

THE PORTOLAN

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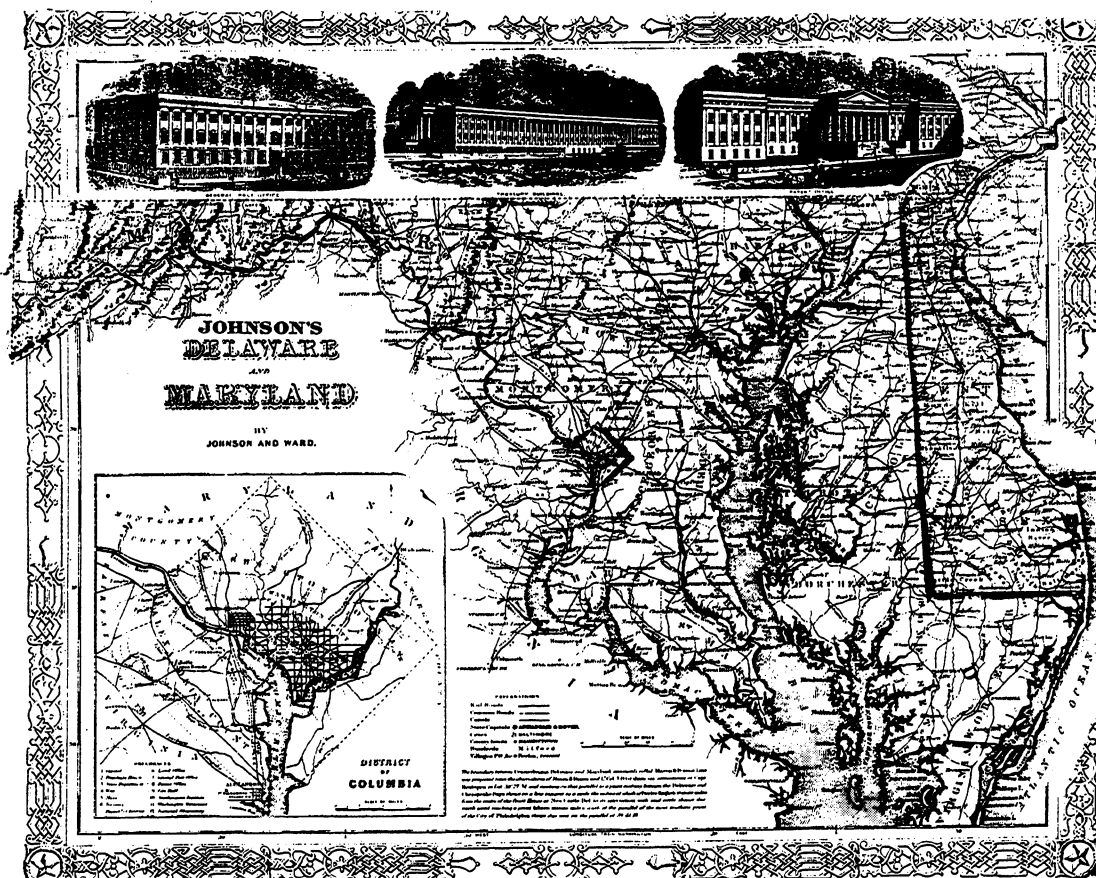
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THE ATLASES OF A. J. JOHNSON

by *Ira S. Lourie*



*A. J. Johnson, Johnson's Delaware and Maryland,
1864 version of 1860 Map, state 10.*

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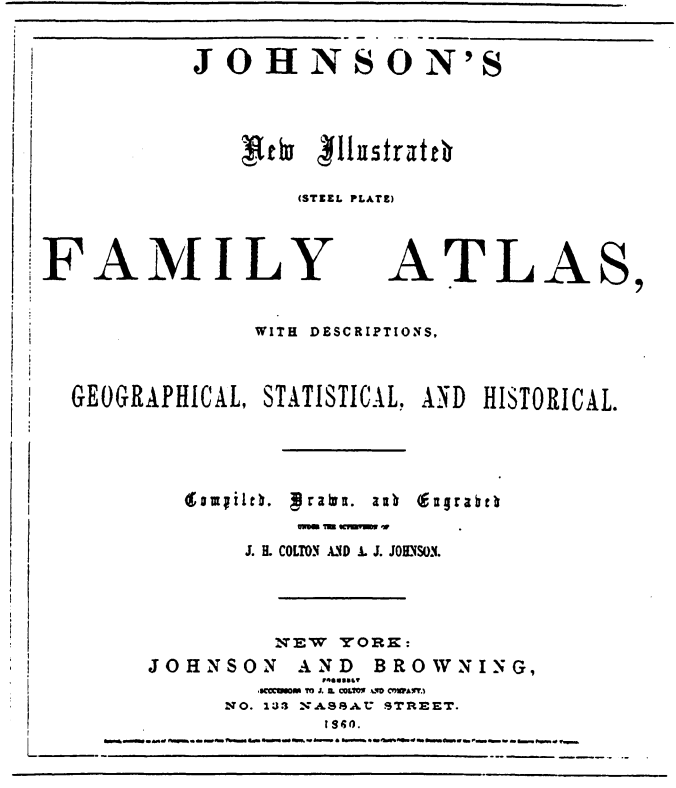
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THE ATLASES OF A.J. JOHNSON

