



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Lawson's Map from Actual Survey of the Gold, Silver & Quicksilver Regions of Upper California Exhibiting the Mines, Diggings, Roads, Paths, Houses, Mills, Missions &c. &c. by J.T. Lawson, Esq. Cala. . . .

Stock#: 46340
Map Maker: Lawson
Date: 1849
Place: New York
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 20.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First True Guide Map To The California Gold Regions and The First To Name Sutter's Mill.

Important early map of the California Gold Regions, being the first true guide map to the newly discovered Gold Diggings and the first to name Sutter's Mill.

Lawson's map of the Gold Regions is the first map to accurately depict California's Gold Regions. Issued in January 1849, at the beginning of the California Gold Rush, Lawson's map was produced specifically for by of prospectors and miners. While the map is somewhat crude and irregular in nature, its intent as both a guide map and promotional map of the Gold Regions is apparent, including many references to gold: "Gold found on all these streams..." , "Low Clay Hills and Gravel containing gold..." , "Very high rugged hills covered with pine & other timber & containing Gold." Indeed, this is one of the first maps to apply the name, "The Golden Gate," to the entry of San Francisco Bay.

Streeter noted that Lawson's map was

the second separately issued map of the gold region, being preceded only by the separately issued Larkin map of 1848, which however showed merely the Sacramento Valley. Large scale maps, such as this, are the only satisfactory ones for the gold region. From 1849 on almost every map showing California at all indicates the 'gold region' in color or otherwise, but, with few exceptions, on such a small scale as to be of little value, especially for the use of a miner or prospector.



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The map also references "Mountain Lake", one of the earliest appearances of Lake Tahoe on a printed map and significantly pre-dating its being named Tahoe (the first name for the Lake was Bigler Lake).

Though based on Ord's 1848 *Topographical Sketch of the Gold & Quicksilver District of California*, which Wheat called "the first map to make any pretense at cartographical accuracy after the gold discoveries," Lawson's map varies significantly from Ord's map, including many additional place names, ranches and householders as well as several recorded locations of gold-strikes, trails, forts and stores.

The map shows the sea-routes from the East Coast to San Francisco - both the journey entirely by water rounding Cape Horn and the route involving land journeys across Panama and Mexico.

The irregular shape of the map is testimony to the hurried manner in which it was completed and brought to market.

While previously unknown until 2016, there are two states of the map.

One of the states shows the San Joaquin River flowing in a slightly more southerly direction, and would seem to be the second (and therefore corrected) state of the map. In addition, the course of the southernmost branch of the San Joaquin River (unnamed, but almost certainly the Merced River, although the river immediately to the north is named the Merced, but is much more likely the Tuolumne River), has been shortened.

Here are links to the two states:

State 1: [{{ inventory_detail_link\('46340'\) }}](#)

State 2: [{{ inventory_detail_link\('45039'\) }}](#)

Detailed Condition:

Minor foxing. Original covers.