

## #74 Mourning Case

**\$0.00**  
Paid

From: Inheritance



### Edwardian Hair Mourning Case—Children—Rand

#### Description:

This is an amazing piece of U.S. history. It is a little leather and papier-mâché case which measures 3 5/8" by 2 1/2" by 1/2" thick. Inside of this Edwardian era case—1850-1870—is a lock of hair from each of one man's children. His name was Thomas Rand, and in addition to the 7 packets with the hair there is his wedding announcement from the newspaper. The most special aspect of this amazing item is how worn it is. The binding of leather is torn from so much wear. Thomas must have carried this in his breast pocket for his entire life to keep his family close by.

Winning  
Bid:

**\$127.50**

Ended: 5/14/03

History: 5 bids

Starting Bid: \$99

Winner: Green Bay, WI

Viewed

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# Mourning Case #74

## The Story

This is the story that got me writing this book. The little leather case had been in the Snake Pit for years—who knows where my grandmother had picked it up. I priced it at \$55 and put it in the shop for the final days. Even after the price was reduced by 70% (to \$16.50), it still didn't sell, and it wound up in one of my boxes.

This piece sat on my desk for several weeks. It fascinated me, and I debated whether or not to sell it. At first I wondered if it were a mourning piece—a way for a father to remember and honor his children who had died. In Edwardian and Victorian times, hair pieces and hair jewelry were very common as remembrances of lost loved ones. I hoped this wasn't one of those.

There were seven packets with hair in the case and a wedding announcement from 1855. The wedding announcement read, "Married on Thursday June 21, 1855 by Rev. TH Johnson of Lattarpe, Mr. Thos H. Rand of Quincy to Miss Catharine S. Swinehart of Pontoosvc. \$10 was the liberal fee. May they enjoy a long, happy & useful life. THJ."

The first packet with hair said Edwin Andrew Rand 17 months. The next said Emma Cara three months. There was Lucy Matilda one month. There was another Lucy M at two years. There was Mary Kate three months and finally a packet of hair with no name.

I had a place to start my research, so I spent several hours on the internet one night and found some information about his family. Thomas H. Rand was born in 1830 in Massachusetts. Catharine S. Swinehart was born about 1837 in Ohio. They were

married June 21, 1855, in Hancock, Illinois. Lucy Rand was born about 1857 in Hancock County, Illinois. The 1850 census in Hancock, Illinois, reveals that Thomas Rand was age 20 and a tinman. In the 1860 census in the same town, he was a farmer with real estate valued at \$9,000 and a personal estate of \$5,100. His wife, Catharine, was age 23 and daughters Lucy and Ellen were ages three and two.

In the Hancock census ten years later, Thomas Rand is listed as a hardware merchant with real estate valued at \$5,000 and a personal estate of \$3,000. Catharine is 33 and the household now includes Lucy, age 13, Emma age 11, Mary, age nine, and Edwin, age seven. There is also Nellie Smith, a 23-year-old domestic servant born in New York. The children had all lived! I had goosebumps!

It sold for \$127.50 to a very nice woman in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I was reading my feedback comments one evening and found one that said, "The Best Item I Have Bought on eBay." I clicked on the item number and this is the auction she was referring to. No kidding!