by Ira S. Lourie

BACKGROUND

Alvin J. Johnson entered into the business of publishing atlases in 1860. Having previously been a book canvasser who sold maps and atlases for the well-known map and atlas publisher, J.H. Colton, Johnson was introduced to the profitability of atlases as a reference book. Whether he originally planned to start his book publishing business with atlases or not is unknown. It does appear that, when he came to New York City in 1857, he began to support Colton in the publishing of his atlases and maps. In 1859, the firm of Johnson & Browning published an edition of Colton's *General Atlas* and the next year Johnson's firm published the first edition of his own atlas, titled, *Johnson's New Illustrated (Steel Plate) Family Atlas, With Descriptions Geographical, Statistical and Historical*. The early editions of the *Family Atlas*, as it is most commonly referred to, was comprised of maps developed by the Colton firm, and the title page announces that the publishers, Johnson & Browning, are "formerly (successors to J.H. Colton and Company..". This confused language might be taken to indicate that Johnson thought he had taken over the Colton firm, stating both that the new firm of Johnson and Browning was formerly known as J.H. Colton and Company, and that the firm of Johnson and Browning was successors to Colton. Whatever Johnson thought when the *Family Atlas* first appeared, and in spite of the fact that his atlases referred to him as successor to Colton through the 1865 edition, Colton did continue to publish his atlases. Rather than successor, Johnson became a competitor of the Colton firm, and the *Family Atlas* became a competitor to the atlases of both Colton and S. Augustus Mitchell, the other prominent atlas publisher of the day, as described in more detail by this author in another article.¹



Title Page, late 1860 Atlas

EDITIONS

The *Family Atlas* was produced in editions dated every year from 1860 to 1887, with five known exceptions, 1871, 1875, 1876, 1878, and 1882. These for the most part were not true editions, but the years printed on the title pages can be more accurately described as production dates for an individual atlas. Rather than wait until a set time every year to start printing a new edition which includes all of the changes made over the last year, in Johnson's atlases they began using a newly updated or designed map as soon as it was available. More than likely, they started using the new map when they ran out of the old version. As a result, several atlases with the same date on the title page may have different states of the same maps de-

pending on the time of the year the atlas was assembled. This was especially true in the early half of the 1860's, and less likely in the 1880's. There were no changes at all between 1884 and 1887, the years between when Johnson died and the company closed.

There were only eight times over the 27 years that the atlases were published in which all the maps changed at the same time; there were six other times when all but one to three maps changed (and these changed either one atlas before or later). For the most part the creation of a "pseudo-edition" was related to changes in pagination due to added maps, changes in the name of Johnson's company and the related publisher attributions on the title page and maps, and changes in whether the back side of the maps were printed plain or with gazetteer pages. These same items, along with geographical changes, map title changes, and other incidental changes, are also used in determining the various states of the individual maps. A discussion of the most prominent factors used in determining pseudo-editions of the atlases and map states follows.

PUBLISHER ATTRIBUTION CHANGES

While A.J. Johnson was the major publisher of the *Family Atlas* throughout its existence, the name of his company changed a number of times. Each atlas and each map within it included an attribu-

tion that identifies the name of the Johnson's company at that time. This was one of the most consistent changes found in the maps, and in each atlas, every map included an attribution of the publisher, "Published by..", identical to that on the title page of the atlas. While one might find an atlas in which the maps had two different versions of the border, on each map the attribution of the publisher were always the same.

From 1860 to early 1863, the name of the company that published the atlases was Johnson & Browning. Ross C. Browning was an agent who worked in Johnson's book canvassing business in Cleveland prior to moving to New York. The one of the first atlases published gave the city of publication as Richmond, where Browning appears to have lived in 1860. Another atlas with identical maps was published with New York as the city of publication. Later 1860 atlases and those from all years following were published in New York. Only two atlases have been identified so far with the Richmond designation, indicating that it was a short-lived practice and a testimony to Browning's role, most likely as a financier and sales representative, in the publishing of the atlases.

In 1863, Johnson and Ward became the name of the company publishing the *Family Atlas*. Benjamin P. Ward, like Browning had been an agent for Johnson, who appears to have been brought in

1860-1862

BY

JOHNSON & BROWNING.

1862-1863

BY

JOHNSON AND WARD.

1862-1866

BY

JOHNSON AND WARD

1867-1868 (MD)

A.J. JOHNSON, NEW YORK.

1866-1877

BY

A.J. JOHNSON, NEW YORK.

1869 (MD)

PUBLISHED BY

A.J. JOHNSON, NEW YORK.

1881-1887

PUBLISHED BY

ALVIN J. JOHNSON & CO.,
NEW YORK.

Examples of Publisher Attributions

as a financial backer, when Browning left. Even while receiving attribution as a joint publisher with Johnson, Ward never really was part of the company, and remained out in the field as a major agent in charge of selling the atlases by subscription in the west (Cleveland and Chicago). The company remained Johnson and Ward until 1866, after which Johnson bought out Ward's interest in the business.

Johnson ran the company himself from 1866 on, and starting in early 1866 the atlases and maps simply attributed as, "Published by A.J. Johnson." This was about the same time that Johnson's relationship with J.H. Colton changed. Prior to this time, the publisher attribution on the atlas title page had recognized the role of Colton in the development of the maps in the atlases, and both the Johnson and Browning and Johnson and Ward

The publisher attribution is one of major items that change on the maps that aid in state identification. Although the name of the company changed five times, there are six versions of the publisher attribution. This occurs because there were two versions of the Johnson and Ward attribution. Starting in 1860, both the Johnson and Browning and the Johnson and Ward attributions were printed in plain block letters, **Published by Johnson & Browning** and **Published by Johnson & Ward**. A fancier font for the Johnson and Ward publisher attribution, **Published by Johnson & Ward**, began being used in late 1862. By early 1863, all but three of the maps had made this change, and those three started using the fancier font in 1864. This same double-faced type was used for the publisher attribution through 1887. The following chart demonstrates the history of publisher attributions throughout the publishing life of the *Family Atlas*.

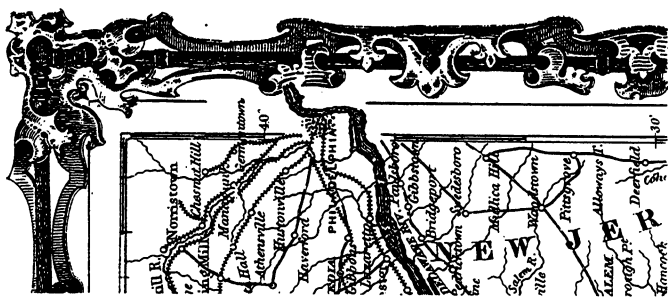
Publisher Attribution	Font	Years Used
Johnson & Browning	Plain Block Letters	1860-1862
Johnson & Ward	Plain Block Letters	1862-1863
Johnson & Ward	Double Face Letters	1862-1866
A. J. Johnson	Double Face Letters	1866-1877
A. J. Johnson and Son	Double Face Letters	1879-1880
A. J. Johnson and Co.	Double Face Letters	1881-1887

companies were both noted as being "successors to J.H. Colton". As Johnson became the sole publisher of the *Family Atlas*, he no longer gave Colton credit for a role in the development of the maps, which was appropriate because by that time most of the original Colton-derived maps had been replaced by maps drawn by Johnson's company.

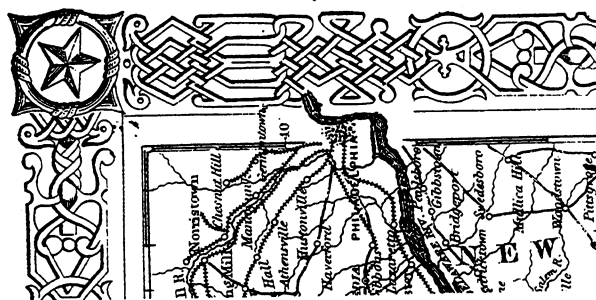
The company remained A.J. Johnson, Publisher, until 1879. In that year, Johnson's son was brought into the business and the attribution on the atlas title pages and the maps became "A.J. Johnson and Son." This lasted only a short time, and by 1881, the name had changed to "A.J. Johnson and Co.", even though his son remained with the business and ran it after his father's death. The Johnson firm published under this name until it closed in 1887.

BORDERS

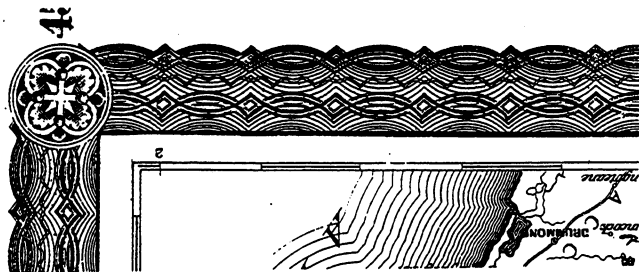
Perhaps the most well known changes in the maps of the A.J. Johnson atlases are the map borders. Over the years the atlases were published, there were four different borders that appear on the maps. The borders were used in various years and can be used to help identify the various states of the individual maps. The first border was used starting in 1860. The second border first appeared in 1863. During that year 40 percent of the maps began to use the second border; the other 60 percent adopted the second border during 1864. The second border was used through 1869. All of the maps began to use the third border in 1870. The fourth border is a variant of the third border, but distinctly different. It was used on all maps from some time in 1883 through 1887, however, 12 maps



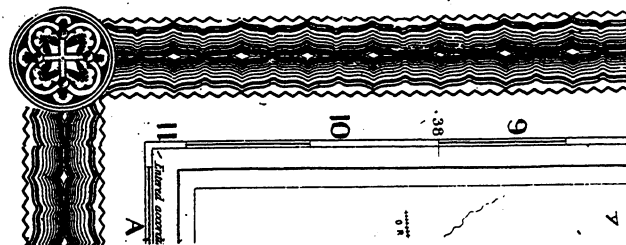
Border #1 1860-1863



Border #2 1863-1869



Border #3 1870-1882



Border #4 1880-1887

Examples of Borders

also used the fourth border for one year extra prior year, 1880.

for those maps in which title changes occurred on the same basic map.

