

branch office. The business is mentioned in a history of Akron as follows:

At that time, Leicester King and Gen. Simon Perkins owned pretty much all of the land in this part of town. They together had a map published, which represents Akron as it then was The house issuing the map was Messrs. Robinson & Co. of Reading, Vt. They had a branch office in Akron under the charge of Mr. Nahum Fay, in Buckley's block before alluded to. Early 1837, the Map Publishing Company removed to a building of their own on North High Street . . . and had a shop in the rear. To the north and east of them was only dense woods.⁸

Unfortunately, no copy of the Akron map has come to light at this writing.

Samuel Manning was born in Cavendish, Vermont, in 1806. His sister Sarah was the wife of Lewis Robinson, and although Samuel was a carpenter, he became interested through her in the map-making business which took him west. His brother Levi was born in 1798 also at Cavendish. He married Adelia Averill of Parishville, New York, where he resided before moving to Akron,⁹ where he, his brother, and Lewis Robinson established the firm of Lewis Robinson & Co. Assisting them in the making and selling of maps were Nahum Fay and Mrs. Mary L. C. (Averill) Page Field. Fay was born in Reading in 1811 and was employed by Robinson in the home shop. He went to Akron in July 1836, when the branch office was established and worked there for six years.¹⁰ Mrs. Field, a sister-in-law of Levi Manning, went to Akron about 1837. We do not know in what capacity she was associated with the map company, but there was much work for women in such establishments—coloring, mounting, varnishing, etc.¹¹ The business was terminated sometime before March 5, 1852 (perhaps as early as 1842), when Lewis Robinson's lawyer, D. B. Hadley of Akron, reported the financial transactions which followed a suit instituted by Robinson to recover funds owed to him by the Mannings. Fay,

8. William H. Perrin, *History of Summit County Ohio* (Philadelphia: Baskin & Battery, 1881), 331.

9. William H. Manning, *The Genealogical and Biographical History of the Manning Families of New England* (Salem: Salem Press, 1902), 417, 419-420.

10. Perrin, *op. cit.*, 704.

11. Frederick C. Pierce, *Field Genealogy* (Chicago: Hammond Press, 1901), II, 772.

acting as an agent, sold the High Street property which apparently belonged to Robinson alone. Samuel Manning had struck out on his own by 1845, as shown by the *Map of the United States with part of the Province of Canada*, which was engraved by S. Manning, J. G. Darby, and Edward Yeager.

An additional unlocated map is mentioned by Calvin Robinson. "In 1844 he established a branch of his map business at Stanstead, Lower Canada, and published there a large map of Upper and Lower Canada."¹² From Robinson's account book, a partnership with L. Kingsley & Co. seems to have been concluded on May 12, 1845. Lorenzo Kingsley's name appears in a Derby Line post office advertisement dated January 1, 1846, for unclaimed letters.

We must not lose sight of the fact that Robinson engaged in activities other than map making and selling. In 1839 he opened a store in the stone building opposite his house in South Reading. Shortly afterwards he built a starch mill and later manufactured wooden articles of unspecified description. Twenty years later he was still engaged in storekeeping, as the South Reading Farmers' Store was organized with forty members, of which Robinson was one, contributing \$1,000 each. However, the business proved unprofitable and after three years of struggle "finally wound up" in February of 1862.¹³

The map business continued apace and from 1840 through 1861 the three maps of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Vermont and New Hampshire provided the backbone of the establishment with the distribution of engravings and lithographs providing a healthy assist. Although our figures show a sizable turnover in maps, we must chalk up to filial pride the statement of Calvin's that "in the map manufacture he [Lewis] found a large field for the exercise of his enterprise. For many years he did a larger business in this line than was carried on by any concern in New England. Indeed he was the earliest extensive map publisher in the United States."¹⁴ Nevertheless, the firms of Mathew Carey, John Melish, and Henry Schenk Tanner, all of Philadelphia, preceded and exceeded Robinson's busiest years.

There can be no doubt that his business was extensive. The

12. Robinson, *op. cit.*, 145.

13. Davis, *op. cit.*, 366, 367.

14. Robinson, *op. cit.*, 145.

account book records his transactions with fifteen peddlers. Their merchandise was varied, including maps, lithographs, shoes, and suspenders. The salesmen were:

Benjamin Dutton	Nahum Hathorn
Alvin Dutton	John Paddock, Jr.
John Emery (Andover, New Hampshire)	(Stanstead, Quebec)
Harrison Fish	Calvin Robinson
Lowin Fullum	Silas A. Robinson
Heman Gilson (West Waterville, Maine)	Sylvester Sargent
Luther Gilson (Maine)	Charles C. Slocum
	James Smiley
	Erastus Wood

One of the most active peddlers was John Emery (1806-1871) of Andover, New Hampshire, referred to earlier as having rented the plates of the New Hampshire and Vermont and New Hampshire maps. That a peddler could be helpful to the publisher is evident from the following letter of March 27, 1848, from Emery.

Mr. Robinson,

Dear Sir:

. . . I cannot at this time tell how soon I shall want any more maps. I intend to travel a part or all of this season. . . . You state that you are about to print a lot of maps with improvements in relation to railroads. I have lately obtained sufficient information in relation to the Boston, Concord and Montreal railroad now building from Concord, N. H. Also the Northern railroad from Concord as far as Andover and intend before I go to your place to obtain a knowledge of the location of it from Andover to the mouth of White River but if you have already this information, it would be well for me to avoid the expense of obtaining it. I wish you to write me immediately stating whether you have sufficient information. . . .

Emery had performed this service before, as he was credited with \$30.71 on May 4, 1846, "By gaining information & assisting in correcting plates," and the letter quoted above bore fruit when he received an additional credit of \$9.72 on April 20, 1848, for the same service.

Retail business was a torturous affair in those days. Money was not plentiful in the country traveled by his agents and the accounts with Heman Gilson of West Waterville, Maine, bear this out. From

January 27, 1845, through July of 1846 Gilson was billed \$1,074.36 for the value of items he undertook to sell. The account was balanced out with a credit of \$1,083.25, but only \$259.19 was in cash. The remainder of the payment was made up of such items as five raccoon skins, \$1.67; forty-four sheep pelts, \$25.50; three cat skins, \$.38; one Green Mountain Gem, \$.75. Credit was also obtained by the return of items of clothing, household oddments, and maps. Emery was credited on October 27, 1845, with \$50 "by discount on damaged maps sold to this date." A letter from Emery to Robinson, dated September 2, 1850, illustrates the problem of damaged maps.

Mr. Robinson,

I have lately bought a cheap horse. . . . When I last saw Mr. Stearns, he said if you (when I might want any of your maps) would send them to his shop, he would forward them, from his shop, in the same box with the maps which I have of him. . . . I should be glad to have your maps hereafter come in this way.

Should you be willing . . . you may forward to him as soon as convenient 25 NH and 12 Vt & NH maps if you have such a number of good quality, if not, I do not wish any, as I have now on hand many of those you last sent me, especially of Vt. and NH which are not good ones, which I shall have to return to you, or be a long time in selling. . . .

The account book records twenty-three New Hampshire and six Vermont and New Hampshire maps charged to Emery in September 1850. Evidently the stock of "good quality" maps was not large at that time. Robinson's son George wrote home from Springfield, Vermont, October 1850, in a similar vein:

My dear Mother—

. . . I would like to have you send me down 2 first-rate New England Maps—for I may sell them—pick out—the best. . . .

Robinson's prices for his maps remained fairly constant over the years. In the 1840 accounts with John Emery, map prices for finished, mounted maps were as follows:

United States	\$3.00	New Hampshire	\$.50
Ohio	.50	Vermont	.60
Maine	1.00	Illinois	.50
Vermont and New Hampshire	1.00	United States (Small)	.50

In 1849 Robinson dropped his prices of the Vermont and New Hampshire map to \$.66 and of the New Hampshire map to \$.33.

