



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Chart of Suisun & Vallejo Bays with the Confluence of the Rivers Sacramento and San Joaquin California By Cadwalader Ringgold Commander U.S. Navy . . . 1850

Stock#: 18487
Map Maker: Ringgold
Date: 1850
Place: Washington
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 30 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the earliest obtainable privately issued California charts, tracking the lower Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers as they leave the Gold Regions of California and flow into Vallejo and Suisun Bays, before the two bays empty into San Francisco Bay.

Fine large format navigational chart showing the waterways from Benecia to Suisun City, with soundings, hazards and currents all noted. Benecia was founded in 1847, the first town in California founded by Anglo-Americans. A city named *New York of the Pacific* (present-day Pittsburg) is shown opposite Gwin Island. Three profile views of Benecia, Tongue Shoal and the entrance to Sacramento River extend along the bottom.

Cadwalader Ringgold was a US Navy officer who served in the US Exploring Expedition and later headed an expedition to the Northwest, before retiring briefly before the Civil War. Ringgold entered the US Navy in 1819 and commanded the schooner *Weazel* against West Indian pirates in the late 1820s. From 1838 to 1842, he participated in the Wilkes Expedition. In August 1841, Ringgold led a 60-man exploring party in San Francisco Bay, exploring the sources of the Bay for 20 days. This expedition travelled as far as Colusa, California.

In July 1849, Ringgold returned to San Francisco as commander of an official survey team surveying the harbor, shortly after the announcement of the discovery of gold in California.

Ringgold's next expedition, the North Pacific Exploring and Surveying Expedition, ended prematurely for Ringgold when he contracted Malaria. The expedition was met in China by a separate expedition under the command of Commodore Perry, who convened an official panel, which determined that Ringgold was



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"insane" and relieved him of his command.

Ringgold's charts from his San Francisco Bay Surveys were published in *A Series of charts, with sailing directions, embracing surveys of the Farallones, entrance to the Bay of San Francisco ... State of California*, beginning with the 3rd edition in 1852. The work has the distinction of being the first set of published charts focusing on California and is an essential work for California collectors.

Detailed Condition:

Embellished with attractively added modern color. Several minor tears on left side of map repaired on verso. Minor soiling. Flattened and archivally backed