MAP TITLE CHANGES

Several of the maps have a change in title one or more times, while the map itself remained basically the same. The reason this was done was to include new states of the union as they were established. This occurred most often with the maps that included several central or western states, but it also happened in the east when West Virginia was established in 1863. The following chart details the title changes and new states established

PAGE NUMBERS AND REVERSE SIDES

The page numbers and contents of the reverse side are second most consistent items that define "editions" of the *Family Atlas*. Johnson and other atlas publishers of his era advertised the gazetteer part of their atlases with as much gusto as they did the maps. The title page of the early editions proudly announced that the atlas included "...descriptions geographical, statistical, and historical, including the latest federal census, a geographical index and a chrono-

Original Title (date)	Name(s) Added	Year Added	Map State	Year Established
Nebraska & Kansas (1860)	Dakota	1861	3	Dakota Territory 1861
	Colorado	1861	3	Colorado Territory 1861
	Montana	1864	9	Montana Territory 1864
Nebraska, Dakota, Idaho, & Montana (1865)	Wyoming	1869	4	Wyoming Territory 1868
Washington & Oregon (1860)	Idaho	1863	8	Idaho Territory 1863
California, Territories of New Mexico & Utah (1860)	Arizona	1863	8	Arizona Territory 1863
	Colorado	1863	8	Colorado Territory 1861
	Nevada	1863	8	Nevada Territory 1861

logical history of the Civil War in America, and the existing religious denominations in the world. Text by Richard Swainson Fisher." (1866 edition) It is interesting to note that Fisher also wrote the "Descriptions" for Colton's atlases of that era. When the atlases were first published they included a "Descriptions" sections on Physical Geography, and several sections on Descriptive Geography of various areas of the world, and a Geographical Index; an Appendix to the Geographical Index was added in 1864. These were updated on occasion, and after 1867 were no longer attributed to

atlas. There were several sections that regularly appeared on the reverse side of the United States maps: a Geographical Index, the Appendix to the Geographical Index, History, Physical Geography, Animals. Two other sections show up for two or three years: History of Mexico and History of West India. Other sections appear on the reverse of the maps of other areas of the world. The following chart demonstrates the contents of the reverse sides of the United States maps used from 1863-1872.

Reverse Side Sections	Years Used
Physical Geography	1869-1872
Natural History: Interesting and Curious Animals	1870-1872
Geographical Index	1863-1872
Appendix to Geographical Index	1864-1872
Geography of North America: Historical and Statistical View of North America	1863-1870
Historical and Statistical View of the United States	1863-1870
Historical and Statistical View of Mexico and Central America	1866-1868
Historical and Statistical View of the West Indian Islands or Columbian Archipelago	1866-1868

Fisher. Regardless of the fact that Johnson kept the maps up to date from year to year, the Geographical Index and the Appendix to the Geographical Index did not change from the 1860's through 1887. In 1870, there were major changes to all of the "Descriptions" other than the Geographical Indexes; they were from that time on attributed to A. Guyot, with a section on religions by Rosewell D. Hitchcock.

From 1860 to early 1863, these sections were in separate areas of the atlas from the maps, and the backs of all of the maps were blank. At some time during 1863, the "Descriptions" began to be printed on the reverse side of the maps. This continued through 1872, after which the "Descriptions" were removed from the reverse of the maps and returned to separate sections of the atlas. During the years when the "Descriptions" were on the reverse of the maps, they were occasionally moved around creating states of the various maps. When these changes occurred, they affected every map in the atlas, defining an pseudo-edition of the