He sold a surprisingly large number of maps as the table below indicates.

1840: 368	1848: 223	United States (Small): 376
1841: 2018	1849: 217	United States (Large): 548
1842: 177	1850: 148	Vermont and New Hampshire: 1609
1843: 72	1851: 212	New Hampshire: 1993
1844: 382	1852: 224	Vermont: 772
1845: 1385	1853: 422	Maine: 625
1846: 580	1854: 150	Indiana: 1
1847: 181	1855: 15	Ohio: 52
		Connecticut Reserve: None
		Illinois: 19

During the years for which records exist, he sold 6,774 maps to his peddlers, of which 5,995 were from his shop. In addition he sold 10,761 prints, of which 533 were of his printing.

But what is even more surprising than these impressive totals is that of nearly 6,000 maps which he sold between 1840 and 1855 only 65 have been located in 1962. Fifty libraries and collections have been solicited for holdings of Robinson maps. No doubt other copies and perhaps unrecorded editions exist in smaller collections, but little remains to bear evidence of the extraordinary energy of Lewis Robinson, entrepreneur, of the small Vermont hill town of Reading.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Key to Location Symbols

BM	British Museum
CtY	Yale University
DLC	Library of Congress
InAcHi	Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society Museum
InHi	Indiana Historical Society
MH	Harvard University
MWA	American Antiquarian Society
MeHi	Maine Historical Society
MiD	Detroit Public Library
N	New York State Library

- NHi New-York Historical Society
- Nh New Hampshire State Library
- NhD Dartmouth College
- NhHi New Hampshire Historical Society
- OHi The Ohio Historical Society (Columbus)
- OO Oberlin College
- Priv. Private Ownership
- VtBeM Bennington (Vermont) Museum
- VtHi Vermont Historical Society
- VtMiS Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont
- VtRHi Reading Historical Society
- VtWHi Woodstock Historical Society

MAPS

An improved Map of the United States Corrected and Published By Lewis Robinson, 1825. 19 × 21½ inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 100 miles. "Copy right . . . Aug. 10th, 1825". Side and bottom margins contain tables of distances, and State populations and products.

This is a revised edition of "An Improved Map of the United States By Shelton & Kensett. Published by Shelton & Kensett Cheshire Connect. Novr. 8th. 1813". "Engraved by A. Doolittle New Haven. Æ 60". VtBeM, MeHi

Map of the United States compiled from the Latest Authorities Published by Lewis Robinson Reading, Vt., 1833. Engraved by J. G. Darby, Burlington, Vt. 39½ × 47½ inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 38 miles. 4 sheets. No insets. VtHi

—another edition, same, 1835. Engraved by J. G. Darby. Insets: South Part of Florida; and vicinity maps of Cincinnati, Albany, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore-Washington, and Niagara Falls; with three population and distance tables. Priv.

—another edition, same, 1836. MWA, NhD, VtHi

—another edition, same. Published by Lewis Robinson & Co. South-Reading, Vt., 1846. 1840 population statistics added to the statistical table. Engraver notice removed. Western States and Territories updated, especially Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. BM, VtHi

Map of Vermont & New Hampshire published by Lewis Robinson, 1828. 29 × 23 inches. Scale 1 inch : 7 miles. Insets: 2 distance tables. ". . . 23rd day of September 1828". N

—another edition, 1832. NhD, DLC, CtY

—another edition, 1840. VtHi

—another edition, 1844. NhD

—another edition, 1845. NhD, VtHi

—another edition, 1846. DLC, NhD

—another edition, 1848. VtHi

—another edition, 1849. BM, MWA, NhHi, VtHi

—another edition, 1851. BM, NhD

—another edition, 1852. VtRHi

—another edition, 1853. VtHi

—another edition, 1859. BM

Map of New Hampshire compiled from the Latest Authorities Published by Lewis Robinson, Reading, Vt., 1834. 23½ × 16½ inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 7 miles.

