



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

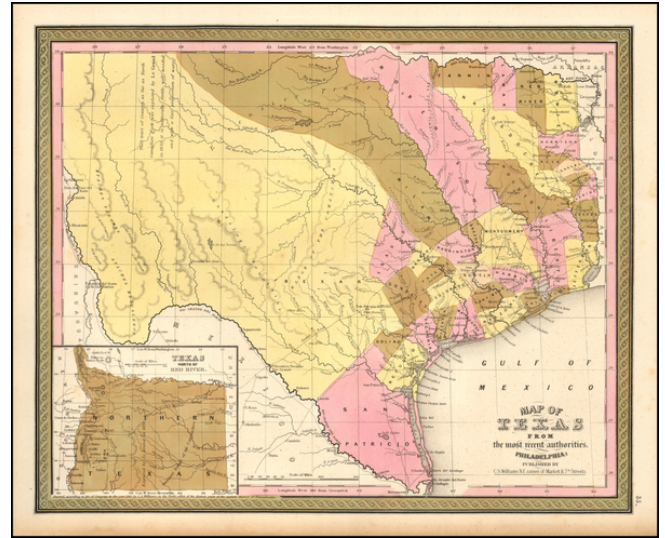
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Map of Texas From the most recent authorities . . .

Stock#: 54551
Map Maker: Mitchell
Date: 1846
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Texas Before the Compromise of 1850

Nice example of the early map Texas, issued in Samuel Augustus Mitchell's *Universal Atlas*.

The map is noteworthy for among other things its removal of the so-called "Judicial Counties" (see below), which had appeared in the Tanner-Mitchell sequence of Texas maps up to 1846.

While a number of counties are shown in the east, the Western part of the Republic is still dominated by Bexar, Milam, and Robertson County, with a massive San Patricio County in the south. Fort Alamo is shown, along with a few dozen other place names. About 15 early roads are shown.

The map includes a large inset map of Texas north of the Red River.

Dating the Map

Curiously, this map retains the date of 1847, although the counties have not been updated from 1846.

The map includes Fannin County, established March 13, 1846. Curiously, the Fannin Land District is not shown. Created on March 14, 1846. Fannin Land District was eliminated and became part of Cooke Land District and Denton Land District when those districts were reorganized and expanded on February 13, 1854.



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The map does NOT show Leon County or Grayson County, which were formed 3 days after Fannin County, on March 16, 1846, nor do they show the group of counties formed on March 23, 1846 (Comal County, De Witt County, Anderson County, Burleson County).

The Texas Compromise of 1850: Balancing Power and Territory in Antebellum America

The mid-19th century in the United States was marked by tensions and conflicts surrounding the institution of slavery. As the nation expanded westward, the debate over whether new territories should permit slavery intensified, leading to several legislative attempts to maintain a fragile peace between the North and the South. Among these was the Compromise of 1850, of which the Texas Compromise was a critical component.

The roots of the Texas Compromise lay in the annexation of Texas into the United States in 1845. Texas, which had been an independent republic, entered the Union as a slave state, causing considerable alarm in the North. Further complicating matters, Texas claimed a substantial portion of present-day New Mexico, which had been acquired by the U.S. following the Mexican-American War in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. Texas's claim threatened the delicate balance between free and slave states in the Senate, and it also raised the contentious issue of slavery's status in the new territories.

The Texas Compromise emerged as part of a broader package of bills known as the Compromise of 1850, shepherded through Congress by Kentucky Senator Henry Clay and supported by other prominent legislators like Daniel Webster of Massachusetts and Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. The main provisions of the Texas Compromise involved:

1. **Boundary Resolution:** Texas would relinquish its claims on parts of present-day New Mexico. In return, the U.S. government would assume Texas's public debt, which amounted to \$10 million.
2. **Slavery in New Territories:** While the Compromise of 1850 allowed for California's admission as a free state, other territories like Utah and New Mexico would decide the issue of slavery through popular sovereignty, a principle which allowed settlers in a territory to determine whether to allow slavery.
3. **Preservation of Slavery:** While the slave trade would be abolished in Washington, D.C., slavery itself would remain legal.



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The Texas Compromise, like the broader Compromise of 1850, was an attempt to put off an inevitable confrontation over slavery. While it succeeded in preventing immediate secession and potential conflict, it was only a temporary solution. The principle of popular sovereignty, particularly, would soon lead to violent clashes in places like Kansas, earning it the moniker "Bleeding Kansas."

Judicial Counties

The present map no longer shows the Judicial counties, which had appeared in earlier states of the map. These included Burleson, Burnet, DeWitt, Guadalupe, Hamilton, La Baca, Madison, Menard, Neches, Panola, Paschal, Smith, Spring Creek, Trinity, Ward, and Waco.

During the early years of the Republic of Texas (1836-1845), the Congress of the Republic felt the need for a new type of subdivision. These "judicial counties" were created for judicial and electoral purposes but lacked the full functions of the typical counties, which had administrative and local government powers. In essence, these judicial counties were intended to serve areas not yet formally organized into standard counties, making it easier for residents in those areas to access courts without having to travel long distances.

However, the Texas Supreme Court ruled in 1842 that these judicial counties were unconstitutional. This decision resulted in the abolition of judicial counties.

Detailed Condition: