas Fassitt Shewell (1810-after 1891), a the son of Philadelphia merchant Thomas Shewell (1774-1848), and brother-in-law of Daniel Keim (1806-1868), who had interests in local mines. "T.F.S." had acquired the manuscript from Dr. Samuel A. Whittaker, a wealthy resident of Phoenixville who also owned Poe's manuscript of "The Raven." Another somewhat literary item in the series is part of a letter from Thomas L. Wayne, who sent McAllister what he called "an exact copy of the ballad of St Mary's