- Includes table of incorporation dates of counties and population figures. VtHi
—another edition, 1845, Reading. BM, DLC, VtHi
—another edition, 1849, Reading. BM, MH
—another edition, 1850, Reading. NhHi
—another edition, 1851, Reading. DLC
—another edition, 1852, Boston. NhHi
—another edition, 1857, Boston. MH, NhD
—another edition, 1859. NhD

An improved Map of Vermont compiled from the Latest Authorities Published by Lewis Robinson, Reading, 1834. 24 × 17½ inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 7 miles.

- Inset: one population-distance table along full left side. Issued also in pocket folders. NhD, VtHi, VtMiS
—another edition, 1840, Reading. DLC
—another edition, 1845, Reading. VtHi
—another edition, 1850, Reading. VtHi
—another edition, 1857, Reading. DLC, NHi
—another edition, 1861. MH

An Improved Map of Maine compiled from the most recent and best authorities.

Published by Lewis Robinson & Co., 1835. 28½ × 24 inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 12 miles. BM, Priv.

Map of Indiana according to the Latest Authorities. Published by Lewis Robinson & Co., Ohio, 1836. 19 × 15 inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 15 miles. In 4 × 2½ inch leather-covered folder, on back side of which is lettered, "Indiana." InAcHi, InHi

Map of Ohio compiled from the Latest Authorities. Published by Lewis Robinson & Co., Akron, Ohio, 1837. Engraved by S. Manning, Akron, Ohio. 25½ × 24 inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 10½ miles. Insets: Profile of the Ohio and Erie Canal and Miami Canal. OHi

Map of the Connecticut Reserve Compiled from the Latest Authorities Published by Lewis Robinson & Co., Akron, Ohio, 1837. 12 × 22 inches. Scale 1 inch : 6 miles. OO

Map of Illinois compiled from the latest authorities. Published by Lewis Robinson & Co., Akron, Ohio, 1838. 21½ × 15½ inches, colored. Scale 1 inch : 20 miles. BM

Maps believed to have been published but examples not found:

[Map of Akron, Ohio, issued c. 1837 by Lewis Robinson & Co.]

[Map of Upper and Lower Canada, c. 1844, issued from Stanstead, Quebec.]

BOOKS

Select and Original Dialogues, Orations and Single Pieces, designed for the use of schools, by Lewis Roberson. [Motto]. . . Weathersfield, Vt. Published by the author. Isaac Eddy, Printer. 1816. vii, [8]-180 p. 16.5 cm. MiD, NhD, VtHi

The Robber, or Sons of night: A true story. Weathersfield: Published by L. Roberson. A.D. Pier, printer. 1816. 32 p. illus. 10 cm. VtHi

REGALIA

[Freemason's Apron] pub. Lewis Roberson, Weathersfield, Vt. [c. 1816]. VtHi

PRINTS

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Entered according to act of Congress the 28th day of November 1831 by Lewis Robinson of the State of Vermont. $19\frac{1}{4} \times 27\frac{1}{2}$ inches, colored. Two texts. MWA, VtHi

Declaration of Independence. [n.p., n.d.]. 34×15 inches. VtRH*i*

Prints believed to have been published by Robinson:

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. [n.p., n.d.]. $38\frac{1}{2} \times 25\frac{1}{2}$ inches, colored. Two texts. MWA

Maria. [n.p., n.d.]. 20×14 inches (measure of border), colored. Six 4-line verses. MWA, VtHi

The Unjust Sentence of the Jews Against Jesus Christ the Saviour of the World. Engraved by M. M. Peabody. Dec. 15, 1823. Copy-right Secured according to act of Congress. 23×36 inches (plate), colored. NhD