



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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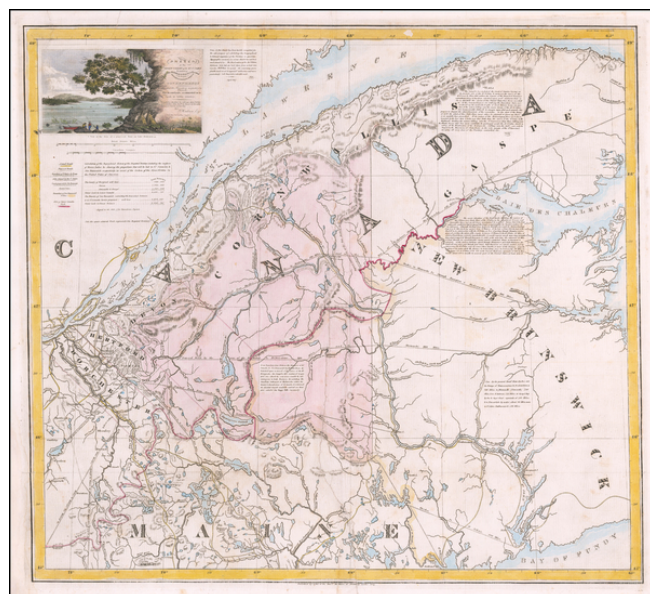
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**Sketch of the Great Valley of the Rr. St. John. Exhibiting the Situation & Extent
Territory in Dispute Between the British & American Governments -- And the Boundary
respectively Claimed. Also the New Roads recommended to be opened at Public
expence. Compiled to elucidate the evidence given before a Committee of the Honble
the House of Assembly of Lower Canada. in Feby. 1827**

Stock#: 61170
Map Maker: Smillie / Henderson

Date: 1827
Place: Quebec
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 18.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Framing the Maine-Canada Boundary Dispute

The first printed map to accurately highlight the disputed region between the United States and Canada, which would finally be resolved in August 1842, with the signing of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, settling the so-called Aroostook War.

This fascinating map depicts the Canada-U.S. borderland from Lake Champlain to the Bay of Fundy, and shows the region of the Maine-Canada boundary dispute compiled by William Henderson and engraved by Hudson River School artist James Smillie. Henderson's work in compiling information and illustrating the regions impacted and the nature of the dispute is quite remarkable. The boundaries claimed by Canada and by the US are clearly delineated, along with proposed county boundaries for Cornwallis and Gaspé Counties.

The map was separately issued, as a means of illustrating a report in the *Quebec Legislative Report* in 1827 outlining the dispute. As noted by Henderson at the top left:



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As this Sketch has been hastily compiled for the sole purpose of exhibiting the Geographical & Political importance of the Territory in question, Topographical accuracy in minor details has not been much attended to. The Head-waters of the Rivers. St. John and Etchemin & du Sud are laid down from actual Surveys by Mr. Ware and myself, the remaining parts from the most recent & approved authorities and more particularly Col. Bouchette's valuable work. April 1827.

Below the legend, the map sets out information concerning the area impacted by the dispute. Henderson's annotations are quite remarkable.

A scarce map depicting the Maine-Canada boundary dispute.

This fascinating map depicts the Canada-U.S. borderland from Lake Champlain to the Bay of Fundy, and shows the region of the Maine-Canada boundary dispute.

Maine-Canada Boundary Dispute

The boundary dispute between the American state of Maine and the British colonial provinces of New Brunswick and Lower Canada (Quebec) was one of the longest running and most acrimonious disagreements between the two nations. The origin of the dispute was found in the wording of the Treaty of Paris (1783), which concluded the American Revolutionary War and established the boundaries between the newly independent United States and what remained of British North America. The negotiators of the Treaty relied on outdated cartography, notably John Mitchell's *A Map of the British and French Dominions in North America* (1755), and so had a flawed understanding of the geography of the projected boundary, especially where it was to run through the interior.

The Treaty ordained that the northern section of the boundary between Maine and British territory was to run from where Quebec's boundary ended at the 45th parallel "along the height of land" to the St. John River. While the Maine-New Brunswick boundary had been resolved from Passamaquoddy Bay up northwards to near where the Aroostook River enters the St. John River, in 1797, the boundary beyond that further to the north remained in dispute. The British claimed that the "height of land" ran along the crest of the Appalachians, so claiming a large chunk of what Maine considered to be its territory. The Americans countered that the boundary should run along the height of land dividing the watersheds of the



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St. Lawrence River and the Gulf of Maine, so passing the border dangerously near the St. Lawrence River, Canada's lifeline. The American claim, if implemented, would also make it difficult for the British to build an all-season road between Quebec City and the St. John Valley, as at least half of the Upper St. John region had to be secured to provide a viable route.

Unable to resolve the issue themselves, in 1831, the Americans and the British submitted their dueling claims to King Willem I of the Netherlands for non-binding arbitration. Willem duly proposed a compromise, which the British rejected outright, as it heavily favored the Americans. The situation remained tense, with officials and lumberjacks from each side almost coming into armed conflict in 1838 and 1839, in what was exaggeratedly known as the 'Aroostook War' (1838-39), in which several British were captured; no one was killed, but two Canadian militiamen were injured by black bears.

The governments in both Washington and London were alarmed by the Aroostook incidents and mutually wanted to resolve the boundary dispute, once and for all, so as to avoid a diplomatic catastrophe sparked by hot-headed local residents. In 1842, U.S. Secretary of State Daniel Webster met with the British Minister to the U.S., Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton, to resolve the matter. Ashburton was under pressure to ensure that the British were granted enough of the Upper St. John so as to build the Quebec-New Brunswick road, while Webster had an embarrassing problem to resolve. The U.S. Army had recently constructed a massive brick fortress on the Richelieu River, Fort Montgomery, supposedly just south of the U.S.-Quebec line (the 45th parallel). However, recent surveys had shown that the 45th parallel and the international boundary actually ran to the south of the fort. Webster was determined to rescue what became known as "Fort Blunder", by having the U.S.-Quebec boundary moved north a touch, and in return he was prepared to concede more territory in Maine to the British, enough for them to comfortably build their road. Fortunately, in this Treaty both sides received what they really needed and both sides saved face.

In the immediate wake of the Treaty, 3 different London publishers came out with versions of the map depicting the boundary resolution, each with the same title. The most common of these was by John Wyld, issued with a pamphlet, George Featherstonhaugh's Observations upon the Treaty of Washington (1843), while another version was published by Her Majesty's Printing Office with the British government's official printing of the text of the treaty.

Rarity



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The map is very rare. OCLC locates copies at Laval University, McCord Museum, National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian National Archives.

Detailed Condition:

Centerfold re-inforced