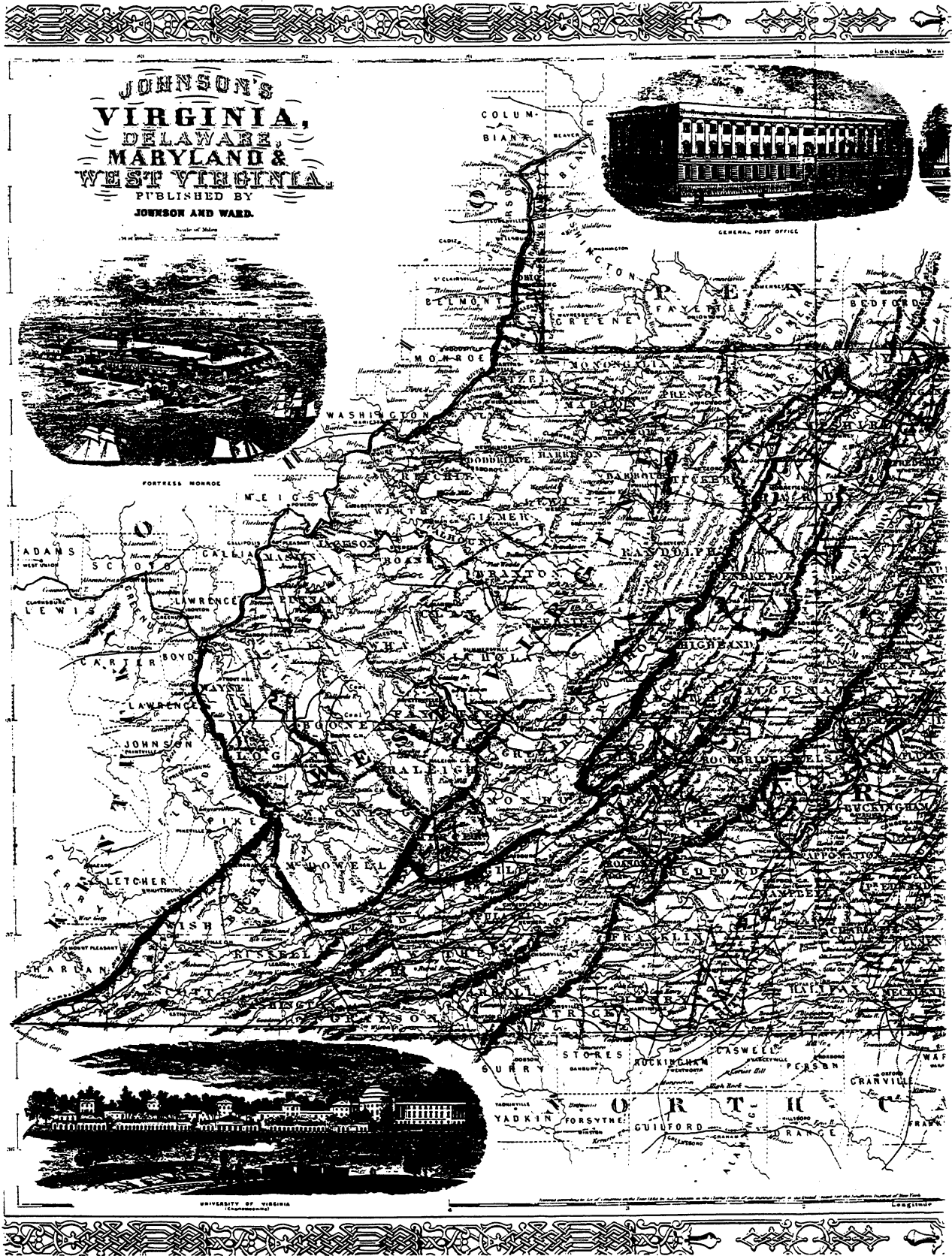
Pagination of the maps changed frequently, usually due to the addition of a new map or subtraction of an old one. When these changes took place at the beginning of the atlas, such as the addition of the United States map in 1861 or the deletion of the New England map in 1862, all of the maps changed page number. When a map was added closer to the back of the atlas, only the portion of the maps after that in the atlas changed page number.

GEOGRAPHICAL DETAIL CHANGES

An extremely important feature of the maps of the *Family Atlas* was the fact that the geographical detail was updated on a regular basis. As discussed in a later section of this paper, it was important for sales promotion that the atlases be as up to date as possible. As a result, the maps in Johnson's atlases, as well as Colton and Mitchell's, can be used to track the growth of the United States, including new towns and cities, new counties, new states and state boundaries, and new townships. Most of the map states detailed in this



1863 version of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland 1860 map, state 8 (new West VA with VA state name overlapping into WV) (Johnson and Ward)



Newly drawn 1864 version of Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia map, state 1 (WV and VA state names in the right places) (Johnson and Ward)

State	Date Territory Established	Date Statehood Established	Date Appearing in Specific Maps
West Virginia		1863	United States; Pennsylvania & Virginia / both in 1863
Colorado	2/1861	1876	Nebraska & Kansas; California / both in 1861
Nevada	3/1861	1864	California / 1861
Dakota	3/1861	1889	Nebraska & Kansas / 1861; Minnesota & Dakota / 1860
Arizona	2/1863	1912	United States / shown wrong in 1862, correct in 1863; California / shown wrong in 1860, correct in 1863
Idaho	3/1863	1890	United States; Nebraska & Kansas; California; Washington & Oregon / all in 1863
Montana	5/1864	1889	United States; Nebraska & Kansas; Washington & Oregon / all in 1864
Wyoming	7/1868	1890	United States / 1866; Nebraska & Kansas / 1864

study, have accompanying changes in the geographical detail, along with the more easily recognizable changes in the map borders, pagination, publisher attribution, and contents of the reverse sides. There are even a few map states for which the only defining quality is one or more geographical changes.

Counties. The most easily recognizable geographical changes are the development of new counties. Every new county that was created in the United States between 1860 and 1882, as listed in Knox's *American Counties*, was added to any map in which that county can be seen (whether or not it is in one of the titled states). For the most part, new counties showed up on the maps within two years of their establishment.

States. New states tended to be added much more expeditiously. West Virginia, for example, was introduced on the maps during the year of its division from Virginia. It was obviously added in a hurry, and early states of maps on which West Virginia was shown, often have the name "Virginia" placed infringing on West Virginia's territory. The Virginia map was redrawn in 1864; in this new map the name "Virginia" is placed so that it no longer infringes on the state of West Virginia. Other new states and territories were entered similarly as fast as they were established. For the most part, territories were shown as if they were states. Arizona was shown as part of New Mexico until 1863 when it formally became a territory. Wyoming was shown several years before it formally became a territory. The above chart demon-

strates the year that new territories and states appeared the atlases.

Railroads. The growth of the railroads in the United States is equally well represented on the Colton/Johnson and Johnson maps. Railroads are depicted in three ways in the *Family Atlas*. There is no legend, so it is not clear exactly what the different markings mean, however, one can guess. Railroads marked with cross hatched lines, designated as "RR(m)" by this author, appear to be established railroads. Those marked with solid lines, designated as "RR(s)", appear to be either proposed railroads or those under construction, or both. An RR(s) often becomes an RR(m) in later states of a map. At times, an RR(s) will slowly evolve into an RR(m) in stages over several years. On a rare occasion, some railroads are depicted with a dashed line, designated as "RR(d)" by this author. It appears as if the RR(d) is proposed railroad, and they are just as likely to disappear in later editions than they are to become an RR(s) or RR(m). Research on the development of the railroads done by the Johnson firm sometimes indicated that a railroad had been placed on a map in error, or had been abandoned; these were removed from the maps. An example of this is found on the North and South Carolina map of 1860, where in 1863, on state 8 of the map, a railroad present on early map states, from Greensboro, North Carolina to Danville, Virginia, disappears. For the most part, railroad changes on the maps are not the sole defining feature of map state, however they are some of the more interesting features of the maps over the years.

Cities. Similar to the railroads, during the era of the *Family Atlas* there was a significant growth in the number of cities and towns. As maps changed, they represented this new population growth. There are no instances, however, where a new city or town was the sole change defining a new map state. Unlike Colton, who included numerous city maps in his atlases, Johnson used only a few. Starting with Washington, DC in 1860, New York City was added in 1862, with Boston and Philadelphia not being added until 1870 and 1873 respectively. These city maps demonstrate the growth in these cities, including new neighborhoods, roads, trains, buildings, parks, and ferries. For example, a series of changes are seen on the New York City map of 1862, showing how from 1874 to 1883 the access roads to the Brooklyn Bridge, called the "E. River Bridge", were added. In 1874, state 8 of the map, the bridge is shown without connecting access roads. In 1880, state 10, proposed access roads are shown with dotted lines; late in 1883, state 11, the roads were shown completed, depicted with solid lines.

PICTURE CHANGES

During the years that Johnson used Colton derived maps in the *Family Atlas*, Johnson also often added pictures as decorations for the maps. Almost all of these pictures can be found on large Colton wall maps, and it is clear that Johnson's relationship with Colton included the use of these pictures. Johnson added these pictures to some of the maps that were identical to those used by Colton in his own atlases, but Colton published them without the pictures. These pictures become important in the Johnson maps, not only because they make the maps pleasingly decorative, but also because a particular picture would appear and disappear from the map, and/or its placement might have changed. Sometimes the picture even changed. For the most part, the changes regarding the pictures follow no pattern, and often make little sense. The changes are very useful, however, in determining the state of a map.

One example comes from the 1860 map of Delaware and Maryland. On the first state of the map, there is a picture of the U.S. Capitol building. In 1862, this disappears in map state 4, being re-

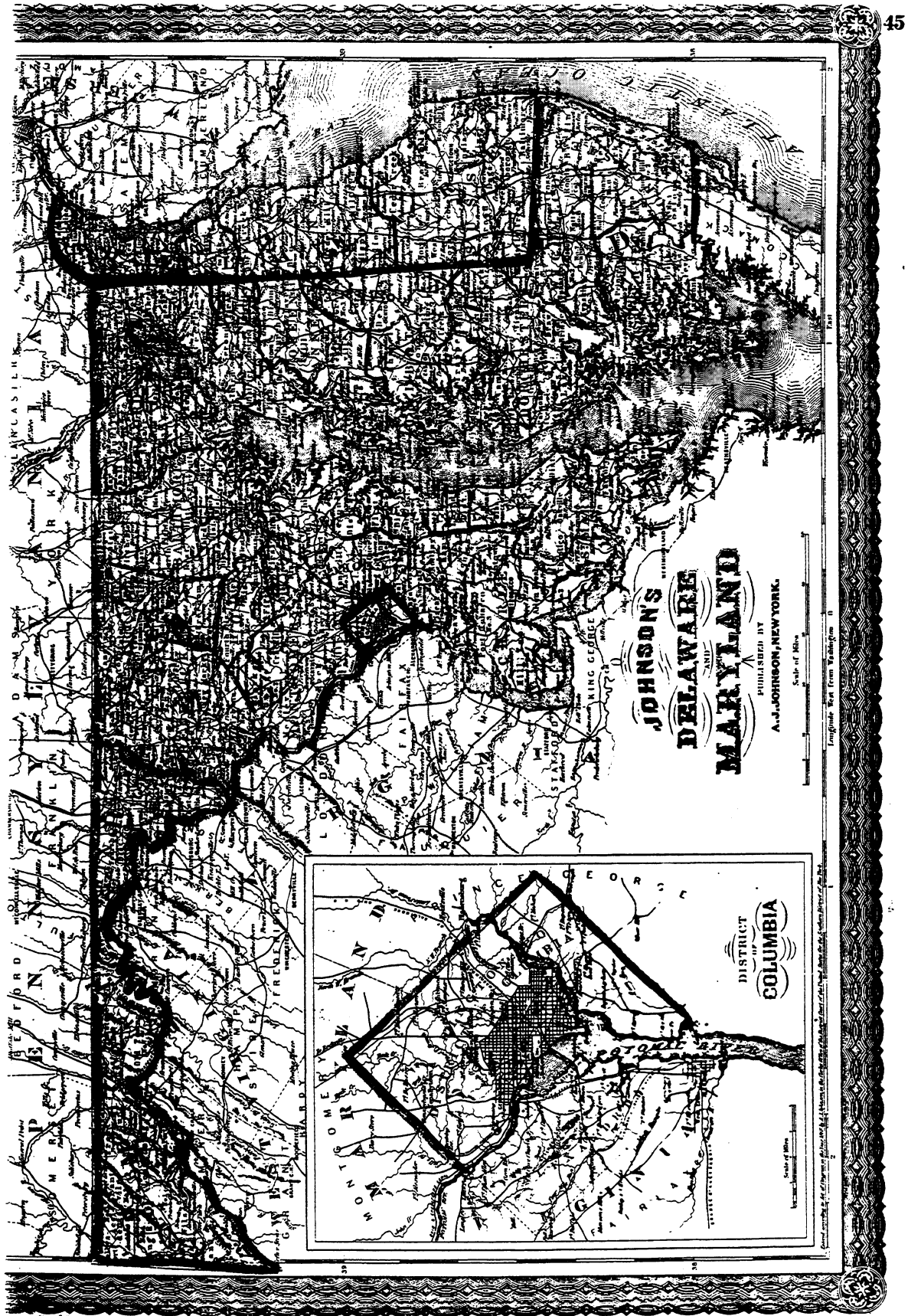
placed by an inset map of the District of Columbia. By late 1864, map state 11, all of the pictures are gone. In another example, there is a picture of the Washington Monument on the 1860 map of the District of Columbia. When it first appears, in 1860, map state 1, there is shading around the spire of the monument. In 1862, state 2, the shading disappears, only to show up again in 1864, state 6, and disappear the next year, 1865, state 7, and return again in 1867, state 9.

