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United States of America . . . 1797

Stock#: 44719
Map Maker: Wilkes
Date: 1797
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 11.5 x 9.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Interesting 18th Century map of the United States, published by J. Wilkes in London in 1797.

The map shows the United States in the Decade after the American Revolution.

In the South, both East Florida and West Florida are located, with Georgia extending from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River, prior to the creation of Mississippi Territory. The name Tenassee Government appears, just a few years after the creation of Tennessee. A section of Tennessee is shown as "Reserved for N. Carolina Troops.

To the North, Kentucky also appears, with an area reserved for Virginia Troops. West of Kentucky on the Missisissppi River, the N. Jersey Company is named, along with Wabash Company and Illinois Company above it, all part of the Land Schemes which helped open up the Ohio River Valley.

Below Lake Erie, the Ohio Comany lands are shown, along with an early representaion of the 7 ranges.

In the modern Illinois, there is a reference to "Divided into 10 States by Resolve of Congress 1784." This is likely a reference to Thomas Jefferson's proposal for the region, which included the states of Sylvania, Michigania, Illinoia, Saratoga, Washington, Chersonesus, Assenisipia, Metropotamia, Polypotamia, and Pelisipia.

The map also notes G. Clarke's Grant of 150,000 acres, north of the Ohio River in Indiana. During the American Revolutionary War, George Rogers Clark led the militia of Virginia in capturing a large part of



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the Illinois Country as part of the Illinois Campaign. Land was offered as an incentive to adventurers to sign up as soldiers and join the expedition. After the war ended, as a reward, Virginia granted the soldiers and officers land to make good their promise.

The grant was made by the legislature of Virginia on January 2, 1781, offering them land on the northwest side of the Ohio River. A commission of officers from the group was created and they were granted the right to choose any 150,000 acres within the defined region. They chose a tract across the Ohio River opposite from Louisville, Kentucky, a settlement Clark had founded during the war. Their land included all of present-day Clark County, Indiana, as well as part of the surrounding counties. The group took part in land speculation and they ultimately purchased the rights to a large part of southern Indiana. Early settlements in the grant included Clarksville and Jeffersonville.

Clark himself was still owed a vast sum of money for helping to finance the campaigns which was never repaid to him during his life. Most of his land was taken from him by creditors, and he died nearly penniless and handicapped from injuries he sustained after the war. Virginia finally repaid most of his debt several years after his death.

Detailed Condition: