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Map of the Surveyed part of Iowa . . . 1839 (with Guide For The Territory of Iowa, With A Correct Map, Showing Townships Surveys, &c., &c.

Stock#: 31331
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1839
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Good example of this rare early travel guide for Iowa Territory, published in New York by J.H. Colton only months after the formation of the Territory.

Colton's *Guide* is quite likely the earliest printed guide book to focus exclusively on Iowa Territory. By an Act of 12 June 1838, Iowa, until then part of Wisconsin Territory, was made a territory, with its eastern boundary the Mississippi River to its source, then to the Canadian Boundary. In the two years from 1836 to 1838 its population had doubled, being 22,859 in 1838.

In describing the second edition of 1840, Rumsey notes:

Eberstadt: "A very rare guide, with a description of the new territory, its government, judiciary, counties, population, list of townships etc." The map shows the eastern part of the Iowa Territory, along the Mississippi River, and is more detailed than the General Land Office survey maps of 1839-40.



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In comparing the two editions, we note changes in the southern half of the map, including the addition of Washington County and Jefferson County, and the reconfiguration of Louisa County. Slaughter County (which appears on the 1839 edition) no longer exists, having been absorbed by Louisa and the newly created Washington County. In Frank Harmon Garver's *History of the Establishment Of Counties in Iowa, Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Volume 6 at page 393-94, published in 1908, the author notes that two errors in the map:

The map contains two errors; (1) The boundary line between Johnson and Slaughter counties is placed one township too far north, making Slaughter County four townships square or equal to Johnson in size and (2) . . . the boundary line between Des Moines and Lee counties where the line between the townships 68 and 69 is made the boundary whereas the Skunk River actually formed the boundary for about six miles.

The present example includes a pastedown bookplate for a stationery store in St. Lewis and the name of an early owner (Andrew Miller).

The guidebook and map are of the utmost rarity. The last example to appear on the market was the Streeter Copy, which brought \$400 in 1967. Prior to Streeter, Midland catalogued the book in 1959 (\$225.00--likely the Streeter copy) and the C.G. Littell copy was sold at auction in 1945 for \$190.00. These are the only reported sales in the 20th Century. Eberstadt listed a second edition of the guidebook (1840) for \$125.00 in 1954. Rumsey also has a copy of the 2nd edition.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map with a number of mis-folds, but only one small intersection loss, with only no loss of text. Some glue staining and two faint spots. Original printed covers slightly faded, with title on cover in gilt. Guide book consists of 6 pages of text