On the North and South Carolina map of 1860, the size of the font of part or all of the picture's title changes in size. On the Missouri/KS map of 1860 there are three pictures, two of which keep changing position with each other, between 1860 and 1865. It almost seems as though, when a map was going through a printing, the individual who assembled the plate had to decide each time where each picture went on each map; and, sometimes it was done differently than others.

OTHER INCIDENTAL CHANGES

Before Johnson began to produce his own maps, the *Family Atlas* used maps previously drawn and used by Colton. Several of the Johnson atlas maps were created by the folio size printing of part of a larger wall map. To these maps, Johnson added borders, and sub-borders. The change in the borders is discussed above, but there were also changes in the sub-borders. Here was printed the longitude and latitude of the area depicted on the map. The font and placement of the statements "Longitude from Washington" or "Longitude from Greenwich" would at time change on various maps. Indeed, at time the longitude or latitude values would inexplicably change, only to be corrected again later. One example of this can be found in the Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana map of 1860, where in 1862, state 5, the longitude from Washington, which had been "12-17", is mistakenly printed as "94-99". It remained this way until state 7 of the map, in 1863, when it reverted back to "12-17".

On occasion, there were blemishes that occurred in the map plate, which took some time to be fixed. One example of this is in the Delaware and Maryland map of 1860, where, in 1862, map state 4, a blemish shows up in the word "State Capital" in



1872 version of Delaware and Maryland 1868 map, state 4 (A.J. Johnson)

the map legend. The blemish, over the letters "it" in the word capital, remained until map state 6, in 1863, where it was repaired with what appears to be hand drawn letters "it". In the next map state, 7, in the same year, the repair was completed with the "it" now being in the original font. Many such changes can be used to determine states of the maps.

A SHORT NOTE ABOUT PRINTING

The title page of the *Family Atlas* prominently states that it is a "Steel Plate" atlas. This was used to demonstrate the high quality of the product and to enhance sales. However, Ristow suggests, and the wisdom of others observing the maps concurs, that the maps used in the atlases were actually lithographs. He points out in his book, *American Maps and Mapmakers*, that the title page of one copy of the Johnson *Family Atlas*, at the Library of Congress has the following notation on the contents page, "The maps are transferred and Printed by D. McLellan & Bros. 26 Spruce Street, New York." Ristow further indicates that McLellan and his brothers were lithographers. The plates are felt to have originally been drawn on steel plates, and later transferred to stones for the actual printing of the atlases.²

SELLING ATLASES BY SUBSCRIPTION

The Johnson firm sold almost all of its atlases and books by subscription through door to door canvassers. In a letter by Johnson, he alludes to the fact only on a rare occasion when would an atlas be sold through the publishing office itself. Other major atlas publishers of the times, Colton and Mitchell, also sold their atlases by this method. This practice is described in more detail elsewhere by Lourie³, Bosse⁴, and Harrington⁵. The importance of this practice in terms of the map states in Johnson atlases is that the updating of maps on a yearly basis was a sales promotion strategy as well as an academic exercise. Every "gentleman" was urged to have the best and most up-to-date atlas in his home; and, the atlases needed to be changed often enough for the salesmen to convince the "gentleman" that the acquisition of the newest edition was necessary. This ap-

peared to be a successful sales technique, and, although Johnson had a practice of placing an advertisement coupon in some of his atlases offering to sell the buyer updated versions of any of the maps for a small price (and extra spines were included in the atlases for the purpose of inserting these maps), it is this author's experience that this rarely if ever happened. A supposition can be made that Johnson's salesmen urged prior customers to buy new atlases rather than use the update option.

