



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

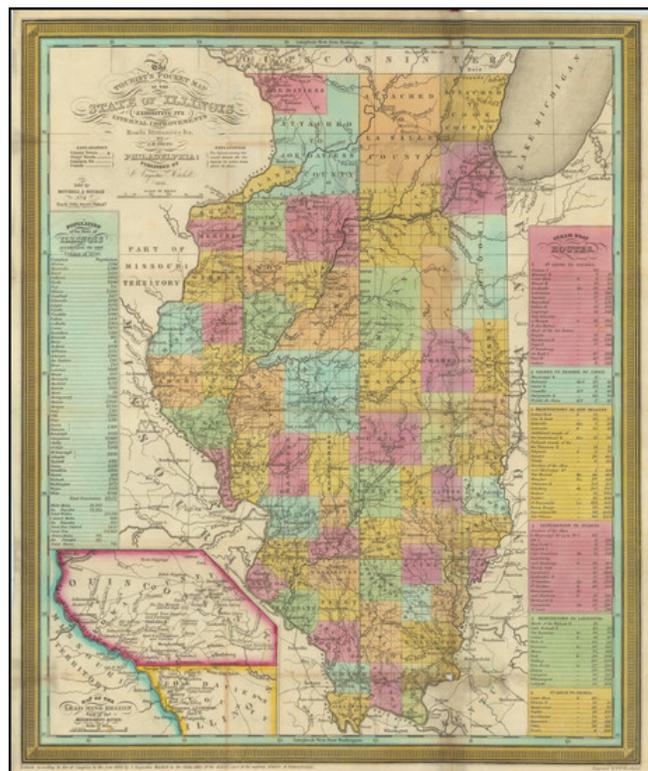
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The Tourist's Pocket Map of the State of Illinois

Stock#: 87173
Map Maker: Mitchell
Date: 1835
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 13 x 15.5 inches
Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

Rare early edition of Samuel August's Mitchell's "Tourist's Pocket Map of the State of Illinois," presents a vivid tableau of the Prairie State in its early years of existence.

As a cartographic artifact, it is both a geographical reference and a historical document. It is beautifully colored by counties, illustrating the regional demarcations of Illinois with a delicate palette that highlights the distinctions between each entity. The visual center of the map lies on the 3rd Prime Meridian, emphasizing the state's geographical alignment with the world at large.

Significantly, the map hosts a large inset titled "Lead Mine Region East of the Mississippi River." This delineates an economically vital territory, a mineral-rich zone that predominantly covers the area known as "Joe Daviess County," and the adjacent Ouisconsin Territory (shortly before it became an official territory in April 1836). During this period, lead mining was a significant industry, driving economic growth and facilitating the population expansion of the Midwest.

The map is not merely a static representation of territory, but a dynamic reflection of Illinois's nascent



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transport infrastructure. Stage roads snake across the map, some marked with the distances between critical junctions. Their appearance gives a sense of the connectivity of the era, highlighting the pivotal role of stagecoaches in enabling travel and communication.

The National Road, extending westward into Illinois, is prominently displayed. Originally commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson in 1806, it represented the nation's first federally funded highway. By the time Illinois was incorporated as a state in 1818, the National Road had become an important artery for the state's development, allowing the movement of people and goods and encouraging settlements in previously isolated areas.

Equally important are the canals inscribed on the map. Notably, by 1836, the Illinois and Michigan Canal (shown on the map as a proposed Canal) had begun construction, although its completion wouldn't occur until 1848. This ambitious project sought to connect the Great Lakes with the Mississippi River system, revolutionizing transportation and commerce in the region.

Fascinatingly, the map also features a detailed population table by county, utilizing data from the 1830 census. This table provides an intriguing snapshot of the demographic distribution in Illinois, giving researchers valuable insight into the early growth of the state's towns and cities.

Below the population table, a list of Steam Routes is displayed, revealing the burgeoning network of steamboat transportation along major rivers. This not only facilitated trade but also provided a new mode of passenger travel. Routes include St. Louis to Galena, Galena to Prairie du Chien, Shawneetown to New Orleans, Shawneetown to St. Louis, Shawneetown to Lafayette, and St. Louis to Peoria.

Shawneetown, as denoted on this map, bears its own interesting tale. Situated on the Ohio River, it was chartered as a city in 1837, just two years after the publication of the map. Notably, Shawneetown was the location of the first bank chartered in Illinois in 1812, which operated from a simple log cabin. By 1830, a grand, Greek Revival style bank building had been constructed, reflecting the town's economic significance. By 1840, Shawneetown had become a bustling river port, connecting Illinois's agricultural interior with downstream markets.

States of the Map

The map was first issued in 1834. Pre-1836 states of the map are rare on the market.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map in original covers. Some minor soiling and one minor loss at fold intersection.
