



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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**Map of the Territory of the United States from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean;
ordered by Jeff'n Davis, Secretary of War to accompany the reports of the explorations
for a railroad route. Compiled . . . by G. K. Warren . . . 1854**

Stock#: 17716
Map Maker: Warren

Date: 1858
Place: Washington DC
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 2 sheets -- 48 x 24 each (48 x 44
if joined)

Price: SOLD



Description:

Perhaps the single most important map of the American West issued after Fremont's map of Oregon & Upper California was Lt. Gouverneur Kemble Warren's monumental map of the Transmississippi West. The map appeared in a number of editions, each extensively updated, between 1855 and 1868.

During the 1850s, the U.S. Government sponsored an extensive series of expeditions designed to gather information on the vast new territories that had been acquired in western North America. The discovery of gold in California further stimulated westward traffic and heightened the need for a faster and more convenient way to bring the various parts of the country together.

Under the provisions of the Army Appropriation Act of March 1853, Secretary of War Jefferson Davis was directed to survey possible routes to the Pacific. Five selected routes, roughly following specific parallels, were to be surveyed by parties under the supervision of the Topographical Corps. The most northerly survey, between the 47th and 49th parallels, was under the direction of Isaac Ingalls Stevens, governor of Washington Territory. This route closely approximated that proposed by Asa Whitney in 1849. The ill-fated party under Capt. John W. Gunnison was to explore the route along the 38th and 39th parallels, or the



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Cochetopa Pass route, advocated by Senator Benton. Because he failed to get John Charles Fremont appointed to head this expedition, Benton promoted two well-publicized, privately financed ventures in the same year, one headed by Edward F. Beale and the other by Fremont. After Gunnison's death at the hands of hostile Indians, Lt. Edward G. Beckwith continued the survey along the 41st parallel. Capt. Amiel W. Whipple, assistant astronomer of the Mexican Boundary Survey, and Lt. Joseph Christmas Ives surveyed the routes of the 35th parallel, westward to southern California. This was essentially the route traversed by Josiah Gregg in 1839 and later surveyed by Col. John J. Abert. When the results of the surveys were analyzed it was apparent that additional data on the roadbeds, grades, and passes were needed for the 32d parallel route to California. Lt. John G. Parke resurveyed along the Gila River between the Pima villages and the Rio Grande. Capt. John Pope mapped the eastern portion of the route from Dona Ana, N. Mex., to the Red River. Topographical surveys to locate passes through the Sierra Nevadas and the Coast Range in California and to determine the route that would connect California, Oregon, and Washington were made under the direction of Lt. Robert S. Williamson

In all, there were six major expeditions; five of them covered the area between the Great Plains and west coast, and the sixth explored the coastal states of California and Oregon. All of these expeditions were accompanied by naturalists and artists to document the landscape, flora and fauna along the route. The reports, maps and lithographs were published in the highly important 13 volume *Explorations and Surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a Railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean*, which was finally completed in 1859 and is frequently referred to as the Pacific Railroad Survey.

The Pacific Railroad Survey became the basic source material for Lt. Gouverneur Kemble Warren's *Map of the Territory of the United States from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean*. Because of the accelerating flow of new information, Warren recognized, in his *Memoir to Accompany the Map*, the difficulty of keeping such a map up to date. He stated that "the work of compilation . . . must necessarily be frequently repeated; and to aid the future compiler, I have prepared the accompanying memoir upon the different maps and books used, and upon the manner in which their discrepancies have been resolved." He gratefully acknowledged the work of Edward Freyhold in "the beautiful execution of the topography upon the map The first revision of the map, drawn by Freyhold, was engraved on stone by Julius Bien of New York. The map is in President Millard Fillmore's collection and bears his signature and the date December 19, 1863. This map, like the first edition, lists 45 major surveys and mapping reports from the time of Lewis and Clark to the General Land Office Surveys of the late 1850's.



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"Warren's General Map" is a monumentally important and rarely offered map that is considered to be the first accurate overall picture of the region. Wheat considers it so important that he dedicated eight pages to its description and calls it the most important map produced by the Topographical Engineers. Drawn on the polyconic projection, the map culminated a half-century of government explorations beginning with Lewis & Clark. Only 24 years old when assigned the task, Warren used information from the U.S. Land Office, the Coast Survey, Topographical Engineers, the Adjutant General, the Quartermaster General, the Indian Bureau, and Smithsonian Institution to obtain the latest information in developing this map. The majority of the map was completed by 1854, but it was not fully complete when the first railroad survey report was published in 1855 and continued to be issued in revised editions until 1868.

Of the various editions of the map, the rarest and most unique edition is the edition which includes the revisions to January 8, 1858. Unlike other editions of the map, this edition is in full wash color to illustrate the Indian Tribal lands west of the Mississippi and also overprinted in red with the various Military Departments west of the Mississippi, including California, Texas, Oregon, New Mexico, Utah and the Northwest. The Library of Congress notes two variants of the map, one with brown flags and one with red and brown flags on the map. This edition of the map also seems to be the rarest edition. The map shows Indian tribal locations, military posts, routes and dates of all of the expeditions and surveys to date throughout the Transmississippi West. The 1858 edition of the map is likely the source for MacGowan and Hildt's extremely rare map *The United States West of the Mississippi* . . . published in St. Louis and highlighting the routes to the newly discovered gold regions of Colorado.

While editions without the wash coloring appear periodically on the market, this wash color edition is a rare and quite decorative find.

Detailed Condition:

A few very minor fold splits, but generally a fine example.