CONCLUSION

Alvin J. Johnson was not the most famous of American atlas publishers of the 19th Century, in fact in most cartography texts he is merely an after thought. However, his atlases were extremely popular, as evidenced by their current availability relative to those of his competitors, and his success as a salesman and publisher helped establish the atlas as vital family reference book. Johnson most likely played a role in financially saving the failing Colton firm around 1860,⁶ which is probably as important, if not greater, contribution to cartography.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Lourie, I.S., article in *Mercator's World*, in press.
- 2 Ristow, W. W., *American Maps and Mapmakers*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1985, p. 325
- 3 Lourie, Ibid.
- 4 Bosse, D., "A Canvasser's Tale," *The Map Collector*, No. 57, Winter, 1991 p. 22.
- 5 Harrington, B., *How 'Tis Done*, Chicago: Fidelity Publishing Company, 1879
- 6 Lourie, Ibid.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR — AND THE MEETING

In a meeting of the Washington Map Society on the evening of Thursday, September 28, 2000, forty members and guests of the Society heard Ira Lourie speak on his research into the work of 19th century atlas publisher Alvin J. Johnson.

Ira S. Lourie, who has lived most of his life in the Washington, D.C. area, earned his B.A. in psychology at the George Washington University in 1964, followed by his M.D. at the same institution in 1968. He is a child psychiatrist by trade, who has spent his professional life developing and implementing child mental health policy, first at the National Institute of Mental Health where he worked for 20 years, and now as a partner in the Human Service Collaborative, a consulting business. Dr. Lourie is a member of the Washington Map Society and lives in Rockville, Maryland.

Dr. Lourie has been a collector of maps, mostly of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay, since 1978. His first map by Johnson, a Maryland map, was a "throw-in" with an expensive map he had purchased from Graham Arader. While on a 1985 Washington Map Society field trip to the "On the Map" exhibit at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, he saw the Morrison Collection, that contained many excellent maps of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay, including various states of the Johnson and Colton maps of Maryland. The various states of the many Johnson maps in this private collection caught his interest. About 10 years ago, having "bought all of the maps of Maryland that a Federal bureaucrat could afford," Dr. Lourie "was looking for a way to continue my map collecting without going broke." As he had always liked his Johnson maps of Maryland, he began to focus his interest on those United States maps in the atlases of Alvin J. Johnson. He visited the Library of Congress and found its sterling collection of 1860s Johnson atlases and began to study the various states of the Maryland map, as well as Colton's versions and Gray's. His "obsessive soul" then took over and he began to study all of Johnson's U.S. maps. Travel in his work took Dr. Lourie to many places and he would take his Union catalogue list with him so he could study the Johnson atlases in various local collections wherever he was. Dr. Lourie had trouble finding enough editions, especially from 1870-80, in one place to be able to compare them. He considered loans, but discovered libraries usually would not do that. He even considered a grant to study photography and do computer scanning in libraries, but such grant money was not very available. Then Dr. Lourie met David Rumsey (one of the few collectors both openly interested in and scholarly on 19th century

American maps), who led him to Roger Baskes, both of whom not only invited him into their excellent collections but also loaned atlases to him so he could study them at leisure in his own home. Dr. Lourie has studied a total of 86 Johnson atlases from the period 1860-87, including 16 at the Library of Congress, 23 in David Rumsey's collection, and others in the New York Public Library and the Yale Library. He has found these rapidly changing maps to be an excellent way to view the historical development of the U.S., its States, counties, and cities, especially in the West, without a lot of detailed maps.

In addition to the three questions Dr. Lourie answered during his presentation, at its end he fielded another three from his fascinated audience. Johnson's only major competitors were Mitchell and Colton; Rand McNally, Hammond, and Cram entered the market in the 1880s and 1890s with an explosion of publishing. Prices on Johnson maps have risen steadily over the last 20 years, from \$25 for good individual maps to \$100 today on the Internet or \$125 from a dealer; atlas prices are skyrocketing. The American Civil War had several impacts on Johnson's atlases. First, West Virginia was quickly added as a new State, as were maps of Richmond and the seat of conflict. A MapHist discussion has dealt with the identical editions of the 1860 Johnson and Ward atlases, one "Published in Richmond, Virginia" and all others "Published in New York." According to the New York City directory of that year, Ross Browning is listed as living in Richmond (the Richmond directory for the same year has not survived). Apparently Browning moved with his family from New York to Richmond to establish a Southern presence for the company. He bought a printing shop and began printing atlases. When war actually did break out, he quickly moved back to New York. The Confederacy used his presses to print currency. By 1863 the New York directory listed Browning and Johnson as holding a clothes wringer patent; a year later, just Browning held the patent, and then he went on to make a fortune with it.

Washington Map Society Vice President, Program Chair, and Portolan Editor Tom Sander recognized Dr. Lourie for being attracted to such a unique niche of map collecting and bravely and determinedly beginning the scholarship on it. He presented Dr. Lourie with the very first of the new map magnifiers, engraved with the name and logo of the Washington Map Society, in its own cloth carrying case.

—Steven Vogel, Secretary of the
Washington Map Society