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Allotment Map of the Ponca Indian Reservation in the Territory of Oklahoma, Compiled from Government Records by R. S. Steele, Chief Clerk Ponca, Oto, and Oakland Indian Agency, White Eagle, Oklahoma, June 30, 1902. (with manuscript additions)

Stock#: 42227fb
Map Maker: Steele
Date: 1902
Place: White Eagle, Oklahoma
Color: Uncolored
Condition:
Size: 31 x 19.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Original Promotional / Allocation map of the Ponca Reservation, Oklahoma Territory.

This exceedingly rare map shows the original allotment of lots within the Ponca Reservation in Oklahoma. The map identifies by name each allotment, showing the 628 tribe members to whom 101,894.31 acres along or near the Arkansas River had been allotted. The map identifies the recipient of each allotment and exact location of the land. The map also identifies 190 of the allotment recipients who had died after the original designations of eligibility for an allotment had been made.

Allotments of land for members of native tribes on the Ponca reservation were mandated by Congress by Chapter 86 of the laws passed by the 53rd Congress, Second Session, on May 30, 1894. The law stipulated that land should be allotted to members of the tribe who were residing on the reservation lands as of March 3, 1881. The law also allowed for the subsequent sale of lands not allocated. Eligibility and allocation of the lands was determined and administered by the Dawes Commission. Ultimately, the lands of the Oto-Missouri and Ponca reservations were opened in 1904, after the allocations laid out here had been finalized and the interests of the heirs of deceased allocation holders adjudicated.

Kent Carter, "*The Dawes Commission and the Allotment of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1893-1914*" provides a broad overview of the situation.

In 1893, Congress authorized the establishment of an organization that became known as the Dawes Commission. The hope was that the commission could persuade the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes to negotiate themselves out of existence-an essential first step in



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implementing a policy of allotting land to each individual Indian. Allotment was supposed to promote assimilation into the dominant culture, clear the way for converting Indian Territory into a state, and satisfy powerful groups seeking opportunities for economic development and profit. However, when the tribal governments refused to cooperate in their own demise, Congress used its legislative power to abolish them and gave the Dawes Commission the almost impossible task of determining who was entitled to a share of land roughly the size of Indiana and worth millions of dollars.

This map provides an unmatched snapshot of the allotment process as it stood in 1902. In addition to containing a list of those individuals scheduled to receive allotments, it shows on the map exactly where those allotments were located, with the names of the recipients shown on the lots on the map. A majority of the family names here are native-based, e.g. Big Goose, Makes Cry, Running After Arrow, etc., though there are also non-native based family names such as Smith and McDonald.

We can locate no other copies of this item, although we are informed that the Library of Congress holds a copy and this firm sold a copy to Yale. It is not listed in OCLC and standard Internet searches generate no relevant results. We have located no auction or dealer catalogue offerings.

We have found only one Oklahoma allotment map for a different Indian Reservation offered for sale, an allotment map of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Reservation from 1901. This item, sold at the Siebert Sale in October, 1999, contained a map which showed only the general location of the allotment lands, but not the names of the designees of particular parcels.

As part of the purchase of this map, we also acquired a copy of a similar work, also from 1902, for the Oto-Missouri Reservation Allotment process.

Detailed Condition:

Pencil notes and fold splits, with minor loss. Some soiling